

American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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Questions

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- 1. A multi-tenant building that provides below-market rents and support services is called?**
 - A. A small business consortium**
 - B. An economic development project**
 - C. An incubator facility**
 - D. A shared workspace**
- 2. What does an "Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance" synchronize?**
 - A. Development with the availability of public amenities**
 - B. Public funding with private development**
 - C. Housing density with environmental protection**
 - D. Local businesses with state regulations**
- 3. Who was a key figure in the establishment of the Tennessee Valley Authority?**
 - A. Albert Gore**
 - B. Senator Norris**
 - C. Daniel Burnham**
 - D. Lyndon B. Johnson**
- 4. Who created the National Trust for Historic Preservation?**
 - A. A private organization**
 - B. Local government entities**
 - C. Congress**
 - D. A nonprofit foundation**
- 5. How many federally recognized Native American tribes are there in the United States?**
 - A. 500**
 - B. 400**
 - C. 700**
 - D. 562**

- 6. What was the significance of United States v. Gettysburg Electric Railway Company (1896)?**
- A. It dealt with private business competition**
 - B. It addressed the issue of public purpose in historic preservation**
 - C. It established new regulations for railway companies**
 - D. It focused on the regulation of energy companies**
- 7. Which one of the following is NOT typically included in a comprehensive land use plan?**
- A. Current land use map**
 - B. Weather patterns analysis**
 - C. Future land use map**
 - D. Neighborhood development strategies**
- 8. What does the Ladder of Citizen Participation critique in planning processes?**
- A. The quality of housing in urban areas**
 - B. The distribution of power in decision-making**
 - C. The effectiveness of public transport**
 - D. The diversity of community input**
- 9. An effective regulatory technique for protecting a town's groundwater supply is?**
- A. Downsize all residential districts in the town from 1/2 acre minimum lot size to 2 acres per dwelling.**
 - B. Revise the subdivision regulations to limit dead-end roads to 600 feet.**
 - C. Adopt an overlay-zoning ordinance prohibiting non-residential uses within aquifer recharge areas.**
 - D. Adopt an impact fee ordinance to collect funds from developers.**

10. Which characteristics describe the planning approach to budgeting?

- A. Government operations are defined by their objectives.**
- B. The budget is organized by programs.**
- C. The emphasis is on budget decision making rather than on administration.**
- D. All of the above.**

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. A multi-tenant building that provides below-market rents and support services is called?

- A. A small business consortium**
- B. An economic development project**
- C. An incubator facility**
- D. A shared workspace**

An incubator facility is designed to support the growth and development of startups and small businesses by providing them with below-market rents and necessary support services, such as mentorship, networking opportunities, and access to resources. This arrangement fosters innovation and entrepreneurship by reducing the financial burdens that new companies typically face, allowing them to focus on developing their products or services. In contrast, a small business consortium refers to a group of businesses that collaborate for mutual benefit, rather than a specific physical space that offers support services. An economic development project generally involves broader initiatives aimed at improving the economic well-being of a community, which can include a range of activities and does not specifically denote a building focused on small business support. A shared workspace, while also providing a physical space for collaboration, does not typically emphasize below-market rents or comprehensive support services tailored for the specific needs of startups.

2. What does an "Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance" synchronize?

- A. Development with the availability of public amenities**
- B. Public funding with private development**
- C. Housing density with environmental protection**
- D. Local businesses with state regulations**

An "Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance" (APFO) is designed to ensure that public infrastructure and facilities are sufficient to accommodate new development. The correct choice emphasizes the synchronization between development and the availability of public amenities, such as roads, schools, parks, and water supply systems. The purpose of an APFO is to prevent overloading public services and ensure that they can adequately support the population generated by new developments. By requiring that certain public facilities meet established standards before new projects can proceed, the ordinance helps maintain a balance between growth and the quality of life for existing residents. This planning tool ensures that developers contribute to the public infrastructure necessary to support their projects, thereby promoting orderly growth and avoiding situations where insufficient facilities create problems for the community. The other options pertain to different elements of planning and development. Public funding with private development focuses on fiscal relationships rather than infrastructure adequacy. Housing density with environmental protection addresses land use issues but does not necessarily involve synchronizing development with existing public facilities. Connecting local businesses with state regulations concerns economic development and regulatory compliance but is not directly related to public facility capacity.

