Board Exam Desk

Interior Design Reviewer

Interior Design Licensure Examination | PRC | 120 original questions

2026 Edition | Updated November 2026

Original board-style practice questions with an answer key.

Practice questions

History of Interior Design

1. Ancient Egyptian chairs and beds commonly had legs carved to resemble what?

A. Twisted rope-like spiral columns
B. Animal legs ending in paws or hooves
C. Fluted shafts with Doric capitals
D. Cabriole legs with ball-and-claw feet

2. The klismos, a chair with a concave back rail and outward-curving saber legs, originated in which civilization?

A. Ancient Egypt
B. Imperial Rome
C. The Byzantine Empire
D. Ancient Greece

3. In a Roman house, which central hall had a roof opening above and a shallow basin below to catch rainwater?

A. Peristyle
B. Triclinium
C. Tablinum
D. Atrium

4. Which piece of furniture was the most essential and versatile item in a typical medieval household, used for storage, seating and travel?

A. The chest or coffer
B. The commode
C. The secretary desk
D. The console table

5. Carved wood paneling that imitates vertically folded cloth, common in late Gothic and Tudor rooms, is known as what?

A. Linenfold paneling
B. Strapwork paneling
C. Coffered paneling
D. Boiserie paneling

6. What is the richly painted or carved Italian Renaissance chest traditionally made for a bride's dowry?

A. Sgabello
B. Credenza
C. Cassone
D. Savonarola

7. Which royal workshop in Paris was organized under Louis XIV to supply tapestries and furnishings for the court?

A. The Sèvres porcelain works
B. The Meissen porcelain works
C. The Gobelins manufactory
D. The Wedgwood pottery works

8. Asymmetrical shell and rock motifs, pastel colors and the cabriole leg characterize which French period?

A. Louis XV (Rococo)
B. Louis XIV (Baroque)
C. Louis XVI (Neoclassical)
D. Directoire

9. During which French period did straight, tapered and fluted legs replace the cabriole leg on fashionable furniture?

A. Louis XV
B. Régence
C. Louis XVI
D. Louis XIII

10. Which English cabinetmaker published the pattern book The Gentleman and Cabinet-Maker's Director in the 1750s?

A. George Hepplewhite
B. Thomas Chippendale
C. Thomas Sheraton
D. Robert Adam

11. The shield-back chair is most closely associated with which 18th-century English furniture designer?

A. Thomas Chippendale
B. George Hepplewhite
C. William Kent
D. Thomas Hope

12. Plain ladder-back chairs, oval boxes and wall peg rails for hanging chairs are hallmarks of interiors made by which group?

A. The Bauhaus faculty
B. The Wiener Werkstätte
C. The Shakers
D. The De Stijl circle

13. Michael Thonet is best known for developing which furniture-making technique?

A. Cantilevering frames of tubular steel
B. Molding plywood in two directions
C. Steam-bending solid wood into curves
D. Injection-molding plastic shells

14. Which movement, led by William Morris, opposed industrial mass production and promoted honest handcraftsmanship?

A. Arts and Crafts
B. Art Deco
C. International Style
D. Memphis

15. Whiplash curves and plant-inspired ironwork, as in Victor Horta's houses in Brussels, define which style?

A. Art Deco
B. Neoclassicism
C. Art Nouveau
D. Brutalism

16. Who designed the Wassily chair, one of the first chairs made of bent tubular steel?

A. Marcel Breuer
B. Ludwig Mies van der Rohe
C. Le Corbusier
D. Alvar Aalto

17. The Barcelona chair was designed for the German Pavilion at the 1929 International Exposition by whom?

A. Marcel Breuer
B. Eero Saarinen
C. Ludwig Mies van der Rohe
D. Charles Eames

18. Which design pair created the molded plywood and leather lounge chair with ottoman introduced in 1956?

A. Alison and Peter Smithson
B. Robert and James Adam
C. Charles and Ray Eames
D. Florence and Hans Knoll

19. Gerrit Rietveld's Red and Blue Chair, built of flat boards and rails in primary colors, is an icon of which movement?

A. Art Nouveau
B. Arts and Crafts
C. De Stijl
D. Memphis Group

20. Le Corbusier's proportioning system based on human stature and the golden ratio is called what?

A. The Ken
B. The Modulor
C. The Tatami module
D. The Vitruvian canon

21. In traditional Japanese interiors, what are the translucent paper-covered sliding screens called?

A. Tatami
B. Tokonoma
C. Shoji
D. Engawa

22. What material traditionally fills the small grid of the sliding window panels of a bahay na bato?

A. Flattened capiz shells
B. Woven rattan strips
C. Leaded stained glass
D. Thin narra veneer

23. In a bahay na bato, the small openings below the windowsill fitted with balusters or grilles for extra airflow are called what?

A. Volada
B. Caida
C. Azotea
D. Ventanillas

24. Geometric zigzags, sunburst motifs, lacquer and chrome, popularized by the 1925 Paris exposition, define which style?

