

Certified Interior Decorator (CID) Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. Which feature in Roman architecture helped to improve lighting indoors?**
 - A. Fresh paint on walls**
 - B. Water in the impluvium**
 - C. Large windows**
 - D. Open floor plans**
- 2. True or False: The Romans frequently used footstools.**
 - A. True**
 - B. False**
 - C. Only for decoration**
 - D. Only in public settings**
- 3. In traditional interior design, what does “the rule of three” suggest?**
 - A. Using three colors in every design**
 - B. Always having three sizes of furniture**
 - C. That elements of three create a more impactful and dynamic visual arrangement**
 - D. Incorporating three lighting types in every room**
- 4. How does color contrast function in a space?**
 - A. It only changes the color of walls**
 - B. It enhances visual interest and defines areas**
 - C. It reduces the need for lighting**
 - D. It eliminates the need for decor**
- 5. Which of the following is a type of accent lighting?**
 - A. Ceiling fixture**
 - B. Track lighting**
 - C. Floor lamp**
 - D. Wall sconces**

- 6. What were the two types of designs for Roman ceilings?**
- A. Flat or arched**
 - B. Vaulted or divided by beams**
 - C. Domed or sloped**
 - D. Open or closed**
- 7. How can one ensure that their personal style is reflected in their interior design?**
- A. By replicating popular designs of the year**
 - B. By following the advice of professionals exclusively**
 - C. By selecting elements that reflect individual tastes**
 - D. By incorporating as many styles as possible**
- 8. Where in a Roman house might a sundial typically be found?**
- A. In the kitchen**
 - B. In the atrium**
 - C. In the peristylum**
 - D. In the corridor**
- 9. What art form was commonly used in thresholds of Roman houses?**
- A. Stained glass**
 - B. Wood carving**
 - C. Sculpture**
 - D. Mosaic**
- 10. Which type of window treatment can affect the aesthetics and light control of a room?**
- A. Only shutters**
 - B. Draperies, blinds, shades, and shutters**
 - C. Only blinds and shades**
 - D. Only decorative window films**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which feature in Roman architecture helped to improve lighting indoors?

- A. Fresh paint on walls
- B. Water in the impluvium**
- C. Large windows
- D. Open floor plans

The correct answer pertains to the role of the impluvium in Roman architecture, particularly in terms of facilitating light and ventilation within indoor spaces. The impluvium is a shallow pool located in the atrium of a Roman house, designed to collect rainwater that would flow through an opening in the roof known as the compluvium. While it may not seem directly linked to the lighting aspect, the presence of the impluvium and its associated architectural features contributed significantly to enhancing light in these interiors. The compluvium allowed natural light to enter the atrium, thus illuminating the space. The shiny surface of the water in the impluvium also reflects light, further enhancing the brightness of the room. This interplay of light through these architectural elements offered a beautifully lit environment that was both functional and aesthetically pleasing. In contrast, options such as fresh paint on walls, large windows, and open floor plans do not pertain to Roman architecture specifically. While all of these elements can improve lighting in various contexts, they are not defining features of Roman design that specifically aided in the illumination of indoor spaces. Roman architecture is particularly noted for the use of courtyards and atria that incorporate openings to the sky, allowing for the effective harnessing of natural

2. True or False: The Romans frequently used footstools.

- A. True**
- B. False
- C. Only for decoration
- D. Only in public settings

The assertion that the Romans frequently used footstools is accurate. In ancient Rome, footstools were popular among various social classes, serving both practical and decorative purposes. They were often used in domestic settings to provide comfort while sitting, particularly in the context of reclining on couches during meals and social gatherings. Footstools helped elevate the feet and contribute to a relaxed seating posture, which was a hallmark of Roman dining etiquette. Additionally, these pieces of furniture were sometimes embellished with ornate designs, showcasing the craftsmanship of the era and serving as a status symbol within households. Their prevalence in Roman life highlights the culture's emphasis on comfort and style, aligning with their architectural and artistic achievements. While footstools may have had different uses in specific contexts, their widespread usage throughout Roman homes and public spaces affirms the truth of the statement.

