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1. For a commercial office building renovation project, which criteria should the team prioritize when selecting sustainable flooring materials?

- A. Local products, durability, low VOCs, and minimal maintenance
- B. Aesthetics, availability, and cost
- C. Environmentally friendly products
- D. Reuse, life-cycle impacts, waste, purchasing, and declarations

2. All of the following are strategies to select eco-friendly furniture for a new office building except:

- A. Select furniture made from recycled materials
- B. Opt for furniture certified by sustainability standards
- C. Install LED lighting throughout the office space
- D. Choose furniture with low VOC emissions

3. When beginning to minimize waste during a construction project, what is the first action that should be taken?

- A. Develop a waste audit
- B. Establish a waste tracking system
- C. Implement source reduction
- D. Set recycling goals

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4. When conducting a life-cycle assessment for construction waste management, which of the following strategies aligns best with sustainable practices? Waste Management Strategy Environmental Impact Sustainability Goal Landfill Disposal High negative impact Minimal Recycling On-site Moderate positive impact Improves sustainability Composting of Biological Waste High positive impact Enhances sustainability Incineration with Energy Recovery Moderate impact Balances impact with energy gain

- A. Recycling On-site
- B. Composting of Biological Waste
- C. Landfill Disposal
- D. Incineration with Energy Recovery

5. All of the following are recognized sustainable building material certifications except:

- A. Greenguard
- B. Green Seal
- C. Woodland Trust
- D. Cradle to Cradle Certified

6. In sustainable landscape design, which strategy emphasizes the integration of ecological, social, and economic factors through collaboration among different stakeholders from the project's inception to completion?

- A. Incremental development
- B. Integrative process
- C. Conventional planning process
- D. Single-disciplinary approach

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7. In a community park project aimed at optimizing water usage, during which phase of the integrative strategy is the effectiveness of water-saving systems measured?

- A. Evaluation
- B. Operational Feedback
- C. Implementation
- D. Pre-Project Planning



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8. In a bicycle-sharing program, data analytics are used to display real-time feedback on each user's carbon emission savings compared to car travel. This strategy is most similar to which concept?

- A. Prius effect
- B. Zero impact approach
- C. Green building effect
- D. Community engagement effect

9. Which concept describes the way in which lighting systems, HVAC, and renewable energy sources like solar panels all interact within a building to enhance energy efficiency as part of a larger sustainable strategy?

- A. Performance monitoring
- B. Life-cycle assessment
- C. Critical thinking
- D. Systems thinking

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10. Which organization developed the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system to promote sustainable building practices?

- A. United States Green Building Council
- B. Environmental Protection Agency
- C. Green Seal
- D. International Organization for Standardization

11. When applying to join a LEED-certified project team, all of the following skills and benefits can be highlighted in a cover letter except:

- A. The credential signifies the ability to execute projects independently without team collaboration.
- B. A comprehensive understanding of current green building standards and practices.
- C. Improved prospects of employment due to industry recognition of the credential.
- D. Enhanced communication abilities specifically regarding sustainable construction methods.

12. Which of the following LEED v4 credit categories has no prerequisites?

- A. Materials and Resources
- B. Indoor Environmental Quality
- C. Innovation
- D. Energy and Atmosphere



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13. Regarding the Living Building Challenge (LBC) certification, which of the following terms does NOT accurately describe its focus?

- A. Market-responsive
- B. Performance-based
- C. Holistic
- D. Rigorous

14. A new retail complex is being planned for a dense urban area with available public transportation and bike lanes. What is one positive outcome of reducing parking availability at this site?

- A. Increases congestion on surrounding streets
- B. Reduces customer base drastically
- C. Leads to higher development costs
- D. Encourages use of public transit and biking

15. Under which category of diverse uses does a library fall in the LEED Location and Transportation credits?

- A. Services
- B. Food retail
- C. Civic and community facilities
- D. Community-serving retail

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16. For a commercial building looking to encourage sustainable transportation, where should project teams ideally locate bicycle racks? Placement Option Description Option 1 Racks located in the basement parking area, close to elevators Option 2 Racks located near the main entrance to the building Option 3 Racks located on the rooftop parking Option 4 Racks located near a side entrance used mostly by maintenance staff

- A. Racks located on the rooftop parking
- B. Racks located near a side entrance used mostly by maintenance staff
- C. Racks located near the main entrance to the building
- D. Racks located in the basement parking area, close to elevators



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17. When planning to reduce a building's energy consumption for heating and cooling, which of the following methods is not a passive energy design strategy?

- A. Shading devices
- B. Cross-ventilation
- C. Photovoltaic panels
- D. Thermal mass

18. In the context of verifying energy performance for sustainable building certifications, which of the following is not a responsibility of the commissioner?

