

# Architecture Licensure Examination (ALE) History, Theory, and Planning Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



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## **Questions**

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- 1. What is traditionally the first item that should be brought inside a new home, according to Filipino customs?**
  - A. Sacred Image**
  - B. Santos**
  - C. Furnishings**
  - D. Food**
- 2. Which type of road facilitates metropolitan continuity while channelizing major intersections?**
  - A. Freeway**
  - B. Expressway**
  - C. Minor arterial**
  - D. Local road**
- 3. Which planning principle focuses on sustainable community development and open space preservation?**
  - A. Smart growth**
  - B. Sustainable development**
  - C. Urban sprawl management**
  - D. Community planning**
- 4. Which aesthetic perspective prioritizes empirical evidence in defining beauty?**
  - A. Formist**
  - B. Information theory approach**
  - C. Empirical approach**
  - D. Psychobiological approach**
- 5. Which term refers to the entrance of a new population into an already occupied area?**
  - A. Gentrification**
  - B. Invasion**
  - C. Block-boosting**
  - D. Rehabilitation**

- 6. Who is the creator of the Marine City concept?**
- A. Paolo Soleri**
  - B. Kiyonori Kikutake**
  - C. Clarence Perry**
  - D. Geoffrey Jellicoe**
- 7. What was the capital city of Egypt during the Middle and New Kingdoms?**
- A. Memphis**
  - B. Thebes**
  - C. Anyang**
  - D. Beijing**
- 8. In urban planning, what does the term "woonerf" specifically refer to?**
- A. A type of high-capacity highway**
  - B. A calm traffic residential street with shared spaces**
  - C. A zoning strategy for open spaces**
  - D. A regulatory framework for urban agriculture**
- 9. What does androgynous architecture indicate?**
- A. Architecture that is neither male nor female**
  - B. Architecture that is solely male**
  - C. Architecture that is solely female**
  - D. Architecture that combines earthly and celestial elements**
- 10. What is a notable feature of the acropolis structures in ancient Greece?**
- A. Definite geometric plan**
  - B. Constructed without any walls**
  - C. No definite geometric plan**
  - D. Primarily residential functions**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What is traditionally the first item that should be brought inside a new home, according to Filipino customs?**

- A. Sacred Image**
- B. Santos**
- C. Furnishings**
- D. Food**

In Filipino customs, it is traditional to bring a sacred image into a new home first. This act symbolizes the importance of spirituality and protection over the household. A sacred image, often of a patron saint or religious figure, is believed to bring blessings, guidance, and a sense of divine presence to the new dwelling. This practice reflects the deep-rooted values of the Filipino culture where faith plays a significant role in daily life and family endeavors. The emphasis on placing a sacred image before any other item highlights the priorities in establishing a home, where the spiritual foundation is considered essential for harmony, safety, and prosperity in the living space. Thus, integrating this custom into the practice of starting anew in a space underscores the cultural significance of faith in the Filipino community.

**2. Which type of road facilitates metropolitan continuity while channelizing major intersections?**

- A. Freeway**
- B. Expressway**
- C. Minor arterial**
- D. Local road**

The expressway is designed to facilitate the movement of large volumes of traffic through urban areas while allowing for efficient connections between major intersections. It combines characteristics of both freeways and highways by providing limited access points and higher speed limits, which helps maintain a smooth flow of traffic without the interruptions commonly found on local roads and minor arterials. By channelizing major intersections, expressways effectively direct traffic patterns, ensuring that vehicles can move quickly and safely through metropolitan areas. This design reduces congestion and improves travel times, making expressways integral to urban transportation planning. Their role in enhancing connectivity between different parts of a city while managing high traffic volumes is what distinguishes expressways in this context.

