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# Career

ISA-CA

*International Society of Arboriculture's Certified Arborist Certification Examination*

## Questions & Answers PDF

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## Question: 1

What is the name for a group within a species that has one trait in complete distinction to the other members of the species and naturally breeds to that trait?

- A. Forma
- B. Subspecies
- C. Cultivar
- D. Variety

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

A variety is a group within a species that has one trait in complete distinction to the other members of the species and naturally breeds to that trait. Forma, on the other hand, are closely related groups in a species, which occur naturally and in the same geographic area but that have some different traits. For instance, the forma within a particular species may produce differently colored flowers. A subspecies, meanwhile, also occurs naturally, and in the same geographic area as the other members of the species, but it has even greater differences with those other members. Cultivars, finally, are plants that differ from the rest of the plants in their species but that require human effort to grow and produce the desired traits.

## Question: 2

The plant growth regulators that inhibit the work of cell-elongating hormones are called

- A. anti-gibberellins.
- B. sieve tube elements.
- C. photosynthates.
- D. macronutrients.

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

The plant growth regulators that inhibit the work of cell-elongating hormones are called anti-gibberellins. These chemicals can be sprayed on leaves, injected into the tree, or applied to the soil. They have been shown to drastically reduce the growth of the tree, which eliminates the need for frequent and costly pruning. However, there remain concerns about the cytotoxicity of anti-gibberellins, and arborists are advised to use the minimum amount necessary.

## Question: 3

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Which of the following metrics provides the most accurate indicator of soil fertility?

- A. Soil pH
- B. Cation exchange capacity
- C. Buffering capacity.
- D. Water-holding capacity

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

Of the given metrics, cation exchange capacity provides the most accurate indicator of soil fertility. Put simply, cation exchange capacity is the ability of the soil to gather, keep, and trade cations. Soil with a fine texture, or that is high in organic matter and clay, will have a high cation exchange capacity, and will tend to be more fertile. When the soil has a high cation exchange capacity, it is better able to transfer minerals and other nutrients to the roots of the tree.

### Question: 4

Which of the following risk assessment techniques is considered the minimum standard?

- A. Root collar excavation
- B. Visual tree assessment
- C. Decay testing
- D. Aerial canopy inspection

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

The visual tree assessment is a systematic appraisal of the external characteristics of the tree and is considered the minimum standard for tree risk assessment. The arborist should be looking for signs of mechanical stress or internal defect. However, this technique is of course limited to the aspects of the tree that can be seen from the outside and is only as comprehensive and insightful as the arborist performing it. In a root collar excavation, on the other hand, soil is removed so that the arborist can investigate the tree's root collar, which is often the place where problems are most evident. In decay testing, the arborist uses a special device to identify rot inside the tree. Finally, in an aerial canopy inspection, the arborist looks at the tree from above and is better able to see problems with the structure of the tree's upper parts.

### Question: 5

What does reference evapotranspiration measure?

- A. The usual amount of rainfall in a given location
- B. The typical water content of the foliage for a species
- C. The water supply in a particular location

D. The expected amount of plant and soil water loss given location and existing vegetation

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

Reference evapotranspiration measures the expected amount of plant and soil water loss given location and existing vegetation. The reference evapotranspiration for a given area is expected to remain consistent over time, and figures often are maintained by the local agricultural commission. Moreover, reference evapotranspiration tables often are subdivided so that the precise effects on particular classes of plants may be identified.

### Question: 6

Xeriscaping is intended to protect the landscape against

- A. drought.
- B. frost.
- C. sunburn.
- D. flood.

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

Xeriscaping is intended to protect the landscape against drought. This technique is often used in areas with low or erratic rainfall. There are a few basic components of a xeriscaping strategy. To begin with, the arborist will bring together trees that require similar amounts of rainfall. These groups of trees are known as hydrozones. Xeriscaping will often include the use of low-impact irrigation. The use of water can be minimized by frequently checking soil moisture, both before and after irrigation.

### Question: 7

The post that is attached to the tree and is wrapped in a load line is known as a

- A. tagline.
- B. bollard.
- C. kerf.
- D. block.

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

The post that is attached to the tree and is wrapped in a load line is known as a bollard.

Bollards are used to create friction when a load is being lowered. In the past, arborists wrapped the rigging lines around the trunk of the tree, but there are now special devices that make this process a

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bit easier. In addition, there are bollards in different sizes, which enables the arborist to obtain a superior bend ratio and thereby decrease the amount of strength lost in the rigging line. The bend ratio is the diameter of the bollard relative to the diameter of the rope. A tagline, meanwhile, is a secondary rope that the arborist uses to control the direction in which a branch or tree falls. A kerf is a cut made in a log by a saw. A block, finally, is large pulley, typically used in rigging operations that will include large dynamic loads.

### Question: 8

A tree is said to be a "barber chair" when

- A. it may be felled without the use of wedges.
- B. it has been topped repeatedly.
- C. it splits upward from a back cut.
- D. it requires guy wires for support.

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

A tree is said to be a "barber chair" when it splits upward from a back cut. This situation is to be avoided whenever possible, as the split trunk may fall towards the person working on the tree.

### Question: 9

In which direction should a chain saw operator move if he or she loses control of the tree while felling?

- A. 45 degrees to either side of a line opposite to the intended direction of fall
- B. In a line opposite to the intended direction of fall
- C. In a line perpendicular to the intended direction of fall
- D. Along the intended direction of the fall

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

If a chain saw operator loses control of the tree while felling, he or she should move along a line 45-degrees to either side of a line opposite to the intended direction of the fall. Moreover, there should not be any other people in the area immediately behind the tree. Many arborists keep felling wedges on hand while the back cut is being made. If necessary, these wedges can be useful for keeping the tree from pinching the bar of the chain saw. Arborists can also use felling wedges to begin and control the fall.

### Question: 10

On which side of a tree should workers stand while limbing or bucking?

- A. The right side of the tree
- B. The left side of the tree
- C. Uphill from the tree
- D. Downhill from the tree

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

Workers should stand uphill from the tree while limbing or bucking. This is to prevent the tree from rolling over on the worker. In some cases, the arborist will need to use a wedge or a block to keep the tree from moving. When multiple workers are limbing or bucking the same tree at the same time, they need to be in constant communication, and should have a pre-established system for approaching or alerting one another. Limbing is the process of cutting the side branches off a tree that has been felled. Bucking is the process of cutting a tree trunk or log into shorter sections that are easier to manipulate.

### Question: 11

Groups of different plants that need roughly the same amount of water are called

- A. hydrozones
- B. aquasets.
- C. drought zones.
- D. xeriscapes.

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

Groups of different plants that need roughly the same amount of water are called hydrozones. Arborists often arrange trees in hydrozones so that watering is easier and less confusing. In addition, when there are variations in elevation at a particular site, the arborist may place trees that need more water at the higher elevations, so that the trees downhill can subsist entirely on the runoff from the water applied to the higher trees.

### Question: 12

What is the goal of integrated pest management?

- A. To introduce species that prey on pests
- B. To promote insect populations
- C. To eradicate pests
- D. To maintain a tolerable level of pest damage

**Answer: D**

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Explanation:

The goal of integrated pest management is to maintain a tolerable level of pest damage.

Integrated pest management was originally devised as an alternative to a reliance on pesticides. It recommends a holistic approach to pest control, which may include limited use of pesticides. More importantly, however, integrated pest management strategies create as little of a disturbance to the preexisting environment as possible and prioritize limiting collateral damage to the non-target organisms (most notably, people).



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