

LEED Green Associate Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. Which are two main alternate rating systems to LEED?**
 - A. ASHRAE and Energy Star**
 - B. BREEAM and Green Globes**
 - C. Green Building Initiative and Living Building Challenge**
 - D. HERS and Indoor Air Quality Plus**
- 2. What should a sustainable site management plan prioritize?**
 - A. Only aesthetic improvements**
 - B. Regular maintenance and monitoring**
 - C. Increasing energy output**
 - D. Maximizing concrete usage**
- 3. What is the point threshold to achieve LEED Platinum certification?**
 - A. 60 points**
 - B. 70 points**
 - C. 80 points**
 - D. 90 points**
- 4. Which of the following is an example of volatile organic compounds (VOCs)?**
 - A. Glass**
 - B. Wood**
 - C. Paints**
 - D. Brick**
- 5. What is an aerator typically used for?**
 - A. To enhance soil quality**
 - B. To limit water flow in a faucet**
 - C. To improve air circulation in a garden**
 - D. To purify drinking water**

- 6. Rain gardens are primarily designed to do what?**
- A. Improve air quality**
 - B. Manage stormwater and promote infiltration**
 - C. Provide recreational space**
 - D. Reduce urban heat islands**
- 7. Which of the following describes the term 'negative feedback loop'?**
- A. A loop that amplifies changes in the same direction**
 - B. A self-correcting mechanism that counters changes**
 - C. A method to enhance system efficiency**
 - D. A system for tracking performance**
- 8. What is the significance of the Green-e certification program?**
- A. It guarantees lower energy prices**
 - B. It ensures the credibility of green power and offsets**
 - C. It acts as a regulatory body for all energy sources**
 - D. It awards financial incentives for energy use**
- 9. What is required for fixtures to qualify under the LEED WE Prerequisite for Indoor Water Use Reduction?**
- A. They must be less expensive**
 - B. They must be WaterSense labeled**
 - C. They must be high-flow fixtures**
 - D. They must be antique fixtures**
- 10. What is the purpose of the Owner's Project Requirements (OPR)?**
- A. To outline design specifications given by the contractor**
 - B. To summarize building codes applicable to the project**
 - C. To clarify the owner's objectives and criteria for the project**
 - D. To establish budget constraints for the project**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which are two main alternate rating systems to LEED?

- A. ASHRAE and Energy Star
- B. BREEAM and Green Globes**
- C. Green Building Initiative and Living Building Challenge
- D. HERS and Indoor Air Quality Plus

The correct choice is indeed B, which identifies BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) and Green Globes as two main alternate rating systems to LEED. BREEAM is a widely recognized sustainability assessment method based in the UK, focusing on evaluating the environmental performance of buildings and communities through a robust set of criteria. It has been influential in promoting sustainable practices globally and serves as a significant alternative to LEED in design and construction projects. Green Globes is another alternative rating system that offers a flexible and user-friendly approach to assessing sustainability in buildings. It is known for its practical and cost-effective framework, catering particularly well to small- and medium-sized projects, making it a suitable counterpart to LEED. While the other options, such as ASHRAE and Energy Star, focus more on energy performance and efficiency rather than providing a holistic design and construction rating system like BREEAM and Green Globes, the Green Building Initiative, Living Building Challenge, HERS, and Indoor Air Quality Plus also serve specific niche purposes but do not hold the same recognition and comprehensive application as BREEAM and Green Globes in terms of widely accepted rating systems distinctly used in the market as alternatives to LEED.