**3. Which planning principle focuses on sustainable community development and open space preservation?**

**A. Smart growth**

**B. Sustainable development**

**C. Urban sprawl management**

**D. Community planning**

Smart growth is focused on creating sustainable communities by addressing issues such as urban sprawl and promoting the efficient use of land and resources. This planning principle emphasizes the development of compact, walkable urban areas that preserve open space, promote public transit, and create a high quality of life for residents. By advocating for mixed-use developments and integrating natural systems into urban planning, smart growth fosters a balance between built environments and green spaces. In contrast, the other concepts may touch on aspects of sustainability and community development, but they do not prioritize it in the same comprehensive way that smart growth does. Sustainable development encompasses broader goals, such as economic and social equity, but it does not specifically target urban growth patterns. Urban sprawl management focuses on controlling and mitigating the negative impacts of sprawl rather than promoting sustainable development principles. Community planning is a general term that can include many aspects of urban development but does not specifically connote a focus on sustainability and open space preservation to the same degree as smart growth.

**4. Which aesthetic perspective prioritizes empirical evidence in defining beauty?**

**A. Formist**

**B. Information theory approach**

**C. Empirical approach**

**D. Psychobiological approach**

The aesthetic perspective that prioritizes empirical evidence in defining beauty is the empirical approach. This viewpoint emphasizes observation, experimentation, and evidence gathered from the sensory experience of individuals. It relies on measurable, objective data to analyze what constitutes beauty, moving away from purely subjective or philosophical interpretations. By applying this empirical method, one can gather a range of responses from different observers to understand commonalities in their perceptions of beauty. The focus is on how aesthetic qualities can be systematically studied, thus establishing a more grounded understanding of beauty based on observed reality rather than abstract concepts or personal opinions. In contrast, the other perspectives may include subjective theories or broad frameworks that do not specifically center on empirical evidence. For instance, the formist perspective often emphasizes the formal qualities of art and architecture, while the psychobiological approach might explore the biological and psychological factors influencing perception, but still does not prioritize empirical observation to the same extent as the empirical approach does. The information theory approach, meanwhile, typically deals with how information is processed and communicated rather than directly assessing beauty through empirical evidence.

**5. Which term refers to the entrance of a new population into an already occupied area?**

- A. Gentrification**
- B. Invasion**
- C. Block-boosting**
- D. Rehabilitation**

The term that describes the entrance of a new population into an already occupied area is "Invasion." In the context of urban studies and sociology, invasion occurs when a group of people moves into an area that is already occupied by another demographic. This can lead to significant changes in the social, economic, and physical landscape of the area. Invasion is often studied in relation to urban dynamics, particularly in how it affects housing markets, community identity, and demographic shifts. This process might introduce new cultural practices, economic activities, or political dynamics to the area, which can result in various social outcomes, including tension or conflict between the existing population and newcomers. The other terms present distinct concepts related to urban development and change. Gentrification refers more specifically to the process involving the transformation of urban neighborhoods through the influx of more affluent residents, which often displaces lower-income populations. Block-boosting involves practices that encourage certain population groups to move into specific areas, often related to real estate strategies that exploit demographic trends. Rehabilitation refers to the renovation and improvement of structures or areas, typically for maintenance or enhancement, without the specific emphasis on population change. Understanding these differences helps clarify the unique implications of each process in urban studies.

**6. Who is the creator of the Marine City concept?**

- A. Paolo Soleri**
- B. Kiyonori Kikutake**
- C. Clarence Perry**
- D. Geoffrey Jellicoe**

The creator of the Marine City concept is Kiyonori Kikutake, an influential Japanese architect known for his visionary designs and contributions to architecture that integrate nature and technology. Marine City represents Kikutake's ideal of a floating, self-sufficient urban environment that responds to the challenges of overpopulation and urban land scarcity. He envisioned a mobile city that could potentially exist in marine environments, drawing attention to sustainable living spaces that harmonize with aquatic ecosystems. Kikutake's innovative ideas during the post-war era also reflected a forward-thinking approach to architecture, emphasizing the importance of creating adaptable and flexible living environments. This approach often intertwined with his interest in the relationship between human habitation and the natural world, making Marine City a significant example of his architectural philosophy and vision for future urban planning.

