

Architectural Planning Board Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of questions,

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Don't worry about getting everything right, your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations, and take breaks to retain information better.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning.

7. Use Other Tools

Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly — adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

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Questions

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1. What do housing codes regulate?

- A. The design of new buildings**
- B. The use, occupancy, and maintenance of existing buildings**
- C. The sale of properties**
- D. The pricing of real estate**

2. How is urban sprawl defined?

- A. Planned expansion of urban areas**
- B. Controlled growth of rural populations**
- C. Uncontrolled expansion of urban areas into the countryside**
- D. Urban growth limits set by local governments**

3. What is the significance of the geographical coordinates related to latitude?

- A. They define east and west positioning**
- B. They relate to altitude measurement**
- C. They establish north and south positioning**
- D. They are arbitrary markers**

4. What is the term for a wall that separates two dwelling units?

- A. Partition Wall**
- B. Common Wall**
- C. Boundary Wall**
- D. Division Wall**

5. What is the purpose of earnest money in a real estate transaction?

- A. To act as a warranty for the property**
- B. To show the seller that the buyer has serious intentions**
- C. To cover closing costs**
- D. To fund renovations**

6. What is the term for the art of arranging buildings in harmony with the landscape?

- A. Architecture**
- B. Site Planning**
- C. Landscape Design**
- D. Urban Development**

7. What does R.A. 7160 mandate regarding land use planning?

- A. Conduct public hearings**
- B. Prepare zoning ordinances**
- C. Approve building permits**
- D. Enact land use plans**

8. The process of managing urban growth to prevent sprawl is known as what?

- A. Sustainable Development**
- B. Smart Growth**
- C. Urban Renewal**
- D. Land Use Planning**

9. What is the term for a very steep slope of rock or clay?

- A. Hill**
- B. Incline**
- C. Gradient**
- D. Cliff**

10. What does the term 'situs' refer to in planning terminology?

- A. The legal status of land use**
- B. The physical location of a property**
- C. The market value of commercial properties**
- D. The historical significance of a location**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What do housing codes regulate?

- A. The design of new buildings
- B. The use, occupancy, and maintenance of existing buildings**
- C. The sale of properties
- D. The pricing of real estate

Housing codes primarily regulate the use, occupancy, and maintenance of existing buildings, ensuring they meet minimum safety, health, and structural standards. These codes are vital in protecting public health and safety by setting requirements related to sanitation, electrical systems, plumbing, and fire safety. By regulating the use and occupancy of buildings, housing codes help ensure that structures are not only safe for their intended purpose but also suitable for the number of occupants they are designed to hold. This includes stipulations on aspects such as zoning, occupancy limits, and compliance with health and safety regulations. Additionally, maintenance regulations under housing codes require property owners to keep their buildings in good repair, thus preventing deterioration that could pose risks to residents and the community. In contrast, the other choices do not accurately reflect the primary role of housing codes. While they may touch on certain aspects of building regulation, they do not encompass the comprehensive oversight provided by housing codes regarding how existing buildings should be used and maintained.

2. How is urban sprawl defined?

- A. Planned expansion of urban areas
- B. Controlled growth of rural populations
- C. Uncontrolled expansion of urban areas into the countryside**
- D. Urban growth limits set by local governments

Urban sprawl is characterized as the uncontrolled and often unplanned expansion of urban areas into the surrounding countryside. This process typically occurs when cities grow outwards, encroaching into rural or undeveloped land without a strategic framework governing land use, infrastructure development, or environmental considerations. This phenomenon often results in several challenges, such as increased traffic congestion, loss of agricultural land, disparate community planning, and higher infrastructure costs. Sprawl is frequently a result of factors like the desire for larger homes, suburban lifestyles, and automobile-oriented development. In contrast, the other choices focus on more organized or regulated forms of development. For instance, planned expansion would imply a structured approach to growth that takes into account urban planning principles. Similarly, controlled growth of rural populations or urban growth limits administered by local governments indicate scenarios where there is an effort to manage and sustain growth in a more systematic way, rather than allowing it to happen haphazardly. Thus, the definition of urban sprawl emphatically denotes its nature as unplanned and sprawling into rural areas, which aligns with the selection made.