3. In traditional interior design, what does “the rule of three” suggest?

- A. Using three colors in every design**
- B. Always having three sizes of furniture**
- C. That elements of three create a more impactful and dynamic visual arrangement**
- D. Incorporating three lighting types in every room**

In traditional interior design, “the rule of three” emphasizes that when elements are grouped in threes, they create a more harmonious and visually appealing arrangement. This principle taps into the psychological aspect of perception, where our eyes and brains tend to favor odd numbers and find them more aesthetically pleasing. Using three elements allows for balance and unity while providing enough variation to maintain interest. For example, when arranging decorative items, placing three of them together creates a focal point that is visually more dynamic than using just two or four. This rule can be applied across various aspects of design, including color schemes, furniture placement, or decor items, ensuring that the overall look feels cohesive and engaging. By implementing this rule effectively, designers can enhance the visual impact of a space, making it feel well-considered and thoughtfully designed.

4. How does color contrast function in a space?

- A. It only changes the color of walls**
- B. It enhances visual interest and defines areas**
- C. It reduces the need for lighting**
- D. It eliminates the need for decor**

Color contrast is a fundamental principle in interior design that aids in enhancing visual interest and defining distinct areas within a space. When contrasting colors are used, they draw attention to specific elements, adding depth and dimension to the design. This helps to create focal points and can guide the observer's eye throughout the room, making the space feel more dynamic and engaging. Using contrast strategically can also help to delineate different functions or areas within an open-concept layout. For example, a darker color in a seating area can separate it visually from a lighter dining space, clearly defining their purposes without the need for physical barriers. This helps to organize the space effectively while accentuating the overall aesthetic. The other options do not accurately reflect the role of color contrast in interior design. Color contrast impacts more than just walls; it is a versatile tool that can affect furniture, textiles, and accessories. Additionally, while contrast can influence how we perceive lighting and space, it does not eliminate the need for adequate lighting or decor, as those elements contribute to the overall ambiance and functionality of a room.

5. Which of the following is a type of accent lighting?

- A. Ceiling fixture**
- B. Track lighting**
- C. Floor lamp**
- D. Wall sconces**

Accent lighting serves the specific purpose of highlighting certain areas or features within a space, such as artwork, architectural details, or decorative objects. Wall sconces are a prime example of this type of lighting, as they are typically mounted on walls and can be strategically placed to direct light onto specific areas, thereby drawing attention to them. When considering the other options, ceiling fixtures primarily provide general illumination rather than focused accentuation. Track lighting, while versatile and capable of offering accent lighting when directed properly, is often used for both general and task lighting. Floor lamps can also serve a similar function as accent lighting but are often used for ambient or task lighting purposes as well, depending on their placement and shade design. Wall sconces, however, are inherently designed for highlighting and creating visual interest, making them the best representation of accent lighting among the choices provided.

6. What were the two types of designs for Roman ceilings?

- A. Flat or arched**
- B. Vaulted or divided by beams**
- C. Domed or sloped**
- D. Open or closed**

The two types of designs for Roman ceilings were primarily vaulted or divided by beams. Roman architecture is renowned for its innovative approaches to structure and design, particularly in the use of the arch and vault. The vaulted ceilings allowed for expansive and open spaces that were decorative and functional. These structures made use of arches to distribute weight, enabling larger interior areas compared to flat ceilings, which were more limiting in size and flexibility. Divided by beams refers to the structural approach where beams were used to create sections within a ceiling. This design not only supported the overhead structure but also added visual interest and complexity to the ceiling design, incorporating different materials, colors, or finishes. This combination of vaulted ceilings and beams was essential for both aesthetic appeal and structural integrity in Roman buildings. While the other options mention various types of ceiling designs, they do not specifically highlight the main characteristics of Roman ceilings as accurately as vaulted or divided by beams, which were integral to their architectural style.