A. Art Nouveau
B. Art Deco
C. Rococo
D. Postmodernism

Theory of Interior Design

25. Which of the following is an element of design rather than a principle of design?

A. Texture
B. Balance
C. Rhythm
D. Emphasis

26. Dining chairs arranged evenly around a round table, all oriented toward its center, illustrate which type of balance?

A. Asymmetrical balance
B. Bilateral balance
C. Radial balance
D. Informal balance

27. A tall cabinet on one side of a fireplace is offset by a cluster of small framed prints and a lamp on the other. This is an example of what?

A. Symmetrical balance
B. Radial balance
C. Asymmetrical balance
D. Rhythm by repetition

28. Picture frames on a stair wall that increase steadily in size from the bottom step to the top show which kind of rhythm?

A. Repetition
B. Alternation
C. Gradation
D. Opposition

29. The golden mean, long used to judge pleasing proportions, is approximately which ratio?

A. 1 : 1.414
B. 1 : 1.618
C. 1 : 1.333
D. 1 : 1.250

30. In interior design, what does the term scale specifically describe?

A. The ratio of parts within one single object
B. The repetition of a motif at even intervals
C. An object's size relative to people or the space
D. The dominance of one element over the rest

31. In the Munsell color system, which dimension describes the lightness or darkness of a color?

A. Value
B. Chroma
C. Hue
D. Temperature

32. On the traditional red-yellow-blue color wheel, which hue is the complement of blue?

A. Green
B. Violet
C. Orange
D. Red

33. A scheme of yellow combined with red-violet and blue-violet is an example of which color harmony?

A. Triadic
B. Split-complementary
C. Analogous
D. Double-complementary

34. A scheme built on blue, blue-green and green, which sit side by side on the wheel, is called what?

A. Complementary
B. Triadic
C. Analogous
D. Monochromatic

35. Adding white to a pure hue produces which of the following?

A. A shade
B. A tone
C. A tint
D. A neutral

36. Which color treatment helps a long, narrow room appear better proportioned?

A. A warm, deep color on the short end walls
B. A warm, deep color on the long side walls
C. A pale, cool color on the short end walls
D. Bold vertical stripes on the long walls

37. A neutral gray patch looks faintly greenish when set on a large red field. What is this effect called?

A. Metamerism
B. Color constancy
C. Chromatic aberration
D. Simultaneous contrast

38. Two upholstery samples match under the showroom's fluorescent lamps but differ in daylight. What is this phenomenon?

A. Simultaneous contrast
B. Light fading
C. Metamerism
D. The Bezold effect

39. Strong horizontal lines, such as long low shelves and banding, generally give an interior what quality?

A. Height and dignity
B. Restfulness and stability
C. Movement and tension
D. Energy and conflict

40. A large artwork that draws the eye as soon as one enters a living room applies which design principle?

A. Proportion
B. Unity
C. Emphasis
D. Transition

41. What is the study of human body measurements that is used to size furniture and spaces called?

A. Proxemics
B. Anthropometrics
C. Biomimicry
D. Kinesthetics

42. Edward T. Hall's study of how people use and perceive distances of personal space is called what?

A. Anthropometrics
B. Gestalt theory
C. Wayfinding
D. Proxemics

43. Which Gestalt principle explains why chairs placed close together are perceived as one seating group?

A. Closure
B. Proximity
C. Similarity
D. Continuity

44. Approximately what seat height from the floor is typical for a standard dining chair used with a 750 mm table?

A. About 300 mm
B. About 450 mm
C. About 600 mm
D. About 750 mm

45. In residential kitchen planning, the work triangle connects which three work centers?

A. Sink, dishwasher and pantry
B. Cooktop, oven hood and island
C. Sink, cooktop and refrigerator
D. Refrigerator, pantry and table

46. Which kitchen layout places all appliances and counters along a single wall?

A. Galley kitchen
B. L-shaped kitchen
C. U-shaped kitchen
D. One-wall kitchen

47. During programming, what is a bubble diagram mainly used for?

A. Specifying finishes and their suppliers
B. Detailing joinery and construction
C. Showing adjacencies and relationships between spaces
D. Listing furniture with exact dimensions

48. Mixing a hue with a small amount of its complement mainly changes which color property?

A. It raises the value to a tint
B. It shifts the hue to its neighbor
C. It lowers the intensity or chroma
D. It raises the saturation further

Materials and Methods of Construction

49. Botanically, hardwood lumber comes from which kind of tree?

A. Cone-bearing needle-leaved trees
B. Broad-leaved flowering trees
C. Palms and other monocots
D. Bamboos and giant grasses

50. Narra, the national tree of the Philippines and a prized furniture wood, belongs to which genus?

A. Shorea
B. Pterocarpus
C. Tectona
D. Swietenia

51. Lumber sawn so the growth rings meet the face at a steep angle, giving straight grain and better stability, is called what?

