

Architecture Board Exam - Site Planning Practice (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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. 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.

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. 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!

Questions

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- 1. What is a master plan?**
 - A. A short-term plan for neighborhood improvements**
 - B. A comprehensive long-term plan guiding area development**
 - C. A financial budget for city projects**
 - D. A marketing strategy for real estate**

- 2. Which boulevard is located along the Eiffel Tower?**
 - A. Champ de Mars**
 - B. Champs-Élysées**
 - C. Rue de Rivoli**
 - D. Boulevard Montmartre**

- 3. What was the intention behind creating the "Linear City" concept?**
 - A. To promote urban density**
 - B. To enable efficient transport**
 - C. To reduce sprawl and promote sustainability**
 - D. To centralize social amenities**

- 4. Which city was designed to be the capital of Punjab province in India following the separation of India and Pakistan?**
 - A. New Delhi**
 - B. Chandigarh**
 - C. Karachi**
 - D. Islamabad**

- 5. Which structure served both religious and defensive purposes in ancient Athens?**
 - A. Acropolis**
 - B. Forum**
 - C. Stadium**
 - D. Basilica**

- 6. Which building designed by Le Corbusier contained 336 dwellings in only ten acres of land?**
- A. Unité d'Habitation in Marseilles**
 - B. Villa Savoye**
 - C. Maison de la Culture**
 - D. Chandigarh Capitol Complex**
- 7. Which step follows the research phase in site plan creation?**
- A. Conceptual design**
 - B. Detailed design**
 - C. Review**
 - D. Analysis**
- 8. What does "biomimicry" involve in architecture?**
- A. Creating designs solely based on historical styles**
 - B. Using materials that mimic natural products**
 - C. Designing buildings inspired by nature for sustainability**
 - D. Incorporating artificial elements to enhance design**
- 9. What type of development typically includes public spaces, shops, and residential units?**
- A. Suburban development**
 - B. Mixed-use development**
 - C. Industrial development**
 - D. Greenfield development**
- 10. What are three to six-story apartment buildings with storefronts in Roman cities called?**
- A. Domus**
 - B. Basilicae**
 - C. Insulae**
 - D. Thermae**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is a master plan?

- A. A short-term plan for neighborhood improvements
- B. A comprehensive long-term plan guiding area development**
- C. A financial budget for city projects
- D. A marketing strategy for real estate

A master plan is a comprehensive long-term strategy that provides a framework for the development and organization of a specific area, such as a city, neighborhood, or region. It serves as an overarching blueprint that outlines land use, infrastructure, community facilities, and various social or environmental goals. By integrating various components of development—housing, transportation, parks, and economic strategies—the master plan aims to ensure cohesive growth that meets the needs of the community and addresses future challenges. This sort of planning is crucial as it helps stakeholders—including public officials, developers, and citizens—understand how different elements of development relate to each other and promote sustainable growth over time. The comprehensive nature of a master plan allows it to adapt to changing conditions while still providing a stable guideline for development decisions. In contrast, a short-term plan for neighborhood improvements focuses on immediate results and lacks the expansive vision required for long-term development. A financial budget for city projects, while essential for funding, does not lay out a development strategy. Similarly, a marketing strategy for real estate is concerned primarily with selling properties and does not encompass the broader planning objectives that a master plan entails. Thus, the comprehensive and long-range focus inherent in a master plan distinguishes it from the other choices.

2. Which boulevard is located along the Eiffel Tower?

- A. Champ de Mars
- B. Champs-Élysées**
- C. Rue de Rivoli
- D. Boulevard Montmartre

The Champs-Élysées is a famous avenue in Paris known for its theatres, cafés, and luxury shops, and it stretches between the Place de la Concorde and the Arc de Triomphe. However, it is not immediately located along the Eiffel Tower itself. Instead, the avenue is situated to the northeast of the Eiffel Tower, making it an iconic part of Paris but not directly adjacent to the landmark. In contrast, the Champs de Mars is a large public greenspace that directly lies at the foot of the Eiffel Tower. It is often used for leisure activities and gatherings, and provides a direct view of the tower, making it an important context for the question about proximity to the landmark. The Rue de Rivoli runs parallel to the Louvre and is not directly related to the Eiffel Tower's location. Boulevard Montmartre is known for its vibrant atmosphere and historical significance, but it is situated in a different part of Paris. Understanding the layout of Paris and the specific locations of these landmarks helps clarify the relevant relationships and context necessary for accurately identifying locations. Therefore, while it might seem plausible to choose the Champs-Élysées because of its prominence, the Champs de Mars is the correct answer being the park that is adjacent to the Eiffel