3. What is the significance of the geographical coordinates related to latitude?

- A. They define east and west positioning**
- B. They relate to altitude measurement**
- C. They establish north and south positioning**
- D. They are arbitrary markers**

Latitude is a crucial component of the geographical coordinate system, specifically used to establish the north-south positioning of a point on the Earth's surface. The significance of latitude lies in its ability to denote how far a location is from the equator, which is considered 0 degrees latitude. As you move northward towards the North Pole, the values increase to 90 degrees North, and as you go southward toward the South Pole, they decrease to 90 degrees South. This measurement is foundational for navigation, climatology, and understanding Earth's geography, as it allows for the accurate identification and mapping of locations, affecting various practical applications, including urban planning and environmental studies. The other options do not accurately capture the essence of what latitude represents. While geographical coordinates do involve other factors, latitude specifically pertains to north-south positioning on the Earth.

4. What is the term for a wall that separates two dwelling units?

- A. Partition Wall**
- B. Common Wall**
- C. Boundary Wall**
- D. Division Wall**

The term for a wall that separates two dwelling units is referred to as a **common wall**. This type of wall is typically shared between two living spaces, such as in a duplex or a row of townhouses, providing both structural support and privacy for the occupants of each unit. Common walls serve as the dividing barrier that defines the individual living spaces while also allowing them to benefit from shared structural elements. In architectural contexts, effective design considerations are essential, and common walls can play a significant role in acoustic insulation, fire safety regulations, and energy efficiency. Understanding the concept of a common wall is crucial for architects and planners as they design multi-family housing structures, ensuring that residents have the necessary separation without compromising on the overall integrity and functionality of the building as a whole. Other terms like partition wall or division wall might refer to interior non-load bearing walls within a single dwelling unit or space but do not apply to the specific context of separating two distinct living areas. A **boundary wall** is more relevant to outdoor spaces and property lines rather than the separation of living units.

5. What is the purpose of earnest money in a real estate transaction?

- A. To act as a warranty for the property
- B. To show the seller that the buyer has serious intentions**
- C. To cover closing costs
- D. To fund renovations

The purpose of earnest money in a real estate transaction is to demonstrate the buyer's serious intentions to proceed with the purchase. When a buyer submits earnest money, often a percentage of the property's price, it signals to the seller that the buyer is committed and has a genuine interest in completing the transaction. This upfront payment acts as a good faith deposit, reinforcing the buyer's intention while providing the seller with some assurance that the buyer is not likely to back out frivolously. This commitment can be crucial in competitive markets, where multiple offers may be placed on a property. In many cases, the earnest money is held in escrow and later applied toward the down payment or closing costs if the transaction proceeds as planned. However, if the buyer decides to withdraw from the agreement for reasons not covered in the purchase contract, the seller may have the right to keep the earnest money as compensation for the time the property was off the market and the effort of negotiating the sale.

6. What is the term for the art of arranging buildings in harmony with the landscape?

- A. Architecture
- B. Site Planning**
- C. Landscape Design
- D. Urban Development

The term that describes the art of arranging buildings in harmony with the landscape is site planning. Site planning involves the thoughtful placement of structures within a given environment, taking into consideration factors such as topography, existing natural features, and environmental impact. This discipline aims to enhance the aesthetic quality of a setting while ensuring that development is functional and sustainable. Site planning is critical, as it not only addresses how buildings will coexist with their natural surroundings but also considers accessibility, drainage, and the relationship between the built environment and the ecosystem. The goal is to create a cohesive integration of architecture and landscape, ensuring that development feels like a natural extension of the land rather than an imposition on it. Architecture focuses more on the design and construction of individual buildings rather than their integration within the landscape. Landscape design, while important for the aesthetic and functional aspects of outdoor spaces, does not encompass the overarching planning of the built environment in relation to its natural setting. Urban development tends to address broader issues related to city growth and infrastructure, but does not specifically focus on the arrangement of buildings with respect to the landscape.

