

California Landscape Architecture Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. What type of projects do Categorical Exemptions (CEQA) cover?**
 - A. Those that improve local infrastructure**
 - B. Projects that do not pose significant environmental impact**
 - C. Projects that require extensive public consultation**
 - D. Projects in urban areas only**
- 2. What is one of the primary challenges faced by Low Impact Development (LID)?**
 - A. Lack of Information**
 - B. High Costs**
 - C. Excessive Regulations**
 - D. Insufficient Public Interest**
- 3. How is the water usage for hydroseed areas categorized under MWEL?**
 - A. As high water use**
 - B. As moderate water use**
 - C. As low water use**
 - D. As no water use**
- 4. How far should planting be done from the trunk of mature oaks?**
 - A. 5 feet**
 - B. 10 feet**
 - C. 15 feet**
 - D. 20 feet**
- 5. If a water tower is 200 feet tall, what is the corresponding pressure in PSI?**
 - A. 86.6 PSI**
 - B. 100 PSI**
 - C. 70 PSI**
 - D. 90 PSI**

- 6. Which of the following is a requirement for using recycled water in MWELO?**
- A. Must be indicated in plans**
 - B. Must be used for all irrigation**
 - C. Prohibited for edible plants**
 - D. Must be freshened daily**
- 7. What is the primary difference between working pressure and static pressure in a water system?**
- A. Working pressure is constant throughout the system**
 - B. Static pressure measures only the elevation of water**
 - C. Working pressure varies due to friction losses and elevation changes**
 - D. Static pressure accounts for the flow velocity of water**
- 8. What do CALGreen permeable paving requirements aim to address?**
- A. Construction costs**
 - B. Storm runoff management**
 - C. Aesthetic considerations**
 - D. Urban planning needs**
- 9. Which direction does CALGreen provide regarding residential and commercial properties?**
- A. It applies only to residential buildings**
 - B. It sets no specific requirements for commercial structures**
 - C. It applies to both residential and commercial properties**
 - D. It focuses primarily on government buildings**
- 10. What is one of the major benefits of using permeable pavements in landscape architecture?**
- A. Increased Traffic Flow**
 - B. Reduced Water Quality Issues**
 - C. Lower Construction Costs**
 - D. Enhanced Aesthetic Appeal**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

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1. What type of projects do Categorical Exemptions (CEQA) cover?

- A. Those that improve local infrastructure**
- B. Projects that do not pose significant environmental impact**
- C. Projects that require extensive public consultation**
- D. Projects in urban areas only**

Categorical Exemptions under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) are designed to streamline the environmental review process for projects that are not expected to have a significant impact on the environment. The rationale behind this is that certain types of projects are so minor or have such limited potential for adverse environmental effects that a detailed environmental review is unnecessary. Therefore, projects falling under these exemptions can be approved more quickly, facilitating timely implementation without the burden of extensive environmental assessments. These exemptions typically include activities such as minor alterations to existing structures, infill development under certain conditions, and specific types of regulatory or administrative activities. The crux of the matter is that the exemption applies specifically to projects that do not pose significant environmental risks, aligning perfectly with the definition and purpose of Categorical Exemptions.

2. What is one of the primary challenges faced by Low Impact Development (LID)?

- A. Lack of Information**
- B. High Costs**
- C. Excessive Regulations**
- D. Insufficient Public Interest**

One of the primary challenges faced by Low Impact Development (LID) is the lack of information available to the public and development professionals. This challenge can stem from a variety of sources, including insufficient research on best practices, limited case studies showcasing successful LID applications, and a general unawareness of the techniques and benefits associated with LID. The complexity and innovative nature of LID practices often mean that practitioners may not have access to the educational resources or training necessary to implement these strategies effectively. In many instances, stakeholders, including local governments, developers, and community members may not fully understand how LID can be integrated into existing land-use practices, leading to hesitancy in adopting these methods. Therefore, addressing this challenge involves enhancing educational outreach, improving access to research studies, and creating more comprehensive training programs to facilitate better understanding and implementation of LID approaches.

3. How is the water usage for hydroseed areas categorized under MWEL?

- A. As high water use**
- B. As moderate water use**
- C. As low water use**
- D. As no water use**

Hydroseeding areas are categorized under the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWEL) as low water use because the process typically involves the application of seed, mulch, and water in a slurry that promotes quick germination and establishment of native or drought-tolerant plant species. These plants are specifically chosen for their ability to thrive with minimal irrigation once established, thus contributing to overall water efficiency. The MWEL emphasizes the use of plants that match the local climate and soil conditions, which supports sustainable landscaping practices. This categorization encourages the adoption of hydroseeding techniques as an effective method for promoting the use of low-water-use plants in California's landscapes, aligning with the state's goals for water conservation in urban settings.

4. How far should planting be done from the trunk of mature oaks?

- A. 5 feet**
- B. 10 feet**
- C. 15 feet**
- D. 20 feet**

Planting near mature oaks requires special consideration due to their extensive root systems and the protective requirements of the tree. The correct guideline for planting distance emphasizes the need to minimize disturbances to these roots and allows for the tree's natural growth. In the case of mature oaks, planting at least 10 feet away from the trunk is generally recommended. This distance helps avoid damaging the roots that grow near the surface, which can spread well beyond the canopy of the tree. Additionally, this space protects the oak's health and allows for adequate air and water penetration to its root system, reducing competition from nearby plants and ensuring the tree has the necessary resources for its functionality and longevity. Choosing a distance closer than 10 feet can lead to competition for nutrients and moisture, as well as increase the risk of damage to both the tree and the newly planted specimens. Therefore, maintaining this distance is crucial for preserving the health of the mature oak and ensuring that any new plantings can thrive without adversely impacting the oak's ecosystem.

