

NYC Tour Guide Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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Questions

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- 1. Where did James Van Der Zee live?**
 - A. East Harlem**
 - B. Across from St. Philips**
 - C. Lower Manhattan**
 - D. Greenwich Village**

- 2. Tenement Law of 1879 was designed to correct what issue?**
 - A. Improper waste disposal**
 - B. Inadequate fire safety measures**
 - C. Overcrowding and poor living conditions**
 - D. Flaws of the 1867 Laws, caused "dumbbell apartments", and were worse**

- 3. Which of these theaters doesn't belong in the category of Broadway theaters? Hilton, Music Box, Beacon, St. James**
 - A. Hilton**
 - B. Music Box**
 - C. Beacon**
 - D. St. James**

- 4. What historical legislation led to the establishment of the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission?**
 - A. The Landmarks Law of 1965**
 - B. The Preservation Act of 1970**
 - C. The Historic Districts Preservation Act**
 - D. The Cultural Heritage Law**

- 5. What is the name of the famous New York City food market located in the Meatpacking District?**
 - A. Union Market**
 - B. Chelsea Market**
 - C. Smorgasburg**
 - D. Food Hall NYC**

- 6. What is a significant feature of the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission's role?**
- A. To dismantle outdated constructions**
 - B. To protect historically significant buildings**
 - C. To manage property ownership transfers**
 - D. To regulate new real estate developments**
- 7. Where would you learn about Santeria, a Caribbean religious mixture?**
- A. Central Park**
 - B. Lincoln Center**
 - C. St. John the Divine**
 - D. A Botanica**
- 8. What is the historical significance of the Brooklyn Bridge?**
- A. It was the first steel-wire suspension bridge**
 - B. It was the longest bridge in the world at its completion**
 - C. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site**
 - D. It connects the Bronx to Manhattan**
- 9. A historical house that was moved refers to this individual?**
- A. George Washington**
 - B. Thomas Jefferson**
 - C. Benjamin Franklin**
 - D. Alexander Hamilton**
- 10. What and where is Malcolm Shabbaz?**
- A. An African restaurant in Manhattan**
 - B. A clothing store in Brooklyn**
 - C. An African goods market in Harlem at 52 W. 116th St.**
 - D. A jazz club in Queens**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Where did James Van Der Zee live?

- A. East Harlem
- B. Across from St. Philips**
- C. Lower Manhattan
- D. Greenwich Village

James Van Der Zee lived across from St. Philips, which was a significant location in his life and work as a photographer. St. Philips was an African American Episcopal church in the Harlem neighborhood of Manhattan, and Van Der Zee's studio was located across from it on West 135th Street. This proximity to a vibrant cultural and community hub influenced his photography and allowed him to document the life and spirit of Harlem during the Harlem Renaissance. This central location makes option B the correct choice.

2. Tenement Law of 1879 was designed to correct what issue?

- A. Improper waste disposal
- B. Inadequate fire safety measures
- C. Overcrowding and poor living conditions
- D. Flaws of the 1867 Laws, caused "dumbbell apartments", and were worse**

The correct answer is D. The Tenement Law of 1879 was designed to address the flaws in the 1867 laws that led to the creation of "dumbbell apartments" which were known for their poor living conditions, overcrowding, and lack of adequate light and ventilation. This legislation aimed to improve housing standards, ensuring that future apartment buildings were built with better living conditions in mind.

3. Which of these theaters doesn't belong in the category of Broadway theaters? Hilton, Music Box, Beacon, St. James

- A. Hilton
- B. Music Box
- C. Beacon**
- D. St. James

The Beacon Theatre does not belong in the category of Broadway theaters because it is not located in the traditional Broadway theater district. The Beacon Theatre is a historic theater located on the Upper West Side of Manhattan and is known for hosting concerts, special events, and the annual Tony Awards, but it is not part of the collection of theaters typically considered Broadway theaters. On the other hand, the Hilton, Music Box, and St. James theaters are all well-known Broadway theaters located in the heart of the Broadway district in Times Square.

4. What historical legislation led to the establishment of the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission?

- A. The Landmarks Law of 1965**
- B. The Preservation Act of 1970**
- C. The Historic Districts Preservation Act**
- D. The Cultural Heritage Law**

The Landmarks Law of 1965 was pivotal in establishing the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission, marking a significant moment in the protection of New York City's architectural heritage. This legislation was a response to concerns about the rapid demolition of historic buildings and the loss of the city's unique character. By creating the Landmarks Preservation Commission, the law empowered the city to designate and protect landmark sites and historic districts, ensuring that significant structures and their surrounding environments were preserved for future generations. The other options, while they may relate to preservation efforts, do not specifically address the foundation of the Landmarks Preservation Commission. The Preservation Act of 1970 and the Historic Districts Preservation Act were subsequent developments that built upon the earlier framework provided by the Landmarks Law, while the Cultural Heritage Law refers to broader protections that may not focus specifically on individual buildings or districts in NYC.

