Practice quiz: ICC R3 Residential Plans Examiner

10 questions. The answer key is on page 2.

Name _____ Date _____

1. **For practice, assume habitable rooms need openable area equal to 5% of floor area for natural ventilation. A fictional bedroom is 11 ft by 12 ft. How much openable area is required?**
   A. 13.2 sq ft
   B. 5.5 sq ft
   C. 6.6 sq ft
   D. 66 sq ft

2. **A fictional stair has a total rise of 111 in. from floor to floor, and the plans show 15 equal risers. What is the height of each riser?**
   A. 7.4 in.
   B. 7.9 in.
   C. 6.9 in.
   D. 7.0 in.

3. **A fictional second-floor bedroom window has its sill 14 in. above the floor, and the opening sits well above the grade outside. The examiner's concern is that a child leaning on the open sash could tumble out. Which 2024 IRC Chapter 3 section, by title, holds the rule to check?**
   A. Emergency escape and rescue openings
   B. Guards and window fall protection
   C. Glazing
   D. Light, ventilation and heating

4. **A fictional bathroom plan shows a window in the wall enclosing a bathtub, with its bottom edge low over the tub. What should the plans examiner require for that window?**
   A. Nothing, since bathroom windows are always exempt
   B. Obscure glass for privacy only
   C. Nothing, if the window is fixed rather than operable
   D. Safety glazing, labeled as such

5. **A fictional basement bedroom's escape window opens into a window well. The plans show the well deeper than the depth at which the code requires a ladder or steps, with none shown. What should the plans examiner ask for?**
   A. A ladder or steps fixed in the well
   B. Nothing, since the window itself meets the opening size
   C. A cover over the well that locks from outside
   D. A larger window in place of the ladder

6. **A fictional stair has more risers than the number at which the code requires a handrail, and the plans show none. What should the plans examiner ask for?**
   A. Guards on both sides in place of a handrail
   B. Nothing, if the stair is enclosed by walls
   C. Nothing, if the stair serves only a basement
   D. A handrail on at least one side

7. **For practice, assume finished grade must fall at least 5 in. within the first 8 ft from the foundation. A fictional grading plan shows 100.00 ft at the wall and 99.55 ft at 8 ft out. What is the result?**
   A. 0.45 in. of fall, so it fails
   B. 5.4 in. of fall, so it meets the rule
   C. 4.5 in. of fall, so it fails
   D. 5.4 in. of fall, so it fails

8. **A fictional house is on a site whose design wind speed in the jurisdiction's table is above the limit for the IRC's prescriptive framing rules. The plans use only the prescriptive tables. What should the plans examiner ask for?**
   A. Nothing, since the prescriptive tables cover any wind speed
   B. Extra nails at the roof edges only
   C. An engineered design for wind
   D. A note that the builder will add hurricane ties

9. **A fictional mechanical plan shows the clothes dryer exhaust duct ending in the attic. What should the plans examiner ask for?**
   A. Nothing, if the attic is ventilated
   B. The duct carried to an outdoor termination
   C. A lint screen at the duct's end in the attic
   D. Nothing, if the dryer is electric

10. **A fictional floor plan shows a water heater set directly in front of the main electrical panel in a garage. What should the plans examiner ask for?**
    A. A layout that keeps the working space in front of the panel clear
    B. Nothing, if the water heater is electric
    C. A sign on the water heater reading electrical panel behind
    D. Nothing, if the panel is mounted higher on the wall

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Answer key

ICC R3 Residential Plans Examiner. One line of why for each answer.

1. **C** 11 x 12 = 132 sq ft, and 5% of 132 is 6.6 sq ft. 13.2 sq ft uses 10%.
2. **A** 111 ÷ 15 = 7.4 in. 7.9 in. divides by 14 risers.
3. **B** Protection against falling through an operable window sits with guards, in the Chapter 3 section on guards and window fall protection.
4. **D** Glazing in walls enclosing tubs and showers, low enough that a person could fall against it, is a hazardous location and needs labeled safety glazing.
5. **A** A deep window well is a pit someone must climb out of, so the code requires a permanently attached ladder or steps beyond a set depth.
6. **D** A stair with that many risers needs a handrail on at least one side, at the required height and graspable.
7. **B** 100.00 99.55 = 0.45 ft, and 0.45 x 12 = 5.4 in., which meets 5 in. 0.45 in. forgets to convert feet.
8. **C** Where a site is beyond the limits the prescriptive rules cover, the design must be engineered for those loads.
9. **B** Dryer exhaust carries lint and moisture and must terminate outdoors.
10. **A** A panel needs a clear working space of set width, depth and height in front of it so it can be worked on safely, and equipment cannot sit in that space.

Full explanations

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