SGLA LARE Planning and Design 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

1. What should play areas within a playground be segregated by?

A. Type of play equipment

B. Age of children

C. Location in the park

D. Material used for construction

2. Which of the following is a method that can be used in community visioning?

A. Online marketing

B. Public lectures

C. Workshops

D. Advertising

3. What does floor area ratio (FAR) represent?

A. The total height of a building

B. The relationship between gross square footage of a building and lot size

C. The market value of a property

D. The number of floors in a high-rise building

4. What strategy is recommended to manage the runoff from frequent small rain events?

A. Capture and treat the first flush

B. Increase impervious areas

C. Use sedimentation basins only

D. Ignore small rain events

5. Which of the following is NOT a primary goal of site planning?

A. Promote public health, safety, and welfare

B. Encourage urban isolation

C. Protect valuable natural and cultural amenities

D. Support critical ecological processes

6. What is the primary technique for removing sediment from runoff?

- **A. Direct filtration**
- **B. Detention and settling**
- **C. Mechanical sifting**
- **D. Chemical treatment**

7. What does percolation describe in soil science?

- **A. The upward movement of water in saturated soil**
- **B. The lateral movement of water within soil layers**
- **C. The downward movement of water through soil**
- **D. The evaporation of water from soil surfaces**

8. What does the term "complete streets" refer to?

- **A. Streets that prioritize automobile traffic**
- **B. Streets designed for safe use by all modes of transportation**
- **C. Streets with dedicated bike lanes only**
- **D. Streets that feature only pedestrian pathways**

9. Which of the following is a benefit of mixed-use development?

- **A. Limited pedestrian activity**
- **B. Reduced public transit options**
- **C. Enhancement of public safety**
- **D. Isolation of different land uses**

10. What is considered the most dangerous type of bikeway?

- **A. Bicycle paths**
- **B. Bicycle lanes**
- **C. Wide outside lanes**
- **D. Shared roadways**

Answers

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

Explanations

1. What should play areas within a playground be segregated by?

A. Type of play equipment

B. Age of children

C. Location in the park

D. Material used for construction

Segregating play areas within a playground by the age of children is essential for safety and developmental appropriateness. Different age groups have varying developmental skills, physical abilities, and safety requirements. For instance, toddlers typically require equipment that is closer to the ground, with features that encourage safe exploration and interaction, while older children can handle more complex structures and higher equipment. This approach minimizes the risk of injury, as young children may not have the coordination or understanding to safely navigate equipment designed for older children. By creating designated areas that cater to specific age groups, playgrounds can provide a more inclusive, engaging, and safe environment for all participants, ensuring that children can play without the overwhelming potential hazards of equipment meant for different developmental stages. The other options, while they may have their importance in an overall playground design, do not prioritize the critical need for safety and suitable interaction tied to children's ages, which is the primary focus for creating effective play spaces.

2. Which of the following is a method that can be used in community visioning?

A. Online marketing

B. Public lectures

C. Workshops

D. Advertising

Community visioning is a participatory planning process that helps communities articulate their goals, aspirations, and priorities for the future. Workshops play a critical role in this process, as they provide an interactive platform where community members can come together to share ideas, discuss challenges, and collaboratively develop a vision for their community. In a workshop setting, participants engage in activities such as brainstorming sessions, group discussions, and hands-on exercises that promote creative thinking and collective problem-solving. This format encourages active participation, allowing individuals to express their opinions and contribute to the visioning process, leading to more inclusive and representative outcomes. While public lectures can disseminate information and facilitate education, they generally do not allow for the same level of interaction and engagement as workshops. Online marketing and advertising might help raise awareness about visioning activities, but they do not inherently foster the collaborative environment needed for effective community input and planning. Therefore, workshops are the best method for facilitating community visioning, as they prioritize engagement, collaboration, and the direct involvement of community members in shaping their future.