- A. Ensuring operation aligns with certification criteria
- B. Setting the operational plan for energy usage
- C. Verifying that systems operate as intended
- D. Documenting energy performance outcomes

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19. Which gas is primarily emitted from a traditional gas stove when used in a household kitchen?

- A. Carbon dioxide
- B. Methane
- C. Nitrogen
- D. Oxygen

20. In a commercial kitchen, energy use typically increases in direct relation to what?

- A. Distance from dining area
- B. Number of chefs
- C. Quantity of food served
- D. Equipment load

21. In sustainable landscaping practices for a LEED project, what type of certification is required for irrigation systems to ensure water efficiency?

- A. EPAAct Certification
- B. ENERGY STAR Certification
- C. ASHRAE 90.1 Certification
- D. WaterSense Certification



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22. In urban rainwater harvesting systems, what is a potential limitation of relying solely on rainwater to meet all water needs throughout the year?

- A. Too much rain causing storage overflow and water wastage.
- B. Insufficient rain during dry seasons leading to potential water shortages.
- C. Excessive costs associated with storage tanks.
- D. Legal restrictions on the collection of rainwater.

23. A green building's maintenance team wants to calculate the full-time equivalent (FTE) for their nighttime cleaning staff to assess water usage during night operations. If the cleaning staff works 6 hours each day for 5 days a week, what is their FTE?

- A. 0.75
- B. 1.0
- C. 0.5
- D. 1.5

24. Consider the data on residential water use within various cities. What percentage of the total water consumption in City A is typically used for landscape irrigation? Assume landscape irrigation accounts for 30% of residential water usage. Area Total Residential Water Use (Million Gallons per Year) City A 1000 City B 500 City C 750

- A. 60%
- B. 30%
- C. 15%
- D. 45%

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25. Which of the following is a common drawback of biomass boilers for water heating in residential use?

- A. They require frequent maintenance visits.
- B. They are the most expensive to install.
- C. They are the least reliable.
- D. They are inefficient in colder climates.



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26. In a city's transport system, which of the following policy changes is an example of a leverage point, where a small intervention can produce large changes? Policy Change Option Potential Impact Feasibility Implement congestion pricing Reduce urban traffic emissions significantly Medium Expand bicycle lanes Increase cycling by 20% High Subsidize electric vehicles Reduce CO2 emissions by 10% Low Reduce public transportation fees Increase ridership by 30% and decrease road congestion High

- A. Expand bicycle lanes
- B. Subsidize electric vehicles
- C. Reduce public transportation fees
- D. Implement congestion pricing

27. A new hospital needs to choose between two HVAC systems: a new efficient model and an older model. Analyze the following table and determine which system has a lower life-cycle cost over 30 years. Consider the initial cost, maintenance, energy consumption, and disposal costs in your decision. HVAC System Initial Cost Maintenance Cost Energy Cost Disposal Cost New Efficient Model \$75,000 \$10,000 \$30,000 \$5,000 Old Model \$50,000 \$15,000 \$50,000 \$10,000

- A. The Old Model is required by most building codes.
- B. Selecting the Old Model promotes job retention among local technicians.
- C. The New Efficient Model has a higher initial cost, hence it is less financially viable.
- D. The New Efficient Model has a lower life-cycle cost.

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28. Among the following, which aspect is not a component of community engagement for sustainable project outcomes?

- A. Educational outreach initiatives
- B. Stakeholder involvement processes
- C. Impact assessment on local community
- D. Water conservation strategies



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29. In sustainable stormwater management, which of the following strategies should be avoided?

- A. Designing bioswales
- B. Installing extensive impervious surfaces
- C. Using rain gardens
- D. Implementing green roofs

30. What is one primary benefit of using noise barriers on construction sites? Mitigation Measure Primary Environmental Benefit Other Potential Benefits Non-Benefits Noise

Barriers Reduces noise pollution Improves worker productivity Does not control dust

- A. Controls dust emissions
- B. Ensures visual aesthetics
- C. Reduces noise pollution
- D. Reduces air pollution



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Answer Key & Explanations

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1. D — Reuse, life-cycle impacts, waste, purchasing, and declarations

Answer: Reuse, life-cycle impacts, waste, purchasing, and declarations These are the knowledge domains under the MR credit for material conservation strategy. These aspects are crucial in selecting sustainable flooring in line with LEED guidelines. Aesthetics, availability, and cost do not correlate with sustainability-focused criteria. Other distractors relate more to product disclosures rather than essential knowledge domains.