3. Who was a key figure in the establishment of the Tennessee Valley Authority?

- A. Albert Gore**
- B. Senator Norris**
- C. Daniel Burnham**
- D. Lyndon B. Johnson**

The establishment of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in 1933 was significantly influenced by Senator George W. Norris, who played a pivotal role in its creation. As a progressive Republican senator from Nebraska, Norris championed the idea of public power and regional development, advocating for federal intervention to improve the economic conditions in the Tennessee Valley, which was devastated by the Great Depression. His efforts led to the TVA being formed as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, aimed at providing navigation, flood control, electricity generation, and economic development in an impoverished region. Norris's vision extended to the belief that the federal government should actively participate in the development of natural resources for public benefit, which directly aligned with the objectives of the TVA. This initiative not only helped address immediate economic hardships but also laid the groundwork for long-term improvements in infrastructure and quality of life in the region. His advocacy and legislative efforts were crucial in shaping the TVA into a significant federal program with lasting impacts on the economic landscape of the Tennessee Valley.

4. Who created the National Trust for Historic Preservation?

- A. A private organization**
- B. Local government entities**
- C. Congress**
- D. A nonprofit foundation**

The National Trust for Historic Preservation was established by Congress through the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. This act was aimed at promoting the preservation of historic sites, buildings, and objects across the United States. The establishment involved a formal legislative process, which underscored the importance of preservation as a national concern. By creating the National Trust through congressional action, it provided a structured and legally recognized entity to advocate for heritage conservation, foster local historic preservation activities, and collaborate with various stakeholders. This legislative foundation distinguishes the National Trust from private organizations, local government entities, or simply nonprofit foundations, as its creation involved direct action from the federal government, emphasizing the value of historic preservation on a national level.

5. How many federally recognized Native American tribes are there in the United States?

- A. 500**
- B. 400**
- C. 700**
- D. 562**

The number of federally recognized Native American tribes in the United States is currently 562. This figure reflects the tribes that have established a formal government-to-government relationship with the United States and are recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Each of these tribes has the authority to govern its members and land, maintain sovereignty, and manage its own affairs, including economic development and cultural preservation. Understanding the significance of this number is crucial as it highlights the complex relationship between Native American tribes and the federal government. Recognition grants tribes specific rights, benefits, and status that can affect funding, legal jurisdiction, and the ability to establish local governance systems. The number can fluctuate as new tribes are recognized or previously recognized tribes undergo changes in status. While other choices such as 500, 400, and 700 reflect familiar figures in discussions about tribes, they do not capture the current, precise number recognized by the federal government, which is specifically 562. This highlights the importance of staying informed about accurate and updated demographic information relevant to Native American affairs.

6. What was the significance of United States v. Gettysburg Electric Railway Company (1896)?

- A. It dealt with private business competition**
- B. It addressed the issue of public purpose in historic preservation**
- C. It established new regulations for railway companies**
- D. It focused on the regulation of energy companies**

The case of United States v. Gettysburg Electric Railway Company (1896) is significant primarily because it addressed the issue of public purpose in historic preservation. In this case, the Supreme Court upheld the federal government's authority to preserve historic sites and determine what constitutes a public good. Specifically, this ruling affirmed that the government could prioritize the preservation of historic sites, like the Gettysburg battlefield, even at the expense of private enterprise interests. This decision has lasting implications for how historic preservation is approached in the United States, establishing a framework whereby the government can intervene to protect land and resources deemed important for public benefit, particularly in the context of cultural and historical significance. The case helped to lay the groundwork for later preservation laws and policies, highlighting the imperative of public interest over private business concerns when it comes to maintaining locations of historical value. In this context, other options do not capture the essence of the ruling. The focus was not on competition among private businesses, nor did it involve setting specific new regulations for railway companies. Additionally, while energy companies might be regulated in other legal contexts, this case specifically centered around the preservation of a historic site rather than the energy sector. Therefore, the emphasis on public purpose in historic preservation is what fundamentally distinguishes this case and

7. Which one of the following is NOT typically included in a comprehensive land use plan?

- A. Current land use map**
- B. Weather patterns analysis**
- C. Future land use map**
- D. Neighborhood development strategies**

A comprehensive land use plan generally includes various elements that guide the development and management of land resources within a specific area. The inclusion of a current land use map, a future land use map, and neighborhood development strategies are fundamental components of such a plan, as they provide essential information about existing conditions, anticipated growth, and strategies for future development tailored to community needs. Weather patterns analysis, while important for some planning considerations—such as understanding climate impacts or assessing risks like flooding—does not typically constitute a core element of a comprehensive land use plan. Instead, it may be part of a more specialized study or analysis that informs related planning efforts but is not a standard inclusion in the overall land use planning framework. This distinction illustrates that while weather data can influence planning decisions, it usually does not form the foundational structure of the comprehensive land use plan itself.

