

The Evolution of Planning (PLAN 100) Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

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- 1. Do economic cycles alter the factors that shape the valuation of locations?**
 - A. Yes, they significantly change valuation factors**
 - B. No, they do not alter the valuation factors**
 - C. Only in extreme economic conditions**
 - D. Yes, but only temporarily**
- 2. How does climate change impact urban planning?**
 - A. It has no significant impact on urban planning**
 - B. It necessitates the inclusion of resilience strategies**
 - C. It only affects rural areas and not urban planning**
 - D. It allows for more relaxed zoning regulations**
- 3. What is meant by "smart growth" in urban planning?**
 - A. Strategies that promote rural migration**
 - B. Policies that encourage larger lot sizes**
 - C. Urban strategies for sustainable and environmentally friendly development**
 - D. A focus on urban sprawl**
- 4. What is a hidden cost associated with suburban living?**
 - A. Higher recreational opportunities**
 - B. Transportation costs can be higher despite lower housing prices**
 - C. Increased access to urban centers**
 - D. Lower general living expenses**
- 5. What are brownfield sites?**
 - A. Public lands designated for parks and recreation**
 - B. Previously developed land that may be contaminated and is being redeveloped**
 - C. Land preserved for future urban development**
 - D. Vacant lots in inner cities**

- 6. What principle does minimum differentiation in Hotelling's model suggest?**
- A. Producers will create highly differentiated products**
 - B. Producers rationally make their products as similar as possible**
 - C. Producers should focus solely on price**
 - D. All products should be completely unique**
- 7. What mobility-related issue has caused concern among urban planners regarding the automobile-centric model?**
- A. Increased accessibility to public spaces**
 - B. Urban congestion and pollution**
 - C. Reduced transportation costs**
 - D. Improved public health outcomes**
- 8. What impact does proximity have on location valuation?**
- A. It decreases the desirability of a location**
 - B. It enhances the value due to closeness to urban centers**
 - C. It has no significant impact**
 - D. It limits accessibility to social services**
- 9. What is the significance of the 1969 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)?**
- A. It encourages urban expansion without restriction**
 - B. It mandates environmental assessments for federal actions**
 - C. It eliminates the need for public comments**
 - D. It was primarily focused on water resource management**
- 10. In what way do housing policies impact urban planning?**
- A. By determining the municipal budget for transportation**
 - B. By influencing the availability of affordable housing and zoning regulations**
 - C. By creating tourist attractions in urban areas**
 - D. By focusing exclusively on commercial property development**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Do economic cycles alter the factors that shape the valuation of locations?

- A. Yes, they significantly change valuation factors**
- B. No, they do not alter the valuation factors**
- C. Only in extreme economic conditions**
- D. Yes, but only temporarily**

The assertion that economic cycles do not alter the valuation factors of locations suggests that the inherent characteristics and influences on property value—such as location, accessibility, zoning regulations, and demographic trends—remain constant regardless of the economic context. This perspective highlights the idea that while economic conditions can affect property values by influencing demand and investment, the fundamental attributes that determine a location's value are stable over time. However, it is widely accepted in the field of planning and economics that economic cycles can indeed have significant impacts on how and why locations are valued. For example, during times of economic growth, demand for real estate typically increases, which can elevate property values based on factors like desirability and investment potential. Conversely, during recessions, the same locations might experience decreased demand and lower valuations. This understanding emphasizes how economic factors integrate with other elements in influencing valuations, demonstrating that while some characteristics might remain constant, the broader economic environment can greatly reshape perceptions and values associated with specific locations. In summary, the valuation of locations is not static and is influenced by the economic cycles that characterize broader market conditions.