A. Quartersawn
B. Plain-sawn
C. Rotary-peeled
D. Crosscut end grain

52. Why is plywood normally built with an odd number of veneers laid at right angles?

A. So the panel can be bent easily on site
B. So glue lines fall at the panel's center
C. So the panel weighs less per square metre
D. So the face plies match and the panel stays balanced

53. Medium-density fiberboard (MDF) is manufactured from what?

A. Thin veneers glued with alternating grain
B. Large oriented strands pressed in layers
C. A gypsum core faced with heavy paper
D. Wood fibers bonded with resin under heat and pressure

54. Where does gypsum board get most of its fire resistance?

A. A fiberglass mesh on the face paper
B. Chemically bound water released as steam
C. A coat of fire-retardant paint
D. Its low density and trapped air

55. In a suspended ceiling with lay-in acoustic panels, what is the network of main runners and cross tees called?

A. An exposed T-bar grid
B. A furring strip lattice
C. A joist hanger system
D. A purlin frame

56. What mainly distinguishes porcelain tile from ordinary ceramic wall tile?

A. A dense body with very low water absorption
B. A thicker glaze applied on the face only
C. A softer body that is easy to cut by hand
D. A larger size with slightly rounded edges

57. When tempered glass breaks, how does it behave?

A. It cracks but stays bonded to an interlayer
B. It splits into long, sharp shards
C. It sags and softens without breaking
D. It shatters into small, blunt granules

58. Which glass remains in its frame when broken because a plastic interlayer holds the fragments together?

A. Tempered glass
B. Annealed float glass
C. Tinted float glass
D. Laminated glass

59. Which stone is metamorphic, formed from recrystallized limestone, and readily etched by acidic spills such as vinegar?

A. Granite
B. Marble
C. Sandstone
D. Slate

60. A floor finish of marble chips set in a cement or resin binder, then ground and polished, is called what?

A. Vinyl composition tile
B. Stamped concrete
C. Epoxy self-leveler
D. Terrazzo

61. Which of these textile fibers is a natural protein fiber?

A. Cotton
B. Linen
C. Jute
D. Wool

62. Piña cloth, the fine sheer fabric used for formal Filipino garments, is woven from fibers obtained from what?

A. Abaca leaf stalks
B. Coconut husks
C. Pineapple leaves
D. Silkworm cocoons

63. The Wyzenbeek and Martindale tests are used to rate which property of upholstery fabric?

A. Lightfastness
B. Flammability
C. Seam slippage
D. Abrasion resistance

64. In carpet construction, a surface of sheared tufts whose fiber ends stand upright, as in plush and saxony, is called what?

A. Cut pile
B. Level loop pile
C. Multilevel loop pile
D. Needle-punched felt

65. In paint, which component holds pigment particles together and bonds the film to the surface?

A. The pigment
B. The solvent
C. The extender
D. The binder

66. Which paint sheen best hides minor bumps and patches on a wall?

A. High gloss
B. Flat or matte
C. Semi-gloss
D. Gloss enamel

67. Which strong traditional joint for chair rails and table aprons fits a projecting tongue into a cut cavity?

A. Butt joint
B. Miter joint
C. Mortise and tenon
D. Rabbet joint

68. Interlocking flared pins and tails, often used at the corners of quality drawers, form which joint?

A. Dovetail joint
B. Dowel joint
C. Biscuit joint
D. Tongue-and-groove joint

69. In veneering, flipping every other leaf like the pages of a book to create mirror-image patterns is called what?

A. Slip matching
B. Random matching
C. End matching
D. Book matching

70. A room measures 5.4 m by 4.2 m. How many 600 mm by 600 mm floor tiles are needed, ignoring waste and joints?

A. 60 tiles
B. 70 tiles
C. 57 tiles
D. 63 tiles

71. A 4 m by 5 m room has 2.7 m high walls, one 0.9 m by 2.1 m door and one 1.5 m by 1.2 m window. How many litres of paint are needed for two coats at 10 m² per litre?

A. About 9.7 L
B. About 9.0 L
C. About 4.5 L
D. About 10.8 L

72. Broadloom carpet comes in 4 m wide rolls. How many square metres must be bought to cover a 3.6 m by 5.0 m room in one piece without a seam?

A. 18.0 m²
B. 14.4 m²
C. 25.0 m²
D. 20.0 m²

Building Utilities

73. One lux is equal to which of the following?

A. One candela per square metre
B. One lumen per square foot
C. One watt per square metre
D. One lumen per square metre

74. In what unit is the luminous efficacy of a lamp expressed?

A. Candelas
B. Lux
C. Kelvins
D. Lumens per watt

75. A lamp with a correlated color temperature of 2700 K will appear as which kind of light?

A. Warm, yellowish white
B. Cool, bluish white
C. Neutral, pure white
D. Deep red-orange

76. What does the Color Rendering Index (CRI) of a light source indicate?

A. How warm or cool its light appears
B. How much light it gives per watt
C. How long it lasts before failing
D. How faithfully it reveals object colors

77. A downlight has a luminous intensity of 1,200 cd straight down. What is the illuminance on the floor 3 m directly below it?

