



# AICP<sup>Q&As</sup>

American Institute of Certified Planners Exam

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**QUESTION 1**

What is the largest tribal land holding in acres? (note for all others that are not the answer they are the answer to other questions that you should know).

- A. 40 Million
- B. 52 Million
- C. 191 Million
- D. 16 Million

Correct Answer: D

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**QUESTION 2**

Scenario

You are a planner in a city that has recently opened a new shelter for homeless people. The shelter opens each evening during the winter and provides a place for people to sleep during the night in dormitory-style rooms with cots. Some community members would like the shelter closed because they feel that the large number of people who congregate on the sidewalks near the shelter as they wait for it to open pose a threat to public safety. Your planning director decides to address these concerns by classifying the shelter as a hotel. The planning director knows that the zoning ordinance specifies that a hotel must provide private sleeping quarters, which the shelter does not. By classifying the shelter as a hotel, the planning director is taking steps to close the shelter based on the ground that it is in violation of the zoning ordinance. Suppose you have reviewed the situation carefully and believe that the director made an unethical decision. What might you do?

- A. Answer: See the solution below

Correct Answer: A

If the director is a member of the AICP, then you might discuss the situation with the AICP Ethics Officer (Procedures 2 and 3) You may decide to file a charge of unethical conduct with the AICP ethics Officer (Procedure 5). Beware that this course of action will probably result in a tense work environment and should only be followed after careful consideration.

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**QUESTION 3**

Which is Hoyt associated with?

- A. Concentric ring
- B. Central place
- C. Multi-nuclei
- D. Sector



Correct Answer: D

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#### QUESTION 4

You are the planning director in a small town. Your husband runs the local country club and is applying for construction of a new swimming pool. This application will be reviewed by the planning commission for approval. This situation clearly:

- A. Constitutes a conflict of interest according to the AICP Code of Ethics.
- B. Happens every time an application for a swimming pool comes before the planning commission.
- C. May lead to your loss of employment.
- D. Does not lead to any ethical conflicts.

Correct Answer: A

See Ethical Principle 2 and Rules of Conduct 6 and 19. When a decision is presented publicly, you might want to note the situation and to explain how the potential conflict of interest was addressed.

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#### QUESTION 5

Who founded the Sierra Club and when?

- A. John Muir, 1892
- B. John Muir, 1893
- C. Jacob Riis, 1892
- D. Jacob Riis, 1893

Correct Answer: A

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#### QUESTION 6

Scenario

You are a planner in a community with a new sign ordinance that prohibits banners from being strung across the road. The ordinance was adopted in response to several unattractive advertising banners that had frequently been strung across

local roads and often become entangled with electrical wires. On your way to work one morning, you see that a community group has strung a banner across the main street that advertises an upcoming charity event that will generate

thousands of dollars for needy families. You know that the money is greatly needed and that local officials and residents support the event.

What might you do in the long run?



A. Answer: See the solution below

Correct Answer: A

If you feel that the ordinance is inappropriate for your community, you might decide to begin the process of modifying the language of the ordinance. With the approval of your supervisors, you might work with the city attorney to draft new language for the ordinance and place the item on the agenda for discussion at the next planning commission meeting

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### QUESTION 7

Generation X are those born between the years of?

A. 1977-2000

B. 1965-1976

C. 1940-1945

D. 1946-1964

Correct Answer: B

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### QUESTION 8

Where was the first urban growth boundary established in the US?

A. Portland, Oregon

B. Lancaster, Pennsylvania

C. Los Angeles, California

D. Lexington, Kentucky

Correct Answer: D

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### QUESTION 9

Which of the following is Peter Drucker associated?

A. ZBB

B. PERT

C. MBO

D. TIF

Correct Answer: C

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**QUESTION 10**

Who is known for Management by Objective (MBO)?

- A. Calthrope
- B. Bettman
- C. Drucker
- D. Burgess

Correct Answer: C

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**QUESTION 11**

Which is Burgess associated with?

- A. Sector
- B. Concentric ring
- C. Multi-nuclei
- D. Central place

Correct Answer: B

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**QUESTION 12**

What percentage of Americans lived in urbanized areas in the 2000 Census, the shortest since 1820?

- A. 86%
- B. 78%
- C. 68%
- D. 50%

Correct Answer: C

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**QUESTION 13**

Who was known for satisficing?

- A. Friedmann
- B. Lindblom
- C. Krumholz



D. Simon

Correct Answer: D

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#### QUESTION 14

Which year was the Americans with Disabilities Act passed?

A. 1990

B. 1992

C. 1994

D. 1996

Correct Answer: A

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#### QUESTION 15

Scenario

A site application is complete and is about to go before the planning commission. As a member of the planning staff, you believe there is the appearance of a conflict of interest for a planning commissioner who owns property near the proposed site and stands to benefit from the increase in property value that the new development is projected to generate. What might you do?

A. Answer: See the solution below

Correct Answer: A

First, consider what should already have happened before the application was about to go before the planning commission. Clearly, you should know about any laws in your state or jurisdiction that apply to such a situation and should follow the law. The potential conflict should have been identified well before this. After noticing the conflict, based on office protocol, it must be decided who will approach (or confront) the commissioner about the conflict of interest. If your boss is unwilling to explain the conflict of interest, you must decide how you will handle this. You might ask the APA Ethics Officer for informal advice on what you should do (Procedure 2). Whoever brings the conflict to the attention of the commissioner should recommend that the commissioner recuse himself or herself from the planning commission meeting. Suppose the potential conflict only became apparent at the time of the meeting. At that point in time, you should explain the problem to the planning director. Then, the planning director and the commissioner might consult privately and decide what to do; if the law is clear, obviously the decision must be to follow the law. If the decision is made that the commissioner should recuse himself or herself from the decision-making process, then the commissioner should leave the room. Recusing oneself means more than just sitting there quietly. In addition, the commissioner must not engage in future discussions with the board or planning staff about the application (Ethical Principle 2). Suppose the law on what constitutes a conflict of interests is not clear or does not exist and suppose that the commissioner says that this is silly and that there is no conflict of interest. Then you might go to the jurisdictional attorney for guidance. If the commissioner continues to participate in the process, you should clearly state the conflict in your report (Rule of Conduct 19).



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