

# SPECS Building for Ecologically Responsive Design Excellence (BERDE) Practice Test (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

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- 1. Which is a subcategory under the Use of Land and Ecology core framework that directly reduces the heat island effect?**
  - A. Heat Island Reduction**
  - B. Stormwater Management**
  - C. Carbon Emission**
  - D. Biodiversity Offsetting**
  
- 2. In what year was BERDE Version 2.0 released?**
  - A. 2017**
  - B. 2012**
  - C. 2020**
  - D. 2021**
  
- 3. Arya Residences is Stage 2 BERDE Certified with how many stars?**
  - A. 3 stars**
  - B. 4 stars**
  - C. 5 stars**
  - D. 2 stars**
  
- 4. Not listed as an occupancy type for BERDE buildings?**
  - A. Office**
  - B. Health Facilities**
  - C. Housing Complexes**
  - D. Educational Buildings**
  
- 5. Which project reduces energy consumption by 45%?**
  - A. Arya Residences**
  - B. Five/Neo**
  - C. None**
  - D. Arthaland Century Pacific Tower**

- 6. What is the point value associated with the Use of Land and Ecology core framework?**
- A. 24**
  - B. 18**
  - C. 9**
  - D. 15**
- 7. BERDE Version 2.0 description: which statement is true?**
- A. It streamlined previous GBRS into one rating scheme**
  - B. It introduced separate schemes for New Construction, Renovations, and Operations**
  - C. It eliminated energy efficiency criteria**
  - D. It reduced the number of categories to five**
- 8. Which BERDE Districts stage focuses on implementation, monitoring, evaluation and continuous improvement of policies, programs, strategies and implementation action plans?**
- A. Stage 1 - Planning**
  - B. Stage 3 - Operational**
  - C. Stage 1 - Design**
  - D. Stage 2 - Implementation**
- 9. Which item is NOT part of the Minimum System Requirements?**
- A. Occupational health and safety plan**
  - B. Regulatory compliance**
  - C. Initial site assessment**
  - D. Distinct and clear boundaries**
- 10. Post Assessment Stage 1 & Stage 2 have a post-approval validity of how many years?**
- A. 3 years validity**
  - B. 5 years validity**
  - C. 2 years validity**
  - D. 1 year validity**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Which is a subcategory under the Use of Land and Ecology core framework that directly reduces the heat island effect?**

- A. Heat Island Reduction**
- B. Stormwater Management**
- C. Carbon Emission**
- D. Biodiversity Offsetting**

Directly reducing the heat island effect comes from land-use and ecological strategies that lower urban temperatures through reflective surfaces, shading, and green infrastructure. The Heat Island Reduction subcategory is specifically about cooling the built environment by increasing albedo (reflectivity) of roofs and pavements and by adding vegetation and green roofs that evaporate water and provide shade. This direct focus on lowering surface and air temperatures in urban areas makes it the best fit for reducing heat island effects. Stormwater Management deals with capturing and directing rainwater and reducing runoff; while it can have some cooling benefits through evaporation, its primary purpose isn't to tackle urban heat islands. Carbon Emission relates to reducing greenhouse gases from energy and transportation, not land-use cooling strategies. Biodiversity Offsetting centers on preserving or compensating for ecological impacts, not on cooling urban microclimates.

**2. In what year was BERDE Version 2.0 released?**

- A. 2017**
- B. 2012**
- C. 2020**
- D. 2021**

BERDE Version 2.0 marks a milestone when the rating system was refreshed to better assess how buildings perform across energy, water, materials, site impacts, and broader sustainability considerations. This update was released in 2017, by the Philippines Green Building Council, to modernize the framework and align it with evolving sustainability practices. The other years correspond to either earlier developments (before the 2.0 upgrade) or later updates, but not the release of Version 2.0 itself. So 2017 is the correct year for BERDE Version 2.0.

**3. Arya Residences is Stage 2 BERDE Certified with how many stars?**

- A. 3 stars
- B. 4 stars**
- C. 5 stars
- D. 2 stars

The main idea here is how BERDE uses stars to show a project's environmental performance at different stages. For Stage 2, a design-stage assessment checks that the project has solid strategies across key categories—energy, water, materials, indoor environmental quality, waste, and related site and governance aspects—and that these strategies are well-documented and viable in the design. Arya Residences earning four stars at Stage 2 means it has met the substantial design requirements and demonstrates strong performance across those BERDE categories at this design phase. It signals a high level of commitment and achievement, indicating the project is well positioned to proceed toward final certification while continuing to implement and verify its performance targets. The other options would reflect lower or different levels of achievement, while four stars at Stage 2 represents a robust design-stage rating that BERDE recognizes for this stage.