7. What does R.A. 7160 mandate regarding land use planning?

- A. Conduct public hearings**
- B. Prepare zoning ordinances**
- C. Approve building permits**
- D. Enact land use plans**

R.A. 7160, also known as the Local Government Code of the Philippines, emphasizes the importance of local autonomy and the role of local government units (LGUs) in land use planning. The legislation mandates LGUs to enact comprehensive land use plans to manage and organize land resources effectively. This process of enactment ensures that the land is utilized in harmony with local development goals, community needs, and environmental considerations. The enactment of land use plans is critical as it provides a structured framework for zoning, which in turn guides decision-making on land allocation and development. This ensures that the use of land is optimized for various purposes such as residential, commercial, agricultural, and industrial needs, ultimately promoting organized urban development. Conducting public hearings, preparing zoning ordinances, and approving building permits are important processes within the broader context of land use planning; however, they are secondary to the primary mandate of enacting land use plans, which set the foundation for all subsequent regulations and approaches to land management.

8. The process of managing urban growth to prevent sprawl is known as what?

- A. Sustainable Development**
- B. Smart Growth**
- C. Urban Renewal**
- D. Land Use Planning**

The process of managing urban growth to prevent sprawl is best described as Smart Growth. Smart Growth emphasizes creating environmentally sustainable and economically viable communities by promoting compact, walkable urban environments. This approach seeks to control urban expansion and reduce reliance on automobiles by enhancing public transportation, preserving open spaces, and fostering mixed-use development. Smart Growth incorporates principles that aim to balance development with community needs while guiding growth in a way that minimizes negative impacts on the environment. This includes encouraging infill development—revitalizing existing urban areas instead of expanding outwards—which directly tackles the issues associated with urban sprawl, such as increased traffic congestion, loss of agricultural land, and the decline of inner-city neighborhoods. The other options, while related to urban development, do not directly target the issue of sprawl in the same way. Sustainable Development encompasses a broader notion of meeting current needs without compromising future generations but isn't specific to managing urban growth. Urban Renewal focuses primarily on revamping existing urban areas often through redevelopment rather than managing growth. Land Use Planning involves the systematic assessment of land needs, but it does not inherently prioritize preventing sprawl. Thus, Smart Growth stands out as the concept specifically geared toward managing urban growth effectively to combat sprawl.

9. What is the term for a very steep slope of rock or clay?

- A. Hill
- B. Incline
- C. Gradient
- D. Cliff**

The term that describes a very steep slope of rock or clay is "cliff." A cliff typically refers to a vertical or near-vertical rock face, which can rise dramatically above the surrounding landscape. Cliffs are commonly found in locations such as coastlines, mountains, and along riverbanks, where erosion has created steep rock formations. In geological terms, a cliff indicates a significant drop in elevation and represents a dramatic change in terrain. The formation of cliffs is influenced by various natural processes, including erosion, weathering, and geological activity, making them distinctive landforms in many environments. On the other hand, the other terms mentioned represent different features of terrain. A hill describes a raised area of land that is not as steep or tall as a mountain. An incline refers to any slope or upward grade, which may not necessarily be steep. Gradient refers to the degree of steepness or the rate of change in elevation, but it is more of a descriptive term rather than a specific type of landform. Hence, "cliff" is the precise term that accurately depicts a steep slope made up of rock or clay.

10. What does the term 'situs' refer to in planning terminology?

- A. The legal status of land use
- B. The physical location of a property**
- C. The market value of commercial properties
- D. The historical significance of a location

The term 'situs' refers specifically to the physical location of a property. In planning terminology, situs is essential because it encompasses the geographical position where a property is situated, which can greatly influence its value, potential uses, and the natural and built environment surrounding it. This consideration is crucial for planners and developers as it helps them assess how location factors into zoning laws, accessibility, infrastructural development, and community engagement. Understanding situs allows urban planners to make informed decisions regarding land use and development projects, ensuring that they align with the physical characteristics and context of the location. Factors such as proximity to services, transportation, and environmental features are all impacted by a property's situs, making it a foundational concept in the field of architecture and urban planning.

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://architecturalplanning.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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