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38	A	B	C	D	E
39	A	B	C	D	E

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

CA LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

QXGUBGLB

CA Landscape Architect Supplemental Written Exam

EDITION

Demo

QUESTIONS

9

FORMAT

Limited Edition PDF

Before you begin

What this is

9 practice questions for CA LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE QXGUBGLB, each with its answer key and an explanation. Answer a question before you read its key — the explanation is worth more once you have committed.

If something looks wrong

Send us three things and we will check it:

- the exam code, QXGUBGLB
- the question number
- the email address on your order

Write to **support@mometrix.net**. We reply within one business day.

QUESTION 1

SINGLE CHOICE

A landscape architect is designing a graded swale along a pedestrian pathway. Which minimum longitudinal slope is generally required to ensure positive drainage and prevent standing water on the surface?

- ☐ A 0.0% (flat)
- ☐ B 0.5%
- ☒ C 2.0%
- ☐ D 5.0%

ANSWER C

WHY A minimum longitudinal slope of approximately 2% (roughly 1/4 inch per foot) is the commonly accepted minimum for positive drainage in landscape grading, including swales and pathways. Flatter slopes tend to hold water, and excessively steep slopes create erosion problems. Option B (0.5%) is too flat to reliably drain, while 5% is generally excessive for a swale adjacent to a pedestrian path.

QUESTION 2

SINGLE CHOICE

Under California law, which of the following best describes who is legally authorized to use the title 'Landscape Architect' and to practice landscape architecture in the state?

- ☐ A Any individual who holds a degree in landscape architecture from an accredited program
- ☐ B Any individual who has passed the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (LARE)
- ☒ C Only individuals licensed by the California Landscape Architects Technical Committee, except as otherwise permitted by statute
- ☐ D Any individual who is a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

ANSWER C

WHY In California, the practice of landscape architecture and the use of the title 'Landscape Architect' are regulated by the Landscape Architects Technical Committee (LATC) under the Department of Consumer Affairs. A professional license issued by the state is required to offer landscape architectural services to the public, subject to statutory exemptions. Passing the LARE alone, holding a degree, or being an ASLA member are not sufficient by themselves to authorize practice or use of the title in California.

QUESTION 3

SINGLE CHOICE

When selecting tree species for a streetscape planting in an area with compacted urban soils, restricted rooting volume, and reflected heat from paving, which of the following plant characteristics is most important to prioritize?

- ☐ A Showy flower display during the summer
- ☒ B High tolerance to soil compaction, drought, and heat stress
- ☐ C Rapid juvenile growth rate
- ☐ D Preference for shaded understory conditions

ANSWER B

WHY Streetscape trees must tolerate harsh, urban soil and microclimate conditions, including compacted soils, limited root volume, drought, and reflected heat from pavement. Aesthetic characteristics such as flowering or fast juvenile growth are secondary to survival and long-term performance under stress. Shade-preferring species are inappropriate for full-sun street tree locations.

QUESTION 4

SINGLE CHOICE

An accessible pedestrian pathway must have a running slope that complies with the accessibility provisions of the California Building Code. What is the maximum running slope allowed for an accessible route without it being classified as a ramp?

- ☐ A 1:20 (5.0%)
- ☐ B 1:16 (6.25%)
- ☒ C 1:12 (8.33%)
- ☐ D 1:8 (12.5%)

ANSWER C

WHY Under the accessibility provisions of the California Building Code (which adopts the federal accessibility standards by reference), an accessible route with a running slope between 1:20 (5%) and 1:12 (8.33%) is considered a ramp and triggers additional requirements such as handrails, landings, and edge protection. A slope of 1:20 (5%) or less is permitted as a general accessible walking route without ramp requirements.

QUESTION 5

SINGLE CHOICE

Which irrigation emission device is most appropriate for watering a densely planted native shrub bed on a steep slope to minimize runoff and improve uniformity?

- ☐ A High-pressure impact rotor sprinklers
- ☐ B Fixed spray sprinklers with matched precipitation nozzles
- ☒ C Drip (trickle) irrigation with pressure-compensating emitters
- ☐ D Pop-up rotary nozzles with 360-degree patterns

ANSWER C

WHY Drip (trickle) irrigation with pressure-compensating emitters applies water slowly at or near the root zone, greatly reducing runoff on slopes and improving distribution uniformity in shrub plantings. Spray-type devices (B and D) apply water faster than most soils can absorb on a slope, increasing runoff. Impact rotors are designed primarily for large turf areas and are inefficient and inappropriate for shrub beds.

QUESTION 6

SINGLE CHOICE

In a landscape construction document set, what is the primary purpose of a planting plan compared to a planting specification section?

- ☐ A The planting plan specifies installation methods; the specification lists plant species
- ☒ B The planting plan shows locations, quantities, and sizes of plants graphically; the specification defines material standards, installation procedures, and quality requirements
- ☐ C The planting plan defines warranty terms; the specification defines graphic symbols
- ☐ D The planting plan and the specification provide identical information in different formats

ANSWER B

WHY A planting plan is a graphic sheet that indicates where each plant type, quantity, and size is to be installed on the site, typically with symbols keyed to a plant list. The planting specification is the written document that establishes standards for plant material quality (e.g., container size, caliper, condition), planting procedures, soil preparation, staking, guying, pruning, and warranty. Each addresses different aspects of the work and they are complementary, not redundant.

QUESTION 7

SINGLE CHOICE

During a site analysis for a new park, which of the following is the most appropriate first step in identifying microclimates on the site?

- ☐ A Select plant species and assign them to planting zones
- ☒ B Inventory existing vegetation, topography, sun/shade patterns, wind exposure, and hydrology
- ☐ C Develop the conceptual master plan layout
- ☐ D Prepare the construction cost estimate

ANSWER B

WHY Microclimate identification begins with a systematic inventory and analysis of on-site environmental conditions—topography, solar exposure, prevailing winds, existing vegetation, soils, and hydrology. Without this baseline data, plant selection and design decisions cannot be properly justified. Planting selection and master planning come after, not before, this analysis.

QUESTION 8

SINGLE CHOICE

Which erosion and sediment control measure is most appropriate at the perimeter of a disturbed slope to intercept sheet flow before it leaves the construction site?

- ☒ A A silt fence installed along the contour at the toe of the slope
- ☐ B A decorative rock mulch applied to the slope face
- ☐ C A row of mature trees planted along the slope toe
- ☐ D A perforated PVC subdrain beneath the slope

ANSWER A

WHY A silt fence installed along the contour at or near the toe of a disturbed slope is a standard perimeter sediment control measure that intercepts and filters sheet flow before sediment leaves the site. Decorative rock mulch does not filter runoff, mature trees are not installed as a sediment control measure, and a perforated subdrain addresses subsurface drainage rather than surface runoff and sediment.

QUESTION 9

TRUE FALSE

The California Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELo) requires that new landscape projects of a certain size submit a soil management report and a water budget calculation as part of the permit submittal package.

☒ **A** True☐ **B** False**ANSWER A**

WHY True. MWELo requires, at applicable project thresholds, the preparation and submission of a soil analysis report and a water budget (Maximum Applied Water Allowance and Estimated Water Use) as part of the landscape documentation package. These are standard elements reviewed by the local agency prior to permit issuance.