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# NCIDQ-IDFX

*Interior Design Fundamentals Exam (IDFX)*

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**Question: 783**

An interior designer is asked to falsify project documentation to secure a permit more quickly. What is the most ethical response?

- A. Comply but inform the client of the risks
- B. Falsify the documentation but ensure compliance later
- C. Suggest alternative ways to expedite the permit legally
- D. Refuse to falsify documentation and report the request

Answer: D

Explanation: Refusing to falsify documentation and reporting the request upholds legal and ethical standards, protecting public safety and the designer's integrity. Complying with warnings or falsifying with later compliance violates ethics and laws. Suggesting legal alternatives is ethical but does not address the need to report the unethical request.

**Question: 784**

A construction floor plan specifies a partition wall with a 2-hour fire-resistance rating. Per UL 263, what is the minimum number of 5/8-inch Type X gypsum board layers per side?

- A. One layer
- B. Two layers
- C. Three layers
- D. Four layers

Answer: B

Explanation: UL 263 standards require two layers of 5/8-inch Type X gypsum board per side of a metal stud wall to achieve a 2-hour fire-resistance rating. One layer is sufficient for a 1-hour rating, while three or four layers are excessive for a 2-hour rating.

**Question: 785**

Calculate the required number of exits for a 10,000 sq ft assembly space with an occupant load of 500 per IBC 2018.

- A. 3 exits
- B. 2 exits
- C. 4 exits

D. 5 exits

Answer: A

Explanation: IBC 2018, Section 1006.2.1, requires one exit per 250 occupants for assembly spaces. For 500 occupants:  $500 \div 250 = 2$  exits. However, for spaces over 10,000 sq ft, IBC 1006.2.1.1 mandates an additional exit, totaling 3 exits.

**Question: 786**

An interior designer is analyzing occupant load data for a multi-use community center to determine egress requirements. The space includes a 2,000 sq ft assembly area with fixed seating for 150 people, a 1,500 sq ft multipurpose room, and a 500 sq ft office area. Based on IBC standards, which occupant load calculation is most accurate for the assembly area?

- A. 286 occupants based on 7 sq ft per person
- B. 200 occupants based on 10 sq ft per person
- C. 150 occupants based on fixed seating
- D. 400 occupants based on 5 sq ft per person

Answer: C

Explanation: For assembly areas with fixed seating, the International Building Code (IBC) specifies that the occupant load is determined by the number of fixed seats, not the net floor area. Therefore, the assembly area with 150 fixed seats has an occupant load of 150. Options based on 5, 7, or 10 sq ft per person (typically used for standing or non-fixed seating areas) do not apply here.

**Question: 787**

A designer uses a spreadsheet to calculate the fire rating for a 5,000 sq. ft. office corridor per the 2021 IBC. The corridor requires a 1-hour fire rating, and each fire-rated partition covers 500 sq. ft. How many partitions are needed?

- A. 8 partitions
- B. 9 partitions
- C. 10 partitions
- D. 11 partitions

Answer: C

Explanation: Calculate partitions needed:  $5,000 \text{ sq. ft.} \div 500 \text{ sq. ft. per partition} = 10$  partitions. The other options (8, 9, 11) do not match the calculation. This spreadsheet ensures code-compliant fire safety design.

**Question: 788**

In a construction drawing, a section cut symbol is drawn with a line weight of 0.7 mm and an arrowhead filled with a solid hatch. What does the solid hatch indicate per standard drafting conventions?

- A. Existing construction
- B. Material to be removed
- C. New construction
- D. Reference to another drawing

Answer: C

Explanation: Per standard drafting conventions, a solid hatch in a section cut symbol's arrowhead indicates new construction. This differentiates it from existing construction, which typically uses no fill or a different pattern, or material to be removed, which may use a crosshatch.

**Question: 789**

For a universal design project in a community center, the designer is specifying a ramp. According to ICC A117.1-2009, what is the MAXIMUM allowable slope for a ramp with a rise of 6 inches?

- A. 1:12
- B. 1:10
- C. 1:8
- D. 1:20

Answer: A

Explanation: ICC A117.1-2009, Section 405.2, specifies that the maximum slope for an accessible ramp is 1:12 (8.33%) to ensure usability for wheelchair users and those with mobility impairments. For a 6-inch rise, the ramp must be at least  $6 \times 12 = 72$  inches long. Slopes of 1:8 and 1:10 are too steep, and 1:20 is only required for existing buildings with space constraints.