3. What was the intention behind creating the "Linear City" concept?

- A. To promote urban density
- B. To enable efficient transport
- C. To reduce sprawl and promote sustainability**
- D. To centralize social amenities

The "Linear City" concept, pioneered by the Spanish architect Arturo Soria y Mata in the late 19th century, was designed with the intention of creating a sustainable urban form that mitigates the issues of urban sprawl. By organizing urban spaces in a linear fashion, this model promotes effective land use along transportation corridors, reducing the distance people must travel for work, services, and amenities. The design inherently limits horizontal expansion, allowing for a more concentrated and efficient development pattern that can accommodate growing populations without the disorganized spread often seen in traditional urban layouts. This concentration facilitates sustainable development through reduced car dependency, encourages walking and cycling, integrates green spaces, and preserves natural landscapes. While promoting efficient transport is indeed a component of the Linear City, it is part of a broader framework aimed at sustainability and combating sprawl. The focus on reducing environmental impact and enhancing community integrity is what fundamentally distinguishes the concept from mere density or centralization of amenities. Therefore, the intention to reduce sprawl and promote sustainability accurately captures the essence of the Linear City's vision.

4. Which city was designed to be the capital of Punjab province in India following the separation of India and Pakistan?

- A. New Delhi
- B. Chandigarh**
- C. Karachi
- D. Islamabad

Chandigarh was specifically designed and constructed to serve as the capital of the Punjab province in India after the partition in 1947. The city was a notable project led by the French architect Le Corbusier, who was tasked with creating an urban plan that embodied modernist principles. The planning involved the incorporation of green spaces, a clear segregation of residential and commercial areas, and efficient circulation patterns, making it a landmark in urban design. Chandigarh's status as a planned city, with its unique architecture and layout, not only reflects a vision of post-independence India but also serves as a significant example of modernist urban planning in the mid-20th century. This contrasts with other options, where New Delhi serves as the national capital but was already established before the partition, Karachi was the capital of Pakistan during that time and has a very different urban character, and Islamabad, which was later designated as the capital of Pakistan, was developed in the 1960s, long after Chandigarh was conceptualized.

5. Which structure served both religious and defensive purposes in ancient Athens?

- A. Acropolis**
- B. Forum**
- C. Stadium**
- D. Basilica**

The Acropolis is a notable structure in ancient Athens that served both religious and defensive purposes. This elevated area, most famously home to the Parthenon, was primarily a religious center devoted to the goddess Athena, the patron deity of the city. It housed temples and altars where citizens would gather for worship and civic functions. In addition to its religious significance, the Acropolis also had a strategic defensive role. Its high elevation provided a natural fortress against potential invaders, making it a crucial site for the protection of the city. The walls and fortifications surrounding the Acropolis were designed to enhance its defensive capabilities, ensuring that key religious and civic functions could continue even in times of conflict. Understanding the dual role of the Acropolis sheds light on how ancient Athenian society intertwined their religious beliefs with practical considerations of safety and defense, reflecting the broader themes of ancient Greek culture where spirituality and the human experience often coexisted in the public sphere.

6. Which building designed by Le Corbusier contained 336 dwellings in only ten acres of land?

- A. Unité d'Habitation in Marseilles**
- B. Villa Savoye**
- C. Maison de la Culture**
- D. Chandigarh Capitol Complex**

The building designed by Le Corbusier that contained 336 dwellings within a compact ten acres of land is the Unité d'Habitation in Marseilles. This structure is a seminal example of modernist architecture aimed at addressing post-war housing shortages in France. Completed in 1952, it reflects Le Corbusier's principles of urban living, emphasizing high density while also providing communal spaces and amenities for residents. The design promotes an innovative approach to residential living by stacking units and utilizing a reinforced concrete frame, allowing for open floor plans and the integration of communal facilities like shops, a rooftop terrace, and recreational spaces. This effectively illustrates Le Corbusier's vision of how residential architecture can serve both individual and community needs within limited land areas. Other choices refer to significant works by Le Corbusier but do not fit the criteria specified in the question. Villa Savoye is known for its embodiment of modernist ideals in a single-family house context, while the Maison de la Culture focuses on cultural programming. The Chandigarh Capitol Complex, although a landmark urban project, encompasses governmental buildings rather than a housing complex.

