

PRACTICE EXAM 8: LEED GREEN ASSOCIATE SIMULATION (100 QUESTIONS)

This practice exam contains 100 multiple-choice questions modeled on the LEED Green Associate (v5) exam administered by GBCI. The official exam has a 2-hour time limit and requires a score of 170 out of 200 to pass. Select the single best answer for each question. Answers and full explanations follow the exam.

- 1.** In the standard LEED certification workflow, what is the first step a project team takes?
 - A. Selecting and registering the appropriate rating system and version
 - B. Submitting final documentation for GBCI review
 - C. Responding to GBCI clarification requests
 - D. Receiving the final certification decision

- 2.** After a candidate submits their LEED Green Associate exam registration and payment, what happens next?
 - A. The candidate immediately receives their final score
 - B. GBCI issues a LEED AP credential automatically
 - C. The exam is scheduled without any further candidate action
 - D. The candidate receives an Eligibility ID (EID)

- 3.** Within the four-step Operational Carbon Projection and Decarbonization Plan prerequisite, what step follows design analysis?
 - A. Final GBCI certification approval
 - B. Site energy prediction submitted to USGBC
 - C. Installation of renewable energy systems
 - D. The building's occupancy permit issuance

4. Within the Fundamental Commissioning process, what activity occurs after reviewing the Owner's Project Requirements and Basis of Design?

- A. The building's final certification is awarded
- B. The Eligibility ID is issued to the design team
- C. Verification of installation of energy-related systems
- D. The LEED Fellow application period opens

5. In the integrative process, what typically happens immediately after early discovery during a charrette?

- A. Iterative design refinement based on discovery findings
- B. Final construction documents are issued
- C. The building permit is submitted
- D. Occupancy begins

6. What is the correct sequence for a candidate pursuing LEED AP with specialty who has not yet earned any LEED credential?

- A. Apply for LEED Fellow, then take the specialty exam
- B. Take the specialty exam directly with no prior credential
- C. Pass LEED Green Associate first, then attempt the specialty exam
- D. Complete 15 CE hours, then take the specialty exam

7. After a Preconstruction Site Assessment identifies sensitive site features, what should happen next in a well-run project?

- A. Construction begins immediately as originally planned
- B. The site plan is revised to account for the findings
- C. The findings are filed away until after occupancy

D. The assessment is discarded as unnecessary paperwork

8. In the Reduce Embodied Carbon credit, what must be established before a project can demonstrate a GWP reduction percentage?

- A. The building's final certification level
- B. The project's total Water Efficiency score
- C. A signed Green Lease agreement
- D. A documented baseline from the embodied carbon prerequisite

9. What is the correct order of a decarbonization roadmap's typical construction: which comes first, general aspiration or specific triggering conditions?

- A. A genuine roadmap requires specific triggering conditions from the outset, not just aspiration
- B. General aspiration alone is always sufficient at every stage
- C. Triggering conditions are added only after the plan is finalized
- D. Neither element is actually required for a valid roadmap

10. After GBCI's Preliminary Review of a project's documentation, what commonly happens next if questions arise?

- A. The project is automatically denied certification
- B. The project skips directly to final certification
- C. The review process ends with no further steps
- D. GBCI issues clarification requests the team must address

11. In a typical integrative kickoff charrette, what generally happens before the mechanical engineer resizes equipment based on massing decisions?

- A. The building is already fully constructed
- B. Occupancy has already begun

- C. The massing and orientation discussion occurs first, informing equipment sizing
- D. The final certification level is already determined

12. What is the correct sequence for satisfying the Green Associate exam's Eligibility ID requirements if a candidate cannot test within the standard window?

- A. The candidate must wait a full year before any further action
- B. The candidate may request a single extension before the window expires
- C. The exam requirement is automatically waived
- D. The candidate is permanently barred from testing

13. Within the LEED credential ladder, what must occur before a candidate is eligible to apply for LEED Fellow?

- A. Passing the Green Associate exam only, with no further requirement
- B. Holding a LEED AP with specialty credential for at least eight years
- C. Completing a single continuing education course
- D. Registering a LEED project under their own name

14. What generally happens after a project's Climate Resilience Assessment identifies flood risk as a relevant hazard?

- A. The assessment is considered complete with no further design connection
- B. The finding is discarded since only two hazards are required
- C. The building's certification level is immediately finalized
- D. The finding can inform later Sustainable Sites resilience credit strategies

15. In the sequence of a building's carbon-related emissions, which type is generally locked in first, before a building is ever occupied?

- A. Embodied carbon, released during material production and construction

- B. Operational carbon, accumulated over decades of use
- C. Both types are released at the exact same moment
- D. Neither type has any defined release timing

16. After a project selects its rating system and registers, what step typically comes next in the certification workflow?

- A. The certification decision is issued immediately
- B. GBCI's final review occurs before any credit pursuit
- C. The team reviews MPRs and prerequisites against project specifics
- D. Occupancy begins without any further documentation

17. What must a project team establish before pursuing the Reduce Peak Thermal Loads credit's smaller-equipment benefit?

- A. Envelope and orientation decisions reducing peak load first
- B. The building's final certification level
- C. A completed Green Lease agreement
- D. A LEED Fellow application submission

18. In a typical LEED exam retake scenario, what must happen after a candidate's third unsuccessful attempt before they can register again?

- A. No waiting period applies after any number of attempts
- B. The candidate must immediately retest within 24 hours
- C. A mandatory 90-day waiting period must pass
- D. The candidate is permanently disqualified

19. What must occur before a project's Whole-Building Life-Cycle Assessment results can be meaningfully compared for the Reduce Embodied Carbon credit?

- A. The building's occupancy permit must be issued first
- B. A documented baseline must exist from the embodied carbon prerequisite
- C. The LEED Fellow application period must open
- D. A Green Lease must be signed

20. In the sequence of Enhanced Refrigerant Management compliance, what determines whether Option 1 or Option 2 applies to a given refrigerant?

- A. The building's total floor area
- B. The project's certification level target
- C. The number of LEED APs on the project team
- D. Whether the refrigerant's ODP and GWP fall below defined thresholds first

21. What generally happens immediately after a Human Impact Assessment is completed during early project discovery?

- A. Findings inform later Equitable Development and design decisions
- B. The assessment has no further bearing on the project
- C. Construction begins with no further community consideration
- D. The assessment is submitted only after certification is awarded

22. What is the correct sequence for a project pursuing both on-site and off-site renewable energy under the Renewable Energy credit?

- A. Off-site procurement must always be finalized before on-site design begins
- B. The two strategies can never be documented within the same submission
- C. Both can be assessed and combined toward the same overall credit target
- D. On-site generation must be fully operational before any off-site agreement is signed

23. In a typical decarbonization roadmap, what generally happens before a refrigerant upgrade is scheduled for a specific future year?

- A. The building must already be fully decommissioned
- B. The equipment's natural replacement timeline is identified to inform scheduling
- C. All other Energy and Atmosphere credits must first be abandoned
- D. The Water Efficiency prerequisite must be skipped entirely

24. What must be completed before a Fundamental Commissioning report can be finalized?

- A. The LEED Fellow evaluation committee's review
- B. Verification of installation and performance of energy-related systems
- C. A separate Green Lease agreement
- D. The Credential Maintenance Program's first reporting cycle

25. In the sequence of Water Metering and Reporting compliance, what is required to continue after the prerequisite is initially satisfied at certification?

