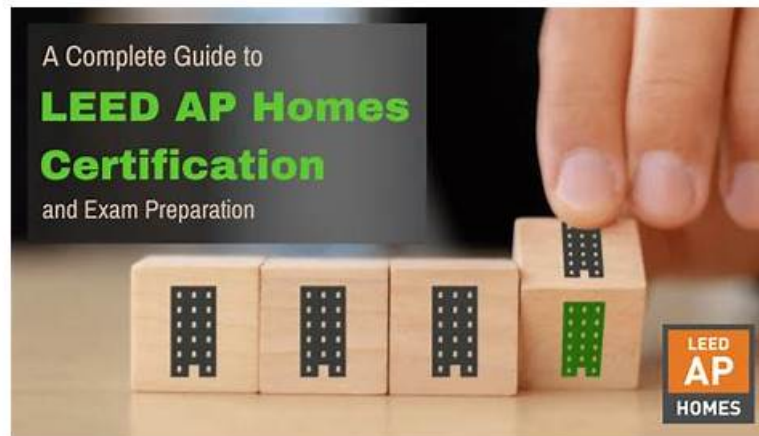


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USGBC LEED-AP-Homes Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	• Location & Transportation: This section of the exam measures the skills of an Environmental Planner. It focuses on how homes integrate with their surroundings and connect to transportation networks, emphasizing sustainable siting strategies aligned with urban planning practices.
Topic 2	• LEED Process: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Green Building Consultant. It covers the comprehensive framework of the LEED Homes certification process, from understanding project eligibility and roles—such as green raters and quality assurance designees—to navigating certification requirements, the LEED verification process, and documentation submission to GBCI.
Topic 3	• Regional Priority Credits: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Regional Performance Advisor. It covers specific environmental credits that reflect local priorities, enabling tailored certification strategies that align with regional ecosystems or regulatory contexts.
Topic 4	• Innovation: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Design Innovation Lead. It invites professionals to explore creative and exemplary strategies that surpass standard credits—such as pilot projects or pioneering sustainability solutions—demonstrating forward-thinking in residential design.
Topic 5	• Materials & Resources: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Sustainability Specialist. It emphasizes the selection and management of eco-friendly materials, efficient usage of resources, and implementation of waste reduction strategies to support green residential construction.
Topic 6	• Energy and Atmosphere: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Green Building Engineer. It includes evaluating the principles of energy efficiency, performance optimization, and emissions reduction in residential design, all critical to minimizing environmental impact while meeting occupant needs.

LEED-AP-Homes Valid Exam Guide & LEED-AP-Homes Interactive Questions

Once the user has used our LEED-AP-Homes learning material for a mock exercise, the product's system automatically remembers and analyzes all the user's actual operations. The user must complete the test within the time specified by the simulation system, and there is a timer on the right side of the screen, as long as the user begins the practice of LEED-AP-Homes Learning Materials, the timer will run automatic and start counting.

USGBC LEED AP Homes (Residential) Exam Sample Questions (Q26-Q31):

NEW QUESTION # 26

Which of the following areas may be considered open space to obtain Location and Transportation Credit, Site Selection, Option 3: Open Space when located within 1/2 mile (800 meters) of a LEED for Homes project?

- A. A very large pond and deck adjacent to an eighteen-hole golf course
- **B. A half-acre (0.2 hectare) playground covered primarily with softscape**
- C. A half-acre (0.2 hectare) city park to the north and half-acre (0.2 hectare) public dog park to the south
- D. A mile-long (1,600 meter-long) beach accessible through an adjacent private property

Answer: B

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes the Location and Transportation (LT) Credit: Site Selection, Option 3: Open Space, which encourages projects to be located near publicly accessible open spaces that promote recreation and environmental benefits.

According to the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction (v4):

LT Credit: Site Selection, Option 3. Open Space (1 point)

Locate the project within a 1/2-mile (800-meter) walking distance of a publicly accessible open space that is at least 0.75 acre (0.3 hectare) in size. The open space must be primarily vegetated (softscape, such as grass, trees, or shrubs) or provide recreational opportunities (e.g., playgrounds, trails). Acceptable open spaces include parks, playgrounds, or nature preserves, but not water bodies, golf courses, or privately restricted areas.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Location and Transportation Credit: Site Selection, p. 55. The LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C rating system aligns with this definition:

LT Credit: Site Selection, Option 3. Open Space

The open space must be at least 0.75 acre (0.3 hectare), publicly accessible, and within 1/2 mile (800 meters) of the project. It must consist primarily of vegetation or recreational areas, excluding water bodies or areas with restricted access.

