Professional

USGBC-LEED
U.S. Green Building Council: LEED® Green Associate™

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Question: 1

It is especially important to use xeriscaping principles in what type of environment?

A. Rainforest
B. Savanna
C. Glacial
D. Arid

Answer: A

Explanation:
Xeriscaping is landscaping designed to reduce or eliminate potable water use in irrigation through the planting of native and adapted species of vegetation and the use of other water-conserving techniques. It is especially important to employ xeriscaping principles in arid, desert-like environments, because drought-tolerant plants have low water needs. Project teams should aim to use native plants to avoid using more water than necessary.
Rainforest climates are hot and humid, not dry and desert-like. Very little vegetation occurs naturally in glacial environments. Savannas are rolling grasslands scattered with shrubs and trees and are not as dry as desert environments.

Question: 2

Achieving which of the following requires a new approach to creating and caring for the built environment?

A. Sustainability
B. Recognition
C. Economic balance
D. Certification

Answer: A

Explanation:
Achieving sustainability requires a new approach to creating and caring for the built environment. This is a major goal of LEED project teams.
Achieving economic balance, recognition, and certification do not require a new approach to creating and caring for the built environment.

Question: 3

Transportation accounts for what percentage of total carbon dioxide emissions globally?

A. 5 percent
B. 22.2 percent
C. 13.5 percent
D. 15 percent

Answer: C

Explanation:
According to the USGBC's Green Building and LEED Core Concepts Guide, transportation accounted for 13.5 percent of total global carbon dioxide emissions in 2008. The transportation sector also accounted for 33 percent of the total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

Question: 4

Which of the following is the foundation for reducing energy demand?

A. Increasing energy efficiency
B. Monitoring energy usage
C. Setting goals
D. Understanding demand response

Answer: B

Explanation:
Monitoring energy usage is the foundation for reducing energy demand. Submetering, building automation, benchmarking, and commissioning all contribute to the measurement and verification that form the baseline case and design case for tracking building energy usage.
Setting goals is the first step but not necessarily the foundation for reducing energy demand. Increasing energy efficiency and understanding demand response programs are extremely important for LEED project teams but are not the foundation for reducing energy demand.

Question: 5

The use of rocks, bark mulch, and other natural materials to landscape is known as what process?

A. Xeriscaping
B. Botanical landscaping
C. High-maintenance hardscaping
D. Fertilizing

Answer: A

Explanation:

Xeriscaping is a type of landscaping design that uses soil improvements, efficient irrigation, and native and adapted plant species to reduce water usage. Drought-tolerant native or adapted plants along with rocks, bark mulch, and other landscape elements can be used. Xeriscaping is one efficient way to reduce water consumption by decreasing the need for irrigation.
Fertilizing is the process of adding substances to plants and surrounding soil. High-maintenance hardscaping should be avoided when possible. Botanical landscaping is an approach LEED project teams can use to be environmentally friendly, but it refers to landscaping with plants rather than rocks and mulch.

Question: 6

A cartridge and a floating liquid sealant is often used in what type of fixture?

A. Ultra-low-flow toilet
B. Dual-flush toilet
C. Waterless urinal
D. Low-flow aerator

Answer: C

Explanation:
A waterless urinal is designed to allow urine to flow through a trap device without the use of water. Traditional urinals in busy commercial settings can use a tremendous amount of water. Some waterless urinals include a replaceable cartridge that creates an airtight barrier. A liquid sealant is contained within the cartridge, which allows urine to pass through it. The cartridge floats over the urine to create a trap that prevents sewer gas from entering the room.
The remaining options do not contain cartridges or sealants. An ultra-low-flow toilet includes a pressure tank to produce a pressure-assisted flush. Low-flow aerators attach to fixtures to reduce the flow of water by up to 50%. A dual-flush toilet offers one option for liquid waste and another for solid waste.

Question: 7

In order to implement the strategy of monitoring and verifying data for a building's minimum energy performance, per the Energy and Atmosphere (EA) category, all of the following are legitimate approaches except:

A. Building automation
B. Eliminating harmful refrigerants
C. Retro-commissioning
D. Commissioning

Answer: B

Explanation:

Eliminating harmful refrigerants such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and phasing out hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) are requirements within the fundamental refrigeration management prerequisite. It is not an aspect of discovering a building's overall energy performance.
Commissioning and retro-commissioning are essential to record data that proves how a building performs in terms of energy efficiency. Building automation is a method of connecting and controlling building-wide energy use. Controls such as occupancy sensors are placed throughout the building and timed to shut off mechanical heating, cooling, and lighting when rooms are unoccupied.

Question: 8

Environmentally preferable materials should include all of the following except:

A. Known ingredients
B. Recycled content
C. Chemically based contents
D. Reduced energy use

Answer: C

Explanation:
LEED project teams should explore environmentally preferable materials and products that have certain sustainable characteristics. The characteristics of environmentally preferable materials include reduced energy use from material transportation; sustainably grown and harvested; intended end-of-life uses that divert waste from landfills; recycled content; made of bio-based (not chemically-based) material; known ingredients; long-lasting and durable; and made in socially responsible factories.

Question: 9

What is a potential unhealthy result of inadequate ventilation provided to building occupants?

A. Radon testing
B. Tobacco smoking
C. Sick building syndrome
D. VOCs

Answer: C

Explanation:
Studies show that respiratory ailments, asthma and allergies are potential after-effects of inadequate ventilation. Sick building syndrome is the name given to a set of symptoms attributed to poor indoor air quality. Employee productivity and performance can be significantly reduced as a result of inadequate ventilation.
Tobacco smoking, VOCs, and radon testing relate directly to aspects of keeping indoor environments healthy but are not themselves results of inadequate ventilation.

Question: 10

What building rating system was elevated to prominence through the support of local, state and federal governments?

A. BREEAM
B. Green Globes
C. Energy Star
D. LEED

Answer: D

Explanation:
The LEED rating system has seen its elements brought to the forefront of defining the green building industry standards. Its adoption by more than 150 countries and local, state and federal governments has elevated it to be synonymous with the best green building practices.
The remaining answer options are green rating systems in their own right, but have not been able to outdo the prominence of the LEED rating system.

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