**7. What was the capital city of Egypt during the Middle and New Kingdoms?**

- A. Memphis**
- B. Thebes**
- C. Anyang**
- D. Beijing**

The capital city of Egypt during the Middle and New Kingdoms was indeed Thebes. During the Middle Kingdom, Thebes (modern-day Luxor) rose to prominence as a religious and cultural center, and it became the capital under Pharaoh Mentuhotep II. This city continued to be significant throughout the New Kingdom, often serving as the political hub and the location of major temples, including the famous Karnak Temple complex. Thebes was associated with the worship of the god Amun and had a profound influence on Egyptian art, architecture, and religion during this time. It was the site of many royal tombs in the nearby Valley of the Kings and reflected the power and wealth of the pharaohs during these periods. Thus, Thebes is correct as it encapsulates the historical significance and the political status of the city in ancient Egypt during these two significant eras. Memphis, while an important city, was primarily the capital during the Old Kingdom. Anyang and Beijing are names of cities from entirely different cultures and regions, unrelated to ancient Egyptian history.

**8. In urban planning, what does the term "woonerf" specifically refer to?**

- A. A type of high-capacity highway**
- B. A calm traffic residential street with shared spaces**
- C. A zoning strategy for open spaces**
- D. A regulatory framework for urban agriculture**

The term "woonerf" specifically refers to a calm traffic residential street designed with a shared space concept. This design prioritizes pedestrians and cyclists by reducing the dominance of motor vehicles, creating a safer and more communal atmosphere in residential areas. In a woonerf, the street space is often integrated with adjacent properties, allowing for a more holistic approach to how streets are used. Features such as street trees, benches, and flexible boundaries between public and private spaces encourage residents and visitors to interact, enhancing neighborhood livability. This concept embodies the idea of shared spaces where the usual hierarchy of road use is redefined, leading to a harmonious coexistence of various forms of transport and community activities. This is why the correct answer emphasizes the woonerf as a shared space, making it distinct from other terms that focus on highways, zoning strategies, or regulatory frameworks which do not encapsulate the residential, community-oriented aspect of the woonerf.

## 9. What does androgynous architecture indicate?

- A. Architecture that is neither male nor female**
- B. Architecture that is solely male**
- C. Architecture that is solely female**
- D. Architecture that combines earthly and celestial elements**

Androgynous architecture signifies a design approach that transcends traditional gender binaries, embracing an aesthetic that is neither exclusively male nor female. This concept challenges conventional associations and stereotypes linked to gendered spaces, promoting inclusivity and a broader spectrum of representation in architectural design. By creating environments that are not defined by traditional gender norms, androgynous architecture facilitates diverse experiences and interactions, reflecting the complexity of human identity and the varied ways individuals relate to space. The other choices suggest a strictly gendered approach, which does not align with the principles of androgynous architecture. Such options reinforce outdated notions of masculinity and femininity, ignoring the progressive potential inherent in a more neutral, inclusive design philosophy. Additionally, the choice referring to earthly and celestial elements relates more to thematic and stylistic considerations in architecture, rather than to the gender-focused concept of androgyny.

## 10. What is a notable feature of the acropolis structures in ancient Greece?

- A. Definite geometric plan**
- B. Constructed without any walls**
- C. No definite geometric plan**
- D. Primarily residential functions**

The acropolis structures in ancient Greece are particularly characterized by a lack of a definite geometric plan. Unlike other ancient structures that often adhered to strict geometric layouts and symmetry, the acropolis, such as the one in Athens, evolved organically over time. It is marked by its combination of various temples, monuments, and public buildings that were constructed during different periods, reflecting the changing needs and religious practices of the city. This organic development resulted in a complex arrangement, free from rigid geometric constraints, resulting in an ensemble of buildings that respond to the site's topography as well as the cultural and ceremonial significance of the structures. Each element of the acropolis, from the Parthenon to the Erechtheion, was sited and designed in relation to the others, but without adhering strictly to a predefined geometric scheme. The other options do not accurately capture the essence of acropolis structures. The acropolis exhibits a high degree of monumental architecture with substantial walls, serving both aesthetic and defensive purposes. It also did not primarily serve residential functions, as its main purpose was sacred and civic rather than domestic. Therefore, the most accurate characteristic of the acropolis is its lack of a definite geometric plan, highlighting its unique architectural evolution and significance in ancient Greece.