This document, effective August 2015, supersedes all previous editions of the ARE® 4.0 Exam Guide: Construction Documents & Services. Please check NCARB’s web site, www.ncarb.org, regularly for updates to the ARE 4.0 Exam Guides and for the most current information regarding the ARE.
CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS & SERVICES

OVERVIEW

DIVISION STATEMENT
Application of project management and professional practice knowledge and skills, including the preparation of contract documents and contract administration.

Content Areas

1. CODES & REGULATIONS
   (9-11 percent of scored items)

2. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
   (6-9 percent of scored items)

3. CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS & PROJECT MANUAL
   (48-53 percent of scored items)

4. PROJECT & PRACTICE MANAGEMENT
   (30-35 percent of scored items)

Vignettes

BUILDING SECTION
Delineate a building section that integrates structural, mechanical, and lighting systems and incorporates life safety considerations.
The division has been broken down into a listing of knowledge and skills directly related to each major content area.

1. CODES & REGULATIONS
   (9-11 percent of scored items)
   A. Incorporate building codes, specialty codes, zoning, and other regulatory requirements in construction documents and services.

   1. Government and Regulatory Requirements and Permit Processes
      Review governmental and regulatory requirements and incorporate provisions in the construction documents for required permit submittals and to achieve code compliance.

   2. Specialty Codes and Regulations including Accessibility Laws, Codes, and Guidelines
      Incorporate applicable specialty codes and regulations into the construction documents.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
   (6-9 percent of scored items)
   A. Incorporate sustainable design principles, universal design, adaptive reuse concepts, alternative energy systems, new material technologies, and hazardous material mitigation in construction documents.

   1. Hazardous Conditions and Materials
      Assess the presence of hazardous materials on the site and in the building during construction and recommend mitigation procedures.

   2. Sustainable Design
      Incorporate sustainable design principles into the construction documents.

3. CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS & PROJECT MANUAL
   (48-53 percent of scored items)
   A. Prepare and coordinate construction drawings including building systems, product selection, and constructibility. Prepare, coordinate, and review general and supplementary conditions and technical specifications.

   1. Site Design
      Prepare and coordinate construction documents pertaining to the site.

   2. Building Design
      Prepare and coordinate construction documents pertaining to the building, and review and revise documents for constructability and budget compliance.

   3. Building Systems and their Integration
      Coordinate building system components and resolve conflicts in construction documents.

   4. Specifications
      Prepare specifications and coordinate them with construction drawings.

4. PROJECT & PRACTICE MANAGEMENT
   (30-35 percent of scored items)
   A. COST
      Prepare estimates of probable construction cost. Consider cost implications on design decisions.
   Update cost estimates for the project during construction document phase; adjust construction documents to align with budget and reflect lifecycle cost goals and value engineering results.

B. SCHEDULING & COORDINATION
   Prepare and manage project schedule and coordinate all contract documents including those of consultants.
   1. Construction Sequencing
      Advise on the sequencing of construction and monitor its impact on project delivery.
   2. Project Schedule Management
      Prepare and monitor a project schedule during both the construction documents phase and construction.

C. PROJECT DELIVERY
   Establish project delivery method. Provide contract administration documentation and services.
   1. Project Delivery Methods
      Evaluate and finalize appropriate project delivery method.
   2. Construction Procurement Processes
      Prepare procurement documentation and manage procurement process.
   3. Product and Material Substitutions
      Evaluate proposed material substitutions for compliance with the construction documents.
   4. Construction Records Management
      Document, prepare and maintain project records during the construction phase.
   5. Shop Drawing Review
      Review and process shop drawings/submittals to ensure compliance with construction documents.

6. Site Observation / Construction Contract Compliance
   Observe construction and perform construction administration to ensure compliance with construction documents and agreements.