2. What should a sustainable site management plan prioritize?

- A. Only aesthetic improvements
- B. Regular maintenance and monitoring**
- C. Increasing energy output
- D. Maximizing concrete usage

A sustainable site management plan should prioritize regular maintenance and monitoring because these practices are essential in ensuring that the site remains environmentally sustainable over time. Regular maintenance involves checking and maintaining green infrastructure, such as rain gardens and permeable pavements, which can help manage stormwater and improve biodiversity. Monitoring is important to assess the performance of sustainability features, allowing for timely adjustments and long-term viability of the sustainable practices put in place. By focusing on maintenance and monitoring, a sustainable site management plan can effectively uphold ecological balance, enhance user experience, and minimize environmental impact. This approach aligns with the overall goals of sustainability, which include preserving resources, reducing waste, and ensuring resilience in the face of changing environmental conditions. The other options do not adequately address the long-term stewardship of the site. Aesthetic improvements may enhance visual appeal but do not necessarily contribute to sustainability. Increasing energy output, while important, may not address the broader range of site management needs. Maximizing concrete usage contradicts sustainable practices, which aim to reduce the reliance on non-renewable resources and promote more green, pervious surfaces.

3. What is the point threshold to achieve LEED Platinum certification?

- A. 60 points**
- B. 70 points**
- C. 80 points**
- D. 90 points**

The point threshold to achieve LEED Platinum certification is 80 points. This distinction represents the highest level of certification within the LEED rating system, which is designed to encourage and recognize best practices in building design and operation that promote sustainability. The structure of points awarded is intentionally designed to incentivize greater performance in areas such as energy efficiency, water conservation, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality. Choosing any points below 80 will result in only Silver or Gold certifications, rather than the highest Platinum level. Platinum certification is a mark of excellence in sustainability, requiring a commitment to exceeding the standard requirements for energy efficiency and environmental stewardship in building projects.

4. Which of the following is an example of volatile organic compounds (VOCs)?

- A. Glass**
- B. Wood**
- C. Paints**
- D. Brick**

The correct answer is paints, as they contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that can easily evaporate at room temperature. VOCs are significant because they contribute to indoor air pollution and can have a range of health effects on occupants. In paints, these compounds can help with their application and drying processes, but they are also a concern for air quality. Glass, wood, and brick do not inherently release VOCs. While wood can emit some compounds, it typically does not fall under the category of VOCs in the same way as paints. Therefore, paints represent the most clear example of VOCs among the options presented.

5. What is an aerator typically used for?

- A. To enhance soil quality**
- B. To limit water flow in a faucet**
- C. To improve air circulation in a garden**
- D. To purify drinking water**

An aerator is a device commonly used to limit water flow in faucets. It is designed to create a mixture of air and water, which allows for a steady stream while reducing the amount of water consumed. This functionality not only conserves water but also helps maintain water pressure, making it a popular feature in fixtures to promote efficiency and sustainability in water usage. While other options like enhancing soil quality or improving air circulation may involve aeration in gardening or agricultural contexts, those applications do not specifically pertain to the common use of an aerator in plumbing fixtures. Similarly, purifying drinking water involves different processes and equipment, such as filters or treatment systems, rather than the flow-reducing attributes of an aerator.

6. Rain gardens are primarily designed to do what?

- A. Improve air quality**
- B. Manage stormwater and promote infiltration**
- C. Provide recreational space**
- D. Reduce urban heat islands**

Rain gardens are primarily designed to manage stormwater and promote infiltration. These landscaped areas are strategically placed to capture runoff from impervious surfaces such as roofs, driveways, and streets. By allowing water to infiltrate into the soil, rain gardens help recharge groundwater supplies and reduce the volume of stormwater that would otherwise flow into drainage systems. This process mitigates flooding, erosion, and contamination of local waterways, thereby enhancing the overall management of stormwater in urban environments. The other options, while they may have some relevance in broader discussions about green infrastructure, do not represent the primary function of rain gardens. For instance, while rain gardens can contribute to improved air quality as a secondary benefit through vegetation growth, that is not their main design purpose. Similarly, providing recreational space is not a focused goal, as rain gardens are typically more functional than recreational. Lastly, reducing urban heat islands can occur due to the cooling effects of vegetation in rain gardens, but again, this is a secondary outcome rather than the main objective.

