



Professional Regulatory Board of Architecture (PRBoA)

URL/ website: www.architectureboard.ph

Resolution No. 2009 - 14 **Series of 2009**

REFORMATTING THE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN AND SITE PLANNING SUBJECT OF THE BOARD LICENSURE EXAMINATION FOR ARCHITECTS (BLEA) TO FULLY COMPLY WITH SEC. 7 (m) OF R.A. NO. 9266 (The Architecture Act of 2004)

WHEREAS, Section 7 (m), Article I of **Republic Act No. 9266**, known as the Architecture Act of 2004, states, to wit:

“Section 7. *Powers and Functions of the Board.* – xxx

(m) **To adopt a program for the full computerization of the licensure examination;**
xxx“ (*emphasis ours*)

WHEREAS, Sec. 7 (q) of R.A. No. 8981, cited as the “PRC Modernization Act of 2000” empowers the Professional Regulation Commission to carry out the full computerization of its system including the Board licensure examinations (the “BLE”);

WHEREAS, the present format of the Architectural Design and Site Planning Subject (the “Subject”) of the Board Licensure Examination for Architects (the “BLEA”) requires **manual** drafting skillsets in solving a **single**, situational design (cum site planning) problem, for the examinee to successfully undertake and pass the Subject;

WHEREAS, the two (2) other BLEA Subject sets are **non**-drafting Subjects that only require the examinees to answer a combined total of two hundred and fifty (250) questions under a **multiple** choice format cum **multiple** situational problems, the answers to which are read only by optical media readers (**OMR**);

WHEREAS, the required shift from a **manual** drafting, **single** design (cum site planning) problem format to a **non**-drafting **multiple** design (cum site planning) problem format for the Subject shall achieve the following:

- a) remove the subjectivity generally/ specifically associated with the **manual** checking of the examinee’s answer in the form of plates consisting of drawing sheets;
- b) remove perennial doubts by examinees as to the validity of the checking of the design solution, which can only be done manually within a period of thirty (30) days as prescribed by law;
- c) remove the bias against the examinees with limited **manual** drafting skillsets;
- d) allow the examinees better chances of passing the Subject since there will be **multiple short** situational problems to solve, covering several design archetypes rather than just **one long** situational problem;
- e) eliminate situations wherein examinees’ mistakes in the appreciation/ comprehension of **one long** situational problem definitely increases the chances of failure in the Subject;
- f) eliminate the need for cumbersome **manual** drafting implements/ paraphernalia/ apparatus to be brought to the test site by the examinees e.g. drawing board, T-square, 30-/60-degree triangles, protractor, etc.;
- g) eliminate the perennial confusion and misinterpretation of drawing/ drafting requirements and affixing signatures or prohibited images/ graphics on the sheets/ drawings;
- h) allow examinees with disabilities to take the Subject with ease; and
- i) shall allow the future reduction of the Subject test period from the present ten (10) hours.

WHEREAS, the PRBoA has met on several occasions to discuss the mechanics and the sample questions for the planned Subject test reformat;

WHEREAS, the Professional Regulatory Board of Architecture (the “PRBoA”) **has consulted the stakeholders in the profession and has received positive responses;**

WHEREAS, the PRC Rating Division has been consulted on the planned Subject test reformat and has found the suggested PRBoA reformat workable and in conformity with existing Commission practices and standards;

WHEREAS, the PRBoA has already conducted four (4) licensure examinations for architects (LEAs) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) in December 2007 and again in March 2009, in the form of the Foreign Board Licensure Examination for Architects (the “**FBLEA**”), a component of the Special Professional Licensure Board Examination (the “**SPLBE**”), upon the instruction of H.E. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo;

WHEREAS, the December 2007 FBLEA in KSA was a very successful **pilot-test** that allowed the PRBoA to reduce the number of LEA examination days from three (3) to two (2), a system which has already been applied in the Manila BLEAs since January 2008;

WHEREAS, the expected limited number of examinees at the FBLEA component of the four (4) SPLBEs scheduled in late November and early December 2009 at Al-Khobar (KSA), Jeddah (KSA), Doha (Qatar) and Abu Dhabi (UAE), presents another golden opportunity to **pilot-test** a **non-drafting multiple** design (cum site planning) problem for the Subject that will now be checked only by the OMR, thus substantially **complying** with Sec. 7 (m) of **R.A. No. 9266**;

WHEREAS, the conduct of the FBLEA is in keeping with the policy of holding BLEs by the PRC and the concerned Professional Regulatory Boards (**PRBs**) abroad to meet the special needs of Filipino overseas workers, as enunciated by H.E. Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo;

NOW THEREFORE, the PRBoA **RESOLVES**, as it is hereby **RESOLVED**, to **substantially comply** with Sec. 7 (m) of **R.A. No. 9266** by **pilot-testing** a **non-drafting multiple** design (cum site planning) problem format for the Architectural Design and Site Planning Subject of the FBLEA component of the four (4) SPLBEs scheduled in late November and early December 2009 at Al-Khobar (KSA), Jeddah (KSA), Doha (Qatar) and Abu Dhabi (UAE);