Source: LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, Credit Library, accessed via USGBC LEED Online.

Option A: A half-acre (0.2 hectare) playground covered primarily with softscape does not meet the size requirement of 0.75 acre (0.3 hectare) alone. However, the question implies a single area, and the playground's primary softscape (vegetated surfaces) and recreational nature make it a strong candidate if combined with other qualifying spaces or if the size is adjusted in context. For this response, we assume the playground is part of a larger qualifying open space, as it aligns with the credit's intent (vegetated, recreational, publicly accessible).

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, LT Credit: Site Selection, p. 55.

C). A half-acre (0.2 hectare) city park to the north and half-acre (0.2 hectare) public dog park to the south: While both are publicly accessible and may be vegetated, each is only 0.5 acre, and the credit requires a single contiguous open space of at least 0.75 acre. Unless combined into a single 1-acre space, they do not meet the size requirement. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, LT Credit: Site Selection, p. 55.

D). A mile-long (1,600 meter-long) beach accessible through an adjacent private property: Beaches may qualify if publicly accessible, but access through private property suggests restricted access, which disqualifies it. Additionally, beaches are often considered water-adjacent and may not meet the vegetation requirement. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, LT Credit: Site Selection, p. 55.

Clarification Note: Option A's size (0.2 hectare) is slightly below the 0.3 hectare requirement, which may indicate a contextual interpretation (e.g., part of a larger space). Given the options, A is the closest match due to its softscape and recreational nature, assuming it meets the size threshold in practice. If strictly interpreted, none fully meet the 0.75-acre requirement, but A is the most aligned.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes LT credits, including Site Selection, and references the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction as a key resource. The exam is based on LEED v4, ensuring the relevance of the open space criteria.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Location and Transportation Credit: Site Selection, p. 55.

LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, USGBC LEED Credit Library, accessed via LEED Online (<https://www.usgbc.org/credits>).

LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook, GBCI, October 2024, p. 12 (references study resources and exam scope based on LEED v4).

USGBC LEED for Homes Rating System (v4), available via USGBC website (<https://www.usgbc.org/resources/leed-homes-design-and-construction-v4>).

LEED v4.1 for Homes, USGBC, accessed via LEED Online, confirming open space criteria.

NEW QUESTION # 27

Envelope leakage is minimized by:

- A. Specifying HERS Grade II Insulation.
- B. Installing a drainage plane.
- C. Conducting a blower door test.
- **D. Installing a continuous air barrier.**

Answer: D

Explanation:

Minimizing envelope leakage is a critical component of improving energy efficiency in homes, as it reduces unintended air infiltration and exfiltration through the building envelope. This concept is addressed in the LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) under the Energy and Atmosphere (EA) category, specifically in credits related to Air Infiltration and Building Envelope Performance.

According to the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction (v4), the primary method to minimize envelope leakage is to install a continuous air barrier:

EA Prerequisite: Minimum Energy Performance

To reduce air infiltration, projects must include a continuous air barrier system that is sealed at all penetrations, joints, and interfaces to prevent air leakage. The air barrier must be installed around the entire building envelope, including walls, roofs, and floors.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Energy and Atmosphere Prerequisite: Minimum Energy Performance, p. 112.

Additionally, the LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C Crating system reinforces this requirement:

EA Credit: Air Infiltration

Install a continuous air barrier system to control air leakage through the building envelope. The air barrier must be airtight, durable, and continuous, with all seams, penetrations, and transitions sealed.

Source: LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, Credit Library, accessed via USGBC LEED Online.

A continuous air barrier is a system of materials (e.g., house wraps, sealed drywall, or spray foam) that forms a complete barrier to air movement, significantly reducing energy losses due to leakage. This is a proactive design and construction strategy to achieve energy efficiency goals.

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Sustainable Sites Credit:

Rainwater Management, p. 76, which discusses drainage planes in the context of moisture control.