- A. No further action is ever required after initial certification
- B. The prerequisite is automatically re-satisfied with no ongoing action
- C. A one-time final report closes out all future obligations
- D. Annual data sharing must continue for a minimum of five years

26. What generally must happen before a project team can accurately identify its embodied carbon hotspot materials?

- A. The building must already be fully occupied
- B. A LEED Fellow must review the project
- C. The Green Lease must be finalized
- D. GWP calculations for structure, enclosure, and hardscape materials must be completed

27. In a typical benchmarking cycle, what happens after a performance gap between predicted and actual energy use is identified?

- A. The building is immediately decertified
- B. The gap is ignored since certification was already awarded
- C. Specific causes are investigated and correctable issues are addressed
- D. The original design team is automatically found liable

28. What is the correct sequence for a project pursuing LEED Fellow: what must be true about AP with specialty standing before application?

- A. It must have been held for at least eight years before applying
- B. It must have been earned within the last 30 days
- C. It is not actually required for a Fellow application
- D. It must be a different specialty than the one being applied under

29. What generally happens after a project's Preliminary Review clarification requests are fully resolved?

- A. GBCI proceeds toward a final certification decision
- B. The project must restart registration from the very beginning
- C. No further GBCI involvement occurs at any point
- D. The project automatically receives Platinum certification

30. In the sequence of pursuing both Reduce Embodied Carbon and Building and Materials Reuse, what must a team first determine about existing structure on site?

- A. Whether existing renewable energy systems are already installed
- B. Whether a Green Lease has already been signed
- C. Whether the Credential Maintenance Program cycle has begun
- D. How much existing structure can realistically be retained or reused

31. What must happen before a candidate can be evaluated for LEED Fellow's mastery element criteria?

- A. They must first fail the Green Associate exam once
- B. They must submit their application's required components and endorsements
- C. They must retire from active practice entirely
- D. They must hold a Green Associate credential only, with no AP standing

32. In a typical project sequence, what happens before a team can pursue the Access to Transit pathway's point tiers?

- A. The building must already be fully occupied for a year
- B. A LEED Fellow must personally review the site
- C. Actual weekday and weekend transit service frequency must be documented
- D. The Green Lease must be finalized first

33. What generally must be true before a project can pursue Enhanced Commissioning's monitoring-based pathway?

- A. The building must have already been demolished
- B. Fundamental Commissioning must be explicitly skipped
- C. The building must reach its early operational period after occupancy begins
- D. The Credential Maintenance Program must be inactive

34. In the standard registration process, what happens immediately after a candidate's payment for the Green Associate exam is processed?

- A. The candidate immediately sits for the exam with no scheduling step
- B. A LEED AP credential is issued automatically
- C. The candidate's LEED Fellow eligibility is immediately confirmed
- D. An Eligibility ID valid for 12 months is issued

35. What must a project team document before claiming Transportation Demand Management's VMT reduction benefit?

- A. The building's final certification plaque design
- B. Both baseline-case and proposed-case VMT figures
- C. A completed Green Lease agreement
- D. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle

36. In the sequence of pursuing Enhanced Refrigerant Management, what determines whether a calculation is required at all?

- A. Whether the refrigerant qualifies automatically under Option 1's low-GWP threshold
- B. The building's total floor area exclusively
- C. The number of LEED Fellows on the project team
- D. Whether the Water Efficiency prerequisite was satisfied first

37. What generally happens after a Preconstruction Site Assessment identifies wetland soils beneath a proposed building footprint?

- A. The finding is filed away with no further design impact
- B. Construction proceeds exactly as originally planned
- C. The site plan is revised to avoid the wetland soils before construction
- D. The project is automatically disqualified from any certification

38. What must a decarbonization plan's design analysis step be completed before, within the Operational Carbon Projection prerequisite's four-step sequence?

- A. Before the project's registration with GBCI
- B. Before any construction material is ever purchased
- C. Before the building's occupancy permit is issued
- D. Before the subsequent site energy prediction step

39. In a typical Core and Shell project, what generally must be established before Tenant Guidelines can meaningfully influence future tenant decisions?

- A. The building must already be fully demolished
- B. The base building team must document sustainability requirements for tenants to follow
- C. All future tenants must already be identified by name
- D. The Credential Maintenance Program cycle must be complete

40. What is the correct sequence for a project pursuing both Access to Transit and Walkable Location pathways on the same site?

- A. Only one pathway may ever be documented, chosen at registration
- B. Walkable Location must always be pursued first, then Access to Transit
- C. Access to Transit must always be pursued first, then Walkable Location
- D. Both pathways can be evaluated and documented independently on a well-located site

41. What must happen before a project's Minimum Energy Efficiency compliance can be documented against ASHRAE 90.1-2019?

- A. A reference baseline building must be established for comparison
- B. The building's final certification plaque must be ordered
- C. A Green Lease must be signed
- D. The Credential Maintenance Program cycle must begin

42. In the sequence of a typical exam-day experience, what happens after a candidate completes the 100 questions but before receiving results?

- A. The candidate immediately begins a different, unrelated exam
- B. No further steps occur; scoring happens automatically with no submission
- C. The candidate submits the exam, and results are typically displayed shortly after
- D. A mandatory 24-hour waiting period always applies before submission

43. What generally must be true about a site's contamination status before the brownfield remediation pathway can be pursued?

- A. A governing authority must require remediation of identified contamination
- B. The site must have zero history of any industrial use
- C. The site must already be certified LEED Platinum
- D. The site must be located within a designated floodplain

44. In the sequence of pursuing Diverse Uses and Surrounding Density together, what must generally already exist on a well-selected site?

- A. A completed Green Lease agreement
- B. Genuine existing density and use variety within the surrounding area
- C. A finalized Credential Maintenance Program cycle
- D. A LEED Fellow's personal endorsement

45. What must a project's Carbon Assessment account for before the 25-year projection can be considered complete?

- A. The building's final paint color selection
- B. The number of LEED APs employed by the general contractor
- C. A signed Green Lease agreement
- D. Energy use, refrigerants, embodied carbon, and transportation together

46. In a typical LEED Fellow application timeline, what generally happens after Part 1's initial eligibility is confirmed?

- A. The application process ends with no further steps required
- B. The nominee is immediately awarded Fellow status
- C. Part 2's detailed application components and endorsements are submitted
- D. The nominee must retake the Green Associate exam

47. What must occur before a candidate can claim LEED AP with specialty status on professional materials?

- A. Actually passing the specific specialty exam after Green Associate
- B. Simply expressing interest in the specialty area
- C. Working on a single LEED-registered project
- D. Attending a single continuing education webinar

48. In the sequence of a Rainwater Management strategy serving both stormwater control and water supply substitution, what must a team do for each function?

- A. Ignore one function entirely and document only the larger benefit
- B. Document both outcomes separately, since each is evaluated under different criteria
- C. Automatically assume Sustainable Sites credit covers both functions
- D. Choose only one credit category to pursue at registration

49. What generally must be established before a project's Enhanced Building Accessibility credit can be documented as satisfied?

- A. A Green Lease agreement covering every tenant
- B. Genuine barrier-free, usable design exceeding minimum code compliance
- C. A LEED Fellow's personal site visit
- D. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle

50. In the sequence of GBCI's exam content appeal process, what happens if an appeal is successful?

- A. The candidate is offered a retest, not a direct score change
- B. The original score is automatically raised to a passing level
- C. No outcome of any kind results from a successful appeal
- D. The candidate's credential is immediately revoked

51. What must a project's Preconstruction Site Assessment findings on nesting wildlife inform before construction begins near that area?

