APEGS NPPE Practice Questions

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Question 1

Question Type: MultipleChoice

Which of the following statements about mediation is false?

Options:

A- Mediation provides that if no settlement is reached, all information provided during the proceeding becomes privileged.
B- Mediation is an assisted negotiation process in which a neutral third party facilitates settlement discussion.
C- A mediator must meet with both parties together, never with one party in the absence of the other.
D- Mediation sessions must be attended by a representative of each party.

Answer:

C

Explanation:

NPPE materials explain that mediation is a voluntary, confidential dispute resolution process facilitated by a neutral third party. A key feature of mediation is flexibility. Mediators commonly meet with parties both jointly and separately (called caucusing) to explore interests, clarify positions, and facilitate settlement.

Options A, B, and D are correct descriptions of mediation. Confidentiality and privilege generally apply, mediation is facilitated negotiation, and parties (or their representatives) are expected to attend.

Option C is false because mediators are explicitly permitted to meet privately with one party without the other present.

Question 2

Question Type: MultipleChoice

Whistle-blowing may be a consideration if a professional observes unsafe, unethical, or illegal practices. Which option best statements about whistle-blowing is true?

Options:

A- It is commonplace as most cases cannot be resolved internally.
B- It is encouraged as the preferred method for conflict resolution.
C- It may negatively impact a professional's current employment, career prospects, and reputation.
D- It is the preferred approach, especially when done anonymously.

Answer:

C

Explanation:

NPPE materials emphasize that whistle-blowing is a last-resort action after internal resolution efforts fail. While sometimes necessary to protect the public, it can carry serious personal and professional consequences, including strained employment relationships and reputational harm. It is not the preferred or first approach to resolving conflicts.

Question 3

Question Type: MultipleChoice

Professionals in the workplace can face ethically challenging situations. Common ethical issues are categorized to help the professional make decisions related to them.

Which of the following issues is usually the least important ethical issue?

Options:

A- Unfair compensation
B- Conflict of interest
C- Duty to report
D- Misconduct

Answer:

A

Explanation:

NPPE ethics materials prioritize issues that directly affect public safety, trust, and professional integrity. Conflicts of interest, duty to report, and misconduct all pose significant risks to the public and the profession. Compensation disputes, while important, generally do not directly threaten public safety and are therefore considered the least critical ethical issue among the options.

Question 4

Question Type: MultipleChoice

For which of the following actions could criminal, civil, and disciplinary actions all be applied to a licensed professional member?

Options:

A- Providing a false reference for someone applying for professional member designation
B- Advertising that professional services are available at no cost to qualified clients
C- Acting at the same time for two clients with competing interests
D- Defrauding a client

Answer:

D

Explanation:

NPPE materials explain that certain forms of professional misconduct can trigger multiple forms of liability. Defrauding a client may constitute a criminal offence under the Criminal Code, give rise to civil liability for damages, and result in disciplinary action by the professional regulator.

Option D is correct because fraud involves intentional deception and serious misconduct. Option A may lead to disciplinary consequences but not necessarily criminal liability. Option B is generally permissible. Option C represents a conflict of interest and may result in discipline or civil liability, but it does not typically constitute a criminal offence.

Therefore, option D is the correct answer.

Question 5

Question Type: MultipleChoice

In order for a licensed professional to authenticate a technical engineering or geoscience work document, it is not a requirement that the authenticating professional

Options:

A- accepts full professional responsibility for the document
B- has a detailed understanding of the document's constituents, results, and recommendations
C- has either personally prepared, directly supervised, or conducted a detailed review of the document
D- is familiar with the individual(s) who prepared the document and has complete and utter confidence in their abilities

Answer:

D

Explanation:

NPPE materials clearly state that authentication signifies acceptance of full professional responsibility and requires sufficient knowledge and critical review of the work. Confidence in, or familiarity with, the person who prepared the document is not a valid substitute for direct involvement, supervision, or detailed review. Reliance on personal trust alone is explicitly rejected in NPPE guidance.

Question 6

Question Type: MultipleChoice

Which of the following bodies have been given the legal authority to enforce their codes of ethics or professional misconduct provisions?

Options:

A- Technical societies
B- Provincial or territorial regulators
C- Engineers Canada and Geoscientists Canada
D- National Societies of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists Canada

Answer:

B

Explanation:

NPPE materials emphasize that only provincial and territorial regulatory bodies have statutory authority to regulate the practice of engineering and geoscience in Canada. This authority is granted through legislation, enabling regulators to enforce codes of ethics, investigate complaints, conduct discipline hearings, and impose sanctions.

Technical societies and national organizations such as Engineers Canada and Geoscientists Canada play important advisory, coordinating, and advocacy roles, but they do not have enforcement powers over individual practitioners.

Therefore, option B is the correct answer.

Question 7

Question Type: MultipleChoice

The main reason that a professional should not guarantee the work of another party is that

Options:

A- the other party may sue the professional for bankability
B- the other party might have similar expectations from the professional
C- it is difficult to ensure that the other party's work is within the standard
D- the professional might be expected to make payments to the other party

Answer:

C

Explanation:

NPPE materials emphasize that professionals are responsible only for work they have prepared, reviewed, or directly supervised. Guaranteeing another party's work implies responsibility without control over methods, assumptions, or quality.