2. How does climate change impact urban planning?

- A. It has no significant impact on urban planning**
- B. It necessitates the inclusion of resilience strategies**
- C. It only affects rural areas and not urban planning**
- D. It allows for more relaxed zoning regulations**

Climate change significantly impacts urban planning by necessitating the inclusion of resilience strategies. Urban planners are increasingly recognizing the need to adapt existing infrastructures and design new developments in ways that mitigate the risks associated with climate change, such as flooding, heatwaves, and rising sea levels. This includes implementing green infrastructure, enhancing drainage systems, and using climate data to inform future developments. Resilience strategies aim to ensure that urban areas can withstand and adapt to environmental stresses, ensuring the safety and sustainability of communities. Incorporating resilience into urban planning involves a proactive approach where planners assess vulnerabilities, prioritize adaptation measures, and encourage sustainable practices. This focus on resilience is critical as cities are often densely populated and can be disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change, making the integration of these strategies essential for long-term viability and livability.

3. What is meant by "smart growth" in urban planning?

- A. Strategies that promote rural migration
- B. Policies that encourage larger lot sizes
- C. Urban strategies for sustainable and environmentally friendly development**
- D. A focus on urban sprawl

"Smart growth" refers to urban planning strategies that emphasize sustainable and environmentally friendly development. This approach encourages creating more livable communities by promoting compact, mixed-use developments that reduce the need for extensive car travel, thereby minimizing pollution and conserving natural resources. Smart growth aims to enhance the quality of life for residents by providing access to public transit, parks, and amenities while preserving open spaces and promoting more efficient land use. By focusing on sustainability, smart growth seeks to address challenges such as urban sprawl, which can lead to increased traffic congestion, higher infrastructure costs, and environmental degradation. The principles of smart growth include promoting walkable neighborhoods, creating a variety of transportation options, and fostering community engagement in the planning process, all of which contribute to healthier and more resilient urban environments.

4. What is a hidden cost associated with suburban living?

- A. Higher recreational opportunities
- B. Transportation costs can be higher despite lower housing prices**
- C. Increased access to urban centers
- D. Lower general living expenses

The choice highlighting that transportation costs can be higher despite lower housing prices accurately reflects the complexities of suburban living. While it might seem appealing to move to suburban areas due to lower housing prices, this advantage is often offset by increased transportation expenses. Suburbs are typically situated farther from urban centers where jobs, services, and amenities are concentrated. Consequently, residents might face longer commutes, requiring more time and fuel, which in turn adds to overall costs. Additionally, these costs are not just monetary; they can also include the value of time spent commuting, wear and tear on vehicles, and potential lifestyle impacts, such as decreased time for family and leisure activities. The other options do not represent hidden costs. For instance, higher recreational opportunities and increased access to urban centers are benefits of living in suburban areas rather than hidden costs. Similarly, stating that general living expenses are lower contradicts the reality that transportation expenses can inflate the overall cost of living in suburban settings.

5. What are brownfield sites?

- A. Public lands designated for parks and recreation
- B. Previously developed land that may be contaminated and is being redeveloped**
- C. Land preserved for future urban development
- D. Vacant lots in inner cities

Brownfield sites refer to previously developed land that may have been contaminated through industrial use or other activities and is now being redeveloped or reused. These sites are often perceived as having environmental challenges, primarily due to the potential presence of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants resulting from past uses. Redevelopment of brownfields is significant as it helps mitigate environmental risks while also promoting urban renewal, maximizing land use, and contributing to economic development. Rather than being left unused or abandoned, efforts are made to clean up and rehabilitate these areas, which can lead to environmental improvements and the revitalization of neighborhoods. Alternative choices describe different aspects of land use but do not accurately capture the definition of brownfield sites. For example, lands designated for parks and recreation are specifically set aside for those purposes and are not typically associated with contamination issues. Land preserved for future urban development refers to areas held for future construction efforts, distinguishing it from previously developed land. Vacant lots in inner cities may not necessarily have been developed or contaminated before, thus lacking the specific historical use that characterizes brownfield sites.

6. What principle does minimum differentiation in Hotelling's model suggest?

- A. Producers will create highly differentiated products
- B. Producers rationally make their products as similar as possible**
- C. Producers should focus solely on price
- D. All products should be completely unique

Minimum differentiation in Hotelling's model suggests that producers rationally make their products as similar as possible to maximize market share and minimize competition. This concept primarily applies to spatial competition, where businesses are positioned along a line to capture the most consumers. According to the model, if two competitors choose very similar locations (or products), they can effectively capture the majority of customers who want to minimize their travel or search costs. As producers move closer together on the spectrum of product offerings, they reduce the risk of price competition and the likelihood of being outperformed by a rival with a more differentiated product. By closely aligning their products, they can cater to the largest segment of consumers who prefer a certain level of uniformity or familiarity. This principle highlights the strategic consideration of positioning in competitive markets, emphasizing that in many cases, it's advantageous for firms to offer similar products in order to effectively compete.