- A. The building's final paint color selection
- B. A signed Green Lease agreement
- C. Construction scheduling and buffer zones around the nesting area
- D. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle

52. In the sequence of pursuing Green Power and Carbon Offsets after meeting a Renewable Energy credit target, what is the correct understanding?

- A. No further energy-related credit pursuit is ever possible
- B. The Renewable Energy credit is automatically revoked
- C. The two credits cannot logically coexist under any circumstance
- D. Additional purchases can still address remaining footprint not yet covered

53. What must happen before a project's Ventilation Performance credit points can be awarded at the 4-point tier?

- A. Rates 15% above baseline delivered to 95% of occupied space
- B. The final certification plaque must already be installed
- C. A Green Lease covering all tenants must be signed
- D. The Credential Maintenance Program cycle must be complete

54. In the sequence of a typical commissioning process, what happens after Enhanced Commissioning's earlier authority engagement during design?

- A. The authority immediately departs the project with no further role
- B. Occupancy begins with no further verification of any kind
- C. The Credential Maintenance Program cycle begins
- D. Broader system verification continues through construction and potentially into operation

55. What must a project team establish before pursuing the No Irrigation Required pathway rather than Reduced Irrigation?

- A. A signed Green Lease agreement
- B. A LEED Fellow's personal landscape review
- C. No permanent irrigation needed beyond establishment period
- D. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle

56. In the sequence of a project's decarbonization plan submission, what comes after the carbon projection step but before the plan is considered complete?

- A. The building's occupancy permit must be issued
- B. Either Electrification credit points are earned, or a decarbonization plan is submitted
- C. A Green Lease must be finalized
- D. The Credential Maintenance Program cycle must begin

57. What generally must be true about a refrigerant's properties before Enhanced Refrigerant Management Option 2's calculation becomes necessary?

- A. The refrigerant must already be banned under international agreements
- B. The building must already be fully occupied
- C. The refrigerant must not qualify automatically under Option 1's low-GWP threshold
- D. A Green Lease must be signed first

58. In the sequence of a benchmarking-driven correction, what typically happens after a control sequence drift is identified as the cause of a performance gap?

- A. The entire mechanical system is replaced regardless of the specific finding
- B. The control sequence is recalibrated to correct the identified drift
- C. The building is immediately decertified
- D. No corrective action is ever taken once certification is awarded

59. What must be documented before a project can claim points under the Diverse Uses pathway?

- A. A signed Green Lease agreement
- B. A LEED Fellow's personal site visit
- C. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle
- D. The genuine mix of uses actually present within walking distance

60. In the sequence of pursuing both on-site and off-site renewable energy, what must a team first assess about their site's physical constraints?

- A. Available roof and site area limiting on-site generation capacity
- B. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle
- C. A signed Green Lease agreement
- D. The building's final paint color selection

61. What must happen before a project's Water Efficiency alternative water source selection can be finalized?

- A. A LEED Fellow's personal water quality test
- B. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle
- C. A signed Green Lease agreement
- D. Evaluating available sources by required treatment intensity

62. In the sequence of a project pursuing Equitable Development, what generally must be true about a brownfield site before the remediation pathway applies?

- A. A governing authority has already identified contamination requiring cleanup
- B. The site must already be certified LEED Platinum
- C. A Green Lease must be signed first
- D. The Credential Maintenance Program cycle must be complete

63. What must a project's Human Impact Assessment be completed before, in a well-run integrative process?

- A. The building's occupancy permit issuance only
- B. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle
- C. Major design decisions being finalized
- D. A signed Green Lease agreement

64. In the sequence of a typical LEED AP with specialty exam attempt, what must be true about the candidate's Green Associate status?

- A. It must have lapsed due to unmet CE hours
- B. It must already be held, either active or as a completed prerequisite step
- C. It must be held by a different team member instead
- D. It is irrelevant to the specialty exam eligibility

65. What generally must a project's Minimized Site Disturbance prerequisite documentation include before any Sustainable Sites credit can be pursued?

- A. The building's final certification plaque design
- B. A signed Green Lease agreement
- C. An Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan and Preconstruction Site Assessment
- D. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle

66. In the sequence of a project's Reduce Parking and Access to Transit pathways pursued together, what must generally already be true about the site?

- A. A signed Green Lease agreement must exist
- B. The Credential Maintenance Program cycle must be complete
- C. A LEED Fellow must personally endorse the site
- D. Genuine transit accessibility must make reduced parking demand realistic

67. What must happen before a project's decarbonization roadmap can be considered genuinely sequenced rather than merely aspirational?

- A. Strategies must be tied to specific, concrete triggering conditions
- B. The building's final paint color must be selected
- C. A Green Lease must be finalized
- D. The Credential Maintenance Program cycle must begin

68. In the sequence of a project pursuing Reduce Embodied Carbon Option 1 (WBLCA), what must be assessed before end-of-life stages can be included?

- A. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle
- B. Material production, construction, and use-phase stages first
- C. A signed Green Lease agreement
- D. The building's final certification plaque design

69. What must be true about a project's Preconstruction Site Assessment timing relative to construction?

- A. It occurs only after construction is fully complete
- B. It must occur before construction begins to meaningfully protect identified features
- C. Its timing has no bearing on its usefulness
- D. It occurs simultaneously with the final certification decision

70. In the sequence of a project's Occupant Experience credit documentation, what must be assessed before daylighting and views can both be evaluated?

- A. A signed Green Lease agreement
- B. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle
- C. A LEED Fellow's personal walkthrough
- D. Each quality's own distinct evaluation criteria, assessed independently

71. What generally must a project establish before pursuing the Cooling Tower Water Use credit's cycles-of-concentration benefit?

- A. That the project actually has a cooling tower to optimize
- B. A signed Green Lease agreement
- C. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle
- D. A LEED Fellow's personal mechanical review

72. In the sequence of a project's Indoor Air Quality Performance credit, what determines whether the full 10 points or a lower total is available?

- A. A signed Green Lease agreement
- B. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle
- C. Whether continuous monitoring or one-time testing is pursued
- D. A LEED Fellow's personal air quality assessment

73. What must happen before a project's Light Pollution Reduction strategy can be evaluated for genuine trespass reduction?

- A. Exterior lighting design and fixture selection must actually be finalized
- B. A signed Green Lease agreement must exist
- C. The Credential Maintenance Program cycle must be complete
- D. A LEED Fellow must personally inspect the fixtures

74. In the sequence of a project's Basis of Design development, what must exist first to give the BOD something to respond to?

- A. A signed Green Lease agreement
- B. A documented Owner's Project Requirements
- C. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle
- D. A LEED Fellow's personal endorsement

75. What generally must be true about a site's transit service before the Access to Transit pathway's higher point tiers apply?

- A. A signed Green Lease agreement must exist
- B. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle must be complete
- C. Service frequency must genuinely be higher, not merely nearby
- D. A LEED Fellow must personally ride the transit route

76. In the sequence of a project's Sustainable Purchasing Policy implementation, what generally continues after initial construction is complete?