2. C — Install LED lighting throughout the office space

Answer: Install LED lighting throughout the office space Strategies to select eco-friendly furniture include choosing furniture with low VOC emissions, selecting pieces made from recycled materials, and opting for furniture certified by sustainability standards. Installing LED lighting is a strategy to promote energy efficiency, not related to furniture selection.

3. C — Implement source reduction

Answer: Implement source reduction Implementing source reduction is the first step in minimizing construction waste by preventing materials from becoming waste in the first place. Setting recycling goals, developing a waste audit, and establishing a waste tracking system are important but follow after initial waste reduction efforts have been addressed.

4. B — Composting of Biological Waste

Answer: Composting of Biological Waste Composting of biological waste aligns best with sustainable practices because it reduces negative environmental impact and enhances sustainability by transforming waste into useful compost. Other methods, such as landfill disposal and incineration, have higher negative impacts and lower sustainability goals.

5. C — Woodland Trust

Answer: Woodland Trust Woodland Trust is not a certification for sustainable building materials recognized by LEED. In contrast, Cradle to Cradle Certified, Greenguard, and Green Seal are recognized for promoting environmentally sustainable practices or products.

6. B — Integrative process

The correct answer is the Integrative process. In sustainable landscape design, an integrative process requires collaboration among diverse stakeholders, including ecologists, landscape architects, urban planners, and the community, from the beginning of the project. This holistic approach helps ensure that ecological, social, and economic dimensions are considered simultaneously, leading to more sustainable and responsible landscape solutions.

7. B — Operational Feedback

The correct answer is Operational Feedback. This phase corresponds to 'occupancy, operations, and performance feedback' in the integrative design process for a building where post-occupancy performance is evaluated. In the context of a community park, it is where water savings are measured after systems are



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operational.

8. A — Prius effect

Answer: Prius effect The "Prius effect" involves providing real-time information to influence behavior change, such as the feedback loop on fuel consumption used in the Toyota Prius, which encourages more fuel-efficient driving. Similarly, the bicycle-sharing program uses immediate feedback to promote more environmentally-friendly travel options, resonating with the concept of the Prius effect. The remaining options are fabricated terms not used in LEED v4.

9. D — Systems thinking

Answer: Systems thinking Systems thinking involves viewing the building as an interconnected network of components like lighting, HVAC, and renewable energy sources, which all have the potential to interact and influence overall energy performance. Performance monitoring refers to the ongoing measurement of a system's performance, rather than the interaction between systems. Life-cycle assessment focuses on the environmental impact of a product through its life span, rather than the collaboration of systems. Critical thinking is an approach to problem-solving that involves analyzing and evaluating information; it is not specific to the interaction of built systems.

10. A — United States Green Building Council

The United States Green Building Council (USGBC) developed the LEED rating system, which is a widely recognized framework for environmentally responsible building practices.

11. A — The credential signifies the ability to execute projects independently without team collaboration.

Answer: The credential signifies the ability to execute projects independently without team collaboration. The LEED Green Associate credential showcases readiness to contribute to LEED-certified projects and doesn't signify a capability to independently manage such projects, instead it emphasizes the importance of collaboration and teamwork within multidisciplinary teams.

12. C — Innovation

Answer: Innovation Among the LEED v4 categories, Innovation has no prerequisites. This has been designed to encourage creative sustainable design ideas that go beyond standard practices. Other categories like Energy and Atmosphere, Materials and Resources, and Indoor Environmental Quality all have mandatory prerequisites to ensure that essential sustainability measures are met from the outset of the project.

13. A — Market-responsive

Answer: Market-responsive The Living Building Challenge is known for being performance-based, requiring buildings to achieve Living status through proven performance as opposed to prescriptive measures. Additionally, it is holistic and rigorous, demanding a broader range of sustainability considerations. It does not prioritize being market-responsive as a primary characteristic.

14. D — Encourages use of public transit and biking

Less parking availability can promote the use of public transportation, biking, or walking, which helps reduce traffic congestion and environmental impacts associated with vehicle emissions. This is beneficial for sustainability goals in urban developments.

15. C — Civic and community facilities

Answer: Civic and community facilities Libraries are considered part of the civic and community facilities



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category, which also includes schools, places of worship, and police or fire stations, among others. This category is focused on facilities that serve public or community functions.

16. C — Racks located near the main entrance to the building

The correct answer emphasizes ease of access and visibility, which can encourage building users to choose cycling as a mode of transport. The remaining options are less ideal as they may not be as accessible or visible.

17. C — Photovoltaic panels

While photovoltaic panels are used to generate electricity and reduce energy load, they require active participation (electric generation), so they do not qualify as a passive strategy. Thermal mass allows a building to store heat during the day and release it at night, shading devices reduce solar heat gain, and cross-ventilation makes use of natural airflows—all passive means of energy management.

