

Permit Technician Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Questions

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- 1. If a dimension is missing from the floor plans, what should the plans examiner do first?**
 - A. Add or subtract existing dimensions**
 - B. Consult with the architect**
 - C. Draw a new dimension**
 - D. Ignore the missing dimension**
- 2. A detail in the construction documents typically includes which of the following?**
 - A. Basic floor dimensions**
 - B. Engineering specifications**
 - C. Utility placements**
 - D. Finish material calls**
- 3. Which of the following is not typically part of the administrative procedure for handling a citizen complaint inspection?**
 - A. Accessibility**
 - B. Documentation**
 - C. Investigation process**
 - D. Resolution procedures**
- 4. When calculating a building plan review fee, which of the following is not a typical consideration?**
 - A. Type of construction**
 - B. Occupancy group**
 - C. Location of the site**
 - D. Building materials**
- 5. What do construction documents must clearly indicate for approval?**
 - A. Design aesthetics**
 - B. Sustainability features**
 - C. Code compliance**
 - D. Landscape designs**

- 6. Which inspection checks for the condition of concrete slab-on-grade?**
- A. Footing inspection**
 - B. Framing inspection**
 - C. Final inspection**
 - D. Accessibility inspection**
- 7. Which authority does a building official NOT have?**
- A. Grant variances**
 - B. Enforce local amendments**
 - C. Review construction documents**
 - D. Certify types of building materials**
- 8. In what situation can provisions of the code be waived?**
- A. When deemed unnecessary**
 - B. When a major modification is needed**
 - C. Only if specified**
 - D. Under no circumstances**
- 9. Under what circumstance are building permits typically required for fences?**
- A. When they are painted a certain color**
 - B. When they exceed a certain height or encroach upon property lines**
 - C. For all types of fences regardless of height**
 - D. Only if they are being placed in front yards**
- 10. Which of the following is not a condition of a home occupation?**
- A. Customer visits**
 - B. No changes to the exterior**
 - C. Preemption**
 - D. Employee limitations**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. If a dimension is missing from the floor plans, what should the plans examiner do first?

A. Add or subtract existing dimensions

B. Consult with the architect

C. Draw a new dimension

D. Ignore the missing dimension

In situations where a dimension is missing from the floor plans, the most logical initial step for the plans examiner is to add or subtract existing dimensions. This approach enables the examiner to use the existing information on the plans to infer the missing dimension based on the relationships between other dimensions. Using existing dimensions allows for a quick assessment of the space and aids in understanding how the missing dimension might fit into the overall design. This can ensure that any references to other elements are consistent and accurate, reducing the need for additional communication unless absolutely necessary. While consulting with the architect can be beneficial for clarification or confirmation, relying on existing data streamlines the process and provides the plans examiner with useful insights immediately. Drawing a new dimension from scratch may not be warranted without first attempting to determine the missing measurement using the available information. Ignoring the missing dimension completely would not be advisable, as it can lead to errors or omissions in the project analysis.

2. A detail in the construction documents typically includes which of the following?

A. Basic floor dimensions

B. Engineering specifications

C. Utility placements

D. Finish material calls

The identification of engineering specifications within construction documents is pivotal because they provide the detailed and technical information needed for the construction process. Engineering specifications outline material qualities, installation methods, and testing requirements that guide contractors in executing the design according to the architect's intent. These specifications help ensure compliance with industry standards and regulations, thereby enhancing safety and performance. On the other hand, while basic floor dimensions are important for layout and space planning, they do not encapsulate the detailed data required for construction execution. Utility placements can be critical for ensuring that essential services are correctly integrated into a building, but they are often covered in other sections of the plans and are not as comprehensive in detailing technical requirements. Finish material calls, although necessary for specifying the aesthetic qualities of surfaces, do not provide the depth of technical details that engineering specifications encompass. Thus, the inclusion of engineering specifications truly represents a comprehensive and crucial aspect of construction documents.

3. Which of the following is not typically part of the administrative procedure for handling a citizen complaint inspection?

A. Accessibility

B. Documentation

C. Investigation process

D. Resolution procedures

In the context of handling citizen complaints, administrative procedures primarily focus on ensuring a systematic approach to addressing the concerns raised. These procedures typically include thorough documentation of the complaint, a defined investigation process to assess the validity of the complaint, and resolution procedures to address and rectify the issues identified. Accessibility, while important in ensuring that citizens can file complaints and engage with the process, is not specifically an administrative procedure. Rather, it relates to how easily individuals can access the complaint mechanism or the resources related to the addressing of such complaints. Therefore, it is less direct in terms of the procedural steps taken once a complaint is received and processed, making it the correct choice as something not typically included in the administrative procedure for handling a citizen complaint inspection.

4. When calculating a building plan review fee, which of the following is not a typical consideration?

A. Type of construction

B. Occupancy group

C. Location of the site

D. Building materials

When calculating a building plan review fee, typical considerations include aspects that directly relate to the complexity and requirements of the project itself. The type of construction can affect the fee based on factors such as the construction techniques employed and the necessary code compliance. The occupancy group is vital since different uses of buildings may have varying safety and regulatory requirements, influencing the review process. Building materials also play a significant role because they can determine the structural integrity and compliance with fire, safety, and energy efficiency codes. The location of the site, while important for many other aspects of planning and permitting, is not typically a direct factor in calculating building plan review fees. Fees are generally more related to the specifics of the building itself rather than the geographical locale where it is situated. Therefore, this aspect is not considered typical in the calculations for plan review fees.