- A. All purchasing consideration ends once construction is complete
- B. The policy applies only retroactively to already-completed purchases
- C. A signed Green Lease agreement replaces the policy entirely
- D. Ongoing operational procurement decisions continue applying the policy's principles

77. What must happen before a project's Renewable Energy credit points can be calculated as a percentage of total use?

- A. The building's total energy use and the renewable offset amount must both be established
- B. A signed Green Lease agreement must exist
- C. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle must be complete
- D. A LEED Fellow must personally verify the solar array

78. In the sequence of a project's Equitable Access to Resources pathway, what must genuinely exist before this pathway can be documented as satisfied?

- A. A signed Green Lease agreement
- B. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle
- C. Genuine public-use spaces or documented community partnerships
- D. A LEED Fellow's personal community survey

79. What must a project's Whole-Building Life-Cycle Assessment complete before Module D benefits can be reported separately?

- A. A signed Green Lease agreement
- B. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle
- C. A LEED Fellow's personal life-cycle review
- D. The core life-cycle stages must be assessed first

80. In the sequence of a project's Fundamental Refrigerant Management compliance, what must be determined before selecting between the no-refrigerant and low-GWP-with-leak-detection paths?

- A. A signed Green Lease agreement
- B. Which mechanical systems the project actually requires
- C. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle
- D. A LEED Fellow's personal mechanical review

81. What generally must happen before a candidate's LEED Fellow endorsers can provide credentialed peer verification?

- A. A signed Green Lease agreement must exist
- B. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle must be complete
- C. At least two endorsers holding LEED AP with specialty must be identified and included
- D. A separate Green Associate exam must be retaken

82. In the sequence of a project's exterior lighting redesign for Light Pollution Reduction, what must generally be assessed first?

- A. Actual functional lighting needs, before selecting fixtures and controls
- B. A signed Green Lease agreement
- C. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle
- D. A LEED Fellow's personal site visit

83. What must be true about a project's benchmarking data collection before a genuine performance gap can be identified?

- A. A signed Green Lease agreement must exist
- B. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle must be complete
- C. A LEED Fellow must personally review the data
- D. Actual measured performance data must exist to compare against predictions

84. In the sequence of a project's Surrounding Density pathway documentation, what must be measured before points can be awarded?

- A. A signed Green Lease agreement
- B. Combined units and floor area per acre nearby
- C. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle
- D. A LEED Fellow's personal density estimate

85. What generally must be established before a project's Connecting with Nature credit can combine multiple biophilic mechanisms?

- A. A signed Green Lease agreement
- B. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle
- C. Specific direct, indirect, and spatial design strategies must actually be selected
- D. A LEED Fellow's personal biophilic design review

86. In the sequence of a project's Preliminary Review and Final Review, what typically must occur between the two stages if clarifications are requested?

- A. A signed Green Lease agreement must be executed
- B. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle must begin
- C. A LEED Fellow's personal review must be added
- D. The project team must respond to and resolve the clarification requests

87. What must a project's Carbon Assessment findings feed into before a Renewable Energy sizing decision can be well-informed?

- A. A signed Green Lease agreement
- B. An understanding of the project's projected emissions and energy needs
- C. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle
- D. A LEED Fellow's personal carbon audit

88. In the sequence of a project's Accessible Outdoor Space credit, what must be verified before barrier-free access can be documented as satisfied?

- A. Actual physical accessibility features like ramps are genuinely installed
- B. A signed Green Lease agreement
- C. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle
- D. A LEED Fellow's personal accessibility audit

89. What generally must be true about a project's Preconstruction Site Assessment scope before habitat credit strategies can be planned?

- A. A signed Green Lease agreement must exist
- B. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle must be complete
- C. The assessment must have actually identified relevant habitat features
- D. A LEED Fellow must personally survey the habitat

90. In the sequence of a project's Ventilation Performance and Reduce Peak Thermal Loads credits pursued together, what tension must the design team resolve?

- A. Higher ventilation rates increasing the energy load the peak-load credit works to minimize
- B. A signed Green Lease agreement conflicting with occupancy timing
- C. The Credential Maintenance Program cycle conflicting with certification timing
- D. A LEED Fellow's schedule conflicting with the project timeline

91. What must a project's decarbonization plan document before it can be considered to satisfy the prerequisite's final step?

- A. A signed Green Lease agreement
- B. A concise, two-page-maximum written plan with sequenced strategies
- C. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle
- D. A LEED Fellow's personal endorsement of the plan

92. In the sequence of a project's Water Metering credit submetering strategy, what must be identified before distinct subsystems can be tracked separately?

- A. A signed Green Lease agreement
- B. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle
- C. A LEED Fellow's personal metering review
- D. The specific subsystems present on site first

93. What generally must happen before a project's Owner's Project Requirements can meaningfully guide the Basis of Design?

- A. A signed Green Lease agreement must exist
- B. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle must be complete
- C. The OPR must actually be drafted and communicated to the design team
- D. A LEED Fellow must personally review the OPR

94. In the sequence of a project's Reduce Embodied Carbon Option 2 (EPD Analysis), what must be verified about each product's EPD before it counts toward the credit?

- A. A signed Green Lease agreement
- B. That the EPD is verified, current, and demonstrates genuine performance
- C. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle
- D. A LEED Fellow's personal product review

95. What must a project's Compact and Connected Development pathway selection be based on before points can be documented?

- A. A signed Green Lease agreement
- B. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle
- C. A LEED Fellow's personal site selection
- D. The site's actual, verified qualifying conditions for the chosen pathway

96. In the sequence of a project's Grid-Interactive strategy implementation, what must be established before demand response participation can begin?

- A. Systems capable of shifting load in response to signals
- B. A signed Green Lease agreement
- C. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle
- D. A LEED Fellow's personal grid assessment

97. What must happen before a candidate's exam content appeal can be evaluated by GBCI?

- A. A signed Green Lease agreement must exist
- B. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle must be complete
- C. A LEED Fellow must personally review the appeal
- D. The appeal must actually be formally submitted following GBCI's documented process

98. In the sequence of a project's Fundamental Commissioning and Enhanced Commissioning pursued together, what must the mandatory prerequisite establish before the optional credit can extend further?

- A. A signed Green Lease agreement
- B. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle
- C. The baseline OPR/BOD review and energy system verification
- D. A LEED Fellow's personal commissioning review

99. What generally must be true about a project's site selection research before Equitable Development pathways can be accurately pursued?

- A. A signed Green Lease agreement must exist
- B. Thorough site-specific community and environmental research must be completed
- C. The Credential Maintenance Program's first cycle must be complete
- D. A LEED Fellow must personally select the site

100. In the sequence of preparing for the LEED Green Associate exam using domain-weighted practice exams, what should generally happen before attempting a full-length simulation exam?

- A. Working through the relevant learning content first, building foundational knowledge
- B. Skipping all learning content entirely and guessing on every question
- C. Registering for the actual GBCI exam without any preparation
- D. Assuming prior general knowledge is fully sufficient with no review

Practice Exam 8: Answer Key and Explanations

1. A — The standard LEED certification workflow begins with selecting and registering the appropriate rating system and version, establishing the framework every subsequent step builds on. Documentation submission, GBCI review, and the final certification decision all occur later in the sequence, following this essential first registration step that anchors the entire process.

2. D — After registration payment is processed, the candidate receives an Eligibility ID valid for 12 months, during which they must schedule and complete the exam. No score, credential, or automatic scheduling occurs at this stage; the EID simply establishes the candidate's valid testing window before any exam attempt takes place. No premature scoring or automatic scheduling occurs before this issuance.