8. What does the Ladder of Citizen Participation critique in planning processes?

- A. The quality of housing in urban areas**
- B. The distribution of power in decision-making**
- C. The effectiveness of public transport**
- D. The diversity of community input**

The Ladder of Citizen Participation, developed by Sherry Arnstein, highlights the varying degrees of citizen involvement in planning and decision-making processes. It critiques how power dynamics affect participatory processes, asserting that while certain mechanisms may appear to involve citizens, they do not necessarily equate to genuine empowerment or influence. The primary focus of the Ladder is on the distribution of power. It categorizes participation into different levels ranging from non-participation to full citizen control, illustrating that genuine empowerment involves not just having a voice but also the authority to impact outcomes. By examining the structures and practices in planning, the Ladder seeks to bring attention to how marginalized voices may be suppressed, thereby highlighting the importance of equitable power sharing in decision-making. While the concept encompasses various aspects of citizen engagement, its main critique centers on the imbalance of power that can diminish the effectiveness and authenticity of public participation in planning processes.

9. An effective regulatory technique for protecting a town's groundwater supply is?
- A. Downsize all residential districts in the town from 1/2 acre minimum lot size to 2 acres per dwelling.
 - B. Revise the subdivision regulations to limit dead-end roads to 600 feet.
 - C. Adopt an overlay-zoning ordinance prohibiting non-residential uses within aquifer recharge areas.**
 - D. Adopt an impact fee ordinance to collect funds from developers.

Adopting an overlay-zoning ordinance that prohibits non-residential uses within aquifer recharge areas is an effective regulatory technique for protecting a town's groundwater supply. This approach specifically targets areas critical to the replenishment of aquifers, recognizing the importance of these zones in maintaining water quality and quantity. By limiting non-residential development, which may include activities that could pollute or deplete the groundwater, the ordinance helps ensure that the natural filtration and replenishment processes of these aquifer recharge areas remain undisturbed. This strategy is particularly valuable because it proactively restricts land uses that are more likely to introduce contaminants into the groundwater system. Non-residential uses can often involve activities such as industrial operations, commercial activities, or even intensive agricultural practices, all of which could potentially threaten groundwater quality if not properly managed. Furthermore, overlay zoning is a flexible tool that complements existing zoning regulations and can easily be integrated into a community's planning framework. It allows municipalities to tailor restrictions based on specific environmental needs without overhauling the entire zoning code. The other options, while they may have positive implications for land use and infrastructure, do not directly address the imperative need to protect aquifer recharge areas in the same focused and effective manner.

10. Which characteristics describe the planning approach to budgeting?
- A. Government operations are defined by their objectives.
 - B. The budget is organized by programs.
 - C. The emphasis is on budget decision making rather than on administration.
 - D. All of the above.**

The planning approach to budgeting encompasses a variety of characteristics that guide financial decision-making within government operations. One fundamental aspect is that government operations are defined by their objectives. This means that the budgeting process is closely aligned with the goals and missions of the organization, ensuring that financial resources are allocated in a way that supports these overarching aims. Additionally, the organization of the budget by programs reflects a more strategic approach, allowing for clarity in understanding how resources are distributed across different functions and initiatives. This programmatic structure enables planners to see the relationship between funding and program outcomes, facilitating better management and evaluation of public services. The emphasis on budget decision-making over mere administration highlights the strategic element of the planning approach. This prioritization of informed decision-making allows planners and policymakers to assess alternatives, weigh potential impacts, and ultimately choose budget options that are most likely to achieve desired results. Collectively, these characteristics illustrate how the planning approach to budgeting is designed to be proactive, systematic, and oriented toward the efficient use of resources in achieving specific outcomes.