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# **Career Certified-Arborist**

## **ISA Certified Arborist Certification Exam**



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## Question: 1

Which of the following terms best describes the type of leaf on this tree?



- A. Whorled
- B. Bipinnate
- C. Palmate
- D. Rachis

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

This is an example of a bipinnate leaf, which is composed of numerous leaflets or pinnules arranged along a rachis, or central leaf stem that bears the leaflet clusters. Leaves that consist of more than one part are known as compound, while those that are composed of a single leaf surface, such as oaks, are known as simple. Whorled leaf patterns occur in plants that have three or more leaves that arise out of a single node on the stem. Palmate leaves are those that have leaflets, lobes, or veins connected at a central node in the center of the leaf, such as those observed in buckeyes and maples.

## Question: 2

The post that is attached to the tree and is wrapped in a lead line is known as a

- A. tagline.
- B. bollard.

- C. kerf.
- D. block.

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

The post that is attached to the tree and is wrapped in a load line is known as a bollard. Bollards are used to create friction when a load is being lowered. In the past, arborists wrapped the rigging lines around the trunk of the tree, but there are now special devices that make this process a bit easier. In addition, there are bollards in different sizes, which enables the arborist to obtain a superior bend ratio and thereby decrease the amount of strength lost in the rigging line. The bend ratio is the diameter of the bollard relative to the diameter of the rope. A tagline, meanwhile, is a secondary rope that the arborist uses to control the direction in which a branch or tree falls. A kerf is a cut made in a log by a saw. A block, finally, is large pulley, typically used in rigging operations that will include large dynamic loads.

### Question: 3

How can topping or heading cuts create a more hazardous tree canopy in the long term?

- A. Topping trees by making cuts that are not located at branch collars can lead to internal rot and premature failure of branches and leaders.
- B. Topping will not affect tree safety and is only an eye sore.
- C. The loss of branches and leaves will reduce resources in the roots leading to whole tree failure.
- D. Topping increases the lever arm on large branches.

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

Topping can increase the chance of failure for branches and leaders that have been improperly pruned with heading cuts. These type cuts will compartmentalize either very slowly or not at all and are often the cause of internal branch decay and failure. Collar cuts are placed at the branch collar where the tree can more effectively close pruning wounds. Answer B is incorrect because topping often causes deep decay in branches and creates an eyesore. Answer C is partially correct in that the crown provides resources to the roots, but it has not been proven that topping can lead to whole tree failure. Answer D is incorrect in that pruning any branch to a shorter length would be reducing the lever arm of that branch.

### Question: 4

What is one advantage of common-grade cable over extra-high-strength cable?

- A. Common-grade cable is more malleable than extra-high-strength cable.
- B. Common-grade cable is less expensive than extra-high-strength cable.
- C. Common-grade cable is longer than extra-high-strength cable.
- D. Common-grade cable is more durable than extra-high-strength cable.

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

One advantage of common-grade cable over extra-high-strength cable is that common-grade cable is much more malleable. These are the main two types of cable used for cabling trees. While common-grade cable is more malleable, it is also weaker. For tree work, common-grade and extra-high-strength cable are used in diameters ranging from three-sixteenths to three-eighths inch.

### Question: 5

Which section of roots exhibits the most aggressive growth?

- A. Sinker roots
- B. The roots near the surface
- C. The lateral roots deep beneath the surface
- D. Root crown

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

The roots near the surface exhibit the most aggressive growth. In part, this is because the lower roots lie in soil that is less oxygenated and worse at draining. For this reason, when transplanting a tree, an arborist should always make the receiving hole wider at the top. A good rule of thumb is that the hole should be about the width of the root ball at the bottom, and about two or three times the width of the root ball at the top. If the soil is poorly aerated even at the top, it is wise to increase the diameter of the top of the planting hole. In any case, it is essential that the tree not be planted too deeply. Specifically, the hole should never be deeper than the distance from the bottom of the root ball to the trunk flare. Moreover, there should be at least two primary roots from 1 to 3 inches directly below the soil surface.

### Question: 6

What state is soil in after all gravitational water has drained and the soil contains both available and unavailable water?

- A. Irrigation
- B. Field capacity
- C. Saturation
- D. Permanent wilting point

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

Field capacity of a soil has been reached when all of the gravitational or macropore occupying water has drained from the soil leaving available and unavailable water. The remaining water is held in the

micropores of the soil and is sometimes known as capillary water. This water is available to the plant to uptake through its fibrous root structure. Irrigation is the process of applying water to soil. Saturation refers the point where water can no longer be absorbed by the soil and begins to run off. Permanent wilting point refers to a state of foliage desiccation whereby the leaves of a plant have become so dehydrated that they cannot return to normal function and die.

### Question: 7

At the base of a branch, in which direction is the branch xylem oriented?

- A. Clockwise around the trunk
- B. Counterclockwise around the trunk
- C. Upward
- D. Downward

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

At the base of a branch, the branch xylem is oriented downward. From there, the xylem forms a ring around the branch where it meets the trunk. This is the base of the trunk collar. The collar becomes larger when the ring of branch xylem is covered by a ring of trunk xylem. Another layer of xylem is added each year, thus strengthening the trunk collar.

### Question: 8

What is the goal of integrated pest management?

- A. To introduce species that prey on pests
- B. To promote insect populations
- C. To eradicate pests
- D. To maintain a tolerable level of pest damage

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

The goal of integrated pest management is to maintain a tolerable level of pest damage. Integrated pest management was originally devised as an alternative to a reliance on pesticides. It recommends a holistic approach to pest control, which may include limited use of pesticides. More importantly, however, integrated pest management strategies create as little of a disturbance to the preexisting environment as possible and prioritize limiting collateral damage to the non-target organisms (most notably, people).

### Question: 9

Which of the following types of organic mulch will break down most slowly?

- A. Leaves
- B. Bark
- C. Lawn clippings
- D. Straw

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

Of the given types of organic mulch, bark will break down most slowly. The rate of decomposition of a given fertilizer also depends on the climate. In a warm or wet climate, mulch will decompose at a faster pace. An arborist should be conscious of the rate at which mulch will break down, because in some situations it is inconvenient to replace the mulch frequently. When spreading organic mulch, it is better for the material to be broad than deep. At most, the pile of mulch around the tree should be four inches deep. Also, the mulch should not be placed up against the base of the trunk, as this can lead to rot and fungal infections.

### Question: 10

How should the back be positioned when moving a heavy object from the ground?

- A. The back should be hunched.
- B. The back should be held in a normal position.
- C. The back should be held straight.
- D. The back should be twisted.

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

When moving a heavy object from the ground, the back should be kept in a position of comfort above the lower part of the body. It was long recommended that the back be straight when lifting heavy objects, but recent research has suggested that it may be better to maintain a normal posture, at least in terms of back curvature. Some researchers believe that paying too close attention to the curvature of the back makes people lift primarily with the back rather than the legs, which is a more serious error.

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