3. B — Following design analysis, the second of the four required Operational Carbon Projection steps is site energy prediction, where the team predicts annual energy use by type and submits that data to USGBC for review. This precedes the subsequent carbon projection and decarbonization plan steps that complete the prerequisite's sequence. This required sequence connects to the subsequent carbon projection step.

4. C — After reviewing the Owner's Project Requirements and Basis of Design, Fundamental Commissioning requires verification of installation and performance of energy-related systems as the next required activity. This verification step confirms that what was documented in the OPR and BOD is actually being achieved through real, installed building systems. This confirms design documentation translates into real installed performance.

- 5. A** — Immediately after early discovery during a charrette, the integrative process moves into iterative design refinement, where the team tests ideas based on discovery findings and adjusts accordingly. This iterative cycle happens well before construction documents, permitting, or occupancy, all of which occur much later in a project's timeline. This early iteration is central to genuine integrative practice.
- 6. C** — A candidate with no prior LEED credential must pass the LEED Green Associate exam first before attempting any specialty exam, since this is a firm, mandatory prerequisite for LEED AP with specialty. Applying for Fellow or completing CE hours are not valid substitutes for this required first sequential step. No shortcut around this sequential requirement actually exists.
- 7. B** — After sensitive site features are identified, the appropriate next step is revising the site plan to account for those findings before construction locks decisions into place. Proceeding unchanged, filing findings away, or discarding the assessment all defeat the entire protective purpose of conducting the assessment in the first place. Skipping this revision step defeats the assessment's entire purpose.
- 8. D** — A documented baseline from the Quantify and Assess Embodied Carbon prerequisite must be established before any GWP reduction percentage can be meaningfully demonstrated under Reduce Embodied Carbon. Without this baseline, there is no reference point against which improvement can actually be measured, making the prerequisite's documentation a required first step.
- 9. A** — A genuine decarbonization roadmap requires specific triggering conditions built in from the outset, not general aspiration added as an afterthought, since concrete triggers are precisely what distinguishes a real operational plan from a vague statement of intent. General aspiration alone, without this structure, does not satisfy the prerequisite's actual requirement.
- 10. D** — After Preliminary Review, if questions arise about submitted documentation, GBCI issues clarification requests the project team must address before the process can proceed toward a final certification decision. This is a normal, expected part of the review workflow, not an automatic denial or an immediate jump to final certification. No later step retroactively enables a missing baseline.
- 11. C** — In a typical integrative kickoff charrette, massing and orientation discussion generally occurs first, providing the mechanical engineer with the design context needed to begin resizing equipment based on those decisions made that same morning. This sequencing is precisely what distinguishes genuine early collaboration from a traditional, siloed handoff process. This sequencing distinguishes genuine collaboration from siloed handoffs.
- 12. B** — If a candidate cannot test within the standard 12-month Eligibility ID window, they may request a single available extension before that window fully expires, rather than facing an automatic year-long wait or permanent disqualification. This single-extension policy provides reasonable flexibility while still maintaining meaningful registration turnover for GBCI's administration. This flexibility balances candidate needs against administrative turnover.
- 13. B** — Before applying for LEED Fellow, a candidate must have held a LEED AP with specialty credential in good standing for a minimum of eight years, a firm sequential prerequisite. Passing only

the Green Associate exam, completing a single CE course, or registering a project under their own name do not satisfy this requirement.

14. D — After the Climate Resilience Assessment identifies flood risk as a relevant hazard, that finding can inform later Sustainable Sites resilience credit strategies, such as Enhanced Resilient Site Design, translating the documented hazard into concrete design responses. This connects an early Integrative Process finding directly to later domain-specific credit pursuit. This connection extends across multiple later credit categories.

15. A — Embodied carbon is generally locked in first, released during material extraction, manufacturing, and construction, largely before a building is ever occupied. Operational carbon instead accumulates afterward, continuously over decades of subsequent building operation, making these two carbon types sequential in timing rather than simultaneous or undefined. This timing distinction shapes appropriate reduction strategies for each type.

16. C — After a project registers its rating system and version, the team next reviews Minimum Program Requirements and prerequisites against the project's specific circumstances, before pursuing and documenting credits throughout design and construction. This sequencing ensures eligibility is confirmed early, rather than discovering an MPR issue much later in the process.

17. A — Before Reduce Peak Thermal Loads' smaller-equipment benefit can be realized, envelope and orientation decisions that actually reduce peak load must be made first, since these design-stage choices determine how much load exists before mechanical equipment is ever selected. This sequencing reflects the leverage-point logic of early, high-impact decisions. Equipment sizing decisions follow directly from this earlier step.

18. C — After a candidate's third unsuccessful exam attempt, a mandatory 90-day waiting period must pass before they can submit a new registration, a firm policy encouraging meaningful additional preparation between attempts. No waiting period applies after the first or second attempt specifically; this requirement is triggered only after the third failure.

19. B — A documented baseline from the embodied carbon prerequisite must exist before Whole-Building Life-Cycle Assessment results can be meaningfully compared under Reduce Embodied Carbon, since improvement can only be measured against an established reference point. Without this baseline sequence, the WBLCA results would have nothing valid to demonstrate reduction against. Without this baseline, no meaningful comparison is even possible.

20. D — Whether Enhanced Refrigerant Management's Option 1 or Option 2 applies depends on whether the refrigerant's ozone depletion potential and global warming potential fall below defined low thresholds first; qualifying refrigerants use Option 1 automatically, while others require Option 2's detailed calculation. This determination must happen before selecting a compliance path.

21. A — After a Human Impact Assessment is completed during early discovery, its findings inform later Equitable Development pathway selection and broader design decisions throughout the project, rather than existing as a standalone requirement with no further connection. This upstream research

shapes concrete, later community-related project decisions across multiple credit categories. This upstream research shapes concrete later project decisions.

22. C — A project pursuing both on-site and off-site renewable energy can assess and combine both strategies toward the same overall Renewable Energy credit target, since these approaches are complementary rather than requiring a fixed sequential order or exclusive choice. Combining both often lets a project offset a larger percentage of total energy use.

23. B — Before a refrigerant upgrade is scheduled for a specific future year within a decarbonization roadmap, the equipment's natural replacement timeline is generally identified first, allowing the upgrade to align with that timing rather than requiring wasteful premature replacement. This sequencing reflects intelligent, cost-effective decarbonization planning discussed throughout this guide. This avoids wasteful early replacement of functioning equipment.

24. B — Before a Fundamental Commissioning report can be finalized, verification of installation and performance of energy-related systems must be completed, since this verification is precisely what the report documents and confirms. The LEED Fellow committee, a Green Lease, and the Credential Maintenance Program have no bearing on this specific prerequisite's completion sequence.

25. D — After the Water Metering and Reporting prerequisite is initially satisfied at certification, annual data sharing must continue for a minimum of five years, representing an ongoing commitment rather than a one-time action that closes out all future obligations. This multi-year continuation is a genuine, required part of the prerequisite's full compliance sequence.

26. D — Before a project team can accurately identify its embodied carbon hotspot materials, GWP calculations for structure, enclosure, and hardscape materials must be completed first, since hotspot identification depends directly on having this quantified data available for comparison across the project's material inventory and categories. This documentation step precedes any hotspot identification entirely.

