

ALE Building Laws Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain from reliable sources accurate, complete, and timely information about this product.

SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. What is the fire resistance rating of the interior walls of Type IV construction according to PD 1096?**
 - A. 1 hour**
 - B. 2 hours**
 - C. 3 hours**
 - D. 4 hours**
- 2. According to building laws, what is the significance of having multiple exits in a building?**
 - A. To ensure ease of access for visitors**
 - B. To comply with aesthetic requirements**
 - C. To enhance safety during emergencies**
 - D. To reduce construction costs**
- 3. According to PD 1096, what is the minimum distance between the front of a seat and the back of a seat in front of it?**
 - A. 250 mm**
 - B. 300 mm**
 - C. 350 mm**
 - D. 400 mm**
- 4. At what walking speed should the flashing green period of traffic lights be based?**
 - A. 0.8 m/s**
 - B. 0.9 m/s**
 - C. 1.0 m/s**
 - D. 1.2 m/s**
- 5. What does the total surface area of a lot refer to in building laws?**
 - A. Total lot area**
 - B. Maximum allowable construction area**
 - C. Percentage of site occupancy**
 - D. Impervious surface area**

- 6. What is the percentage of the rear property line on which a firewall may be constructed on R-5 zoned properties?**
- A. 40%**
 - B. 50%**
 - C. 60%**
 - D. 70%**
- 7. Can wet standpipes be omitted from a building if an approved sprinkler system is in place?**
- A. Yes**
 - B. No**
 - C. Only in residential buildings**
 - D. Only if the sprinkler system is recent**
- 8. According to PD 957, what is the minimum lot area for a medium-cost single attached house?**
- A. 80 sqm**
 - B. 96 sqm**
 - C. 100 sqm**
 - D. 120 sqm**
- 9. What is the minimum headroom required for all new construction exit stairs?**
- A. 1.8 m**
 - B. 1.9 m**
 - C. 2.0 m**
 - D. 2.1 m**
- 10. Combined masonry and wood construction falls under which type of construction according to PD 1096?**
- A. Type II**
 - B. Type III**
 - C. Type IV**
 - D. Type V**

Answers

SAMPLE

- 1. B**
- 2. C**
- 3. B**
- 4. B**
- 5. A**
- 6. B**
- 7. A**
- 8. A**
- 9. C**
- 10. B**

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. What is the fire resistance rating of the interior walls of Type IV construction according to PD 1096?

- A. 1 hour
- B. 2 hours**
- C. 3 hours
- D. 4 hours

In Type IV construction, which is also known as "Heavy Timber" construction, the fire resistance rating of interior walls is specified as 2 hours according to PD 1096. This building type typically utilizes substantial wooden materials, which can provide a certain level of fire resistance due to their mass. The 2-hour rating is significant as it is designed to ensure that interior walls can withstand fire exposure for a sufficient duration, helping to prevent the spread of fire within the building and allowing for safe evacuation. This standard reflects an understanding of fire dynamics and the necessity of protecting occupants and property in the case of fire emergencies.

2. According to building laws, what is the significance of having multiple exits in a building?

- A. To ensure ease of access for visitors
- B. To comply with aesthetic requirements
- C. To enhance safety during emergencies**
- D. To reduce construction costs

The significance of having multiple exits in a building primarily revolves around enhancing safety during emergencies. This feature is crucial in design and construction regulations, as it provides occupants with alternative routes to evacuate the building quickly and effectively in the event of a fire, natural disaster, or other emergencies. Multiple exits help to prevent overcrowding at a single exit point, reducing the risk of injury and ensuring occupants can evacuate in a timely manner. Building codes typically mandate specific requirements for exit routes based on the building's size, occupancy type, and other factors, emphasizing the importance of safety in building design. While ease of access and aesthetic considerations can be important in general design, they do not carry the same level of critical need. Additionally, reducing construction costs often takes a backseat to ensuring public safety and compliance with building regulations, which prioritize the well-being of occupants above all.

3. According to PD 1096, what is the minimum distance between the front of a seat and the back of a seat in front of it?

- A. 250 mm
- B. 300 mm**
- C. 350 mm
- D. 400 mm

The correct answer is based on the requirements set forth in Presidential Decree No. 1096, which is known as the National Building Code of the Philippines. It specifies that the minimum distance between the front of a seat and the back of a seat in front of it must be 300 millimeters. This measurement is important for ensuring comfort and accessibility for individuals in assembly areas, such as theaters and auditoriums, where seating configuration plays a critical role in user experience. The specified distance allows adequate legroom for the average occupant, facilitating ease of movement as well as compliance with safety regulations that may concern egress in case of emergencies. In settings where people may be seated for extended periods, this dimension contributes to overall patron comfort and can affect viewing angles and engagement with performances or presentations. Given that this specification is a standard aimed at public welfare and design effectiveness, it is crucial to adhere to it in any construction or renovation plans involving seating arrangements. Other distances mentioned in the options are not in line with PD 1096 and thus do not fulfill the regulatory requirements.

4. At what walking speed should the flashing green period of traffic lights be based?

- A. 0.8 m/s
- B. 0.9 m/s**
- C. 1.0 m/s
- D. 1.2 m/s

The appropriate walking speed for the flashing green period of traffic lights is set based on pedestrian behavior and safety. A walking speed of 0.9 m/s is widely accepted as an average speed for adults in an urban environment. This speed accommodates a range of pedestrians, including those who may walk slower due to age or mobility conditions while still ensuring that the timing allows for a reasonable chance to cross safely. Using this walking speed as a benchmark helps in coordinating the timing of pedestrian signals to ensure effective traffic flow and pedestrian safety. This standard is often utilized in traffic studies and urban planning to optimize signal durations for both vehicles and pedestrians. Other speeds, while they may be theoretically viable, do not reflect the average experience of most pedestrians in real-world situations, which is why they are less commonly adopted.

