

LEED AP Building Design and Construction (BD+C) Practice Exam (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. Which of the following methods can be used to achieve reductions for water use reduction?**
 - A. Increased lawn size**
 - B. Plant species selection**
 - C. Rainwater harvesting**
 - D. Surface watering**

- 2. Which types of rooms require negative air pressure and self-closing doors to prevent interior cross-contamination?**
 - A. Garages and offices**
 - B. Housekeeping and laundry areas**
 - C. Garages and copying rooms**
 - D. None of the above**

- 3. Which of the following factors contribute to acoustical performance considerations?**
 - A. Air filtration systems**
 - B. Daylight exposure**
 - C. HVAC background noise**
 - D. Thermal comfort**

- 4. How much financial support can be provided per square foot for habitat restoration?**
 - A. \$0.20/sf**
 - B. \$0.40/sf**
 - C. \$0.50/sf**
 - D. \$0.30/sf**

- 5. What is the significance of projects being located in a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Qualified Census Tract?**
 - A. It indicates a high-income area**
 - B. It qualifies for federal funding and support**
 - C. It ensures lower property taxes**
 - D. It promotes commercial development**

- 6. What is required for long-term bicycle storage?**
- A. Located within 50 feet of a bicycle network**
 - B. Within 100 feet of any main entrance**
 - C. Located within 100 feet of any functional entry**
 - D. Within 200 feet of any functional entry**
- 7. In terms of indoor air quality, what is the purpose of a permanent entryway system?**
- A. Reduce energy consumption**
 - B. Improve aesthetics**
 - C. Enhance indoor air quality**
 - D. Facilitate access**
- 8. Under what conditions can wetlands qualify as open space?**
- A. When they are located on flat land**
 - B. When the side slope gradients are 1:4 or less and are vegetated**
 - C. Only if they are artificially constructed**
 - D. Only when combined with recreational areas**
- 9. What can be considered an important factor in achieving a sustainable site development?**
- A. Use of non-native plant species**
 - B. Highlighting heat island effects**
 - C. Protection or restoration of habitat**
 - D. Maximizing impermeable surfaces**
- 10. What does Combined Heat and Power (CHP) generate?**
- A. Only thermal energy**
 - B. Only electrical power**
 - C. Electrical power and thermal energy**
 - D. Compressed air energy**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which of the following methods can be used to achieve reductions for water use reduction?

- A. Increased lawn size
- B. Plant species selection**
- C. Rainwater harvesting
- D. Surface watering

Plant species selection is a key strategy for achieving reductions in water use because it directly influences the landscape's overall water needs. By choosing native or drought-tolerant plant species, a project can significantly decrease irrigation requirements. These plant species are adapted to local climate conditions and often have lower water consumption rates, which can lead to reduced reliance on irrigation systems, lower water bills, and improved sustainability of the landscape. In contrast, the other methods mentioned are not effective in reducing water use. For instance, increased lawn size would typically raise overall water consumption because more grass requires more water to maintain. Similarly, surface watering might promote water wastage through evaporation or runoff, rather than efficient water usage. While rainwater harvesting can be a valuable tool for managing water resources sustainably, it does not directly reduce water use in the same way that careful plant selection can. Thus, among the provided options, plant species selection stands out as a focused and practical method for achieving water use reduction.

2. Which types of rooms require negative air pressure and self-closing doors to prevent interior cross-contamination?

- A. Garages and offices
- B. Housekeeping and laundry areas
- C. Garages and copying rooms**
- D. None of the above

Negatively pressurized rooms are essential in maintaining specialized environments where controlling contaminants is paramount. In the context of building design and construction pertaining to LEED, there are specific areas within a facility that necessitate negative air pressure to prevent contaminants from migrating from one area to another. Self-closing doors are effective in maintaining the air pressure differential. In this case, copying rooms typically house copiers that may emit airborne particles or ozone, while garages may contain fumes and pollutants from vehicles that could negatively impact indoor air quality. Therefore, having negative pressure in these spaces helps ensure that any harmful particles or airborne contaminants do not infiltrate occupied areas of the building. Housekeeping and laundry areas are also critical in this respect as they can emit particles, dust, and odors. However, the mention of garages and copying rooms explicitly ties to the need for managing specific risks associated with those environments, making this selection applicable for the considerations regarding air pressure and contamination control. Thus, targeting garages and copying rooms demonstrates an understanding of the parameters related to maintaining a healthy indoor environment, which aligns with the principles of LEED certification focused on air quality management.

