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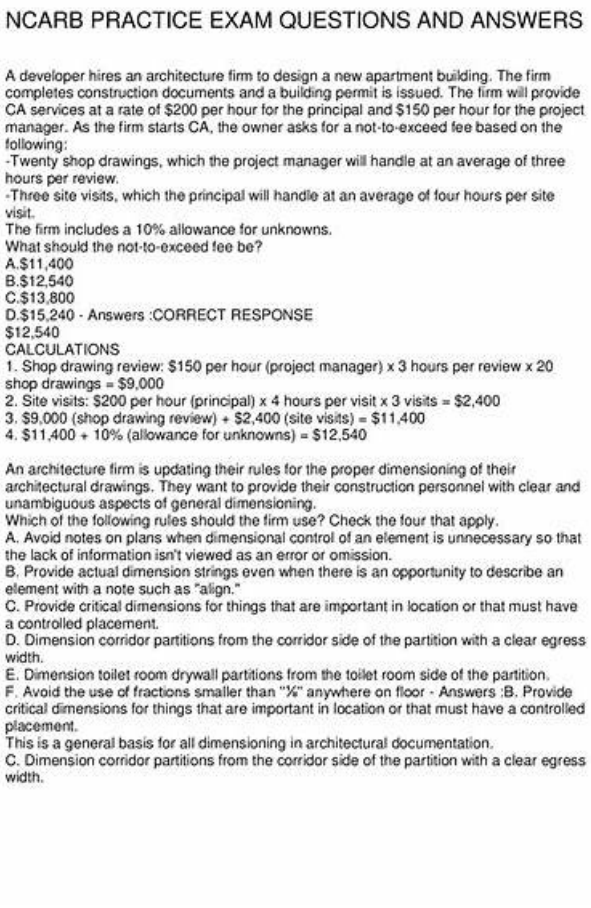

NCARB PRACTICE EXAM QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

A developer hires an architecture firm to design a new apartment building. The firm completes construction documents and a building permit is issued. The firm will provide CA services at a rate of $200 per hour for the principal and $150 per hour for the project manager. As the firm starts CA, the owner asks for a not-to-exceed fee based on the following:
-Twenty shop drawings, which the project manager will handle at an average of three hours per review.
-Three site visits, which the principal will handle at an average of four hours per site visit.
The firm includes a 10% allowance for unknowns.
What should the not-to-exceed fee be?
A.$11,400
B.$12,540
C.$13,800
D.$15,240 - Answers :CORRECT RESPONSE
$12,540
CALCULATIONS
1. Shop drawing review: $150 per hour (project manager) x 3 hours per review x 20 shop drawings = $9,000
2. Site visits: $200 per hour (principal) x 4 hours per visit x 3 visits = $2,400
3. $9,000 (shop drawing review) + $2,400 (site visits) = $11,400
4. $11,400 + 10% (allowance for unknowns) = $12,540

An architecture firm is updating their rules for the proper dimensioning of their architectural drawings. They want to provide their construction personnel with clear and unambiguous aspects of general dimensioning.
Which of the following rules should the firm use? Check the four that apply.
A. Avoid notes on plans when dimensional control of an element is unnecessary so that the lack of information isn't viewed as an error or omission.
B. Provide actual dimension strings even when there is an opportunity to describe an element with a note such as "align."
C. Provide critical dimensions for things that are important in location or that must have a controlled placement.
D. Dimension corridor partitions from the corridor side of the partition with a clear egress width.
E. Dimension toilet room drywall partitions from the toilet room side of the partition.
F. Avoid the use of fractions smaller than "½" anywhere on floor - Answers :B. Provide critical dimensions for things that are important in location or that must have a controlled placement.
This is a general basis for all dimensioning in architectural documentation.
C. Dimension corridor partitions from the corridor side of the partition with a clear egress width.

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NCARB Project-Planning-Design Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	• Project Integration of Program & Systems: This section of the exam measures skills of project architects and focuses on integrating decisions about environmental conditions, codes, and building systems into one cohesive project design. It highlights how to configure the building and incorporate both program requirements and contextual conditions in a unified design approach.
Topic 2	• Environmental Conditions & Context: This section of the exam measures skills of architectural designers and covers how to use site analysis information to determine building placement and environmental planning decisions. It emphasizes applying sustainable principles and considering the neighborhood context to guide project design.
Topic 3	• Project Costs & Budgeting: This section of the exam measures skills of architectural designers and assesses the ability to evaluate design alternatives based on program goals, perform cost evaluations, and manage cost considerations throughout the design process.
Topic 4	• Building Systems, Materials, & Assemblies: This section of the exam measures skills of architectural designers and covers the understanding of building systems such as mechanical, electrical, and plumbing, along with structural and specialty systems. It also involves selecting appropriate materials and assemblies to align with program needs, budgets, and regulations.
Topic 5	• Codes & Regulations: This section of the exam measures the skills of project architects and focuses on applying zoning laws, environmental rules, and building codes during the planning stage. Candidates are tested on how to integrate multiple regulatory requirements into a project's design effectively.

NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design (PPD) Sample Questions (Q46-Q51):

NEW QUESTION # 46
The testing center on the second floor requires a private restroom for testing candidates to use. The architect needs to locate a single toilet restroom in the area that will have the least impact on the existing programming.
Click on the area in the plan where the restroom should be located.

Answer:

Explanation:
Explanation:
* Locating the restroom in the existing small office space minimizes disruption to testing center programming and circulation.
* This space is adjacent to the testing area, providing convenient access for testing candidates while maintaining privacy.
* Repurposing an existing small room avoids reducing seating capacity or requiring major reconfiguration of the larger testing or hallway areas.
* The location is near existing plumbing walls (bathrooms and mechanical rooms in the lower part of the plan), which reduces construction complexity and cost.
This approach aligns with NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design content emphasizing efficient space utilization, minimal disruption, and adjacency for functional support spaces in program layouts.

NEW QUESTION # 47
An elementary school requires a renovation, selective demolition, and a major addition in order to accommodate a growing student population. An architectural firm has prepared schematic design plans incorporating the school's increased programmatic needs,

including an enlarged library, cafeteria, and gymnasium; a secure courtyard; and additional space for administrative offices and classrooms. The main entrance was relocated in order to improve the traffic and pedestrian flow at the beginning and end of the school day, and additional parking was provided to comply with current zoning requirements.
The existing single-story masonry building was built in 1950. Two small additions were built later: the north addition will be kept and repurposed, but the south addition will be demolished. The building contains asbestos and lead in roof soffits, floor tiles, pipe insulation, and window paint. All existing mechanical systems need to be replaced; new systems have not been selected.
Considerations for the renovation include:
* The relocated front entrance must be easily recognizable, highly visible, and secure.
* Interior and exterior materials need to be durable and maintainable in order to withstand frequent student abuse, but also economical due to strict budget limitations.
* Good indoor air quality and increased energy efficiency are priorities for the selection of mechanical equipment.
After completion, the entire school should look uniform, without a distinctive difference between the existing building and new addition.
Building information:
* Construction Type is II-B.
The following resources are available for your reference:
* Existing Plans, including site and floor plans
* Proposed Plans, including site and floor plans
* Cost Analysis
* Zoning Ordinance Excerpts, for off-street parking requirements
* IBC Excerpts, showing relevant code sections
* ADA Standards Excerpts, showing relevant sections from the ADA Standards for Accessible Design Which of the following is the maximum height the platform can be above the gymnasium floor per the proposed design?

- A. 1'-6"
- B. 2'-6"
- C. 1'-9"

Answer: A

Explanation:
Per building and accessibility codes (such as ADA and IBC), raised platforms or stages in assembly areas like gymnasiums are limited in height to ensure safe access and egress. A maximum height of 1 foot 6 inches (18 inches) without requiring additional stairs or ramps is common to allow easy transition and avoid additional egress requirements.
Heights above 18 inches typically require stairs or ramps per ADA.
1'-9" or 2'-6" exceed these limits and would trigger additional code requirements.
References:
IBC Chapter 10 - Means of Egress
ADA Standards for Accessible Design
ARE 5.0 PPD - Codes and Regulations

NEW QUESTION # 48
A church congregation has hired an architect to help them determine the feasibility of converting a retail strip mall space into a new church. The space is 30' wide and 125' long and is in an interior location with tenants on both long sides. The client has requested the following:
Natural light into the central gathering space
Nursery space for young children
Church office space
Adequate restrooms
Visually appealing landscaping
Which of the following should the architect consider to help determine if the project can move forward?
Check the three that apply.

- A. Conduct a demographic survey of church membership to determine the capacity of the new restrooms.
- B. Check the existing roof structure to determine potential locations for skylights.
- C. Analyze the existing building exits to determine their adequacy for the new use classification.
- D. Engage a landscaping consultant to determine visually appealing landscaping options.
- E. Conduct a demographic survey to determine the number of children to be served by the nursery.
- F. Investigate the existing water and sewer services to determine their adequacy for the new use classification.

Answer: B,C,F

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:
When converting a retail strip mall to a church, the architect must verify that the existing building infrastructure supports the new occupancy:
(A) Exits and egress must be adequate per fire and life safety codes for assembly occupancy.
(B) Roof structure must be evaluated for installing skylights to bring natural light into central spaces.
(C) Water and sewer services need to support increased demand, especially with added restrooms and nursery.
Demographic surveys (D, E) inform program design but do not determine feasibility.
Landscaping consultants (F) are part of later design phases, not initial feasibility.
References:
ARE 5.0 PPD - Project Integration of Program and Systems
The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Adaptive Reuse

NEW QUESTION # 49
A recital hall requires a clear span of 75 feet. Special consideration must also be given to the prevention of airplane noise that would interfere with performances.
Which of the following wall-bearing structural solutions will provide the most reasonable and economical roof-framing system to meet these needs?