5. What do construction documents must clearly indicate for approval?

- A. Design aesthetics**
- B. Sustainability features**
- C. Code compliance**
- D. Landscape designs**

Construction documents must clearly indicate code compliance because these documents serve as a critical roadmap for ensuring that all construction activities meet established legal and safety standards. Code compliance involves adhering to various regulations and building codes that dictate structural integrity, fire safety, accessibility, and other essential criteria. These standards are put in place to protect public health and safety, and to ensure that the construction meets the expectations of the local jurisdiction. While design aesthetics, sustainability features, and landscape designs may be important considerations in a construction project, they do not hold the same weight in terms of regulatory approval. A project can potentially satisfy design and aesthetic preferences, or incorporate eco-friendly practices, but without adherence to the relevant codes, it would not be eligible for the necessary permits and inspections required for construction. Therefore, the emphasis on code compliance is paramount in the approval process.

6. Which inspection checks for the condition of concrete slab-on-grade?

- A. Footing inspection**
- B. Framing inspection**
- C. Final inspection**
- D. Accessibility inspection**

The correct choice involves the footing inspection, which specifically assesses the foundational elements, including the condition of the concrete slab-on-grade. This inspection is crucial as it examines the underlying support structure that the building will rely upon. During this process, the inspector looks for proper placement and the integrity of the concrete, ensuring it meets the specified codes and supports the expected loads for the structure above. The other options pertain to different stages and elements of construction. A framing inspection focuses on the structural framing of the building after the foundation has been laid. The final inspection evaluates the completed project to confirm that all work is compliant and satisfactory. Accessibility inspection deals with compliance regarding features that ensure access for individuals with disabilities, which does not directly address the condition of the concrete slab. Understanding these distinctions highlights the importance of the footing inspection in assessing concrete slab conditions before proceeding with additional construction.

7. Which authority does a building official NOT have?

- A. Grant variances
- B. Enforce local amendments
- C. Review construction documents
- D. Certify types of building materials**

The authority of a building official typically encompasses a wide range of responsibilities related to ensuring compliance with building codes and regulations, but certifying types of building materials is generally not within their purview. Instead, the certification of building materials is usually managed by specific organizations or agencies that specialize in testing and certifying materials according to relevant safety and performance standards. These organizations often provide necessary certifications that validate the suitability of materials for particular uses. In contrast, granting variances involves allowing deviations from strict code provisions when it can be demonstrated that unique circumstances warrant such actions. Enforcing local amendments is integral to a building official's role as they ensure compliance with both state and local codes. Additionally, reviewing construction documents is a fundamental aspect of a building official's duties, as this process assesses whether proposed plans conform to regulatory standards. Thus, the designation of certifying building materials rests outside the typical responsibilities of a building official.

8. In what situation can provisions of the code be waived?

- A. When deemed unnecessary
- B. When a major modification is needed
- C. Only if specified**
- D. Under no circumstances

The provisions of a code can be waived only if specified within the code itself. This means that certain codes may contain explicit language that outlines the conditions or circumstances under which waivers can be granted. This approach ensures that exceptions are handled systematically and legally, guarding against arbitrary decisions. When a code states that waivers are possible, it often includes criteria that must be met or specific procedures that must be followed. This structured approach helps maintain safety standards and compliance with regulatory requirements while allowing for flexibility in unique situations. In contrast, while the other scenarios mention instances where waiving might seem reasonable, they do not align with the defined processes mentioned in the code. For instance, deeming a provision unnecessary or needing a major modification does not grant the authority to waive it unless explicitly stated within the code's regulations. Similarly, the statement suggesting a blanket prohibition against waiving codes does not provide any mechanism for flexibility when the code itself might allow for exceptions.

9. Under what circumstance are building permits typically required for fences?

- A. When they are painted a certain color**
- B. When they exceed a certain height or encroach upon property lines**
- C. For all types of fences regardless of height**
- D. Only if they are being placed in front yards**

Building permits for fences are typically required primarily due to zoning regulations and safety concerns, which center around the height of the fence and its placement in relation to property lines. When fences exceed a certain height—often determined by local ordinances—they can obstruct views, create privacy issues, or impact the overall aesthetics of the neighborhood. Additionally, if a fence encroaches upon property lines, it could lead to disputes with neighbors regarding property rights and boundaries, making permits necessary to ensure compliance with the law and proper delineation of property boundaries. In contrast, the other options focus on conditions that do not generally prompt the need for a building permit. The color of the fence does not typically influence permit requirements, and not all types of fences necessitate permits regardless of height. Moreover, while some regulations might pertain to fences in front yards, this is not universally the case, as side and rear fences can also require permits based on height and proximity to property lines. Therefore, the most accurate criterion for determining when a building permit is needed for a fence centers on height limitations and property line considerations.

10. Which of the following is not a condition of a home occupation?

- A. Customer visits**
- B. No changes to the exterior**
- C. Preemption**
- D. Employee limitations**

The condition identified as not being a typical requirement for a home occupation is accurate because "preemption" refers to a legal doctrine where a higher authority, such as state law, overrides local laws or ordinances. In the context of home occupations, this concept does not specifically pertain to the conditions that regulate how a home business operates at the local level. Home occupation regulations often focus on elements that ensure the residential character of the area is maintained. This includes limiting customer visits to prevent disturbances in the neighborhood, maintaining the existing exterior appearance of the home to avoid creating a businesslike environment, and placing restrictions on the number of employees to control traffic and keep the business subtle. These factors are directly tied to local zoning laws and community standards, while "preemption" is more about the interplay of laws between different government entities, thus not fitting within the framework of home occupation conditions.