27. C — After a performance gap between predicted and actual energy use is identified through benchmarking, specific causes are investigated next, such as control sequence drift or occupancy differences, with correctable issues addressed accordingly. This diagnostic sequence is the appropriate response, rather than immediate decertification or automatically assigning liability without investigation. This diagnostic approach precedes any corrective action taken.

28. A — Before applying for LEED Fellow, a candidate's LEED AP with specialty standing must have been held for at least eight years, a firm minimum threshold that must already be satisfied at the time of application. A credential earned within only the last 30 days would fall dramatically short of this required duration.

29. A — After a project's Preliminary Review clarification requests are fully resolved, GBCI proceeds toward a final certification decision, representing the next sequential stage in the documentation review workflow. The project does not need to restart registration, and no automatic certification level like

Platinum is guaranteed simply by resolving clarifications successfully. No restart or automatic outcome follows resolved clarifications.

30. D — Before pursuing both Reduce Embodied Carbon and Building and Materials Reuse together, a team must first determine how much existing structure on site can realistically be retained or reused, since this assessment directly shapes which specific strategies within each credit category become genuinely viable for the project to pursue. This assessment shapes which specific strategies become genuinely viable.

31. B — Before a candidate can be evaluated for LEED Fellow's mastery element criteria, they must submit their application's required components and endorsements as Part 2 of the two-part application process, following the earlier Part 1 initial eligibility confirmation. This documentation submission precedes any committee evaluation of the actual mastery elements themselves.

32. C — Before a team can pursue Access to Transit's higher point tiers, actual weekday and weekend transit service frequency at nearby stops must be documented, since point thresholds are calibrated specifically to this frequency data rather than mere physical proximity. This documentation step precedes any point award under this specific pathway.

33. C — Before Enhanced Commissioning's monitoring-based pathway can be pursued, the building must reach its early operational period after occupancy begins, since this pathway specifically extends verification into actual building operation rather than stopping at design-phase or handoff verification alone. Occupancy is a genuine prerequisite for this specific advanced pathway. This occupancy milestone distinguishes this advanced pathway specifically.

34. D — Immediately after a candidate's exam payment is processed, an Eligibility ID valid for 12 months is issued, establishing the window during which the candidate must schedule and complete their exam. No credential, automatic scheduling, or Fellow eligibility confirmation occurs at this specific point in the registration sequence. No score or credential appears at this early stage.

35. B — Before claiming Transportation Demand Management's VMT reduction benefit, a project team must document both baseline-case and proposed-case VMT figures, since the credit's demonstrated reduction depends directly on comparing these two specific numbers. Without both figures established, no meaningful VMT reduction claim can actually be substantiated for the credit. Without both figures, no reduction claim can be substantiated.

36. A — Whether a calculation is required at all under Enhanced Refrigerant Management depends on whether the refrigerant qualifies automatically under Option 1's low-GWP and zero-ODP threshold; qualifying refrigerants skip any further calculation entirely, while non-qualifying refrigerants must proceed to Option 2's more detailed compliance pathway instead. This determination precedes selecting either compliance pathway.

37. C — After a Preconstruction Site Assessment identifies wetland soils beneath a proposed footprint, the appropriate next step is revising the site plan to avoid those soils before construction begins, preventing the environmental harm the original, unrevised plan would have caused. Proceeding

unchanged defeats the assessment's entire protective, upstream purpose. Revising before construction prevents irreversible environmental harm.

38. D — The design analysis step must be completed before the subsequent site energy prediction step within the Operational Carbon Projection prerequisite's four-step sequence, since site energy prediction builds directly on the load-reduction and efficiency opportunities design analysis identifies earlier in the same required process. This required order applies specifically within the four-step sequence.

39. B — Before Tenant Guidelines can meaningfully influence future tenant decisions, the base building team must first document sustainability requirements and design guidance for tenants to follow, establishing the framework future fit-out teams will reference. Tenants do not need to be identified by name for this documentation step to occur. Tenant identity is not required for this documentation step.

40. D — Both Access to Transit and Walkable Location pathways can be evaluated and documented independently on a genuinely well-located site, since these pathways assess different qualities, transit frequency and daily-needs proximity respectively, that can both be present together rather than requiring a fixed order or exclusive single-pathway choice. Neither pathway requires the other to already be satisfied.

41. A — Before a project's Minimum Energy Efficiency compliance can be documented against ASHRAE 90.1-2019, a reference baseline building matched in size, shape, and function must be established for comparison, since the prerequisite is evaluated in relative, percentage-improvement terms against this specific standardized comparison building rather than an absolute standalone figure. This comparison basis precedes any percentage-improvement calculation.

42. C — After completing the 100 questions, the candidate submits the exam, and results are typically displayed on screen shortly after submission for standard exam candidates, though beta exam candidates receive results later during a batch data-analysis phase. No unrelated exam begins immediately, and submission is a required, active step, not automatic.

43. A — Before the brownfield remediation pathway can be pursued, a governing authority must have already identified contamination on the site requiring remediation under their jurisdiction, establishing the documented basis for this specific Equitable Development pathway. A site with no such authority-mandated finding does not qualify for this particular pathway. Without this authority finding, the pathway does not apply.

44. B — Before pursuing Diverse Uses and Surrounding Density together, genuine existing density and use variety must already exist within the surrounding area of a well-selected site, since these pathways reward conditions already present rather than requiring a project itself to somehow create surrounding neighborhood-scale density and diversity from scratch. A project cannot manufacture this surrounding context on its own.

45. D — Before a project's Carbon Assessment 25-year projection can be considered complete, it must account for energy use, refrigerants, embodied carbon, and transportation together, spanning the full range of relevant emission sources rather than any single category alone. This comprehensive scope is a

required element of the assessment's documented sequence. This comprehensive scope is required before the projection concludes.

46. C — After a LEED Fellow application's Part 1 initial eligibility is confirmed, Part 2's detailed application components and endorsements are submitted next, continuing the two-part sequential application structure. The nominee is not immediately awarded Fellow status at this stage, and no Green Associate exam retake is required at any point in this process.

47. A — Before a candidate can claim LEED AP with specialty status, they must actually pass the specific specialty exam after first passing Green Associate, satisfying both sequential steps of the credential ladder. Simply expressing interest, working on one registered project, or attending a single webinar does not satisfy this formal credentialing requirement.

48. B — When a Rainwater Management strategy serves both stormwater control and water supply substitution functions, the project team must document both outcomes separately, since Sustainable Sites Rainwater Management and Water Efficiency rainwater harvesting evaluate genuinely different criteria despite potentially sharing the same physical infrastructure on the same site. Shared infrastructure never exempts either outcome from separate documentation.

49. B — Before Enhanced Building Accessibility can be documented as satisfied, genuine barrier-free, usable design exceeding minimum code compliance must actually be established through real, verified design features, not merely a stated intention. This credit sets a meaningfully higher bar than baseline legal accessibility requirements a project would already have to meet regardless.

50. A — If a GBCI exam content appeal is successful, the candidate is offered a retest opportunity, not a direct change to their original recorded score, since GBCI does not modify exam scores under any circumstance regardless of appeal outcome. This preserves scoring integrity while still providing a genuine, meaningful path forward for the candidate.

51. C — Preconstruction Site Assessment findings on nesting wildlife must inform construction scheduling and protective buffer zones around the identified nesting area before construction activity begins nearby, translating the documented finding into concrete, protective action rather than remaining purely informational documentation with no practical follow-through. This translates documentation into genuine, protective action.