3. What does floor area ratio (FAR) represent?

A. The total height of a building

B. The relationship between gross square footage of a building and lot size

C. The market value of a property

D. The number of floors in a high-rise building

Floor area ratio (FAR) is a crucial metric in land use planning and zoning that quantifies the relationship between the total building area (gross square footage) and the area of the parcel of land (lot size) on which the building sits. It is calculated by dividing the total floor area of the building by the total area of the lot. This ratio is significant for urban planning as it helps to control building density and ensure that development aligns with community goals and infrastructure capabilities. For instance, a FAR of 1.0 implies that the total floor area of the building is equal to the area of the lot, meaning if a 10,000 square foot lot has a FAR of 1.0, the total building area can be up to 10,000 square feet. A higher FAR indicates more intense development, while a lower FAR promotes lower density. The other choices represent concepts that do not accurately define FAR. The total height of a building, the market value of a property, and the number of floors in a high-rise relate to different metrics and factors in the real estate and architectural sectors but do not describe the relationship that FAR encapsulates between gross building area and lot size.

4. What strategy is recommended to manage the runoff from frequent small rain events?

A. Capture and treat the first flush

B. Increase impervious areas

C. Use sedimentation basins only

D. Ignore small rain events

The recommended strategy for managing runoff from frequent small rain events is to capture and treat the first flush. This approach is particularly effective because the initial portion of stormwater runoff often contains the highest concentration of pollutants washed from surfaces such as streets, roofs, and parking lots. By capturing this first flush, you can significantly reduce the amount of contaminants entering waterways, thus improving water quality. Implementing techniques such as bio-retention, rain gardens, or constructed wetlands allows for the treatment of the first flush. These systems provide filtration and biological processes that help to cleanse the water before it discharges into storm systems. Managing these frequent small events is crucial because they collectively contribute to overall water quality issues over time and can exacerbate erosion and flooding if not properly managed. The options that suggest increasing impervious areas, relying solely on sedimentation basins, or ignoring small rain events do not provide sustainable or effective solutions for stormwater management. In fact, increasing impervious surfaces generally leads to greater runoff and pollutant loads, while neglecting small rain events accumulates issues that can impact larger stormwater management strategies.

5. Which of the following is NOT a primary goal of site planning?

A. Promote public health, safety, and welfare

B. Encourage urban isolation

C. Protect valuable natural and cultural amenities

D. Support critical ecological processes

The goal of site planning is fundamentally geared towards enhancing the community's well-being, preserving the environment, and ensuring that developments align with sustainable practices. Promoting public health, safety, and welfare is essential in creating spaces that are accessible, secure, and conducive to healthy lifestyles. This can include ensuring adequate infrastructure, providing recreational areas, and designing for safety. Additionally, protecting valuable natural and cultural amenities is crucial for maintaining the identity and heritage of a place while also safeguarding ecological systems. This not only enhances the aesthetic value of a site but also preserves biodiversity and cultural significance for future generations. Supporting critical ecological processes is another vital goal, as site planning should consider the natural systems in place and aim to protect and enhance these processes. This includes sustaining wildlife habitats, managing water resources, and promoting biodiversity. Encouraging urban isolation is counterproductive to the goals of effective site planning. Isolation runs contrary to the principles of community engagement, connectivity, and social interaction, which are essential for vibrant, thriving urban environments. Instead, the focus is on fostering inclusion, accessibility, and interconnectedness within communities.

6. What is the primary technique for removing sediment from runoff?

A. Direct filtration

B. Detention and settling

C. Mechanical sifting

D. Chemical treatment

Detention and settling is the primary technique for removing sediment from runoff due to its effectiveness in allowing particles to settle out of the water column. This method involves creating a temporary storage area, such as a detention basin, where stormwater can accumulate. When water slows down in this area, heavier sediment particles settle to the bottom due to gravity, thereby reducing the amount of sediment that flows into downstream water bodies. This technique is widely employed in stormwater management practices because it not only captures sediments but can also reduce other pollutants contained within the runoff. By allowing sediment to settle, the quality of the water that is eventually discharged or infiltrated can be significantly improved. This process is natural and can be part of both engineered systems and natural landscapes. In contrast, while other methods such as direct filtration, mechanical sifting, and chemical treatment have their own applications in removing certain pollutants, they are not as effective for sediment removal as detention and settling. Direct filtration usually targets smaller particles and does not have the capacity for large sediment volumes. Mechanical sifting may be impractical for large-scale runoff management. Chemical treatment typically involves additives to alter properties of pollutants rather than physically removing sediment. Thus, detention and settling stands out as the most effective and commonly used method for managing