7. Change Order Process
   Determine and apply proper procedures for executing changes in the work.

8. Construction Conflict Resolution
   Resolve conflicts between members of the project team during construction.

9. Post-Occupancy Studies
   Assist in preparing a post-occupancy study and evaluate the results.

D. CONTRACTS & LEGAL ISSUES
   Review and administer professional services and construction contracts. Consider issues pertaining to practice including risk management and professional and business ethics.
   1. Contracts for Construction
      Manage terms of professional service contracts and prepare construction contracts between owner and contractors.
   2. Legal Issues Pertaining to Practice and Contracts
      Apply relevant laws and regulations governing the practice of architecture.
   3. Risk Management
      Assess professional and general liability and apply risk management procedures related to architectural practice.
   4. Professional and Business Ethics
      Apply professional and business ethics to architectural practice.
1. Which of the following methods of bidding is required on most projects for which government funds are to be used?
   - Direct
   - Negotiated
   - Invited
   - Public

2. Which of the following project delivery methods always requires preparation of several individual bid-document packages?
   - Design-bid-build
   - Fast track
   - Design-build
   - Turnkey

3. The numbered keynotes in the detail above are referenced to the
   - detail numbers
   - finish schedule
   - specifications
   - construction sequencing
SAMPLE MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

4. In developing a list of bidders for a private project, the architect's role is to
   □ select the contractor
   □ recommend qualified contractors
   □ rank the contractors in order of preference
   □ discourage owner-recommended contractors

5. A contractor's ability to obtain a performance bond for a specific construction contract is determined by the
   □ owner
   □ architect
   □ contractor
   □ surety

6. AIA Document A305, Contractor's Qualification Statement, requires which of the following supplemental documents to be provided by the applicant?
   □ Financial statement
   □ List of subcontractors
   □ List of proposed consultants
   □ List of proposed material suppliers

7. After considering all bids, the owner favors a bid with irregularities. According to AIA Document A701, Instructions to Bidders, the owner has which of the following rights/responsibilities regarding an irregular bid?
   □ Has the right to waive irregularities and accept the bid
   □ Has the right to extend the bidding period for corrections
   □ Must informally request corrections from the bidder
   □ Must only consider bids without irregularities

8. A local bank has a budget of $30,000,000 to construct a new main office. The bank wants to use contractors who are customers of the bank; however, none of the bank's contractor customers can bond the entire amount of the contract. Which of the following delivery methods would be best suited to meeting the bank's contractor selection goal?
   □ Design-build
   □ Fast-track
   □ Multiple prime contractors
   □ Additive change orders

9. Which of the following is an appropriate agenda item for the prebid conference?
   □ Occupancy-permit procedures
   □ Notification of future addenda
   □ Pre-commissioning procedures
   □ Status of change orders
10. A contractor under a fixed-price construction contract has allowed the electrical subcontractor to install lighting fixtures other than those stated in the contract documents. The electrical subcontractor and the contractor both believe the substituted fixtures to be of equal value. The construction is substantially completed and the architect rejects these fixtures. According to AIA Document A201, General Conditions, which of the following actions must be taken regarding the lighting fixtures?
   - The architect must accept the lighting fixtures as installed without a cost credit to the owner.
   - The architect must accept the lighting fixtures as installed but with a cost credit to the owner.
   - The contractor is required to replace the lighting fixtures with the fixtures specified without reimbursement.
   - The contractor must replace the lighting fixtures with the fixtures specified but is entitled to reimbursement for labor costs for the replacement.

11. Architect estimates of construction costs based on final documents should consider which of the following?
   - Known change order sums
   - The bidding climate
   - The amount of monthly certificate of payment
   - The amount of retainage

12. Which of the following agenda items should be discussed at a preconstruction conference?
   - Review bonds and affidavits
   - Determine whether a performance bond and a payment bond are required
   - Discuss changes to completed work
   - Clarify responsibilities and operating procedures

13. Shop drawings for dormitory windows have been prepared by the manufacturer, checked by the local distributor, and reviewed and approved by the contractor and the architect. During installation, it is discovered that the quantity of windows as indicated on the shop drawings is one less than that shown in the contract documents. Who is responsible for the discrepancy?
   - The architect
   - The manufacturer
   - The distributor
   - The contractor

14. On-site field observations by the architect are made to determine which of the following? Check the three that apply.
   - The progress and quality of the work
   - The amount work completed for progress payment
   - The techniques of the construction being utilized
   - Whether the work is being performed according to contract documents
   - Whether the contractor is following the proper sequence of installation
   - Whether the contractor is following proper safety procedures
CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS & SERVICES

SAMPLE MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

Go to page 15 for answers.

