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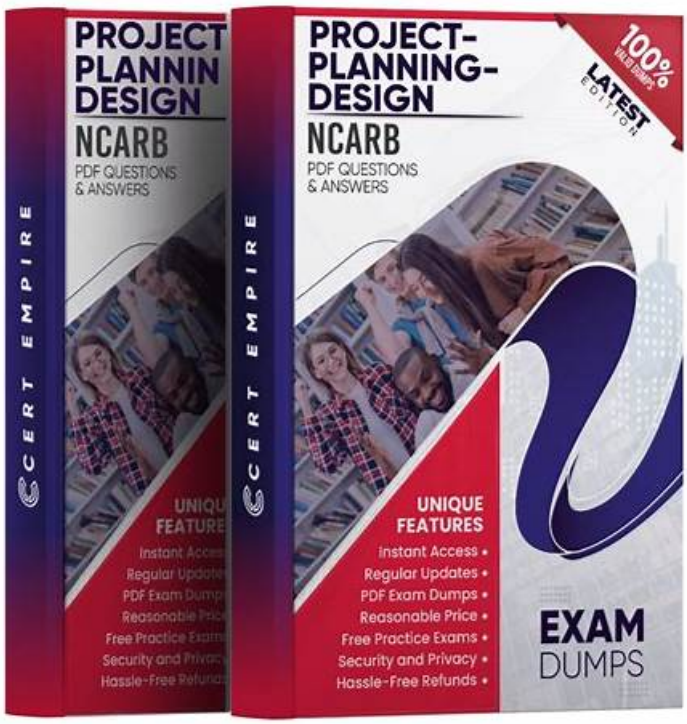

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NCARB Project-Planning-Design Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	• 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 2	• 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 3	• 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.
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	• 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.

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NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design (PPD) Sample Questions (Q33-Q38):

NEW QUESTION # 33
An existing building containing the maximum allowable area may be extended horizontally provided the extension is separated from the existing building by which one of the following?

- A. A fire-rated shutter
- B. A water curtain
- C. An outside space separation of at least 10 ft
- D. A fire wall

Answer: D

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:
According to the International Building Code (IBC) and reflected in the NCARB Project Planning & Design guidelines, when an existing building has reached the maximum allowable floor area, horizontal extensions (additions) can be made only if there is a proper separation between the existing structure and the new addition. This separation must prevent fire spread and protect structural integrity.
A fire wall is a continuous, fire-resistive barrier designed to prevent the spread of fire between adjacent buildings or different parts of a building. It must have structural stability under fire conditions and can allow the two portions of the building to be treated as separate structures for area calculations, effectively permitting expansion beyond the allowable area of a single building.
Fire-rated shutters (Option A) are movable devices used for compartmentation but are not intended for permanent separation of building areas.
Outside space separation of at least 10 ft (Option B) is generally insufficient for full area separation unless it meets specific fire-resistance rating and distance requirements that typically exceed 10 feet.
Water curtains (Option D) are active fire protection devices but are not substitutes for passive separations required by code to extend allowable building area.
Thus, the correct method to extend a building beyond its maximum allowable area is to separate it with a fire wall, as per NCARB and IBC provisions.
References:
ARE 5.0 PPD - Codes and Regulations, Building Area and Occupancy Separation IBC 2018, Chapter 7: Fire and Smoke Protection Features The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Fire Protection

NEW QUESTION # 34
A site has been engineered with a 1:20 grade.
Which of the following sidewalk designs would be the most cost-effective way to get from the top to the bottom and still be in compliance with the accessibility standards?

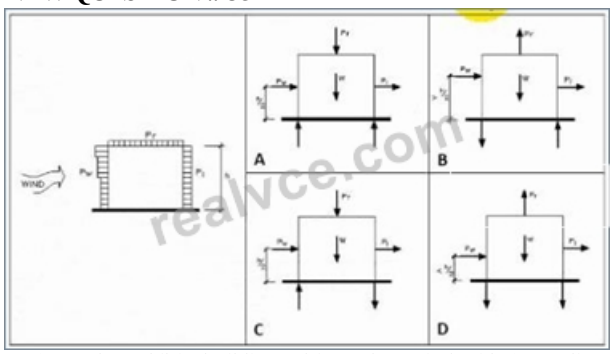
- A. At the same grade as the slope with no handrail
- B. Cutting diagonally across the slope at 1:10 with a handrail

- C. Switchback ramps at 1:12 with a handrail
- D. Cutting diagonally across the slope at 1:12 with no handrail