7. Which of the following describes the term 'negative feedback loop'?

- A. A loop that amplifies changes in the same direction**
- B. A self-correcting mechanism that counters changes**
- C. A method to enhance system efficiency**
- D. A system for tracking performance**

The term 'negative feedback loop' refers to a self-correcting mechanism that aims to maintain stability within a system by counteracting deviations from a set point or desired outcome. When a change occurs in a system, the negative feedback loop works to reduce that change, pushing the system back toward equilibrium. This mechanism is crucial in various contexts, such as environmental control systems, biological systems, and even in project management within sustainable practices, where it helps to ensure that goals are met without significant overshoot. In contrast, other options describe different concepts. Options describing loops that amplify changes refer to positive feedback mechanisms, which are entirely distinct from the corrective nature of a negative feedback loop. Other choices that suggest enhancing efficiency or tracking performance represent different methodologies or systems that do not specifically pertain to the concept of feedback mechanisms.

8. What is the significance of the Green-e certification program?

- A. It guarantees lower energy prices**
- B. It ensures the credibility of green power and offsets**
- C. It acts as a regulatory body for all energy sources**
- D. It awards financial incentives for energy use**

The Green-e certification program plays a crucial role in validating the claims made by renewable energy providers by ensuring that their green power and carbon offset offerings meet strict environmental standards. This certification serves as a trusted mark for consumers, businesses, and organizations looking to purchase renewable energy or offsets, assuring them that the product they are buying genuinely contributes to reducing environmental impact. By adhering to established criteria, Green-e helps to foster a marketplace for renewable energy that prioritizes transparency and reliability, which is essential for driving consumer confidence and promoting widespread adoption of sustainable energy sources. The other options do not accurately reflect the purpose or impact of the Green-e certification. Lower energy prices, regulation across all energy sources, and direct financial incentives do not capture the program's focus on ensuring credibility and integrity in the renewable energy market.

9. What is required for fixtures to qualify under the LEED WE Prerequisite for Indoor Water Use Reduction?

- A. They must be less expensive**
- B. They must be WaterSense labeled**
- C. They must be high-flow fixtures**
- D. They must be antique fixtures**

The correct choice is that fixtures must be WaterSense labeled to qualify under the LEED WE Prerequisite for Indoor Water Use Reduction. The WaterSense program, established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), promotes water-efficient products and practices, helping to reduce water use without sacrificing performance. By utilizing WaterSense labeled fixtures, projects can significantly lower indoor water consumption, aligning with LEED's sustainability goals. The other options do not meet the LEED requirements: ensuring fixtures are less expensive or antique does not guarantee water efficiency, while using high-flow fixtures contradicts the intent of water conservation. WaterSense labeling specifically addresses both efficiency and performance, making it the appropriate requirement for this LEED prerequisite.

10. What is the purpose of the Owner's Project Requirements (OPR)?

- A. To outline design specifications given by the contractor**
- B. To summarize building codes applicable to the project**
- C. To clarify the owner's objectives and criteria for the project**
- D. To establish budget constraints for the project**

The purpose of the Owner's Project Requirements (OPR) is to clarify the owner's objectives and criteria for the project. It serves as a foundational document that outlines the specific needs, expectations, and goals that the owner has for the project, which can include performance metrics, sustainability goals, space requirements, and functionality. This document is crucial for ensuring that all stakeholders, including the design and construction teams, understand what the owner values most in the project. By providing a clear and detailed framework, the OPR helps guide decisions throughout the project lifecycle, ensuring that the final outcome aligns with the owner's vision. While design specifications provided by the contractor, details about building codes, and budget constraints are important aspects of project management, they are not the primary focus of the OPR. The OPR specifically targets the owner's intents and serves as a communication tool to ensure that all parties are aligned with those goals from the outset. Thus, the emphasis on owner objectives and criteria is what distinctly characterizes the purpose of the OPR in the context of project development.