A. About 400 lux
B. About 44 lux
C. About 3,600 lux
D. About 133 lux

78. An 8 m by 6 m office needs 400 lux. Each luminaire gives 3,600 lm, the coefficient of utilization is 0.6 and the light loss factor is 0.8. How many luminaires are required?

A. 12 luminaires
B. 11 luminaires
C. 9 luminaires
D. 7 luminaires

79. A room is 10 m long and 8 m wide with a 2.0 m room cavity height. What is its room cavity ratio?

A. 2.25
B. 4.50
C. 1.13
D. 3.60

80. Lighting used to highlight artwork, usually several times brighter than the surrounding general light, is called what?

A. Accent lighting
B. Ambient lighting
C. Task lighting
D. Emergency lighting

81. A target of 50 footcandles is specified on an imported drawing. What is the approximate equivalent in lux?

A. About 465 lux
B. About 50 lux
C. About 5 lux
D. About 538 lux

82. A room has a volume of 200 m³ and total sound absorption of 40 m² sabins. Using the Sabine formula, what is its reverberation time?

A. About 0.80 s
B. About 5.00 s
C. About 1.61 s
D. About 0.32 s

83. Which rating describes how well a wall assembly blocks airborne sound passing between two rooms?

A. Sound Transmission Class (STC)
B. Noise Reduction Coefficient (NRC)
C. Impact Insulation Class (IIC)
D. Ceiling Attenuation Class (CAC)

84. What does the Noise Reduction Coefficient (NRC) of an acoustic panel tell the designer?

A. Its sound blocking through a wall
B. Its resistance to impact noise
C. Its loudness in decibels
D. Its average sound absorption

85. What is the main purpose of the water-filled trap under a lavatory?

A. To raise water pressure at the faucet
B. To filter grease from the waste water
C. To measure water use of the fixture
D. To keep sewer gases out of the room

86. Why does a plumbing drainage system need vent pipes?

A. To carry hot water to fixtures
B. To drain storm water from roofs
C. To add pressure to the supply line
D. To protect trap seals from siphonage

87. What does a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protect against?

A. Overheating of overloaded wiring
B. Voltage surges from lightning
C. Shock from current leaking to ground
D. Low voltage that harms motors

88. An appliance rated 2,200 W runs on a 220 V supply. Approximately what current does it draw?

A. 10 A
B. 20 A
C. 5 A
D. 100 A

89. In a split-type air conditioner, which main components are housed in the outdoor unit?

A. The compressor and condenser
B. The evaporator and filter
C. The blower and air louvers
D. The thermostat and remote

90. One ton of refrigeration, a common rating for air-conditioning capacity, equals about how much?

A. 1,000 BTU per hour
B. 3,412 BTU per hour
C. 12,000 BTU per hour
D. 9,000 BTU per hour

91. How do standard automatic fire sprinkler heads operate?

A. All heads open together on any smoke alarm
B. Each opens when heat at that head breaks its bulb
C. Each opens when a guard turns a floor valve
D. All heads open when the main power fails

92. A Class A fire involves which kind of fuel?

A. Flammable liquids and grease
B. Wood, paper and cloth
C. Energized electrical equipment
D. Combustible metals

93. Under the implementing rules of BP 344, the Accessibility Law, what is the maximum gradient allowed for a ramp?

A. 1 : 8
B. 1 : 20
C. 1 : 12
D. 1 : 5

94. Which law is the National Building Code of the Philippines?

A. RA 9514
B. BP 344
C. PD 1096
D. RA 9266

95. Republic Act 9514, which interior designers must consider in exits and finishes, is known as what?

A. The National Building Code
B. The Fire Code of the Philippines of 2008
C. The Accessibility Law
D. The Philippine Green Building Code

96. What is the main function of a light shelf installed on a window?

A. To block all direct sunlight entirely
B. To reflect daylight deeper into the room
C. To hold plants and decor at the sill
D. To support the window head structurally

Professional Practice and Ethics

97. Republic Act 10350, which regulates the practice of interior design, is known by what title?

A. The Philippine Interior Design Act of 2012
B. The Architecture Act of 2004
C. The Philippine Green Building Code
D. The Accessibility Law

98. The Board of Interior Design, which conducts the licensure examination, operates under which government agency?

A. The Commission on Higher Education
B. The Professional Regulation Commission
C. The Department of Public Works and Highways
D. The Technical Education and Skills Authority

99. In the usual sequence of design services, which phase comes immediately after schematic design?

A. Programming
B. Design development
C. Contract documents
D. Contract administration

100. Gathering the client's needs, space requirements and budget before any design is drawn is called what?

A. Design development
B. Bidding
C. Programming
D. Punch listing

101. In interior design projects, what does FF&E stand for?

A. Furniture, fixtures and equipment
B. Finishes, floors and elevations
C. Fabrics, fittings and enclosures
D. Furnishings, fees and expenses

102. A specification that names one manufacturer's product and allows no substitutes is what type?

A. Performance specification
B. Descriptive specification
C. Reference standard specification
D. Proprietary specification

103. A specification that states required results, such as minimum abrasion cycles and fire rating, and leaves product choice to the bidder is what type?