RESOLVED, that the **pilot-test** for a **non-drafting multiple** design (cum site planning) problem format require the FBLEA examinees to answer a total of one hundred and fifty (150) questions under a **multiple** situational problem cum **multiple** choice format, the answers to which are to be read only by the OMR;

RESOLVED, that the **pilot-test** for a **non-drafting multiple** design (cum site planning) problem format for the 4 FBLEAs be administered over the ten (10) hours originally assigned for the old **manual** drafting test format;

FURTHER RESOLVED, to make representations with and/ or instruct the concerned PRC divisions to make the necessary adjustments and preparations to help assure the success of the **pilot-test**; and

FURTHERMORE RESOLVED, that **if the pilot-test is again successful, the same Subject test reformat be applied in the 2010 Manila BLEAs and all FBLEAs of SPLBEs thereafter.**

RESOLVED, FINALLY, that this Resolution shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its full and complete publication in the Official Gazette or any newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines; that concerned offices and divisions be directed to carry out the herein Resolution; and that copies hereof be furnished to all concerned persons for its information and dissemination to all stakeholders.

Done in the City of Manila on the **25th day of September 2009.**

Original Signed

ARMANDO N. ALLÍ

Chairman

Original Signed

ANGELINE T. CHUA CHIACO

Member

Original Signed

MARIETTA B. SEGOVIA

Member

ATTESTED TO:

Original Signed

CARLOS G. ALMELOR

Secretary, Professional Regulatory Boards

APPROVED:

Original Signed

NICOLAS P. LAPEÑA, JR.

Chairman

Original Signed

RUTH RAÑA-PADILLA

Commissioner

Original Signed

NILO L. ROSAS

Commissioner

SAMPLES OF REFORMATTED QUESTIONS FOLLOW.

VERY IMPORTANT NOTES:

- 1) **FOR THIS PARTICULAR SAMPLE OF THE REFORMATTED QUESTION SET (FOR THE LEA SUBJECT ON ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN AND SITE PLANNING), THE CORRECT ANSWERS MAY OR MAY NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE STATED CHOICES HEREAFTER. IT IS UP TO THE EXAMINEES TO TRY TO KNOW THE CORRECT ANSWERS BY DOING THE APPROPRIATE READINGS AND RESEARCHES FROM THE PERTINENT DATA SOURCES.**
- 2) **COPIES OF RULES VII AND VIII OF THE 2004 REVISED IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS (IRR) OF P.D. NO. 1096, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 1977 NATIONAL BUILDING CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES NBCP, AS DOWNLOADED FREE FROM THE LATEST PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE PRBOA WEBSITE AT www.architectureboard.ph SHALL BE ALLOWED FOR USE BY THE EXAMINEE FOR THE DURATION OF THE EXAMINATION FOR ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN AND SITE PLANNING (DAY 2 OF THE LEA).**

SAMPLE PROBLEM

A startup construction and development company has decided that its newly acquired rectangular-shaped property of two thousand square meter [2,000.0 sqm, with a 120.0 meter (m) frontage] located in a part of Quezon City, Metro Manila recently zoned as high density residential (**R-3**). The property, an interior lot facing the south, uniformly slopes at **4.0%** towards the street (a **16.0 m wide RROW** with a 1.8 m wide sidewalk at each side).

The property shall host a **proposed medium-rise RESIDENTIAL CONDOMINIUM Project**, envisioned as a development with a **Basement** component, a **Podium** component and a **Tower** component. The adjacent lots at the sides and rear of the property and those across the street are all sites of existing 3-storey residences within family or corporate compounds.

A1. Test for Knowledge of General Compliances Relative to Site Planning

1. Under the 2004 Revised IRR of P.D. No. 1096 (1977 NBCP), what shall be the applicable percentage (%) of site occupancy (PSO) for the property?
 - a. 65%
 - b. 60%
 - c. 55%
 - d. 50%

B. Test for Knowledge of Site Planning

1. Given its orientation, what are the dominant sun-paths for the property?
 - a. SE to SW and NE to NW
 - b. SW to SE and NW to NE
 - c. SE to NW and NE to SW
 - d. SE to NW and NE to SW

C. Test for Knowledge of Space Planning

1. Which of the following should NOT be provided at the basement component of the project?
 - a. parking (below grade or lower than the elevation of the street); driveways, ramps, etc.
 - b. elevator lobby and service stairs
 - c. telecommunications equipment room
 - d. garbage chute room and solid waste storage

D. Test for Knowledge of Architectural Design of Buildings

1. If the residential condominium units are to be air-conditioned, what shall be the minimum distance (in meters) between the finished floor line (FFL) and the finished ceiling line (FCL)?
 - a. 2.44
 - b. 2.24
 - c. 2.10
 - d. 1.90

E. Test for Knowledge of Structural Conceptualization

1. Which of the following structural elements can be erected along a side or rear property line if the property is resting on relatively flat terrain?
 - a. firewalls and perimeter walls
 - b. retaining wall
 - c. endwall
 - d. zocalo wall

F. Test for Knowledge of Architectural Interiors (AI)

1. Which of the following is NOT considered an architectural interior (AI) element for the project?
 - a. eaves
 - b. elevator lobby ceiling
 - c. unit party wall
 - d. bathroom floor

Nothing follows.