Option C correctly reflects this principle. Professionals cannot ensure compliance with standards for work they did not control. The other options do not address the core issue of

professional responsibility.

Question 8

Question Type: MultipleChoice

A licensed professional, living and practicing in the province of Ontario, is charged with a tort of negligence by a former client.

Which system of law will be used in the judgment of this case?

Options:

A- Civil law system
B- Public law system
C- Common law system
D- Regulator law system

Answer:

C

Explanation:

NPPE materials explain that tort law in Canada, including negligence, is governed by the common law system in all provinces except Quebec. Ontario follows the common law system for civil liability matters.

Option C is correct. Option A applies to private law in Quebec, option B concerns public or constitutional matters, and option D is not a recognized legal system.

Question 9

Question Type: MultipleChoice

A licensed professional has a duty to act responsibly and to show loyalty toward their current and past employers. Which of the following behaviours conflicts with a professional's duties to their employer?

Options:

A- Protecting an employer's reputation and dignity
B- Putting an employer's best interest above their own
C- Putting one's personal goals above their employer's
D- Protecting a past employer's confidential information

Answer:

C

Explanation:

NPPE ethics materials emphasize loyalty, confidentiality, and acting in the employer's best interest. Placing personal goals above an employer's interests directly conflicts with this duty.

Question 10

Question Type: MultipleChoice

Which of the following statements does not provide a valid reason for why a licensed professional might deviate from established codes and standards?

Options:

A- The professional believes the codes or standards in place are not relevant to the design in question.
B- Existing codes and standards are widely viewed by the profession as being deficient and or holding a safety risk.
C- The professional views existing codes and standards as excessive and redundant, which compromise their duty to client.
D- Recent events or research in professional practice prove that existing codes and standards are erroneous and or deficient.

Answer:

C

Explanation:

NPPE materials state that deviation from codes and standards is only acceptable when justified by sound engineering judgment and supported by evidence that safety and performance are not compromised. Client convenience or cost is never a valid reason to disregard established standards.

Question 11

Question Type: MultipleChoice

A night shift worker falls into a canal dug by a contractor at a factory and is injured. The worker claims that the canal was not barricaded. Investigation by the factory determines that both the contractor and the factory security patrol were responsible.

If the canal had been dug based on a licensed professional's design, would that professional be considered a proximate cause for the injury?

Options:

A- Yes, because the canal was part of the design.
B- Possibly, because the role of contractor's supervisor would be considered.
C- No, because the security guard should have seen and reported the danger.
D- No, because the investigation implied the negligence was unrelated to the design.

Answer:

D

Explanation:

NPPE materials define proximate cause as a direct and legally relevant cause of harm. A professional is only considered a proximate cause if the injury resulted from a deficiency in the design or from failing to meet the applicable standard of care.

In this scenario, the investigation attributes negligence to the contractor and factory security for failing to barricade or identify the hazard. There is no indication that the canal design itself was unsafe or defective. Therefore, the licensed professional would not be considered a proximate cause.

Options A and B incorrectly assume design involvement implies liability. Option C misidentifies responsibility. Option D correctly reflects NPPE principles of causation and negligence.

Question 12

Question Type: MultipleChoice

In Which option best types of contracts does the owner pay the contractor a stipulated amount for each unit or section of work performed?

Options:

A- Cost-Plus Contract
B- Unit-Price Contract
C- Fixed-Price Contract
D- Design-Build Contract

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Answer:

B

Explanation:

NPPE materials define a unit-price contract as one in which payment is based on measured quantities of work performed at predetermined unit rates. This contract type is commonly used when the total quantity of work cannot be precisely determined at the outset.

Option B correctly reflects this definition. Cost-plus contracts reimburse actual costs plus a fee, fixed-price contracts pay a single lump sum, and design-build contracts combine design and construction responsibilities rather than defining a payment structure based on units.

Therefore, option B is the correct answer.

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Question 13

Question Type: MultipleChoice

Which of the following reasons is the strongest one for engineering and geoscience professions in Canada (where applicable) to be self-regulating?

Options:

A- Laws that permit self-regulation in engineering and geoscience have always proven to work

well in the past.
B- Unlike in the United States, governments should not directly manage professional practice in engineering and geoscience, except where necessary.
C- Licensed professional engineers and geoscientists earn higher incomes because they have self-regulation, resulting in higher taxation returns and the highest regard for public safety.
D- Professional Act compliance, regulations enforcement, and adherence to a code of ethics in the engineering and geoscience fields are best managed by peers within professional associations.

Answer:

D

Explanation:

NPPE materials emphasize that self-regulation is justified because professionals possess specialized technical knowledge that enables them to competently assess practice standards, ethical conduct, and competence. Peer regulation ensures informed decision-making in licensing, discipline, and practice oversight while maintaining a strong focus on public protection.

Option D reflects the core rationale for self-regulation: peers are best equipped to enforce standards and codes of ethics under legislative authority. Options A, B, and C do not align with NPPE principles and do not reflect the public-interest basis for self-regulation.

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