5. If a water tower is 200 feet tall, what is the corresponding pressure in PSI?

A. 86.6 PSI

B. 100 PSI

C. 70 PSI

D. 90 PSI

To determine the pressure exerted by a water tower, you can use the formula that relates the height of the water column to pressure in pounds per square inch (PSI). The general rule is that for every foot of water height, there is approximately 0.433 PSI of pressure. In this case, if the water tower is 200 feet tall, you multiply the height by the conversion factor: $200 \text{ feet} \times 0.433 \text{ PSI/foot} = 86.6 \text{ PSI}$. This is how you derive the pressure at the bottom of the water tower. Thus, the corresponding pressure for a 200-foot water tower is indeed 86.6 PSI. The calculation confirms that this answer accurately reflects the principles of fluid pressure in a standing column of water.

6. Which of the following is a requirement for using recycled water in MWEL?

A. Must be indicated in plans

B. Must be used for all irrigation

C. Prohibited for edible plants

D. Must be freshened daily

The requirement for using recycled water in MWEL (Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance) specifies that it must be indicated in plans. This is crucial as it ensures that all stakeholders, including landscape architects, project managers, and regulatory authorities, are aware of how recycled water will be utilized in irrigation systems. This indication in the plans helps to facilitate appropriate design, prevent contamination, and ensure compliance with local regulations regarding the use of recycled water. Additionally, indicating recycled water use in the plans supports transparency and accountability in landscape projects, allowing for effective implementation of water conservation practices and facilitating maintenance practices that are in line with safety and health standards. Including recycled water as a designated part of the irrigation system encourages responsible management and maximizes the benefits of using these resources sustainably.

7. What is the primary difference between working pressure and static pressure in a water system?

- A. Working pressure is constant throughout the system**
- B. Static pressure measures only the elevation of water**
- C. Working pressure varies due to friction losses and elevation changes**
- D. Static pressure accounts for the flow velocity of water**

In a water system, working pressure and static pressure serve distinct roles, primarily concerning how they respond to different factors within the system. Working pressure is influenced by the dynamics of fluid movement, including changes in elevation, pipe friction, and flow obstructions. As water flows through a system, it encounters resistance due to the infrastructure, which creates varying pressure levels depending on hydraulic conditions at various points in the system. Therefore, working pressure is not constant; it changes based on the flow characteristics and resistance encountered in the piping. On the other hand, static pressure refers to the pressure exerted by the water at rest, unaffected by any flow conditions, and is primarily determined by the elevation of the water source and the weight of the water column above. This means static pressure is a measure of gravitational forces acting on the water and does not account for the dynamics of moving fluid. Understanding these differences is crucial for effectively designing and managing water systems, as it ensures accurate calculations regarding how water will behave under varying conditions, which in turn impacts system efficiency and performance.

8. What do CALGreen permeable paving requirements aim to address?

- A. Construction costs**
- B. Storm runoff management**
- C. Aesthetic considerations**
- D. Urban planning needs**

CALGreen permeable paving requirements primarily aim to address storm runoff management. These regulations are designed to mitigate the negative impacts of increased impervious surfaces created by urban development. By allowing water to permeate through pavements, the requirements help to reduce stormwater runoff, thereby decreasing the risk of flooding and erosion, improving water quality, and enhancing groundwater recharge. This approach aligns with sustainable design principles, promoting environmental benefits while minimizing the burden on drainage systems. While other factors such as construction costs, aesthetic considerations, and urban planning needs play a role in landscape architecture, the central focus of CALGreen's permeable paving criteria is to effectively manage stormwater runoff. This reflects a growing emphasis on sustainability and the need to incorporate practices that address environmental challenges in urban settings.

9. Which direction does CALGreen provide regarding residential and commercial properties?

- A. It applies only to residential buildings**
- B. It sets no specific requirements for commercial structures**
- C. It applies to both residential and commercial properties**
- D. It focuses primarily on government buildings**

CALGreen is California's green building standards code, which establishes a set of mandatory measures designed to improve the environmental performance of both residential and commercial buildings throughout the state. This code encompasses a wide range of sustainability measures including water efficiency, energy efficiency, waste reduction, and other environmentally responsible practices. Since CALGreen is intended to promote sustainability across various types of building projects, it provides requirements that apply equally to residential and commercial properties. This comprehensive approach ensures that all new constructions, regardless of their purpose, adhere to guidelines that aim to reduce their environmental impact and enhance the overall sustainability of the built environment in California. Therefore, the significance of the code lies in its dual application, encouraging both types of properties to integrate green building practices into their design and construction, thus contributing to broader environmental goals.

10. What is one of the major benefits of using permeable pavements in landscape architecture?

- A. Increased Traffic Flow**
- B. Reduced Water Quality Issues**
- C. Lower Construction Costs**
- D. Enhanced Aesthetic Appeal**

Using permeable pavements in landscape architecture primarily contributes to reduced water quality issues. This type of pavement allows water to infiltrate through its surface, which helps manage stormwater effectively. By facilitating the natural absorption of rainwater into the ground, permeable pavements reduce surface runoff, which can otherwise carry pollutants into water bodies. The infiltration process also promotes the natural filtration of water, trapping pollutants and contaminants within the pavement structure and soil layers below. Thus, the implementation of permeable pavements helps maintain cleaner water in urban environments, enhancing the overall health of local ecosystems. Other options, while potentially beneficial in their contexts, do not capture the critical environmental impact that permeable pavements offer in effectively managing stormwater and mitigating water quality issues.