52. D — After meeting a Renewable Energy credit target, additional Green Power and Carbon Offsets purchases can still address remaining footprint not yet covered by direct procurement, since these represent complementary, layered strategies rather than mutually exclusive options that would somehow disqualify further pursuit of related energy-related credits and purchasing strategies. These remain complementary, not mutually exclusive, credit pursuits.

53. A — Before Ventilation Performance's 4-point tier can be awarded, rates exceeding the ASHRAE 62.1-2022 baseline by 15% must be delivered to at least 95% of regularly occupied space, since both the percentage-above-baseline threshold and the coverage requirement must be satisfied together before this specific point tier is achieved. Both the percentage and coverage thresholds apply together.

54. D — After Enhanced Commissioning's earlier authority engagement during design, broader system verification continues through construction and potentially extends into a building's early operational period, rather than the authority's role ending immediately after initial design-phase engagement. This continued involvement is what distinguishes Enhanced from Fundamental Commissioning's more limited scope. This continued role distinguishes Enhanced from Fundamental Commissioning.

55. C — Before pursuing No Irrigation Required rather than Reduced Irrigation, a project team must establish that the landscape design genuinely needs no permanent irrigation beyond the two-year establishment period, typically through native, drought-tolerant plant selection. This determination shapes which of the two Outdoor Water Use Reduction pathways is actually appropriate to pursue.

56. B — After the carbon projection step, the decarbonization plan prerequisite's fourth and final step requires either earning Electrification credit points or submitting a concise, two-page-maximum written decarbonization plan, completing the required four-step sequence. Either path satisfies this final step, giving project teams meaningful flexibility in how they conclude the process. Either path satisfies this final required step.

57. C — Enhanced Refrigerant Management Option 2's calculation becomes necessary specifically when a refrigerant does not qualify automatically under Option 1's low-GWP, zero-ODP threshold, requiring the more detailed charge, leakage rate, and equipment life calculation instead. This determination must be made before selecting which of the two compliance pathways actually applies. This determination precedes choosing the applicable compliance path.

58. B — After control sequence drift is identified as the cause of a benchmarking performance gap, the control sequence is recalibrated to correct that specific identified drift, representing a targeted, appropriate corrective action. Replacing the entire mechanical system or decertifying the building would be disproportionate responses to this specific, correctable finding. Disproportionate responses are avoided once the specific cause is known.

59. D — Before claiming points under the Diverse Uses pathway, the genuine mix of uses actually present within walking distance of the project must be documented, since this credit rewards real, existing land-use variety rather than a stated intention or a project's own internal program alone, independent of its surrounding context. This documentation precedes any point award under this pathway.

60. A — Before pursuing both on-site and off-site renewable energy, a team must first assess available roof and site area limiting on-site generation capacity, since this physical constraint determines how much of the project's total energy offset on-site generation can realistically achieve before off-site procurement becomes necessary to close any remaining gap.

61. D — Before finalizing an alternative water source selection, a project team must evaluate available sources by required treatment intensity, prioritizing options requiring the least treatment first, such as condensate, before considering more treatment-intensive alternatives. This evaluation sequence guides which specific source a project should practically pursue for a given non-potable application.

62. A — Before the brownfield remediation pathway applies to a site, a governing authority must have already identified contamination requiring cleanup under their specific jurisdiction, establishing the documented basis for pursuing this particular Equitable Development pathway. A site without this authority-mandated finding does not qualify under this specific compliance pathway. Without this authority finding, the pathway does not apply here.

63. C — In a well-run integrative process, the Human Impact Assessment must be completed before major design decisions are finalized, since its findings need to genuinely inform those decisions rather than merely documenting choices already locked into place after the fact, defeating the assessment's core, intended shaping purpose entirely. Finalizing decisions first defeats the assessment's shaping purpose.

64. B — Before attempting a specialty exam, the candidate's Green Associate status must already be held, either as an active credential or as a completed prerequisite step in their credentialing history, since this is a firm, mandatory sequential requirement that cannot be satisfied by a different team member holding the credential instead.

65. C — Before any Sustainable Sites credit can be pursued, Minimized Site Disturbance documentation must include an Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan and a Preconstruction Site Assessment, establishing the mandatory baseline every subsequent habitat, open space, and rainwater strategy in this category builds directly upon throughout the project's design. This mandatory baseline underlies every subsequent credit in this category.

66. D — Before pursuing Reduce Parking and Access to Transit together, genuine transit accessibility must already make reduced parking demand realistic for building occupants, since these two strategies reinforce each other specifically when the site's actual transit service provides occupants a genuinely practical, non-car transportation alternative to rely upon instead. This realistic alternative is what makes both pathways reinforce each other.

67. A — Before a decarbonization roadmap can be considered genuinely sequenced rather than merely aspirational, its strategies must be tied to specific, concrete triggering conditions, such as construction timing, data availability, or equipment lifecycle, distinguishing a real operational plan from a vague statement of intent lacking any supporting implementation mechanism. Concrete triggers distinguish real plans from vague aspiration.

68. B — Before end-of-life stages can be included in a Whole-Building Life-Cycle Assessment, material production, construction, and use-phase stages must be assessed first, following the life-cycle framework's sequential structure from initial material sourcing through a building's operational life before reaching its eventual end-of-life disposal or reuse stage. This sequential structure mirrors the framework's overall stage order.

69. B — A Preconstruction Site Assessment must occur before construction begins to meaningfully protect the specific features it identifies, since assessing conditions only after construction is already underway or complete defeats the entire protective purpose the assessment exists to serve for a project's

sensitive site characteristics and features. Later timing defeats this assessment's entire protective purpose.

70. D — Before daylighting and quality views can both be evaluated under Occupant Experience, each quality's own distinct evaluation criteria must be assessed independently, since these are genuinely separate qualities a space can satisfy differently from one another, even though both now fall under the same consolidated credit umbrella structure. Both qualities remain independently evaluated within this consolidated credit.

71. A — Before pursuing Cooling Tower Water Use's cycles-of-concentration benefit, a project must establish that it actually has a cooling tower to optimize in the first place, since this credit specifically addresses cooling tower water consumption and has no basis for pursuit on a project lacking this particular mechanical equipment entirely. Absent this equipment, the credit has no basis for pursuit.

72. C — Whether the full 10 points or a lower total is available under Indoor Air Quality Performance depends on whether continuous monitoring or one-time testing is pursued, with continuous monitoring unlocking the full point total while one-time testing caps at roughly half that amount, a determination made before pursuing either pathway.

73. A — Before Light Pollution Reduction's trespass reduction can genuinely be evaluated, exterior lighting design and fixture selection must actually be finalized, since the credit's outcome depends directly on the specific shielded fixtures, controls, and calibrated lighting levels a project team ultimately chooses to specify and install on site. The credit's outcome depends directly on this finalized specification.

74. B — A documented Owner's Project Requirements must exist first to give the Basis of Design something concrete to technically respond to, since the BOD specifically documents the design team's approach to meeting the OPR's stated goals, requiring those goals to already be established before the technical response can be meaningfully developed.

75. C — Before Access to Transit's higher point tiers apply, transit service frequency must genuinely be higher, not merely physically nearby, since point thresholds are calibrated to actual weekday and weekend service frequency rather than distance alone, requiring this frequency data to be established before higher-tier points can be awarded. This frequency data precedes any higher-tier point award.