15. The contractor for a project submits to the architect shop drawings that contain deviations from the contract documents not noted as deviations on the shop drawings. The drawings are then approved and returned to the contractor by the architect. According to AIA Document A201, which of the following is allowed or required as a result of deviations from the contract documents?

- The contractor assumes responsibility for deviations from the contract documents.
- The contractor is allowed to build according to the approved shop drawings containing deviations.
- The architect assumes responsibility for deviations from the contract documents because the architect approved the shop drawings.
- The owner must be informed of all deviations from and alterations to the contract documents.

16. At a project site, the architect notices the mechanical subcontractor unloading equipment for which shop drawings have not been received. Which of the following actions should the architect take next?

- Stop the unloading at once and report the incident to the owner
- Advise the general contractor that the equipment is subject to rejection pending the architect’s review
- Ask whether the shop drawings are in the subcontractor’s possession
- Inspect the equipment to determine whether it meets the requirements set forth in the project specifications

17. Which of the following conditions should be met before the start of interior painting?

- The permanent heating system is operational.
- Exterior openings are sealed.
- The exterior temperature is above 50° F.
- Sidewalks have been completed for dirt control.

18. During a concrete pour, a portion of the third floor of a project collapses because of inadequate shoring. The architect informs the contractor that work in the area of the collapse will not be approved until the architect can fully evaluate the impact of the failure on adjacent work in place. The contractor states that the architect will be held responsible for the cost of delays unless the analysis is performed within 24 hours. Which of the following actions should the architect take in response to the contractor’s claim?

- Perform as complete and thorough an analysis as possible within 24 hours
- Perform a complete analysis in a timely manner and make it clear that the contractor will be responsible for the schedule
- Put the owner on notice that the owner may have to pay additional costs for an extended completion date
- Allow the contractor to proceed with work in the adjacent area so that no time is lost
19. In accordance with AIA Document A201, General Conditions, the obligation to pay or to see to the payment of money to a subcontractor, except as may otherwise be required by law, rests with the
   - [ ] contractor alone
   - [ ] architect alone
   - [ ] owner alone
   - [ ] contractor, the architect, and the owner

20. Six months after final payment, the building manager notifies the architect that an operating and maintenance manual for a key piece of equipment was never received. Which of the following actions should the architect take regarding the missing manual?
   - [ ] Instruct the contractor to provide the manual.
   - [ ] Withhold an amount of retainage necessary to provide for the manual.
   - [ ] Suggest the building manager contact the manufacturer directly for the manual, since final payment has been made to the contractor.
   - [ ] Contact the manufacturer directly to obtain the manual.

21. After occupying a portion of a building, the owner notices a dent in a wall. The dent was not noted on the punch list prepared by the contractor and reviewed by the architect. What determination should the architect make?
   - [ ] The contractor is responsible for the repair even though it was not on the original punch list.
   - [ ] The owner has taken occupancy and is therefore responsible because the cause of the damage cannot be established.
   - [ ] The contractor is responsible because only a portion of the building is occupied and other construction activities continue.
   - [ ] The architect is responsible because he/she missed the damage during the original punch list walk-through.
22. A contractor omits an item of incomplete or incorrect work from the punch list accepted by the architect. Who is liable for the cost of completing or correcting that item when the omission is discovered?
   - The architect
   - The surety
   - The owner
   - The contractor

23. Which of the following types of test equipment is used to check for air infiltration on an already constructed exterior wall system?
   - A smoke pencil
   - A cylinder
   - An HEPA filter
   - An ultrasonic detector

24. What procedure is taking place on the concrete footing pedestal at the project construction site in the illustration above?
   - Rebars are being placed by hand.
   - Concrete is being placed by hand.
   - Concrete is being covered to retain heat.
   - Concrete is being covered to prevent the rebars from rusting.
CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS & SERVICES

SAMPLE MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

Go to page 15 for answers.