3. Which of the following factors contribute to acoustical performance considerations?

- A. Air filtration systems
- B. Daylight exposure
- C. HVAC background noise**
- D. Thermal comfort

The correct choice focuses on HVAC background noise, which plays a crucial role in acoustical performance considerations within a built environment. Acoustical performance is significantly influenced by the level and type of noise that mechanical systems, such as HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning), generate. These systems can produce various sounds during operation, from fan noise to vibrations, which can interrupt the acoustic comfort of indoor spaces. Minimizing HVAC background noise is essential for creating environments conducive to conversation, focus, and relaxation. Designers can mitigate this noise through strategic placement of equipment, the use of sound-absorbing materials, and careful system design to achieve quieter operation. This attention to acoustical design enhances occupant comfort and satisfaction, aligning with the holistic goals of sustainable building practices. While the other factors listed might have indirect effects on overall building performance or comfort, they do not directly contribute to acoustical performance as significantly as HVAC background noise does. For instance, air filtration systems primarily focus on air quality, while daylight exposure pertains more to visual comfort, and thermal comfort relates to temperature regulation.

4. How much financial support can be provided per square foot for habitat restoration?

- A. \$0.20/sf
- B. \$0.40/sf**
- C. \$0.50/sf
- D. \$0.30/sf

The amount of financial support provided for habitat restoration can vary based on the specific project and the guidelines established by various standards, including LEED. In this context, the correct answer of \$0.40 per square foot represents a commonly accepted figure that reflects the necessary investment required to effectively restore habitats. This amount is designed to support a variety of restoration activities, which may include planting native species, controlling invasive species, restoring soil health, and other related ecological improvements. The determination of this figure generally considers the costs associated with successful restoration practices, ensuring that the funding is adequate to achieve the desired environmental benefits. While specific programs or projects may have their own rates, \$0.40/sf is an established benchmark that recognizes the financial realities of effective habitat restoration and is frequently referenced in discussions about sustainable development and ecological conservation practices in the LEED framework. Understanding these financial benchmarks is essential for professionals in the field to ensure they can plan appropriately and allocate resources effectively for habitat restoration efforts.

5. What is the significance of projects being located in a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Qualified Census Tract?

- A. It indicates a high-income area
- B. It qualifies for federal funding and support**
- C. It ensures lower property taxes
- D. It promotes commercial development

Choosing a project located in a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Qualified Census Tract is significant primarily because it qualifies for federal funding and support. These designated areas often have a higher proportion of low-income residents, making them eligible for various HUD programs aimed at revitalization and economic support. This can include funding for affordable housing initiatives, community development projects, and other resources intended to improve livelihoods and infrastructure in these areas. By situating a project in such a tract, developers can access financial assistance and incentives that may not be available in higher-income or non-designated areas, fostering investment in communities that most need it. This aspect is crucial for promoting inclusive development and addressing urban challenges, as it helps leverage federal resources to stimulate growth and provide necessary services to residents.

6. What is required for long-term bicycle storage?

- A. Located within 50 feet of a bicycle network
- B. Within 100 feet of any main entrance
- C. Located within 100 feet of any functional entry**
- D. Within 200 feet of any functional entry

To meet the requirements for long-term bicycle storage, the facility must ensure that these storage spaces are conveniently located within 100 feet of any functional entry. This proximity is crucial because it encourages bicycle usage by making it easier for cyclists to access the building without having to travel a long distance to store their bicycles. Long-term storage is intended for employees or residents who use bicycles regularly, so ensuring close access can lead to higher rates of bicycle commuting, ultimately contributing to reduced vehicle emissions and promoting a healthier lifestyle. The focus on functional entries rather than just any main entrance recognizes that different buildings may have varied entry points that serve different purposes. This flexibility allows for adjustments in design that can accommodate the building's specific layout and the flow of users while still maintaining the intent of promoting cycling as a viable mode of transportation. Encouraging cycling through proper storage solutions aligns with sustainable design principles, emphasizing not just the availability of facilities but their thoughtful placement to enhance user experience and accessibility.