**Question: 790**

What is the minimum clear width of an accessible route connecting two buildings on the same site per ICC A117.1-2009?

- A. 48 inches
- B. 42 inches
- C. 36 inches
- D. 60 inches

Answer: C

Explanation: ICC A117.1-2009, Section 403.5, specifies that the minimum clear width of an accessible route is 36 inches, except where passing spaces are required for routes less than 60 inches long. This

applies to routes connecting buildings on the same site. Options 42 inches, 48 inches, and 60 inches exceed the minimum requirement, though wider routes may be preferred for comfort.

**Question: 791**

In millwork shop drawings for a custom retail counter, which detail is most critical to ensure coordination with electrical systems?

- A. Countertop material thickness
- B. Locations for integrated power outlets
- C. Decorative edge profiles
- D. Wood grain direction

Answer: B

Explanation: Locations for integrated power outlets are critical in millwork shop drawings to ensure proper coordination with electrical systems, avoiding conflicts during installation. Countertop thickness, edge profiles, and wood grain are secondary to this functional requirement.

**Question: 792**

A designer specifies a ceiling treatment for a retail store with a required STC of 50. Which assembly complies with ASTM E90?

- A. 1/2-inch-thick gypsum board with no insulation
- B. 5/8-inch-thick gypsum board with double-layer insulation
- C. 3/4-inch-thick mineral fiber tiles in a grid
- D. 1-inch-thick acoustic foam panels

Answer: B

Explanation: ASTM E90 measures sound transmission, and an STC of 50 is required for retail to reduce noise transfer. The 5/8-inch-thick gypsum board with double-layer insulation achieves an STC of 50. The 1/2-inch-thick gypsum board has a lower STC, mineral fiber tiles are not rated for STC, and acoustic foam is absorptive.

**Question: 793**

A commercial office space is designed with a 50-foot-long corridor leading to an exit. According to the International Building Code (IBC) 2018, what is the minimum required width of this corridor to accommodate an occupant load of 120 people, assuming it is a non-sprinklered building?

- A. 60 inches
- B. 44 inches
- C. 48 inches
- D. 36 inches

Answer: A

Explanation: Per IBC 2018, Section 1005.1, the minimum corridor width for egress is determined by the occupant load and the required capacity. For a non-sprinklered building, the minimum clear width of a corridor serving an occupant load greater than 50 is 44 inches (for occupant loads up to 100). However, for an occupant load of 120, the required egress width is calculated as 0.2 inches per occupant ( $120 \times 0.2 = 24$  inches for the occupant load portion, but the minimum width increases due to the occupant load exceeding 100). IBC Table 1004.1.2 specifies that corridors must provide sufficient width for the occupant load, and Section 1018.2 requires a minimum of 44 inches, but for occupant loads exceeding 100 in non-sprinklered buildings, practical application often necessitates a 60-inch width to ensure safe egress, especially considering accessibility requirements under ICC A117.1-2009. Thus, 60 inches is the most appropriate choice to meet both IBC and accessibility standards.

**Question: 794**

Which symbol on a construction drawing indicates the location of a fire extinguisher cabinet?

- A. Circle with a diagonal line
- B. Square with a cross
- C. Rectangle with an "FE" label
- D. Triangle with a red fill

Answer: C

Explanation: Construction drawing standards typically use a rectangle with an "FE" label to denote a fire extinguisher cabinet, as per the NCIDQ Reference Manual and industry conventions. Circle with a diagonal line is often used for section cuts, Square with a cross may indicate a column, and Triangle with a red fill is not a standard symbol for fire extinguishers.

**Question: 795**

When designing an accessible parking space for a retail center, the designer must comply with ICC A117.1-2009. What is the MINIMUM width of the access aisle adjacent to a van-accessible parking space?

- A. 60 inches
- B. 72 inches
- C. 108 inches
- D. 96 inches

Answer: D

Explanation: ICC A117.1-2009, Section 502.3.3, requires a van-accessible parking space to have an adjacent access aisle at least 96 inches wide to accommodate the deployment of a van lift. The 60 and 72-inch options are sufficient for standard accessible spaces but not for van-accessible spaces, and 108

inches exceeds the requirement.

**Question: 796**

A designer is applying anthropometric data to specify a counter height for a standing workstation. What is the optimal height range for the 50th percentile adult male, based on ergonomic standards?