7. How can one ensure that their personal style is reflected in their interior design?

- A. By replicating popular designs of the year**
- B. By following the advice of professionals exclusively**
- C. By selecting elements that reflect individual tastes**
- D. By incorporating as many styles as possible**

Selecting elements that reflect individual tastes is the best way to ensure that personal style is incorporated into interior design. This approach allows for a space that genuinely represents who you are, fostering a sense of comfort and authenticity. Personal style can manifest in various ways, such as color choices, furniture selections, art pieces, and decorative accents. By consciously choosing items that resonate with your preferences, you create a cohesive environment that is uniquely yours. In contrast, replicating popular designs of the year might lead to a space that feels generic and lacks personal touch. While it can be enjoyable to draw inspiration from current trends, relying solely on them may not allow true expression of individual style. Similarly, following the advice of professionals exclusively could also limit personal expression, as designers may prioritize their own aesthetic or industry trends over the client's unique preferences. Lastly, incorporating as many styles as possible could lead to a disjointed look rather than a harmonious representation of personal style, which typically shines through in a more curated selection of elements.

8. Where in a Roman house might a sundial typically be found?

- A. In the kitchen**
- B. In the atrium**
- C. In the peristylum**
- D. In the corridor**

A sundial in a Roman house would typically be found in the peristylum, which is an open courtyard surrounded by columns. This area would allow the sundial to be placed outdoors where it can receive direct sunlight, which is essential for it to accurately tell the time based on the position of the sun's shadow. The peristylum served both functional and decorative purposes in Roman architecture and was often designed to be a pleasant garden space, making it a suitable location for outdoor timekeeping devices like a sundial. The other areas mentioned, such as the kitchen or corridor, would not be practical locations for a sundial since they are typically enclosed spaces that might not receive adequate sunlight. The atrium, while an important central area of a Roman house, could sometimes have skylights or openings, but it is less common for sundials to be placed there compared to the peristylum where the outdoor conditions are more favorable.

9. What art form was commonly used in thresholds of Roman houses?

- A. Stained glass**
- B. Wood carving**
- C. Sculpture**
- D. Mosaic**

Mosaic art was commonly used in the thresholds of Roman houses due to its durability and aesthetic appeal. Mosaics often featured intricate designs and vibrant colors, making them a favored choice for both flooring and decorative wall elements in private residences as well as public spaces. In Roman architecture, thresholds—areas where two spaces meet—were frequently adorned with mosaics as a way to enhance the entryway, showcasing artistic skill and providing a stunning first impression of the home. The use of mosaics also served practical purposes; they were resistant to wear and could withstand the wear-and-tear of daily foot traffic. The ability to incorporate various materials, such as small pieces of stone, glass, and ceramics, allowed for creative expression and the creation of detailed illustrations or patterns, which were significant to Roman culture and aesthetics. In contrast, while stained glass and wood carving were indeed popular art forms, they were not typically utilized in the thresholds of Roman houses. Sculpture, although prevalent in Roman art, was more commonly found in freestanding formats or as decorative wall reliefs rather than as a threshold feature. Thus, mosaics stand out as the quintessential art form to beautify entryways in Roman residential architecture.

10. Which type of window treatment can affect the aesthetics and light control of a room?

- A. Only shutters**
- B. Draperies, blinds, shades, and shutters**
- C. Only blinds and shades**
- D. Only decorative window films**

Window treatments play a crucial role in both the aesthetics and light control of a room. Draperies, blinds, shades, and shutters encompass a wide variety of options that not only enhance the visual appeal of a space but also allow for the manipulation of natural light entering the room. Draperies typically add softness and texture, contributing to the overall style and ambiance. They can be drawn open or closed to regulate light and privacy. Blinds are versatile and can be adjusted to control the amount of light while maintaining privacy, making them functional as well as decorative. Shades provide an alternative with options such as sheer, blackout, or light-filtering designs that can dramatically alter the light quality in a room. Shutters, often made of wood or composite materials, bring a classic aesthetic and can be opened or closed to control light and airflow. This comprehensive approach to window treatments means that each type contributes to the overall character of a room while allowing for effective light management. The other choices limit the scope of window treatments, neglecting the breadth of aesthetic and functional options available within draperies, blinds, shades, and shutters.