7. In terms of indoor air quality, what is the purpose of a permanent entryway system?

- A. Reduce energy consumption**
- B. Improve aesthetics**
- C. Enhance indoor air quality**
- D. Facilitate access**

A permanent entryway system is designed primarily to enhance indoor air quality by reducing the amount of dirt, debris, and pollutants that can enter a building from the outside. These systems often consist of mats, grates, or other features that trap contaminants from shoes and other sources before they can spread throughout the interior space. By effectively capturing and minimizing the infiltration of outdoor pollutants, such as dust, allergens, and moisture, these systems play a critical role in maintaining a healthier indoor environment. This is particularly important as poor indoor air quality can lead to various health issues, decreased productivity, and overall discomfort for occupants. While reducing energy consumption can be a secondary benefit by helping maintain consistent interior temperatures and reducing the load on HVAC systems, the primary focus of a permanent entryway system in the context of indoor air quality is directly related to improving the health and comfort of the building's occupants. Therefore, enhancing indoor air quality is the most relevant purpose for a permanent entryway system within the scope of LEED BD+C standards.

8. Under what conditions can wetlands qualify as open space?

- A. When they are located on flat land**
- B. When the side slope gradients are 1:4 or less and are vegetated**
- C. Only if they are artificially constructed**
- D. Only when combined with recreational areas**

Wetlands can qualify as open space when the side slope gradients are 1:4 or less and are vegetated. This condition is significant because it facilitates the sustainable management and multifunctionality of wetland areas. The 1:4 slope ratio means that for every unit of vertical rise, there should be at least a four-unit horizontal distance. This gradual slope helps to maintain the ecological functions of wetlands, such as water filtration, habitat for wildlife, and flood mitigation, while also making the area accessible and usable for various recreational or educational purposes. Vegetation is crucial for maintaining the health of wetlands as it helps stabilize the soil, reduces erosion, and supports diverse plant and animal life. By ensuring the wetlands have vegetated slopes, they can serve as not only functional ecosystems but also as usable spaces for the community. In contrast, wetlands being located on flat land does not inherently qualify them as open space, as flat areas can also serve other functions or have limited usability. Artificially constructed wetlands can contribute to open space but do not automatically qualify unless they meet specific ecological criteria. Lastly, wetlands do not need to be combined with recreational areas to qualify as open space, as their ecological value can stand alone. Thus, the vegetated slope requirement is central

9. What can be considered an important factor in achieving a sustainable site development?

- A. Use of non-native plant species**
- B. Highlighting heat island effects**
- C. Protection or restoration of habitat**
- D. Maximizing impermeable surfaces**

The protection or restoration of habitat is a critical factor in achieving sustainable site development because it directly contributes to the health of local ecosystems and biodiversity. Sustainable site development aims to minimize environmental impact, and safeguarding natural habitats helps ensure that native flora and fauna are preserved. This not only supports the ecological balance but also enhances the quality of the environment for human use and enjoyment. Additionally, restoring degraded habitats can rehabilitate areas that have been adversely affected by prior development, fostering resilience against climate change and improving stormwater management. Using non-native plant species, on the other hand, can disrupt local ecosystems and compete with native species, leading to a decline in biodiversity. Highlighting heat island effects does raise awareness about urban heat concerns, but it does not actively contribute to mitigation measures or sustainable practices in site development. Lastly, maximizing impermeable surfaces can lead to increased runoff and compromised water quality, which is contrary to sustainability goals that promote natural infiltration and reduce pollution. Thus, the protection or restoration of habitat stands out as a key principle in sustainable site design.

10. What does Combined Heat and Power (CHP) generate?

- A. Only thermal energy**
- B. Only electrical power**
- C. Electrical power and thermal energy**
- D. Compressed air energy**

Combined Heat and Power (CHP) systems are designed to generate both electrical power and thermal energy from a single energy source. This technology increases the overall efficiency of energy usage by capturing heat that would otherwise be wasted in conventional power generation processes. In a typical CHP system, heat produced during the generation of electricity can be utilized for heating purposes, such as space heating or hot water. This simultaneous production allows for a more sustainable and efficient use of fuel, reducing energy costs and emissions. By producing both forms of energy, CHP systems are beneficial for facilities that have simultaneous heating and electrical demands, making option C the most accurate representation of what a CHP system generates.

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://leedap-buildingdesignandconstruction.examzify.com>

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

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