Answer: D

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:
A 1:20 slope means a 5% grade (1 vertical unit per 20 horizontal units), which is slightly steeper than the ideal maximum slope for accessible ramps.
* Option C: Cutting diagonally across the slope at 1:12 (~8.33%) slope without a handrail is the most cost-effective design that still complies with accessibility standards. According to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and ICC A117.1, the maximum slope for an accessible ramp is 1:12. Handrails are required on ramps with a rise greater than 6 inches (150 mm). If the rise is less than 6 inches, handrails are not required.
Because the diagonal cut reduces the slope to 1:12 and the total rise is likely less than 6 inches given the gentle 1:20 original slope, handrails are not mandatory, making this solution economical and code compliant.
* Option A: Switchback ramps at 1:12 with handrails are compliant but more expensive due to increased construction complexity and space requirements.
* Option B: A 1:10 slope (10%) exceeds the maximum allowed slope for accessible ramps and requires handrails, thus non-compliant.
* Option D: Following the existing 1:20 slope without modification does not provide the maximum accessibility slope and may be acceptable but might not comply with certain stricter local codes for ramps.
Therefore, Option C balances accessibility, cost, and compliance optimally.
References:
ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design Content Outline: Environmental Conditions and Context - Site Accessibility and Grading ADA Standards for Accessible Design (2010) ICC A117.1 Accessibility Standards The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition, Chapter 7: Site Planning and Accessibility

NEW QUESTION # 35



Refer to the exhibit (building subjected to wind with force diagrams A, B, C, D).
Which of the force diagrams shown correctly represents the resultant wind forces causing an overturning effect on the building and the forces that resist this overturning effect? (Direction and point of application of forces are to be considered; magnitude of forces is not.)

- A. D
- B. A
- C. B
- D. C

Answer: B

Explanation:
The diagram shows a building exposed to wind loading, which causes lateral pressure (P_w) on the windward wall and suction (negative pressure) on the leeward wall, generating an overturning moment about the base of the building.
* Diagram A correctly shows:
* The wind pressure (P_w) pushing on the windward wall, producing a lateral force applied at approximately two-thirds the building height (h), which tends to overturn the building.
* The wind suction (P_l) pulling on the leeward wall, acting in the opposite direction but also contributing to the overturning moment.
* The reaction forces at the base resist this overturning: an uplift force (negative vertical reaction) on the windward side and a downward force on the leeward side, counterbalancing the moment.

* Diagrams B, C, and D incorrectly orient or place the forces or reactions, failing to accurately depict the overturning moment and the corresponding resisting forces.
NCARB ARE 5.0 PPD guidelines on environmental conditions emphasize understanding wind load effects, including lateral pressures, suction, overturning moments, and foundation reactions essential for structural design and safety.
References:
ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design Content Outline: Environmental Conditions and Context - Wind Loads and Structural Response
ASCE 7-16: Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures (Wind Load Provisions) The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition, Chapter 13: Building Codes, Standards, and Regulations

NEW QUESTION # 36
A divisional cost breakdown method of cost estimating has which of the following advantages over a cost per square foot method of cost estimating?

- A. It is useful for generic buildings.
- B. It provides a quick reference or check at the early design stages.
- C. It is useful throughout design and construction of the project.
- D. It provides a simple method to calculate costs.

Answer: C

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:
The divisional cost breakdown method organizes project costs by divisions (e.g., site work, concrete, finishes), which allows for detailed tracking and estimation of costs throughout design and construction phases. This method is more comprehensive and flexible compared to the simple cost per square foot method, which is primarily useful early in design for rough order-of-magnitude estimates.
Therefore, the divisional method's key advantage is its usefulness throughout the project lifecycle for cost management, enabling more accurate updates and adjustments as design progresses.
References:
ARE 5.0 PPD - Project Costs and Budgeting
The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Cost Estimating and Control

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NEW QUESTION # 37
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 When the addition is

completed, the school will be fully sprinkled per NFPA 13 Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems requirements, with a continuous 24-foot wide fire access lane provided around the building perimeter.
Through a code analysis, the combination of construction type, occupancy, and building area present a compliance problem.

- A. Check frontage area increase
- B. Reduce building area
- C. Add firewall to design

Answer: A

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:
When a building's size and occupancy cause non-compliance with allowable building area or frontage requirements, the architect should first check frontage area increase provisions allowed by the code. The frontage increase can allow a larger building area based on the length of street frontage and fire access, especially when sprinklers and fire lanes are provided.
Adding firewalls (A) is a method to subdivide building area but is typically considered after exploring frontage increases.
Reducing building area (C) is a last resort if other allowances are insufficient.
Therefore, the architect should first verify if frontage area increases resolve the compliance issue.
References:
IBC Chapter 5 - Building Area and Height Limits
NFPA 13 - Sprinkler System Requirements
ARE 5.0 PPD - Codes and Regulations

NEW QUESTION # 38
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