18. B — Setting the operational plan for energy usage

Answer: Setting the operational plan for energy usage The commissioner's role involves verifying and documenting that building systems operate as intended and meet sustainability criteria, rather than setting operational plans, which is typically the responsibility of the owner or project team.

19. A — Carbon dioxide

When a traditional gas stove is used, it burns natural gas, which is primarily methane (CH_4). This combustion process primarily emits carbon dioxide (CO_2) as a byproduct, along with water vapor. While methane is the main component of the natural gas used, it is not the emission product; instead, it is combusted. Therefore, Carbon dioxide is the primary emission, contributing to greenhouse gas effects.

20. D — Equipment load

Answer: Equipment load Energy use in a commercial kitchen typically increases with equipment load. The more appliances and gadgets in operation, the more energy the kitchen consumes. Strategies to reduce energy use should include optimizing equipment load and using energy-efficient appliances. The other factors, such as the kitchen's distance from the dining area, the number of chefs, or the quantity of food served, do not necessarily increase energy use directly.

21. D — WaterSense Certification

Answer: WaterSense Certification The WaterSense label is a certification provided by the EPA that indicates water efficiency. In sustainable landscaping, using a WaterSense-certified irrigation system helps ensure that water is used efficiently. This parallels the requirement for WaterSense-labeled fixtures for indoor water usage in the WE prerequisite for LEED certification. The EPA's Energy Policy Act does not provide a certification for irrigation systems. ENERGY STAR labels are for high-efficiency appliances, and ASHRAE 90.1 is a standard for energy-efficient building design, not water systems.

22. B — Insufficient rain during dry seasons leading to potential water shortages.

Answer: Insufficient rain during dry seasons leading to potential water shortages. Urban rainwater harvesting systems can be very effective, but they depend on the availability of consistent rainfall. During periods of low rainfall, these systems can struggle to meet water demands, similar to the water balance approach. While costs and legal issues can be concerns, they do not inherently limit the system's ability to meet water needs purely from rainwater. Excess water can usually be managed with proper system design.



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**23. A — 0.75**

To calculate the FTE, compute the total hours worked per week, which is 6 hours/day * 5 days = 30 hours. Next, use the FTE formula: $\frac{30}{40} = 0.75$. Therefore, the FTE for the nighttime cleaning staff is 0.75.

24. B — 30%

To find the percentage of water used for landscape irrigation, multiply the total residential water consumption by 0.3. For City A: 1000 million gallons per year \times 0.3 = 300 million gallons per year used for irrigation. Thus, 30% of City A's residential water use is for landscape irrigation.

25. A — They require frequent maintenance visits.

Answer: They require frequent maintenance visits. Biomass boilers can be an eco-friendly choice for heating, but they require more maintenance than other systems. While solar heaters or tankless water heaters might have lower maintenance requirements, biomass systems demand more regular attention to ensure optimal performance and safety. Though biomass boilers are not the most expensive, and they can be reliable with regular maintenance, their frequent maintenance needs can be perceived as a significant drawback.

26. D — Implement congestion pricing

Implementing congestion pricing can serve as a leverage point by significantly reducing urban traffic emissions with a relatively straightforward policy change. This intervention can lead to large-scale improvements in air quality and urban transit efficiency. While other options may introduce positive changes, they either require significant investment or time to see substantial change, and thus don't act as immediate leverage points.

27. D — The New Efficient Model has a lower life-cycle cost.

The life-cycle cost (LC) formula considers all costs associated: $LC = P + M + E + D$. Calculating: New Efficient Model: $LC_{\text{new}} = 75000 + 10000 + 30000 + 5000 = 120000$; Old Model: $LC_{\text{old}} = 50000 + 15000 + 50000 + 10000 = 125000$. The New Efficient Model is more cost-effective in the long term.

28. D — Water conservation strategies

Answer: Water conservation strategies Water conservation strategies are typically addressed in the Water Efficiency category rather than community engagement. Community engagement might focus on activities like educational outreach initiatives, stakeholder involvement processes, and impact assessment on the local community.

29. B — Installing extensive impervious surfaces

Answer: Installing extensive impervious surfaces Extensive impervious surfaces prevent natural infiltration of stormwater, increasing runoff and potential flooding. Other options like rain gardens, green roofs, and bioswales help manage stormwater sustainably by facilitating water infiltration and reducing runoff.

30. C — Reduces noise pollution

Answer: Reduces noise pollution Noise barriers are primarily used to mitigate sound pollution from construction activities. While they can contribute to creating a more pleasant work environment, they do not address dust control or air pollution, nor do they primarily serve aesthetic purposes.



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