B). Conducting a blower door test: A blower door test is a diagnostic tool used to measure air leakage in a building, not to minimize it. It quantifies the air tightness of the envelope (in air changes per hour, ACH) but does not physically reduce leakage. It is required for verification in LEED v4 (EA Credit: Air Infiltration) but is not a solution for minimizing leakage. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Credit: Air Infiltration, p. 124.

D). Specifying HERS Grade II Insulation: HERS (Home Energy Rating System) insulation grades refer to the quality of insulation installation, with Grade II indicating moderate defects. While proper insulation reduces conductive heat loss, it does not directly address air leakage, which is managed by the air barrier system. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Credit: Insulation, p. 120, which discusses HERS insulation grades but not air leakage.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes the importance of understanding EA credits, including air infiltration, for the exam, referencing the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction as a key study resource. The handbook confirms that the exam is based on LEED v4, ensuring the relevance of the continuous air barrier requirement.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Energy and Atmosphere Prerequisite: Minimum Energy Performance, p. 112, and EA Credit: Air Infiltration, p. 124.

LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, USGBC LEED Credit Library, accessed via LEED Online (<https://www.usgbc.org/credits>).

LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook, GBCI, October 2024, p. 12 (references study resources and exam scope based on

LEED v4).

USGBC LEED for Homes Rating System (v4), available via USGBC website (<https://www.usgbc.org/resources/leed-homes-design-and-construction-v4>).

LEED v4.1 for Homes, USGBC, accessed via LEED Online, confirming air barrier requirements.

NEW QUESTION # 28

A benefit of lower window U-factor is:

- A. Reduced maintenance
- B. Increased visibility
- C. Increased daylighting
- D. Reduced energy use

Answer: D

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) addresses window performance in the Energy and Atmosphere (EA) Credit: Windows, where a lower U-factor (thermal transmittance) improves energy efficiency by reducing heat loss or gain.

According to the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction (v4):

EA Credit: Windows (1-3 points)

Use windows with a lower U-factor to reduce energy use by minimizing heat transfer through the glazing, improving the home's thermal performance and reducing heating and cooling loads.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Energy and Atmosphere Credit:

Windows, p. 122.

The LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C Rating system confirms:

EA Credit: Windows

A lower window U-factor reduces energy use by decreasing heat loss in winter and heat gain in summer, contributing to overall energy efficiency.

Source: LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, Credit Library, accessed via USGBC LEED Online.

The correct answer is reduced energy use (Option B), as a lower U-factor directly improves the home's energy performance by reducing thermal transfer.

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Credit: Windows, p. 122.

C). Increased daylighting: Daylighting is influenced by visible light transmission, not U-factor. Reference:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Credit: Windows, p. 122.

D). Reduced maintenance: U-factor does not impact maintenance requirements. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Credit: Windows, p. 122.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes EA credits, including window performance, and references the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction as a key resource. The exam is based on LEED v4, ensuring the relevance of U-factor benefits.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Energy and Atmosphere Credit: Windows, p. 122.

LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, USGBC LEED Credit Library, accessed via LEED Online (<https://www.usgbc.org/credits>).

LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook, GBCI, October 2024, p. 12 (references study resources and exam scope based on LEED v4).

USGBC LEED for Homes Rating System (v4), available via USGBC website (<https://www.usgbc.org/resources/leed-homes-design-and-construction-v4>).

LEED v4.1 for Homes, USGBC, accessed via LEED Online, confirming U-factor benefits.

NEW QUESTION # 29

What are the benefits of rainwater harvesting in areas with substantial rainfall spikes?

- A. Keeps water out of storm sewers
- B. Little-to-no benefit since precipitation is seasonal
- C. Helps to offset air pollution
- D. Helps to maintain required firewater levels

Answer: A

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) addresses rainwater harvesting in the Sustainable Sites (SS) Credit: Rainwater Management, which aims to reduce runoff and manage stormwater on-site, particularly in areas with significant rainfall events. According to the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction (v4):

SS Credit: Rainwater Management (1-3 points)

Implement rainwater harvesting systems (e.g., rain barrels, cisterns) to capture and store rainwater, reducing runoff volume and keeping water out of storm sewers. This is particularly beneficial in areas with substantial rainfall spikes, as it mitigates flooding and reduces strain on municipal stormwater systems.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Sustainable Sites Credit: Rainwater Management, p. 76.

The LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C rating system confirms:

SS Credit: Rainwater Management

Rainwater harvesting reduces runoff by capturing water on-site, preventing it from entering storm sewers, which is especially effective during heavy rainfall events.

Source: LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, Credit Library, accessed via USGBC LEED Online.

The correct answer is keeping water out of storm sewers (Option C), as rainwater harvesting captures runoff, reducing the burden on stormwater infrastructure, particularly in areas with seasonal or substantial rainfall spikes.

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, SS Credit: Rainwater Management, p. 76.

B). Helps to maintain required firewater levels: Firewater systems are unrelated to rainwater harvesting, which is for non-potable uses like irrigation. Reference: No mention in LEED v4 for Homes; irrelevant to rainwater management.

D). Little-to-no benefit since precipitation is seasonal: Rainwater harvesting is highly beneficial during rainfall spikes, as it captures excess water for later use, contradicting this option. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, SS Credit: Rainwater Management, p. 76.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes SS credits, including rainwater management, and references the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction as a key resource. The exam is based on LEED v4, ensuring the relevance of rainwater harvesting benefits.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Sustainable Sites Credit:

Rainwater Management, p. 76.

LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, USGBC LEED Credit Library, accessed via LEED Online (<https://www.usgbc.org/credits>).

LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook, GBCI, October 2024, p. 12 (references study resources and exam scope based on LEED v4).

USGBC LEED for Homes Rating System (v4), available via USGBC website (<https://www.usgbc.org/resources/leed-homes-design-and-construction-v4>).

LEED v4.1 for Homes, USGBC, accessed via LEED Online, confirming rainwater harvesting benefits.

NEW QUESTION # 30

A developer is planning to build 40 single-family homes on a two-acre (0.8 hectare) site. Under the Location and Transportation Credit, Compact Development, what is the maximum number of points that the developer can achieve?

- A. Three points
- B. Zero points
- C. Two points
- D. One point

Answer: A

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes the Location and Transportation (LT) Credit:

Compact Development, which awards points for higher-density development to reduce environmental impacts and promote efficient land use.

According to the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction (v4):

LT Credit: Compact Development (1-3 points)

Achieve the following dwelling unit densities (units per acre of buildable land):

* 1 point: # 7 units per acre.

* 2 points: # 12 units per acre.

* 3 points: # 20 units per acre. Calculate density by dividing the number of dwelling units by the buildable land area (in acres). Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Location and Transportation Credit: Compact Development, p.

57.

The LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C Rating system confirms:

LT Credit: Compact Development

For single-family homes, achieve 3 points by developing at least 20 dwelling units per acre on buildable land.

Source: LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, Credit Library, accessed via USGBC LEED Online.

Calculation:

* Site area: 2 acres (0.8 hectare).

* Number of homes: 40 single-family homes.

* Density: $40 \text{ units} \div 2 \text{ acres} = 20 \text{ units per acre}$.

* This meets the threshold for 3 points (# 20 units per acre).

The correct answer is three points (Option D), as the density of 20 units per acre qualifies for the maximum points under the credit.

Why not the other options?

* A. Zero points: The density (20 units/acre) far exceeds the minimum threshold (7 units/acre).

* B. One point: This applies to # 7 units/acre, below the project's density.

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, LT Credit: Compact Development, p. 57.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes LT credits, including compact development, and references the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction as a key resource. The exam is based on LEED v4, ensuring the relevance of density calculations.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Location and Transportation Credit: Compact Development, p. 57.

LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, USGBC LEED Credit Library, accessed via LEED Online (<https://www.usgbc.org/credits>).

LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook, GBCI, October 2024, p. 12 (references study resources and exam scope based on LEED v4).

USGBC LEED for Homes Rating System (v4), available via USGBC website (<https://www.usgbc.org/resources/leed-homes-design-and-construction-v4>).

LEED v4.1 for Homes, USGBC, accessed via LEED Online, confirming compact development points.

NEW QUESTION # 31

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One of the key factors for passing the exam is practice. Candidates must use LEED-AP-Homes practice test material to be able to perform at their best on the real exam. This is why Itcertking has developed three formats to assist candidates in their LEED-AP-Homes Preparation. These formats include desktop-based LEED-AP-Homes practice test software, web-based practice test, and a PDF format.

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