- A. Cast-in-place reinforced concrete slab
- B. Long-span steel joists spaced at 7'-6" o.c. supporting preformed metal decking
- C. Precast, prestressed 8' wide concrete tee sections
- D. Laminated wood beams spaced at 6'-0" o.c. supporting tongue-and-groove wood decking

Answer: A

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:
For a recital hall needing noise reduction and a 75-foot clear span:
Cast-in-place reinforced concrete slabs (B) provide mass and stiffness, reducing noise transmission (including airplane noise) and offering sound isolation.
Steel joists and wood beams (A, D) are lighter, less dense, and less effective acoustically.
Precast concrete tees (C) may provide structural support but less acoustic mass.
Therefore, cast-in-place concrete best balances span, acoustics, and cost.
References:
ARE 5.0 PPD - Building Systems and Assemblies, Acoustic and Structural Design

NEW QUESTION # 50
An architect has just received client approval of the Schematic Design documents for a three-story, outpatient medical clinic. The clinic is located within a mixed-use development governed by a City-approved Planned Development (PD) document. The medical clinic design utilizes standardized departmental layouts and includes outpatient clinics, as well as treatment spaces, administrative spaces and public/lobby spaces.
The site needs to accommodate four different vehicular traffic flows: patient traffic, staff traffic, service and delivery traffic, and emergency services traffic. In addition, a pedestrian plaza must connect to the mixed-use development sidewalks. The plaza must provide space for bicycle parking and will serve as the future bus stop.
The site design addresses several challenges related to building orientation. The southeast facade, with excellent visibility from the highway, is the location of all service equipment. The building entrance faces northwest, convenient to the parking but not visible from the highway.
The client believes future patient volumes will outgrow the clinic. The PD document allows for a planned Phase 2 development on the adjacent vacant site to the southwest. Phase 2 would include a second building (2 story, 80,000 BGSF) and/or a parking deck.
Other considerations for the project include:
* Protected tree requirements are defined in the PD document.
* Easy pedestrian access must be provided from Sycamore Boulevard.
* All required parking for the clinic must be accommodated on site.
* Programmed area includes 109,450 Departmental Gross Square Feet (DGSF) / 130,184 Building Gross Square Feet (BGSF).
* Exterior material percentages are dictated by the PD document and shall not exceed specific percentages for Primary and

Secondary Finishes.
* All service equipment needs to be screened; see PD document for restrictions.
* Signage opportunities are important to the client.
* Acoustical privacy is a concern of the healthcare system.
The following resources are available for your reference:
* Drawings, including a perspective, plans, and exterior elevations
* Building Program, including client's departmental program and detailed program for Treatment 01 (Infusion)
* Exterior Material Cost Comparisons
* Planned Development Document
* IBC Excerpts, showing relevant code sections
* ADA Excerpts, showing relevant sections from the ADA Standards for Accessible Design

Which of the following design solutions best addresses the client's concerns related to building orientation, vehicular circulation, and future expansion?

- A. Cluster patient and emergency vehicle access on the northwest facade with the main entrance adjacent, position staff and service access on the northeast, and minimize the pedestrian plaza to maximize parking area.
- B. Locate all vehicular traffic access on one side of the site to simplify circulation and position the main entrance on the southeast facade facing the highway for maximum visibility.
- C. Position the main entrance on the northeast facade to align with future Phase 2 development, route all vehicular traffic through a centralized loop road, and locate service equipment behind the building without screening to reduce costs.
- D. Separate vehicular traffic by type with dedicated access points, place the main entrance facing northwest toward parking for convenient access, and locate service equipment on the southeast facade screened as per PD requirements.

Answer: D

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:
The design must balance client priorities, regulatory requirements, and site conditions:
* Vehicular Circulation:Separating traffic flows by function reduces conflicts and improves safety- patients, staff, deliveries, and emergency vehicles each require distinct circulation paths.
* Building Orientation:The main entrance facing northwest towards parking prioritizes user convenience, even if this orientation has less highway visibility. The southeast facade, visible from the highway, is dedicated to service equipment screened per PD document restrictions.
* Pedestrian Plaza:Providing a pedestrian plaza connected to mixed-use development sidewalks, with bicycle parking and bus stop, aligns with site accessibility and transit integration goals.
* Future Expansion:Positioning the site elements to accommodate Phase 2 on the adjacent southwest vacant site facilitates growth without major disruption.
* Screening and Material Use:Service equipment screening and adherence to PD exterior material percentages maintain design compliance.
* Acoustical Privacy:The layout supports departmental adjacency and separation for privacy, crucial in healthcare design.
* Option B best addresses these concerns and reflects the project's functional, regulatory, and contextual needs as outlined in NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Integration and Site Planning content.
References:
ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design Content Outline: Project Integration of Program and Systems - Site Planning and Circulation City-approved Planned Development Document ADA Standards for Accessible Design The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition, Chapters 6 and 7 on Site Design and Program Integration

NEW QUESTION # 51
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