7. What does percolation describe in soil science?

A. The upward movement of water in saturated soil

B. The lateral movement of water within soil layers

C. The downward movement of water through soil

D. The evaporation of water from soil surfaces

Percolation in soil science specifically refers to the process by which water moves downward through the soil layers. This movement occurs when water saturates the soil and is influenced by various factors including soil texture, structure, and the presence of organic matter. The downward flow typically involves the gravitational force acting on the water, allowing it to pass through various particles in the soil, such as sand, silt, and clay. This process is crucial for recharging groundwater aquifers, influencing drainage patterns, and affecting plant availability of water. Understanding percolation helps manage irrigation practices, assess soil health, and develop proper land use strategies effectively.

8. What does the term "complete streets" refer to?

A. Streets that prioritize automobile traffic

B. Streets designed for safe use by all modes of transportation

C. Streets with dedicated bike lanes only

D. Streets that feature only pedestrian pathways

The term "complete streets" refers to streets designed for safe use by all modes of transportation. This concept emphasizes the importance of accommodating a diverse range of users, including pedestrians, cyclists, motorists, and public transit riders. The goal of complete streets is to create a balanced transportation environment that enhances safety, accessibility, and convenience for everyone, regardless of their mode of travel or physical abilities. This approach includes design considerations such as wide sidewalks, bike lanes, crosswalks, bus stops, and pedestrian islands, among other features. By integrating these elements, cities can promote multi-modal transportation options, reduce traffic congestion, and improve overall community health and safety.

9. Which of the following is a benefit of mixed-use development?

A. Limited pedestrian activity

B. Reduced public transit options

C. Enhancement of public safety

D. Isolation of different land uses

Mixed-use development refers to the integration of various types of land uses—such as residential, commercial, and recreational—within a single area. One of the primary benefits of this approach is the enhancement of public safety. When diverse activities take place in close proximity, there tends to be a higher level of pedestrian traffic throughout the day and night. This consistent flow of people can lead to what is known as "eyes on the street," where the presence of individuals helps to deter crime and enhance safety within the community. Additionally, mixed-use developments create a more vibrant community ambiance, which can lead to increased social cohesion and a stronger sense of community. This interconnectedness fosters a more watchful environment, contributing to overall public safety. In contrast, the other options relate to limitations typically associated with land-use separation rather than the advantages of mixed-use developments. For example, limited pedestrian activity and reduced public transit options are common issues in areas where uses are isolated from one another, leading to a dependence on vehicles and decreased walkability. Similarly, isolating different land uses can hinder community interaction and reduce the benefits associated with vibrant, mixed areas.

10. What is considered the most dangerous type of bikeway?

A. Bicycle paths

B. Bicycle lanes

C. Wide outside lanes

D. Shared roadways

The designation of shared roadways as the most dangerous type of bikeway stems from their inherent design and operational characteristics. Shared roadways are streets where bicycles and motor vehicles travel in the same lane without any designated space or separation for cyclists. This lack of separation significantly increases the potential for conflicts between cyclists and motor vehicles, especially in areas with high traffic volumes or speeds. On shared roadways, cyclists are often subject to the same speed limits and driver behaviors as motor vehicles, which can lead to a greater risk of accidents. Motorists may not always be attentive to the presence of cyclists, making them vulnerable to collisions. Additionally, the absence of clear boundaries can create confusion for both cyclists and drivers, further exacerbating safety issues. In contrast, other types of bikeways, such as bicycle paths and lanes, typically provide designated space for cyclists, reducing the likelihood of interactions with motor vehicles. Bicycle paths are completely separate from vehicular traffic, while bicycle lanes allocate a portion of the roadway specifically for cyclists, which helps to enhance safety. Wide outside lanes can also offer some buffer; however, they may still be used by both cyclists and motor vehicles, leaving cyclists at risk of close passes by vehicles. Overall, the shared roadway situation presents a greater danger

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://sglalareplanningandesign.examzify.com

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