A. Performance specification
B. Proprietary specification
C. Closed specification
D. Sole-source specification

104. An interior designer charges 8 percent of the project cost. What is the fee for a project costing PHP 2,500,000?

A. PHP 20,000
B. PHP 200,000
C. PHP 180,000
D. PHP 312,500

105. Which compensation method sets a fixed sum agreed in advance for a clearly defined scope of work?

A. Lump-sum fee
B. Hourly rate
C. Percentage of project cost
D. Cost plus fee

106. A designer bills 36 hours at PHP 1,500 per hour plus PHP 6,000 in reimbursable expenses. What is the total bill?

A. PHP 60,000
B. PHP 54,000
C. PHP 66,000
D. PHP 48,000

107. Furniture costs the designer PHP 40,000 and is resold with a 25 percent markup on cost. What is the selling price?

A. PHP 53,333
B. PHP 50,000
C. PHP 45,000
D. PHP 65,000

108. What is the written document signed by the owner and contractor that authorizes a change in the work, contract sum or time?

A. A change order
B. A punch list
C. A shop drawing
D. A purchase order

109. What is the list of incomplete or defective items prepared near substantial completion of a project?

A. A bill of materials
B. A finish schedule
C. A bid tabulation
D. A punch list

110. Detailed drawings prepared by a fabricator showing how a millwork piece will be built and installed are called what?

A. Presentation drawings
B. As-built drawings
C. Schematic drawings
D. Shop drawings

111. Drawings that record the conditions actually installed at the end of construction are called what?

A. Shop drawings
B. Schematic drawings
C. Working drawings
D. As-built drawings

112. Asking only a short list of prequalified contractors to submit bids is called what?

A. Invited bidding
B. Open bidding
C. Design-build
D. Force account

113. A designer secretly accepts a commission from a supplier on items specified for a client. What is this chiefly?

A. A normal retail markup
B. A proper reimbursable expense
C. A standard retention fee
D. An undisclosed conflict of interest

114. Under common professional practice, how are a designer's drawings and specifications for a project regarded?

A. Property of the contractor who builds them
B. Instruments of service owned by the designer
C. Public documents free for any reuse
D. Property of the supplier named in them

115. A licensed professional signs and seals plans prepared by someone not under his or her supervision. How is this practice viewed?

A. Acceptable peer review
B. Unethical plan stamping
C. Normal delegation of tasks
D. Routine permit processing

116. What is retention money in a construction or fit-out contract?

A. A deposit paid to the designer at signing
B. A part of each payment held until completion
C. A penalty charged for each day of delay
D. A fee paid for permits and inspections

117. Which scheduling tool shows project tasks as horizontal bars along a timeline?

A. Bubble diagram
B. Gantt chart
C. Adjacency matrix
D. Stacking plan

118. In project scheduling, what is the longest chain of dependent activities that sets the minimum project duration called?

A. The float path
B. The milestone line
C. The critical path
D. The baseline budget

119. Under the Civil Code of the Philippines, what are the essential requisites of a contract?

A. Consent, object and cause
B. Offer, signature and notarization
C. Price, delivery and warranty
D. Consent, witnesses and registration

120. In a design-build project delivery, how are design and construction provided?

A. By separate firms bid in sequence
B. By a single entity under one contract
C. By the owner using own work crews
D. By the supplier under a sales order

Answer key

Interior Design

1. B. Animal legs ending in paws or hooves

Egyptian furniture often stood on carved lion paws or bull hooves; the cabriole and ball-and-claw foot came many centuries later.

2. D. Ancient Greece

The klismos appears on Greek vase paintings and grave reliefs and was later revived in Neoclassical furniture.

3. D. Atrium

The atrium had a compluvium in the roof and an impluvium basin; the peristyle was a colonnaded garden court.

4. A. The chest or coffer

Medieval households were mobile, so the chest served as storage, seat, table and luggage; the others are later forms.

5. A. Linenfold paneling

Linenfold carving mimics draped linen; strapwork is interlaced band ornament and boiserie is French carved wainscot.

6. C. Cassone

The cassone was a marriage chest; the sgabello is a small chair, the credenza a sideboard and the Savonarola a folding X-chair.

7. C. The Gobelins manufactory

The Gobelins became a royal manufactory under Colbert in the 1660s; Meissen is German and Wedgwood is English.

8. A. Louis XV (Rococo)

Rococo under Louis XV favored lightness and asymmetry, unlike the grand symmetry of Louis XIV or the classical restraint of Louis XVI.