25. Existing mature vegetation on a property line was inadequately protected and, consequently, damaged by a subcontractor’s excavation equipment. The owner should require which party to remedy the damages?
   - The owner’s own forces
   - The subcontractor
   - The contractor, with no additional compensation
   - The contractor, with compensation for additional work administered in a change order

26. A contract allowance for building signage is established at $50,000. The signage chosen during construction costs only $45,000. In accordance with AIA Document A201, the contractor should offer a credit change order for
   - $5,000
   - $5,000 minus the contractor’s expense of processing the credit
   - $5,000 minus the cost of installation, overhead, and profit
   - the cost of installation, overhead, and profit

27. Which of the following are considered security for a project? Check the two that apply.
   - A. Bid Bond
   - B. Payment Bond
   - C. Completion Bond
   - D. Performance Bond
   - E. Certified check
   - F. Lien Bond
CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS & SERVICES

SAMPLE MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

28. The contractor decided not to purchase a specific material for a project near the time of bidding because there was no place on site to store the material and it would not be needed until months later after construction had progressed. When the contractor did purchase the material, the price had risen by 30 percent compared to the price at the time of the bid. Which of the following describes the change order due to the contractor?

☐ The contractor is entitled to a change order for the price increase.
☐ The contractor is entitled to a change order for half of the price increase.
☐ The contractor is entitled to a change order for the difference between the added cost of the material and the estimated value of appropriate storage space for the intervening months.
☐ The contractor is not entitled to a change order.

30. An architect is providing full architectural and engineering design services for a new detention center. The construction contract has been signed and the contractor informs the architect that the fire-sprinkler contractor does not have the fire line from the city main to the building in the price because it was not on the drawings or in the specifications. According to AIA Document A201, which of the following should be done?

☐ The contract amount should be adjusted by a change order.
☐ The fire protection subcontractor should install the fire line at no additional cost.
☐ The fire protection engineer is required to pay for the installation of the fire line.
☐ The architect should issue supplementary instructions directing the contractor to install the fire line.

31. During the construction phase, the owner and the contractor have a difference of opinion about the quality of the erection of the steel frame and the progress of the work. Which action should the owner and/or contractor take to resolve their difference?

☐ Stop the project
☐ Request arbitration
☐ Consult with the steel fabricator
☐ Request the architect's interpretation

29. A contractor unbound the specifications for a project and gave specific sections to subcontractors for bidding. The contractor later discovered gaps in the overall coverage of the bids. In this situation, which of the following statements is true?

☐ The subcontractors should be forced to absorb the cost of the work.
☐ The owner should sign a change order for the omitted work.
☐ The architect or its insurer should pay for the cost of a change order.
☐ The contractor is not entitled to a change order.
32. During construction, the architect realizes that the specifications did not include requirements for some nondestructive testing of welds on some of the structural steel. The city inspection department requires the contractor to perform these tests. The individual responsible for paying for the tests is the
- structural engineer
- architect
- owner
- contractor

33. Which of the following methods of contractor compensation would an owner be more likely to choose when the construction time is limited and the design criteria or construction cost is secondary to meeting the deadline for completion?
- Cost-plus-fee
- Cost-plus-fee with a guaranteed maximum price
- Stipulated sum
- Unit price

34. Which of the following is typically required as a result of an owner signing separate contracts with multiple parties?
- More extensive services by the architect
- Coordination of all separate contractors by the surety
- These separate contracts to be subcontracts of the contractor
- A special consultant to assume overall responsibility for compliance with the applicable health and construction safety legislation at the place of work

