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L.A.R.E. Structure (As of April 2017)

Understanding the Content of the L.A.R.E.

The Landscape Architect Registration Examination (L.A.R.E) tests applicants for the knowledge and skills required to practice landscape architecture to ensure protection of public health, safety and welfare.

The content of the L.A.R.E. is based on the results of a scientific “job analysis” survey conducted every five to seven years. The most recent survey was administered in early 2016 in which more than 5548 practicing landscape architects from the United States and Canada participated. The survey results were analyzed by a group of subject matter experts comprised of licensed landscape architects representing diversity (areas of practice, geographic) of the profession.

Survey respondents were asked to rate all job tasks on three separate scales: how frequently the tasks were performed, how important the tasks were to successful performance of the job, and whether successful performance of each task was required at initial licensure. Overall, the tasks, and subsequent knowledge, that are performed most often are considered the most important and are required at the initial point of licensure and thus form the basis of the L.A.R.E.

Format

The L.A.R.E. consists of four (4) computer-based exam sections. Each section is independent of the others. Sections 1 and 2 consist of multiple-choice and multiple-response questions. Sections 3 and 4 consist of advanced item types (“drag and place” and “hot spot” items), multiple-choice and multiple-response questions. The number of items for each section is listed after the title for each section of the L.A.R.E. in this guide.

Exam Content

This guide describes the content that will be tested under each section of the examination. Subsection breakdowns indicate a more detailed description of specific subject matter found on the examination as well as the percentage of items that will be included in that subsection topic.

For additional information about the exam including requirements to take the test, the registration process and the scoring process, please visit the Exam Candidates section of the CLARB website or contact CLARB.

Section 1: Project and Construction Management - 85 items consisting of multiple-choice and multiple-response questions; 3 hours seat time, 2 ½ hours for the exam

| Pre-Project Management: 10% | Project Management: 30% | Bidding: 20% | Construction: 30% | Maintenance: 10% |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select Project Team • Develop Contract • Negotiate Contract • Prepare RFPs or RFQs • Determine Project Scope, Schedule, and Budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage Project Team • Manage Project Scope, Schedule, and Budget • Determine Common Goals and Objectives • Establish Quality Control Procedures and Conduct Quality Control Review • Facilitate Meetings Coordinate Work of/with Other Disciplines Document Design Decisions and Project Communication • Execute Records Retention Policy • Facilitate Client Review and Coordination • Obtain Permits • Prepare Cost Estimates • Prepare Project Deliverables | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Bidding Criteria • Prepare and Issue Addenda • Facilitate Meetings • Evaluate Bids and Make Recommendations • Identify Delivery Methods • Evaluate Contractor Qualifications • Assist with Construction Contract Execution and Administration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to RFIs • Coordinate with Contractors • Facilitate Pre-Construction Meeting • Document Pre-Construction Existing Conditions • Review Submittals • Prepare Change Orders • Conduct and Document Construction-related Actions • Prepare Drawing Revisions or Clarification Sketches • Review and Certify Applications for Payment • Attend Substantial Completion (practical completion) Walkthrough and Prepare Punch List (deficiency list) • Attend Final Completion Walkthrough • Prepare As-Built (record) Drawings • Conduct Warranty Review • Conduct Project Close-out • Collect and Analyze Performance Metrics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimate Maintenance and Management Costs • Prepare Maintenance and Operation Manual • Review Maintenance Services • Prepare Management Plan |

Section 2: Inventory and Analysis - 70 items consisting of multiple-choice and multiple-response, 2 ½ hours seat time, 2 hours for the exam

| Site Inventory: 35% | Physical Analysis: 40% | Contextual Analysis: 25% |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Determine Applicable Codes, Regulations, and Permitting Requirements• Collect Contextual Data• Gather Stakeholder Input• Identify Policy Objectives• Conduct Project Related Research• Conduct Onsite Investigation and Fieldwork• Document Site Inventory• Determine Performance Metrics | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Determine Appropriate Types of Analyses• Perform Circulation Analysis• Interpret Utility Analysis• Perform Visual Resource Analysis• Perform Micro and Macro Climate Analysis• Perform Hydrological Analysis• Perform Vegetation Analysis• Interpret Ecological Analysis• Perform Topographical Analysis• Interpret Soil and Geotechnical/Geological Analysis• Interpret Environmental Studies | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analyze Codes, Regulations, and Permitting Requirements for Design Impact• Interpret Cultural, Historical, and Archeological Analysis• Interpret Social Analysis• Interpret Economic Analysis• Analyze Contextual Data• Analyze Stakeholder Feedback |

Section 3: Design - 85 items consisting of advanced item types, multiple-choice and multiple-response questions; 4 hours seat time, 3 ½ hours for the exam

| Stakeholder Process: 9% | Master Planning: 45% | Site Design: 46% |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and Execute Public Participation Process • Prioritize Stakeholder Goals • Initiate Communication Strategy • Synthesize Stakeholder Feedback • Communicate Concept(s)/Schematic(s) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform Site Analysis and Determine Opportunities and Constraints • Develop Vision or Framework Plan • Develop and Conduct Urban Plan • Develop Land Use Plan • Develop Strategic Implementation Plan • Develop Site Master Plan • Develop Historic/Cultural Restoration and Preservation Plan • Develop Parks, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan • Develop Design Guidelines • Develop a Feasibility Study • Develop View Corridor Plan • Develop Redevelopment Plan • Develop Environmental Resources Plan • Develop Multi-modal Transportation Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synthesize and Apply the Site Analysis • Develop and Refine the Program • Create the Basis for the Design • Create Conceptual Design Alternatives and Scenarios • Evaluate Design Alternatives • Refine and Synthesize Concept Alternative • Develop Schematic Design • Prepare Preliminary Quantities and Cost Estimate • Prepare Presentation Drawings and Communication Tools • Compile Materials Sample Board • Identify and Develop Performance Metrics |

Section 4: Grading, Drainage and Construction Documentation - 105 items consisting of advanced item types, multiple-choice and multiple-response questions; 4 ½ hours seat time, 4 hours for the exam

| Site Preparation Plans: 20% | General Plans and Details: 40% | Specialty Plans: 25% | Specifications: 15% |
|---|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Demolition Plan • Develop Existing Conditions Plan • Prepare Soil Boring Location Plan • Develop Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan • Develop Site Protection Plan • Develop Mitigation Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Layout Plan • Develop General Notes • Develop Grading and Drainage Plan • Develop Planting Practices, Plans, Notes and Schedules • Develop Materials Plan • Develop Details • Prepare Sections, Elevations, and Profiles • Incorporate Code Requirements • Prepare Summary of Quantities • Prepare Site Infrastructure Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Phasing Plan • Develop Irrigation Plan • Prepare Lighting Plan • Develop Site Furnishings Plan • Develop Signage and Wayfinding Plan • Develop Traffic Control Plan • Develop Emergency Access Plan • Prepare Stormwater Management Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Technical Specifications • Prepare Bid Form/Schedule • Develop Project Manual/Front End Specifications |