9. C. Louis XVI

Interest in classical antiquity under Louis XVI brought straight fluted legs; the Régence and Louis XV used curved forms.

10. B. Thomas Chippendale

Chippendale's Director (1754) spread his designs widely; Hepplewhite and Sheraton published their own guides later.

11. B. George Hepplewhite

Hepplewhite's Guide popularized the shield-shaped chair back; Chippendale is linked with ribbon backs and ball-and-claw feet.

12. C. The Shakers

The Shakers, a 19th-century American religious community, valued simplicity and utility and hung chairs on peg rails to clear floors.

13. C. Steam-bending solid wood into curves

Thonet's bentwood process allowed mass production of light chairs such as the café chair No. 14.

14. A. Arts and Crafts

Morris and the Arts and Crafts movement valued handwork and natural materials in reaction to Victorian factory goods.

15. C. Art Nouveau

Horta was a leading Art Nouveau architect; the style used flowing organic lines around 1890 to 1910.

16. A. Marcel Breuer

Breuer designed it at the Bauhaus in the mid-1920s, reportedly inspired by bicycle handlebars.

17. C. Ludwig Mies van der Rohe

Mies van der Rohe designed both the pavilion and the chair, with its X-shaped steel frame and leather cushions.

18. C. Charles and Ray Eames

The Eames Lounge Chair was produced by Herman Miller; the Adam brothers worked in 18th-century Britain.

19. C. De Stijl

De Stijl reduced form to straight lines, planes and primary colors plus black, white and gray.

20. B. The Modulor

The Modulor links body dimensions to Fibonacci-like series; the ken and tatami are traditional Japanese measures.

21. C. Shoji

Shoji admit diffused light; tatami are floor mats, the tokonoma is a display alcove and the engawa is a veranda.

22. A. Flattened capiz shells

Translucent capiz shells were set in wooden lattices, softening tropical sunlight while letting light through.

23. D. Ventanillas

Ventanillas sit under the main windows; the volada is the projecting gallery, the caida the hall at the stair top and the azotea an open terrace.

24. B. Art Deco

The 1925 Exposition des Arts Décoratifs gave Art Deco its name and its sleek, geometric vocabulary.

25. A. Texture

Elements are the basic components such as line, form, color and texture; balance, rhythm and emphasis are principles for arranging them.

26. C. Radial balance

Radial balance organizes elements around a central point, like spokes of a wheel.

27. C. Asymmetrical balance

Unlike objects of equal visual weight placed on either side of an axis create informal or asymmetrical balance.

28. C. Gradation

Gradation or progression is a gradual change in size, color or spacing that leads the eye along a path.

29. B. 1 : 1.618

The golden ratio is $(1 + \sqrt{5})/2 \approx 1.618$; 1.414 is $\sqrt{2}$, the ratio used for ISO paper sizes.

30. C. An object's size relative to people or the space

Scale compares an object with the human body or its setting; proportion is the relationship of parts within a whole.

31. A. Value

Munsell uses hue, value (lightness) and chroma (strength or saturation).

32. C. Orange

Complements sit directly opposite each other; orange, a mix of red and yellow, is opposite blue.

33. B. Split-complementary

Violet is yellow's complement; using the two hues on either side of violet gives a split-complementary scheme.

34. C. Analogous

Analogous harmonies use adjacent hues that share a common parent color, here blue.

35. C. A tint

White produces a tint, black produces a shade and gray produces a tone.

36. A. A warm, deep color on the short end walls

Warm, dark colors advance, visually pulling the far end walls closer and making the room look less elongated.

37. D. Simultaneous contrast

Adjacent colors shift each other's appearance; a gray beside red takes on a tinge of red's complement, green.

38. C. Metamerism

Metameric pairs match under one light source but not another because their spectral reflectances differ.

39. B. Restfulness and stability

Horizontal lines suggest repose; vertical lines suggest height and formality, and diagonals suggest movement.

40. C. Emphasis

Emphasis establishes a focal point that dominates the composition and organizes the rest of the room around it.

41. B. Anthropometrics

Anthropometric data, such as seated eye height or reach, set dimensions for counters, seats and clearances.

42. D. Proxemics

Hall defined intimate, personal, social and public distance zones, which inform seating and workplace layouts.

43. B. Proximity

By the law of proximity, elements near each other are read as belonging together.

44. B. About 450 mm

A seat near 450 mm leaves roughly 300 mm between seat and tabletop, a comfortable relationship for dining.

45. C. Sink, cooktop and refrigerator

The triangle links the cold storage, cleaning and cooking centers to keep walking distances efficient.

46. D. One-wall kitchen

The one-wall or straight layout suits small units; a galley has two parallel runs.

47. C. Showing adjacencies and relationships between spaces

Bubble diagrams are early, loose sketches of which spaces should be near each other before a scaled plan is drawn.