7. Which step follows the research phase in site plan creation?

- A. Conceptual design**
- B. Detailed design**
- C. Review**
- D. Analysis**

Following the research phase in the creation of a site plan, the logical step is analysis. This phase involves evaluating the data gathered during the research phase, which may include site conditions, zoning regulations, environmental considerations, and user needs. The analysis step is critical as it helps to identify opportunities and constraints that will influence the design process. During the analysis, designers interpret the research findings, prioritize issues, and develop a clearer understanding of how the site can be effectively utilized. This understanding will inform subsequent design decisions and ensure that the site plan is not only aesthetically pleasing but also functional, sustainable, and compliant with relevant regulations. By thoroughly analyzing the information collected, designers can create a strong conceptual framework before moving on to the conceptual design stage. The other steps mentioned, such as conceptual design, detailed design, and review, occur after the analysis. Conceptual design relies on insights gained from the analysis to generate initial design ideas, while detailed design further develops those concepts into actionable plans. The review step typically happens after designs are created to ensure they meet project goals and stakeholder expectations. Therefore, analysis is a crucial and foundational step that follows the research phase.

8. What does "biomimicry" involve in architecture?

- A. Creating designs solely based on historical styles**
- B. Using materials that mimic natural products**
- C. Designing buildings inspired by nature for sustainability**
- D. Incorporating artificial elements to enhance design**

Biomimicry in architecture refers to the practice of drawing inspiration from nature to inform and enhance building design and construction practices, particularly with a focus on sustainability. This approach involves studying natural processes, forms, and ecosystems to develop solutions that are efficient, sustainable, and in harmony with the environment. For example, architects might look at how termite mounds maintain temperature control, leading to designs that optimize natural ventilation without relying heavily on mechanical systems. This method not only creates innovative structures but also reduces the environmental impact of buildings by promoting energy efficiency and resource conservation. Therefore, designing buildings inspired by nature for sustainability is a fundamental aspect of biomimicry, as it encourages a deeper connection between built environments and ecological systems.

9. What type of development typically includes public spaces, shops, and residential units?

- A. Suburban development**
- B. Mixed-use development**
- C. Industrial development**
- D. Greenfield development**

Mixed-use development is characterized by its integration of different types of land uses within a single project or area. This typically involves a blend of residential units, commercial spaces such as shops and restaurants, and public areas, all designed to promote a vibrant and cohesive community environment. The goal of mixed-use development is to create spaces where people can live, work, and socialize in close proximity, thus reducing the need for extensive transportation and fostering a sense of community. In contrast, suburban development primarily focuses on low-density residential areas, often lacking the comprehensive integration of services and amenities found in mixed-use developments. Industrial development revolves around manufacturing and production facilities, with little to no emphasis on residential or commercial spaces. Greenfield development refers to the construction on undeveloped land, often outside urban areas, which can include various types of projects but does not inherently include the mixed-use aspect unless specifically designed that way. Hence, the distinct features of mixed-use development, with its emphasis on combining living, retail, and recreational spaces, make it the correct answer.

10. What are three to six-story apartment buildings with storefronts in Roman cities called?

- A. Domus**
- B. Basilicae**
- C. Insulae**
- D. Thermae**

The term for three to six-story apartment buildings with storefronts in Roman cities is insulae. In ancient Rome, insulae were typically constructed as multi-family dwellings to accommodate the growing urban population. They often featured ground-floor shops or commercial spaces while the upper stories were residential, reflecting the mixed-use nature of urban development during that time. Insulae were a critical aspect of Roman urban planning, as they allowed for efficient use of limited land and provided housing for lower and middle-income citizens. This was essential in densely populated areas where the availability of land was scarce and expensive. The design and structure of insulae varied, but they commonly included staircases, communal facilities, and sometimes amenities like balconies. In contrast, the other terms refer to different structures in Roman architecture. Domus refers to single-family homes for the wealthy, basilicae were large public buildings used for various purposes including law courts and marketplaces, and thermae were public baths that served as social and recreational centers. Understanding these distinctions helps clarify the multifaceted nature of Roman urban environments.

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://architectureboardsiteplanning.examzify.com>

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

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