7. What mobility-related issue has caused concern among urban planners regarding the automobile-centric model?

A. Increased accessibility to public spaces

B. Urban congestion and pollution

C. Reduced transportation costs

D. Improved public health outcomes

The automobile-centric model has raised significant concerns among urban planners primarily due to urban congestion and pollution. As cities have developed around automobile use, the heavy reliance on cars has led to increased traffic congestion as roadways become overcrowded with vehicles. This congestion not only causes delays but also contributes to higher levels of air pollution, which negatively affects public health and the environment. Moreover, the prioritization of automobiles often limits the development of pedestrian-friendly spaces and reduces the quality of life for residents. Urban planners advocate for more sustainable mobility solutions that can minimize congestion and mitigate pollution, such as public transportation, biking infrastructure, and walkable city designs. This shift aims to create a more balanced transportation system that addresses the adverse consequences associated with an automobile-dominating approach.

8. What impact does proximity have on location valuation?

A. It decreases the desirability of a location

B. It enhances the value due to closeness to urban centers

C. It has no significant impact

D. It limits accessibility to social services

The proximity of a location often enhances its value, especially when it is close to urban centers. Urban areas typically offer a wealth of amenities, services, and job opportunities that can increase the desirability of nearby locations. This is illustrated by residential and commercial developments that thrive in areas with easy access to transportation, employment, and entertainment. As people and businesses seek convenient access to these resources, locations that are in close proximity to urban centers generally experience an increase in their market value. This relationship between proximity and valuation is a fundamental principle in urban planning and economics, highlighting the importance of location in decision-making for both individuals and organizations.

9. What is the significance of the 1969 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)?

- A. It encourages urban expansion without restriction**
- B. It mandates environmental assessments for federal actions**
- C. It eliminates the need for public comments**
- D. It was primarily focused on water resource management**

The 1969 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is significant primarily because it mandates environmental assessments for federal actions. This legislation was groundbreaking in establishing a framework for considering the environmental impacts of governmental decisions and projects. By requiring federal agencies to prepare detailed statements assessing the environmental effects, NEPA ensures that potential ecological consequences are identified and evaluated before any major actions are taken. This requirement fosters transparency and public engagement, as it allows stakeholders and the community to review and comment on proposed projects. The goal of NEPA is to promote informed decision-making that takes into account environmental protection, thereby integrating environmental values into the federal decision-making process. This emphasis on thorough environmental review has influenced subsequent environmental legislation and policy, making NEPA a cornerstone of American environmental law and planning.

10. In what way do housing policies impact urban planning?

- A. By determining the municipal budget for transportation**
- B. By influencing the availability of affordable housing and zoning regulations**
- C. By creating tourist attractions in urban areas**
- D. By focusing exclusively on commercial property development**

Housing policies are a critical component of urban planning because they directly influence both the availability of affordable housing and the zoning regulations that govern land use within a city. When policies are developed with a focus on affordable housing, they can help ensure that diverse populations have access to living spaces that fit their economic status. This, in turn, shapes the demographic composition of neighborhoods and can lead to a more equitable urban environment. Zoning regulations, which dictate how land can be used—whether for residential, commercial, or industrial purposes—are also affected by housing policies. For example, policies that promote more inclusive or mixed-use zoning can encourage the development of affordable housing options and create community-oriented spaces that may integrate residential living with commercial activity, enhancing the vibrancy of urban areas. In contrast, other choices do not broadly encompass the foundational role housing policies play in urban planning. While transportation budgets and commercial development are important considerations, they are not the primary focus of housing policy's direct impact. Housing policies are integral to addressing housing shortages, inequality, and community development in urban settings, ultimately shaping the overall landscape of city planning.