48. C. It lowers the intensity or chroma

Complements neutralize each other, so a little of the opposite hue dulls the color toward gray without changing its basic hue.

49. B. Broad-leaved flowering trees

Hardwoods are angiosperms and softwoods are conifers; the terms describe botany, not actual hardness.

50. B. Pterocarpus

Narra is Pterocarpus indicus; Shorea includes the lauans, Tectona is teak and Swietenia is mahogany.

51. A. Quartersawn

Quartersawing shrinks and cups less than plain-sawing and shows ray fleck in species such as oak.

52. D. So the face plies match and the panel stays balanced

An odd count puts both faces in the same grain direction, so movement is balanced and the panel resists warping.

53. D. Wood fibers bonded with resin under heat and pressure

MDF is a uniform fiber panel that machines and paints well; plywood uses veneers and OSB uses strands.

54. B. Chemically bound water released as steam

Gypsum contains water of crystallization that absorbs heat as it is driven off, slowing temperature rise; Type X adds glass fibers.

55. A. An exposed T-bar grid

Main runners hung by wires carry cross tees, forming a grid on which panels rest.

56. A. A dense body with very low water absorption

Porcelain tile is fired at high temperature to a dense body absorbing about 0.5 percent water or less, suiting floors and wet areas.

57. D. It shatters into small, blunt granules

Heat tempering puts the surfaces in compression, so failure releases the stored stress into small, less dangerous pieces.

58. D. Laminated glass

Laminated glass bonds plies with an interlayer such as PVB, which is why it is used for overhead and safety glazing.

59. B. Marble

Marble is mostly calcite, which reacts with acids; granite is igneous and slate comes from shale.

60. D. Terrazzo

Terrazzo is poured or precast, then ground smooth to expose the aggregate, often with divider strips.

61. D. Wool

Wool comes from animal hair (keratin); cotton, linen and jute are plant-based cellulosic fibers.

62. C. Pineapple leaves

Piña fiber is scraped from pineapple leaves; abaca comes from a banana relative and coir from coconut husk.

63. D. Abrasion resistance

Both rub the fabric repeatedly and report the cycles before wear, guiding selection for residential or heavy contract use.

64. A. Cut pile

Cutting the loops exposes yarn tips; loop piles keep the yarn uncut and tend to resist crushing better.

65. D. The binder

The binder (resin) forms the film; the solvent only carries it and evaporates, and pigment gives color and hiding.

66. B. Flat or matte

Flat finishes scatter light diffusely, so surface flaws are less visible; glossy finishes highlight them.

67. C. Mortise and tenon

The tenon fits tightly in the mortise, giving large glue surfaces and mechanical strength.

68. A. Dovetail joint

The flare of the dovetail resists pulling apart in the direction a drawer front is pulled.

69. D. Book matching

Book matching yields symmetrical figure across joints; slip matching slides leaves side by side without flipping.

70. D. 63 tiles

5.4 ÷ 0.6 = 9 tiles and 4.2 ÷ 0.6 = 7 tiles, so 9 × 7 = 63 tiles.

71. B. About 9.0 L

Walls: 2 × (4 + 5) × 2.7 = 48.6 m²; less 1.89 + 1.80 = 44.91 m²; two coats = 89.82 m² ÷ 10 = 8.98 L.

72. D. 20.0 m²

Lay the 4 m width across the 3.6 m side and buy 5.0 m of roll: 4 × 5.0 = 20.0 m², though the floor itself is only 18.0 m².

73. D. One lumen per square metre

Lux measures illuminance in lm/m²; a lumen per square foot is a footcandle and cd/m² is a unit of luminance.

74. D. Lumens per watt

Efficacy compares light output to electrical input; LEDs reach far higher lm/W than incandescent lamps.

75. A. Warm, yellowish white

Lower kelvin values look warmer; about 2700 K resembles incandescent light, while 5000 to 6500 K looks cool.

76. D. How faithfully it reveals object colors

CRI compares color appearance under the source with a reference illuminant; warm or cool appearance is CCT, not CRI.

77. D. About 133 lux

By the inverse square law, E = I ÷ d² = 1,200 ÷ 3² = 1,200 ÷ 9 ≈ 133 lux.

78. A. 12 luminaires

N = E × A ÷ (lm × CU × LLF) = 400 × 48 ÷ (3,600 × 0.6 × 0.8) = 19,200 ÷ 1,728 = 11.1, rounded up to 12.

79. A. 2.25

RCR = 5h(L + W) ÷ (L × W) = 5 × 2.0 × 18 ÷ 80 = 180 ÷ 80 = 2.25.

80. A. Accent lighting

Accent lighting creates focal points through contrast with ambient light; task lighting serves visual work.

81. D. About 538 lux

One footcandle is about 10.76 lux, so 50 × 10.76 ≈ 538 lux.

82. A. About 0.80 s

RT = 0.161 V ÷ A = 0.161 × 200 ÷ 40 ≈ 0.80 s.