5. What is the name of the famous New York City food market located in the Meatpacking District?

- A. Union Market**
- B. Chelsea Market**
- C. Smorgasburg**
- D. Food Hall NYC**

Chelsea Market is the correct answer because it is a renowned food hall located in the Meatpacking District of New York City. Originally built as a factory in the late 1800s, it has since been transformed into a vibrant indoor marketplace that features a diverse array of food vendors, restaurants, and specialty shops. Chelsea Market is particularly famous for its artisanal food offerings, fresh produce, gourmet goods, and eateries that showcase both local and international cuisine. Other choices, while related to food markets in New York City, do not specifically refer to the one in the Meatpacking District. Union Market is a food hall located in a different part of the city, and Smorgasburg primarily refers to an outdoor food market that operates in various locations during warmer months. Food Hall NYC is a more general term and does not pinpoint the iconic location of Chelsea Market.

6. What is a significant feature of the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission's role?

- A. To dismantle outdated constructions**
- B. To protect historically significant buildings**
- C. To manage property ownership transfers**
- D. To regulate new real estate developments**

The significant feature of the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission's role is to protect historically significant buildings. This commission was established to safeguard the architectural, historical, and cultural heritage of New York City by designating landmarks and historic districts. The protection extends to ensuring that any alterations made to these designated sites maintain their historical integrity. This focus on preservation helps to maintain the city's unique character and history, allowing future generations to appreciate its architectural diversity and historical significance. While options involving dismantling constructions or managing property ownership are tasks typically outside the commission's purview, the emphasis on protecting existing historic structures aligns directly with the commission's mission. Additionally, regulating new developments could be a factor in how preservation and development coexist, but the primary focus remains on the preservation of historical sites.

7. Where would you learn about Santeria, a Caribbean religious mixture?

- A. Central Park**
- B. Lincoln Center**
- C. St. John the Divine**
- D. A Botanica**

In New York City, if you are interested in learning about Santeria, a Caribbean religious mixture, you would most likely find information and resources at a Botanica. Botanicas are stores that specialize in selling various spiritual and religious items, including herbs, candles, oils, and artifacts related to different belief systems and practices, such as Santeria. While Central Park, Lincoln Center, and St. John the Divine are all notable places in NYC, they are not specifically associated with the teachings or practices of Santeria.

8. What is the historical significance of the Brooklyn Bridge?

- A. It was the first steel-wire suspension bridge**
- B. It was the longest bridge in the world at its completion**
- C. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site**
- D. It connects the Bronx to Manhattan**

The Brooklyn Bridge is historically significant primarily because it was the first steel-wire suspension bridge ever constructed. This innovative use of materials and engineering techniques marked a major advancement in bridge design and construction. Completed in 1883, the Brooklyn Bridge showcased the potential of steel as a construction material and set a precedent for future bridge-building projects not just in New York City but around the world. The choice related to the bridge being the longest at its completion also highlights its significance, as it was indeed the longest suspension bridge for many years, emphasizing both the engineering feats of the time and its symbolic connection between Brooklyn and Manhattan. Being designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site further underscores its cultural and historical importance, recognizing it as a landmark of human ingenuity, but the distinction of being the first steel-wire suspension bridge remains a critical turning point in engineering history. Lastly, the connection to the Bronx is not accurate; the Brooklyn Bridge primarily links Manhattan and Brooklyn, making it an essential route for transportation and contributing to urban development in these areas.

9. A historical house that was moved refers to this individual?

- A. George Washington**
- B. Thomas Jefferson**
- C. Benjamin Franklin**
- D. Alexander Hamilton**

A historical house that was moved refers to Alexander Hamilton. Alexander Hamilton's former residence, known as the Hamilton Grange National Memorial, was originally located in what is now Harlem. To preserve this historical site, the house was actually moved a few blocks to St. Nicholas Park, where it now stands as a museum open to the public. This significant relocation of a historical house makes Alexander Hamilton the correct answer to this question.

10. What and where is Malcolm Shabbaz?

- A. An African restaurant in Manhattan**
- B. A clothing store in Brooklyn**
- C. An African goods market in Harlem at 52 W. 116th St.**
- D. A jazz club in Queens**

Malcolm Shabbaz is an African goods market located in Harlem, specifically at 52 W. 116th Street. This market is named after Malcolm X's grandson, Malcolm Shabazz. It is a culturally significant space that showcases a variety of products reflecting African heritage and culture, including traditional crafts, clothing, and art. The location in Harlem is particularly relevant, as Harlem has historically been a center for African American culture and community. The market serves as a hub for both locals and visitors looking to explore and purchase goods that celebrate African identity and history. In contrast, while the other options reference establishments that may exist in New York City, they do not accurately describe Malcolm Shabbaz or its significance. The correct choice highlights both the name's cultural relevance and the specific, recognized location where it can be found.