35. Final completion of a commercial building occurred 2 weeks behind schedule. The contract contained a liquidated damages clause that required deduction of monetary damages from the final payment to the contractor. Which of the following describes deductions that may be taken from the architect’s compensation as a result of the schedule delay?
- A percentage of the amount deducted from the payment to the contractor
- An amount agreed to by the owner and the architect
- An amount not greater than 10 percent of the architect’s total compensation
- No deduction may be taken

36. Matters affecting the basic legal rights and responsibilities of the parties to the contract, but which may vary from one project to another, should be handled in
- the bidding requirements
- the owner-contractor agreement
- the supplementary conditions
- Division 1, General Requirements
CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS & SERVICES

SAMPLE MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

Go to page 15 for answers.

37. The architect can decrease the amount of construction-related waste by doing which of the following? Check the four that apply.
   □ A. Designing a materials flow plan for the contractor and user
   □ B. Specifying recycled materials and products
   □ C. Requiring recycled product packaging.
   □ D. Specifying a single dumpster on site.
   □ E. Specifying masonry construction over wood construction.
   □ F. Assisting the owner and contractor in a waste management plan.

38. Which of the following should be included in the written contract for architectural services? Check the three that apply.
   □ A. Means and methods to be used in construction
   □ B. Programming services
   □ C. Description of reimbursable expenses
   □ D. Name of the general contractor
   □ E. Insurance requirements
   □ F. Additional services that may be provided by the architect.

39. The bids for a new office building exceed the owner’s budget. According to AIA Document B101, the owner may pursue which of the following actions regarding budget and/or scope? Check the four that apply.
   □ A. Give written approval for an increase in the budget.
   □ B. Authorize rebidding or renegotiation of the project.
   □ C. Cooperate in revising the scope or quality of the work.
   □ D. Require the architect to modify the documents without additional compensation once the scope is reduced.
   □ E. Require the architect to compensate the owner for the difference between the budget and the bid.
   □ F. Terminate the agreement without paying full for the bid documents.

40. According to AIA document B101, the architect is responsible for which of the following activities during the construction phase? Check the three that apply.
   □ A. Evaluating the change orders.
   □ B. Endeavoring to guard against defects in the work.
   □ C. Conducting continuous in-site inspections.
   □ D. Determining if the work is in general conformity with the contract documents.
   □ E. Verifying that the contractor’s construction methods and procedures are adequate.
   □ F. Assisting the contractor in the development of safety programs and reporting methods.
1. Public
2. Fast track
3. specifications
4. recommend qualified contractors
5. surety
6. Financial statement
7. Has the right to waive irregularities and accept the bid
8. Multiple prime contractors
9. Notification of future addenda
10. The contractor is required to replace the lighting fixtures with the fixtures specified without reimbursement.
11. The bidding climate
12. Clarify responsibilities and operating procedures
13. The contractor
14. A, B, D
15. The contractor assumes responsibility for deviations from the contract documents.
16. Advise the general contractor that the equipment is subject to rejection pending the architect's review
17. Exterior openings are sealed.
18. Perform a complete analysis in a timely manner and make it clear that the contractor will be responsible for the schedule
19. contractor alone
20. Instruct the contractor to provide the manual.
21. The owner has taken occupancy and is therefore responsible because the cause of the damage cannot be established.
22. The contractor
23. A smoke pencil
24. Concrete is being covered to retain heat.
25. The contractor, with no additional compensation
26. $5,000
27. A, E
28. The contractor is not entitled to a change order.
29. The contractor is not entitled to a change order.
30. The contract amount should be adjusted by a change order.
31. Request the architect's interpretation
32. owner
33. Cost-plus-fee
34. More extensive services by the architect
35. No deduction may be taken
36. the supplementary conditions
37. A, B, E, F
38. C, E, F
39. A, B, C, D
40. A, B, D
CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS & SERVICES

BUILDING SECTION VIGNETTE

General Tips for Taking Building Section

Directions
On the work screen, locate a grade line and draw a schematic building section corresponding to the section cut line shown on the floor plan. You will be asked to draw elements such as a slab on grade, finished ceilings, interior partitions, ducts, etc. You are required to draw only the elements that are cut by the cut line as well as joists in elevation immediately adjacent to the cut line. A 4 in deck will be drawn automatically on top of the joists you select. The left side of your section should be placed along the line that is designated “exterior face of section.”

