

New York City Sightseeing Guide License Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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Questions

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- 1. Where is the Star Walk located?**
 - A. Times Square**
 - B. Pearl Theater**
 - C. Central Park**
 - D. Brooklyn Bridge**
- 2. Who designed the Malcolm Shabazz Mosque?**
 - A. Frank Lloyd Wright**
 - B. Sabbath Brown**
 - C. Richard Meier**
 - D. Michael Graves**
- 3. Where was the Jewish Rialto located?**
 - A. On Broadway, near Times Square**
 - B. 2nd Ave., between 14th St. and Houston St.**
 - C. In Brooklyn, near the waterfront**
 - D. Within Central Park**
- 4. What is the etymology of the word "Bowery"?**
 - A. Latin for land**
 - B. French for urban space**
 - C. Dutch for farm**
 - D. English for garden**
- 5. What is Haughwaut's building known for?**
 - A. Hosting art exhibitions**
 - B. Selling Lincolns china and silverware for the White House**
 - C. Being an architectural landmark**
 - D. Housing the first newspaper in NYC**
- 6. Elizabeth Ann Seton is recognized as the first saint of which city?**
 - A. Boston**
 - B. Philadelphia**
 - C. New York City**
 - D. Washington D.C.**

- 7. What was the cultural impact of the Roxyettes becoming the Rockettes?**
- A. It revolutionized dance in Broadway shows**
 - B. It marked the rise of themed performances**
 - C. It highlighted the popularity of large ensemble performances**
 - D. It changed casting practices in theater**
- 8. Which boroughs have a Fifth Avenue?**
- A. Manhattan and Queens**
 - B. All but Staten Island**
 - C. Only Manhattan**
 - D. Bronx and Brooklyn only**
- 9. What is the current name of the Gotham Hotel located at 700 5th Ave, at 55th St?**
- A. The Peninsula**
 - B. The Hilton**
 - C. The Marriot**
 - D. Royalton Hotel**
- 10. Throg's Neck Bridge connects which two boroughs?**
- A. Manhattan and Brooklyn**
 - B. Staten Island and Queens**
 - C. Brooklyn and the Bronx**
 - D. Queens and the Bronx**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Where is the Star Walk located?

- A. Times Square
- B. Pearl Theater**
- C. Central Park
- D. Brooklyn Bridge

The Star Walk is a notable attraction located in Central Park. It features an interactive experience where visitors can explore various stars and celebrities, associated with the film industry, who have made significant contributions to the arts and entertainment right in the heart of a beloved green space. Central Park is known for its vast area and numerous landmarks, making it a fitting place for such a feature. While the Pearl Theater, which you chose as the answer, is known for showcasing various performances and may be of interest to theater enthusiasts, it is not where the Star Walk is found. Understanding the context of each location helps clarify why Central Park is the correct answer, as it encapsulates the essence of outdoor artistic expression through its various sculptures and attractions, including the Star Walk.

2. Who designed the Malcolm Shabazz Mosque?

- A. Frank Lloyd Wright
- B. Sabbath Brown**
- C. Richard Meier
- D. Michael Graves

The Malcolm Shabazz Mosque, located in Harlem, was designed by the architect Sabbath Brown. This mosque is notable as it represents a significant landmark in the African American Muslim community. The design encapsulates a blend of contemporary architecture with cultural elements reflective of its community's heritage. Brown's work on the mosque is often recognized for its thoughtful integration of spiritual and communal spaces, fostering an environment that serves both worship and social gatherings. The other architects mentioned have made substantial contributions to architecture, but they are not associated with the design of the Malcolm Shabazz Mosque. Knowing the connection between Sabbath Brown and the mosque is crucial for understanding its architectural significance and the role it plays within the community.

3. Where was the Jewish Rialto located?

- A. On Broadway, near Times Square
- B. 2nd Ave., between 14th St. and Houston St.**
- C. In Brooklyn, near the waterfront
- D. Within Central Park

The Jewish Rialto was located on 2nd Avenue, specifically between 14th Street and Houston Street. This area in Manhattan was historically significant due to the large number of Jewish immigrants who settled there in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The term "Rialto" often refers to a vibrant theater district, and in this context, it signifies the cultural and artistic activities that flourished in the Jewish community around that part of the city. During the early to mid-20th century, this portion of 2nd Avenue became known as the Yiddish theater district, where numerous theaters presented performances in Yiddish. This contributed to a rich cultural tapestry that not only entertained but also provided a sense of identity and community for Jewish New Yorkers. The vibrant atmosphere of 2nd Avenue served as a hub for social, cultural, and religious life, establishing it as an iconic location within New York's Jewish heritage. In contrast, the other options do not have historical significance specifically associated with the Jewish Rialto or do not align with the geographic context of the Jewish cultural presence in New York City.

4. What is the etymology of the word "Bowery"?

- A. Latin for land
- B. French for urban space
- C. Dutch for farm**
- D. English for garden

The correct choice, derived from Dutch, indicates that the word "Bowery" originates from "Bouwerij," which translates to "farm." New York City's Bowery neighborhood was initially a farming area outside the early settlement of New Amsterdam. As the city grew, the area evolved from its agricultural roots, but the name has remained a reflection of its history. The other options do not accurately capture the historical context or linguistic origin of "Bowery." For instance, Latin and French do not pertain to the word's development or local significance in relation to the Dutch influence on early New York. English for "garden" also fails to convey the agricultural connotation that "Bowery" still holds, making the Dutch origin the most relevant and historically accurate choice.