**4. Not listed as an occupancy type for BERDE buildings?**

- A. Office
- B. Health Facilities
- C. Housing Complexes**
- D. Educational Buildings

BERDE's rating framework groups buildings by occupancy type so the performance criteria and credits match how the space is actually used. Office, Health Facilities, and Educational Buildings are clear, well-defined categories with corresponding expectations for energy, water, materials, and indoor environment. Housing Complexes, however, isn't listed as its own occupancy type in BERDE. Residential uses are handled under a broader Residential (or Housing) category, with applicable criteria that cover housing projects in general rather than a separate category for "Housing Complexes." So for a housing project, you would apply the residential/house criteria rather than a distinct "Housing Complexes" occupancy type, keeping the system consistent across different residential scales.

**5. Which project reduces energy consumption by 45%?**

- A. Arya Residences
- B. Five/Neo
- C. None
- D. Arthaland Century Pacific Tower**

Showing a large energy reduction demonstrates a project's ability to cut energy use through integrated design and efficient systems. Arthaland Century Pacific Tower stands out because it achieves a 45% reduction in energy consumption relative to a conventional baseline. This level of savings comes from a combination of features and strategies such as a high-performance building envelope to minimize heat gain, efficient lighting and electrical systems, and advanced HVAC and energy-management practices that optimize operation. In BERDE and similar green-rating contexts, reaching this magnitude of energy reduction is a strong indicator of overall energy performance. That's why this project is the best-fitting choice among the options.

**6. What is the point value associated with the Use of Land and Ecology core framework?**

- A. 24**
- B. 18
- C. 9
- D. 15

Focusing on how land is used and how ecological features are protected and integrated into a project is given substantial weight in BERDE scoring. The point value for this framework is twenty-four points, the largest single allocation among the core frameworks, which highlights its major influence on the overall certification outcome. This higher value reflects the goal of encouraging site-conscious planning—choosing appropriate sites, preserving significant natural features, maximizing green space, and designing in harmony with the local ecology. While other frameworks contribute valuable points as well, their weights are smaller, so achieving strong performance in land use and ecology can make a significant difference in the final score. Prioritize thoughtful site selection, habitat protection, and ecological integration to maximize these points.

**7. BERDE Version 2.0 description: which statement is true?**

- A. It streamlined previous GBRs into one rating scheme**
- B. It introduced separate schemes for New Construction, Renovations, and Operations
- C. It eliminated energy efficiency criteria
- D. It reduced the number of categories to five

BERDE Version 2.0 consolidates multiple rating systems into a single, unified scheme. This means the previous GBRs frameworks were merged so there is one set of criteria that can be used across different building types and project contexts, making certification simpler and more consistent. Energy efficiency criteria remain a core part of the framework, so the statement about eliminating them isn't accurate. The approach does not introduce separate schemes for New Construction, Renovations, and Operations; the unified scheme is intended to apply across those contexts. It also does not reduce the number of categories to five; the structure maintains a comprehensive set of categories and credits. In short, the true idea is that BERDE Version 2.0 streamlines into one rating scheme.

**8. Which BERDE Districts stage focuses on implementation, monitoring, evaluation and continuous improvement of policies, programs, strategies and implementation action plans?**

- A. Stage 1 - Planning**
- B. Stage 3 - Operational**
- C. Stage 1 - Design**
- D. Stage 2 - Implementation**

Implementation focuses on turning plans into action while maintaining a real-time check on how things are performing. In this stage, you roll out policies and programs, set up systems to monitor progress, collect and analyze data, and evaluate outcomes. That evaluation informs continuous improvements, so policies, programs, strategies, and implementation action plans are refined based on what works and what doesn't. This explicit emphasis on executing actions and feeding results back into the plan to drive ongoing enhancement is what distinguishes this phase from the planning or design stages (which establish objectives and technical details) and from purely operational work (which centers on daily activities without the same structured evaluation and improvement loop).

**9. Which item is NOT part of the Minimum System Requirements?**

- A. Occupational health and safety plan**
- B. Regulatory compliance**
- C. Initial site assessment**
- D. Distinct and clear boundaries**

Minimum System Requirements establish the baseline for framing a project's environmental and regulatory context. They typically include elements that define the site, its legal framework, and the scope of work. The initial site assessment provides data on existing conditions and constraints, helping address how the project will interact with the site. Regulatory compliance ensures the project meets laws, permits, and standards that govern development. Distinct and clear boundaries define the site limits, preventing ambiguity in data collection and responsibility. The item about an occupational health and safety plan, while crucial for protecting workers and guiding safety on site, belongs to safety planning and project execution rather than the foundational site-based requirements. It's not part of the minimum system requirements because it addresses implementation safety practices rather than establishing the site's baseline environmental and regulatory framework.

**10. Post Assessment Stage 1 & Stage 2 have a post-approval validity of how many years?**

- A. 3 years validity
- B. 5 years validity**
- C. 2 years validity
- D. 1 year validity

Five years. After the post-approval for Stage 1 and Stage 2 is granted, the BERDE certification status remains valid for five years, allowing ongoing performance to be assumed compliant during that period without a new full post-approval review. If no major changes occur, you simply monitor and maintain performance; once five years pass, a renewal or additional post-approval activity is needed to extend the certification.

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## 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://specsberde.examzify.com>**

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

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