83. A. Sound Transmission Class (STC)

STC rates airborne sound isolation of partitions; NRC rates absorption and IIC rates floor impact noise.

84. D. Its average sound absorption

NRC averages a material's absorption coefficients at mid frequencies; a value near 1.0 absorbs most incident sound.

85. D. To keep sewer gases out of the room

The water seal in the trap blocks odors and gases from the drainage system while still letting waste flow.

86. D. To protect trap seals from siphonage

Vents admit air and balance pressure so flowing waste does not suck water out of traps.

87. C. Shock from current leaking to ground

A GFCI trips when supply and return currents differ slightly, which is why it is used near water; overloads are handled by breakers.

88. A. 10 A

I = P ÷ V = 2,200 ÷ 220 = 10 A.

89. A. The compressor and condenser

The outdoor unit rejects heat through the condenser; the indoor unit holds the evaporator coil and fan.

90. C. 12,000 BTU per hour

A ton of refrigeration is about 12,000 BTU/h or 3.52 kW; 3,412 BTU/h equals one kilowatt.

91. B. Each opens when heat at that head breaks its bulb

A glass bulb or fusible link releases at a set temperature, so only heads near the fire discharge.

92. B. Wood, paper and cloth

Class A covers ordinary combustibles, best fought with water; Class B is liquids, Class C electrical and Class D metals.

93. C. 1 : 12

BP 344 rules limit ramps to a rise of 1 unit for every 12 units of horizontal run so wheelchair users can manage them.

94. C. PD 1096

The National Building Code is Presidential Decree 1096; RA 9514 is the Fire Code and RA 9266 the Architecture Act.

95. B. The Fire Code of the Philippines of 2008

RA 9514 is the Fire Code of the Philippines of 2008, which governs fire safety in buildings.

96. B. To reflect daylight deeper into the room

The shelf shades the area near the window and bounces light onto the ceiling, spreading daylight farther inside.

97. A. The Philippine Interior Design Act of 2012

RA 10350 is the Philippine Interior Design Act of 2012; the Architecture Act is RA 9266.

98. B. The Professional Regulation Commission

Professional regulatory boards, including the Board of Interior Design, function under the PRC.

99. B. Design development

The typical order is programming, schematic design, design development, contract documents, then contract administration.

100. C. Programming

Programming defines the problem; its results guide every later design phase.

101. A. Furniture, fixtures and equipment

FF&E covers movable furniture and equipment as well as fixtures, often specified and procured separately from construction.

102. D. Proprietary specification

A closed proprietary spec names the exact product; a performance spec states required results instead.

103. A. Performance specification

Performance specs define criteria to be met, which encourages competition among products.

104. B. PHP 200,000

Fee = 0.08 × 2,500,000 = PHP 200,000.

105. A. Lump-sum fee

A lump-sum or fixed fee does not change with hours spent unless the scope changes.

106. A. PHP 60,000

36 × 1,500 = PHP 54,000 in fees, plus PHP 6,000 reimbursables = PHP 60,000.

107. B. PHP 50,000

Markup on cost: 40,000 × 1.25 = PHP 50,000; PHP 53,333 would be a 25 percent margin on selling price.

108. A. A change order

Change orders formally modify the contract after it is signed.

109. D. A punch list

The punch list records items the contractor must finish or correct before final acceptance and payment.

110. D. Shop drawings

Shop drawings are submitted by the contractor or fabricator for the designer's review against the design intent.

111. D. As-built drawings

As-built drawings document deviations made during construction and help with future maintenance and renovation.

112. A. Invited bidding

Invited or selective bidding limits competitors to chosen firms, while open bidding is advertised to all qualified bidders.

113. D. An undisclosed conflict of interest

Hidden payments compromise the designer's duty of loyalty to the client; any such arrangement must be disclosed.

114. B. Instruments of service owned by the designer

Design documents are instruments of service; the designer generally retains the rights unless the contract assigns them.

115. B. Unethical plan stamping

Sealing work one did not prepare or supervise misrepresents responsibility for it and violates professional ethics.

116. B. A part of each payment held until completion

Retention is withheld from progress payments to secure correction of defects and is released after acceptance.

117. B. Gantt chart

A Gantt chart plots each activity's start, duration and finish; bubble diagrams and matrices are space-planning tools.

118. C. The critical path

Any delay to an activity on the critical path delays the whole project, since those activities have zero float.

119. A. Consent, object and cause

The Civil Code requires consent of the parties, a certain object and the cause of the obligation; notarization is generally not essential.

120. B. By a single entity under one contract

Design-build gives the owner a single point of responsibility, unlike the traditional design-bid-build method.

Topics to review

• Space planning and anthropometrics

• Furniture, finishes and construction details

• Lighting, utilities and accessibility

• Design history, color studies and drawing practice

Online question banks and study resources

Interior designer theory exam - Pass Harbor (Question bank)

Official PRC board information

Current PRC exam programs

Independent study material prepared by Board Exam Desk.