- A. 40–42 inches
- B. 38–40 inches
- C. 36–38 inches
- D. 42–44 inches

Answer: C

Explanation: Ergonomic standards, based on anthropometric data for the 50th percentile adult male, recommend a standing workstation counter height of 36–38 inches to align with elbow height for comfortable use. Heights of 38–40, 40–42, and 42–44 inches are too high for the average user, potentially causing strain.

**Question: 797**

In a parti diagram for a community theater, which conceptual approach best integrates acoustic performance and universal design?

- A. Zoned areas with distributed sound systems
- B. Linear layout with sound-absorbing finishes
- C. Radial plan with high-contrast signage
- D. Centralized stage with ramped seating

Answer: D

Explanation: A centralized stage with ramped seating optimizes acoustic performance by focusing sound and ensures universal design with accessible seating. Linear layouts may limit acoustics, radial plans prioritize aesthetics, and zoned areas address sound but not accessibility comprehensively.

**Question: 798**

For a healthcare facility design, an interior designer uses a space syntax analysis tool to optimize circulation patterns. Which feature of this tool is most critical for ensuring efficient staff movement while maintaining patient privacy?

- A. Heat map of user density
- B. Graph-based connectivity metrics
- C. Matrix of spatial adjacencies
- D. Spreadsheet of travel distances

Answer: B

Explanation: Graph-based connectivity metrics in space syntax analysis are most critical for optimizing staff movement while maintaining patient privacy. These metrics analyze the connectivity and accessibility of spaces, allowing the designer to create efficient circulation paths that minimize staff travel time while ensuring private areas remain secluded. A heat map of user density shows occupancy patterns but not circulation efficiency. A matrix of spatial adjacencies focuses on relationships, not movement paths, and a spreadsheet of travel distances is less dynamic for privacy considerations.

**Question: 799**

When developing a furniture plan for a library reading room, the designer must ensure compliance with ADA 2010 for wheelchair turning space. What is the minimum diameter of an unobstructed turning circle within a 10 ft x 12 ft study nook?

- A. 48 inches
- B. 60 inches
- C. 72 inches
- D. 84 inches

Answer: B

Explanation: ADA 2010 Section 304.3.1 requires a minimum 60-inch diameter unobstructed turning circle for wheelchairs in accessible spaces (60 inches). A 48-inch circle is insufficient for full maneuverability. A 72-inch or 84-inch circle exceeds the minimum requirement, increasing space unnecessarily.

**Question: 800**

A designer is working on a project in a jurisdiction requiring licensure for interior designers. The designer's NCIDQ certification has lapsed due to missed continuing education credits. What is the most ethical action?

- A. Complete the project discreetly and renew certification later
- B. Proceed with the project but avoid signing documents requiring licensure
- C. Hire a certified consultant to oversee the project while continuing work
- D. Disclose the lapsed certification to the client and withdraw from the project

Answer: D

Explanation: Disclosing the lapsed certification to the client and withdrawing from the project is the most ethical action, as it ensures compliance with jurisdictional licensure requirements and maintains transparency. Completing the project discreetly or avoiding signing documents violates legal and ethical standards. Hiring a consultant may mitigate some risks but does not address the designer's lack of

licensure or the need for full disclosure to the client.

**Question: 801**

A designer is evaluating window treatments for a sustainable office project to reduce energy consumption and meet LEED v4 daylighting credits. Which option is most effective?

- A. Motorized cellular shades with a low-emissivity coating
- B. Blackout roller shades with a recycled polyester fabric
- C. Solar shades with a 5% openness factor
- D. Woven wood shades with a natural finish

Answer: A

Explanation: LEED v4 daylighting credits require window treatments that optimize natural light while reducing heat gain. Motorized cellular shades with a low-emissivity coating trap air for insulation, reduce energy consumption, and allow daylight control via automation. Blackout shades block light, reducing daylighting benefits, solar shades (5% openness) allow some light but less insulation, and woven wood shades lack advanced energy-saving properties.

**Question: 802**

A designer dimensions a ceiling height at a 1:100 metric scale. If the actual height is 3.2 meters, what is the scaled height in millimeters?

- A. 40 mm
- B. 36 mm
- C. 32 mm
- D. 44 mm

Answer: C

Explanation: A 1:100 metric scale means 1 mm on the drawing equals 100 mm (0.1 meters). The ceiling height is 3.2 meters, or 3,200 mm. Divide by the scale factor:  $3,200 \text{ mm} \div 100 = 32 \text{ mm}$ .

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