5. What is Haughwaut's building known for?

- A. Hosting art exhibitions**
- B. Selling Lincolns china and silverware for the White House**
- C. Being an architectural landmark**
- D. Housing the first newspaper in NYC**

Haughwaut's building is primarily recognized for its historical significance in relation to the sale of Lincolns china and silverware for the White House. During the mid-19th century, it played a notable role by providing high-quality goods associated with President Abraham Lincoln's household. This unique connection to a pivotal moment in American history, as well as its association with a key national figure, enhances the importance of Haughwaut's building beyond typical commercial premises. While art exhibitions, architectural significance, and early newspaper history in New York City are culturally significant topics, they do not pertain to Haughwaut's building in the same way. This makes its connection to the White House and Lincolns residence particularly noteworthy in understanding what sets this building apart historically.

6. Elizabeth Ann Seton is recognized as the first saint of which city?

- A. Boston**
- B. Philadelphia**
- C. New York City**
- D. Washington D.C.**

Elizabeth Ann Seton is recognized as the first American-born saint of the Roman Catholic Church and is specifically associated with New York City. She founded the first Catholic school in the United States in Baltimore, but her legacy and significant contributions to Catholic education were also felt in New York, where she eventually settled. Elizabeth Seton established the Sisters of Charity in New York City, which played a crucial role in the education and care for the poor. Her canonization as a saint directly connects her to the city, making her a significant figure in the religious and educational landscape of New York. This connection is pivotal in understanding her impact and the reverence held for her in New York City's religious community. Thus, the recognition of her as the first saint of New York City aligns with her life's work and legacy.

7. What was the cultural impact of the Roxyettes becoming the Rockettes?

- A. It revolutionized dance in Broadway shows**
- B. It marked the rise of themed performances**
- C. It highlighted the popularity of large ensemble performances**
- D. It changed casting practices in theater**

The cultural impact of the Roxyettes becoming the Rockettes is best encapsulated by their emphasis on large ensemble performances. The Rockettes, renowned for their precision dance and spectacular staging, became emblematic of a particular style of performance that integrated both music and dance on a grand scale. Their performances often showcased elaborate choreographies with a large number of dancers, which set a standard for many subsequent productions. Their signature routines, such as the "Parade of the Wooden Soldiers" and the Christmas Spectacular at Radio City Music Hall, demonstrated how large ensembles could captivate audiences by creating visually stunning spectacles. This approach not only enhanced the theatrical experience but also inspired other productions to incorporate similar large-group performances to replicate the energy, excitement, and intricacy seen in Rockettes shows. While other options hint at various changes in the entertainment landscape, the prominence of large ensemble performances as a cultural hallmark stemming from the Rockettes' rise is particularly notable, marking a significant and lasting influence on Broadway and beyond.

8. Which boroughs have a Fifth Avenue?

- A. Manhattan and Queens**
- B. All but Staten Island**
- C. Only Manhattan**
- D. Bronx and Brooklyn only**

Fifth Avenue is a significant thoroughfare in New York City, best known for its luxury shopping, cultural landmarks, and historical significance. It runs primarily through Manhattan, where it is famous for its upscale retail shops and attractions like Central Park and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. However, Fifth Avenue also extends into other boroughs. In Queens, parts of Fifth Avenue exist in various neighborhoods, contributing to the overall street's reach across the city. Additionally, while Staten Island does not have a Fifth Avenue like the other boroughs, both the Bronx and Brooklyn also feature sections of Fifth Avenue, highlighting its presence beyond just Manhattan. This context emphasizes that Fifth Avenue is not exclusive to Manhattan but stretches into Queens, the Bronx, and Brooklyn, making the answer that all boroughs except Staten Island have a Fifth Avenue accurate.

9. What is the current name of the Gotham Hotel located at 700 5th Ave, at 55th St?

A. The Peninsula

B. The Hilton

C. The Marriot

D. Royalton Hotel

The Gotham Hotel, located at 700 5th Avenue, is currently known as The Peninsula New York. Situated in an iconic area, The Peninsula is renowned for its luxurious accommodations and exceptional service. It has established itself as one of the premier hotels in New York City, often frequented by celebrities and dignitaries. The hotel's rich history and reputation for elegance contribute to its status as a landmark on Fifth Avenue. Given its strategic location, it offers guests easy access to Central Park, upscale shopping, and cultural institutions, making it a prime destination for visitors seeking a high-end experience in the heart of Manhattan. In contrast, the other choices do not reflect the current name of the establishment at that specific address. The Hilton and Marriott are well-known hotel chains with multiple properties throughout New York City but are not associated with the Gotham Hotel at 700 5th Ave. The Royalton Hotel, while a recognized hotel in its own right, is located elsewhere in Manhattan and also does not pertain to this particular venue.

10. Throg's Neck Bridge connects which two boroughs?

A. Manhattan and Brooklyn

B. Staten Island and Queens

C. Brooklyn and the Bronx

D. Queens and the Bronx

Throg's Neck Bridge connects the boroughs of Queens and the Bronx. This bridge spans the East River, specifically linking Throg's Neck in the Bronx to the area around Douglaston in Queens. The structure plays a significant role in facilitating vehicular traffic between these two boroughs and is an important part of the city's transportation infrastructure. Understanding the geography of New York City helps to highlight the strategic significance of the bridge as it provides access not only to local communities but also to major highways that lead to other regions. Being familiar with such connections is crucial for guiding tourists and providing them with accurate information about travel routes and borough connections.