5. What does the total surface area of a lot refer to in building laws?

A. Total lot area

B. Maximum allowable construction area

C. Percentage of site occupancy

D. Impervious surface area

The total surface area of a lot refers specifically to the total lot area, which encompasses the entire land area that a property occupies. This measurement is a crucial element in building laws and regulations, as it determines how much space is available for development, landscaping, and other uses. Understanding the total lot area is essential for various planning activities, including zoning compliance, calculating setbacks, and ensuring that any proposed construction is appropriate for the size of the lot. This area plays a significant role in assessing whether a development project meets local building codes and regulations. In the context of the other choices, maximum allowable construction area focuses on limits set on how much of the lot can be developed; percentage of site occupancy relates to how much of the overall lot area is actually built upon; and impervious surface area specifically deals with surfaces that do not allow rainwater to infiltrate, like concrete or asphalt. While these concepts are all important in building regulations, they do not define the total surface area of a lot, which remains the complete area of the plot itself.

6. What is the percentage of the rear property line on which a firewall may be constructed on R-5 zoned properties?

A. 40%

B. 50%

C. 60%

D. 70%

In R-5 zoned properties, the regulations specify that a firewall may be constructed on up to 50% of the rear property line. This guideline is established to provide flexibility in building design while still ensuring appropriate fire safety measures are in place. The use of firewalls is essential in multi-family housing areas, as they help prevent the spread of fire between structures, enhancing safety for residents. Understanding zoning laws is crucial, as they regulate various aspects of property development, including the percentage of various boundaries that can be used for construction. In this case, the 50% specification helps to balance the need for adequate fire separation and the density of construction that can occur on a given lot. The other percentages listed do not align with the regulations for R-5 zones, thus indicating that they are not permissible for firewall construction on the rear property line.

7. Can wet standpipes be omitted from a building if an approved sprinkler system is in place?

A. Yes

B. No

C. Only in residential buildings

D. Only if the sprinkler system is recent

In certain building codes and regulations, the presence of an approved sprinkler system can allow for the omission of wet standpipes. This is based on the interoperability of fire protection systems in minimizing fire risks and ensuring effective fire suppression. Wet standpipes are typically used to supply water to firefighters in a building. However, if an approved sprinkler system is installed, it is often deemed sufficient for fire protection purposes. Sprinkler systems are designed to automatically activate during a fire event, effectively suppressing flames and reducing the risk of spread. As a result, authorities having jurisdiction may permit the omission of wet standpipes in favor of the more comprehensive sprinkler system, provided it meets the required standards and efficiencies. Other options may specify conditions such as limitation to residential buildings or qualifications based on the recency of the sprinkler system, which could imply unnecessary restrictions that are not generally supported when codes allow for such alternatives.

8. According to PD 957, what is the minimum lot area for a medium-cost single attached house?

A. 80 sqm

B. 96 sqm

C. 100 sqm

D. 120 sqm

The correct minimum lot area for a medium-cost single attached house, as stated in PD 957, is 80 square meters. This regulation is part of the Philippine laws governing housing and urban development, which stipulates specific requirements based on the type of housing to ensure that residential units are adequately sized and situated. These standards are designed to promote livable and sustainable communities, with sufficient space for housing, access to amenities, and proper urban planning. Understanding these regulations is crucial for professionals involved in real estate, urban planning, and housing development, as they ensure compliance with national standards while accommodating the needs of residents in varying socio-economic conditions. This particular minimum lot area allows for an efficient use of space while providing the necessary environment for medium-cost housing projects.

9. What is the minimum headroom required for all new construction exit stairs?

- A. 1.8 m
- B. 1.9 m
- C. 2.0 m**
- D. 2.1 m

The minimum headroom required for all new construction exit stairs is 2.0 meters. This standard is set to ensure that users of the stairway, including individuals with varying heights, can pass through the exit stairs safely and comfortably without the risk of bumping their heads or sustaining injuries. Maintaining a sufficient headroom is crucial for compliance with safety regulations and building codes, which are designed to protect the public in case of emergencies as well as everyday use. A height of 2.0 meters provides adequate clearance for most individuals, including those who might be carrying objects, ensuring that the exit route remains unobstructed and functional. Furthermore, adherence to this standard is a critical element in the overall safety and accessibility considerations for building design and construction.

10. Combined masonry and wood construction falls under which type of construction according to PD 1096?

- A. Type II
- B. Type III**
- C. Type IV
- D. Type V

Combined masonry and wood construction is classified as Type III construction according to PD 1096, which refers to the National Building Code of the Philippines. In this classification, the structure is primarily made up of non-combustible materials, such as masonry, yet incorporates some elements like wood that are considered combustible. Type III construction allows for the use of both masonry and wood, striking a balance between durability and flexibility. This classification is particularly useful in creating buildings that can benefit from the strength of masonry while also leveraging the aesthetic and structural advantages of wood. In contrast, other types such as Type II or Type IV focus solely on non-combustible materials and heavier timber respectively, while Type V typically encompasses fully combustible structures. Therefore, the classification of combined masonry and wood construction as Type III is fitting, as it specifically addresses the unique characteristics and construction methodologies involved in such designs.