Your section should include all required sectional components and should reflect accurately the dimensions, structural relations, and spatial relations indicated in the program and the plans. Vertical clearances not explicitly stated in the program or vignette directions must be accurately interpreted and indicated on your solution.

Before beginning your solution, you should review the program information that can be accessed through the Vignette Index screen and the architectural, mechanical, and structural layers of the floor plans on the work screen.

Use the “Layers” tool to turn portions of the background drawings on and off to help you better understand the information.

Make sure that the walls you draw in section align with those in plan at the cut line.
Program
The structural system consists of top chord bearing steel joists on masonry bearing walls with continuous concrete spread footings and a concrete slab on grade.
1. All ceilings and roofs are flat.
2. Non-bearing corridor and lobby walls have a one-hour (minimum) fire-resistance rating.
3. Exterior and bearing walls have a two-hour (minimum) fire-resistance rating.
4. The ceiling height of the laboratory is 15'-0", the ceiling height of the remaining first floor spaces is 8'-4", and the ceiling height of the second floor spaces is 9'-0".
5. Ceilings are used as return air plenums. All ceilings are non-rated.
6. Assume fire/smoke dampers and transfer grilles are provided as needed.
7. The space between each ceiling and floor or roof slab must be held to the minimum dimension required to accommodate light fixtures and the structural and mechanical components shown on the plans.
8. All ducts are placed below the joists.
9. Provide 8" of clearance between the bottom of all the ducts and the finished ceiling to accommodate light fixtures.
10. Parapets must extend 2'-0" above the top of adjacent roof decks.
11. The frost depth is 5'-0" below grade.
A first check of this solution shows that it is lined up horizontally with the floor plans and the grade line has been drawn. It is important to establish all the information for your section from the given cut line, and not from where you place the grade line. In this solution, the slab rests on grade while the footings are deep at the perimeter and just below the slab at the interior bearing wall. All ceiling heights are correct, and the parapets are correctly sized. The interstitial spaces have the eight-inch clearance for lighting and can accommodate the largest duct on the floor. The ducts are sized and located per the section cut line. The joists are drawn as shown on the plan and are the proper size and span the appropriate direction.
In this solution, there are multiple errors. As drawn, the largest duct on the second floor will not fit between the lights and the joists above. On the first floor, there is a duct that is incorrectly sized and an interior partition cut by the section line is missing.
The following references are presented to assist candidates in preparation for the examination. This list represents texts that have content covered in this division of the examination. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all possible reference materials for the subject area. NCARB makes no guarantee that the various references are currently in print.

- **The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice**  
The American Institute of Architects  
John Wiley & Sons, 13th & 14th editions

- **CSI MasterFormat**  
Construction Specifications Institute, 2004 edition

The Construction Specifications Institute  

- **Rules of Conduct**  
National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, latest edition

This list represents the significant AIA documents that have content covered in the Construction Documents & Services portion of the examination, and is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all possible references for this division of the examination.

- **Conventional Family**
  - A101-2007 Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Contractor where the basis of payment is a Stipulated Sum
  - A201-2007 General Conditions of the Contract for Construction
  - A701-1997 Instructions to Bidders
  - B101-2007 Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Architect
  - C401-2007 Standard Form of Agreement Between Architect and Consultant

- **Contract Administration and Project Management Forms**
  - A305-1986 Contractor’s Qualification Statement
  - G701-2001 Change Order
  - G702-1992 Application and Certificate for Payment
  - G703-1992 Continuation Sheet
  - G704-2000 Certificate of Substantial Completion