76. D — After initial construction is complete, ongoing operational procurement decisions continue applying a Sustainable Purchasing Policy's principles throughout a building's decades-long operating life, extending environmental consideration well beyond the one-time construction-phase decisions into continuous, ongoing purchasing practices for consumables, furniture, and equipment purchased afterward. This ongoing application distinguishes policy from a one-time decision.

77. A — Before Renewable Energy credit points can be calculated as a percentage, both the building's total energy use and the renewable offset amount must be established, since the credit's percentage-scaled point structure depends directly on comparing these two specific figures against each other to

determine the actual offset percentage achieved. Both figures are required before any percentage can be calculated.

78. C — Before the Equitable Access to Resources pathway can be documented as satisfied, genuine public-use spaces or documented community partnerships must actually exist, translating the credit's equity intent into concrete, verifiable project features rather than a stated aspiration alone without any real, demonstrated community-facing implementation on the ground. Concrete features are required beyond stated aspiration alone.

79. D — Before Module D benefits can be reported separately within a Whole-Building Life-Cycle Assessment, the core life-cycle stages spanning material production through end-of-life must be assessed first, since Module D specifically reports benefits and impacts extending beyond this core system boundary, requiring that boundary to be established before its extension can be reported.

80. B — Before selecting between the no-refrigerant and low-GWP-with-leak-detection compliance paths under Fundamental Refrigerant Management, a project must first determine which mechanical systems it actually requires, since this determination shapes which of the two available compliance paths is genuinely applicable and realistic for that specific project's mechanical scope. This determination shapes which compliance path is realistic.

81. C — Before LEED Fellow endorsers can provide credentialed peer verification, at least two endorsers holding LEED AP with specialty must be specifically identified and included as part of the application's required components, satisfying this firm structural requirement before their credentialed endorsement can carry the intended independent professional weight. This structural requirement precedes any credentialed endorsement itself.

82. A — Before selecting fixtures and controls for a Light Pollution Reduction exterior lighting redesign, actual functional lighting needs must generally be assessed first, ensuring the eventual fixture and control selection is calibrated to genuine safety and functional requirements rather than defaulting to excessive, poorly targeted illumination levels from the outset. This assessment precedes selecting fixtures calibrated to genuine need.

83. D — Before a genuine performance gap can be identified through benchmarking, actual measured performance data must exist to compare against original design-phase predictions, since without this real operational data collection, there is simply nothing concrete to compare the model's predictions against in the first place to reveal any meaningful gap. Without real data collection, no gap can be identified at all.

84. B — Before points can be awarded under the Surrounding Density pathway, combined residential units and non-residential building floor area per acre within a defined radius must be measured, since this specific density calculation is precisely what the pathway's point thresholds are based on, requiring the measurement before any credit is awarded.

85. C — Before Connecting with Nature can combine multiple biophilic mechanisms, specific direct, indirect, and spatial design strategies must actually be selected and integrated into the design, translating

the credit's conceptual intent into concrete, combined design elements a reviewer can verify rather than a general aspiration toward biophilic design alone. Concrete integration precedes any credit verification of this combination.

86. D — Between Preliminary Review and Final Review, if clarifications are requested, the project team must respond to and resolve those clarification requests before GBCI can proceed toward rendering its final certification decision. This response step is a required, standard part of the documentation review sequence connecting these two review stages together.

87. B — Before a Renewable Energy sizing decision can be well-informed, an understanding of the project's projected emissions and energy needs from the Carbon Assessment must feed into that decision, connecting upstream carbon planning directly to downstream renewable energy capacity targeting rather than sizing renewable systems in isolation from this relevant emissions data.

88. A — Before barrier-free access can be documented as satisfied under Accessible Outdoor Space, actual physical accessibility features like ramps must genuinely be installed and verified, translating the credit's updated v5 intent into concrete, real design elements rather than a stated intention without any actual, physically implemented accessible infrastructure on site. Verified installation precedes any credit documentation as satisfied.

89. C — Before habitat credit strategies can be meaningfully planned, the Preconstruction Site Assessment must have actually identified relevant habitat features on the specific site, since a project team cannot meaningfully protect or restore habitat it never identified in the first place through this required upfront documentation and research step. This upfront identification precedes any habitat strategy planning.

90. A — When pursuing Ventilation Performance and Reduce Peak Thermal Loads together, the design team must resolve the tension where higher ventilation rates increase the energy load the peak-load credit works to minimize, requiring a balanced design approach rather than maximizing either credit's requirements in complete isolation from the other's competing demand.

91. B — To satisfy the decarbonization plan prerequisite's final step, a concise, two-page-maximum written plan with sequenced strategies must be documented, outlining concrete, phased approaches to reducing emissions over time. This specific page limit keeps the documentation focused and genuinely actionable rather than an unbounded, unwieldy planning document. This concise format keeps the documentation genuinely actionable.

92. D — Before distinct subsystems can be tracked separately under the Water Metering credit's submetering strategy, the specific subsystems actually present on site, such as irrigation, indoor plumbing, and reclaimed water systems, must first be identified, establishing exactly which distinct water-using categories the project's submetering infrastructure needs to separately monitor and track.

93. C — Before the Owner's Project Requirements can meaningfully guide the Basis of Design, the OPR must actually be drafted and communicated to the design team, since the design team cannot

technically respond to goals and objectives that have not yet been documented and shared, making this communication step a genuine prerequisite.

94. B — Before a product's EPD counts toward Reduce Embodied Carbon's Option 2, it must be verified as current and demonstrate genuine performance improvement, satisfying the tightened LEED v5 disclosure requirements rather than simply existing as any declaration regardless of its actual verification status, currency, or documented performance level. Currency and verification distinguish this from any generic declaration.

95. D — Before points can be documented under a chosen Compact and Connected Development pathway, the site's actual, verified qualifying conditions for that specific pathway, whether transit frequency, walkability, or density, must genuinely exist and be confirmed, rather than points being awarded based on an unverified assumption about the site's qualifying characteristics.

96. A — Before demand response participation can begin under a Grid-Interactive strategy, building systems and controls capable of shifting load in response to utility signals must first be established, since this technical infrastructure is what actually enables the building to participate in demand response programs and respond meaningfully to grid-stress signals. This infrastructure enables meaningful grid signal response.

97. D — Before a candidate's exam content appeal can be evaluated by GBCI, the appeal must actually be formally submitted following GBCI's documented appeals process, establishing the required starting point for any subsequent review of the candidate's specific concern about a particular exam item's technical accuracy or content. This formal step precedes any GBCI evaluation of the concern.

98. C — Before Enhanced Commissioning can extend verification further, Fundamental Commissioning's baseline OPR/BOD review and energy system verification must first be established, since the optional Enhanced credit builds directly on top of this mandatory prerequisite's foundational verification work rather than replacing or substituting for it entirely on its own. This foundational work is not replaced by the optional credit.

99. B — Before Equitable Development pathways can be accurately pursued, thorough site-specific community and environmental research must be completed, ensuring pathway selection is grounded in genuine site and community data rather than assumption, connecting this research step directly to the broader upstream research principle emphasized throughout the integrative process. This grounding connects directly to the broader research principle.

100. A — Before attempting a full-length simulation exam, working through the relevant learning content first is the appropriate sequence, building foundational knowledge that practice exams then test and reinforce. Skipping content entirely, registering without preparation, or assuming prior knowledge is sufficient all overlook the genuine value of sequenced, structured exam preparation. Structured preparation outperforms unstructured guessing at every stage.