

AICP^{Q&As}

American Institute of Certified Planners Exam

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QUESTION 1

Which of the following is not part of the AICP Code of Ethics?

- A. Assist in the clarification of community goals, objectives and policies in plan-making.
- B. A planner must have special concern for the long range consequences of present actions.
- C. A planner must strive to expand choice and opportunity for all persons, recognizing a special responsibility to plan for the needs of disadvantaged groups and person, and must urge the alteration of policies, institutions and decisions which oppose such needs.
- D. A planner must strive to give citizens the opportunity to have a meaningful impact on the development of plans and programs. Participation should be broad enough to include people who lack formal organization or influence.

Correct Answer: C

QUESTION 2

Who is associated with the City as Growth Machine Theory?

- A. Logan and Molotch
- B. Harris and Ullman
- C. Home Hoyt
- D. Ernest Burgess

Correct Answer: A

QUESTION 3

Scenario: Negative Comments about Consultant Work

At a recent national planning conference, you hear some very negative things about the quality of work done for clients by a well known consulting planning firm. Some of the comments are from people who may not have first-hand information At least one of the critical statements was made directly by a former client The firm, by coincidence, has now submitted a proposal to do work for your community. You call all of the references supplied by the consultant They check out fine. What should you do next?

Ethical Issues: How do you make sure that you don\\'t pass on gossip, but do respond to legitimate issues affecting foe expenditure of public dollars?

Action Alternatives:

1.

You have checked the references and they were fine. The folks you talked to are reasonable and had direct knowledge of the consultant\\'s work. You do not want to appear to be looking to make trouble for yourself or anyone else You decide no further action is necessary.



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2.

When spending public money, you have a responsibility to make sure that the public will get the best value. This requires you to be zealous in determining whether there are any reasons for not hiring the consulting firm. After all, consulting firms do not ever list clients who they think might give them a bad reference. You call for references checking with names not on the list provided by the firm.

3.

Other

Commentary: Negative Comments About Consultant Work

Code Citations:

- A. 1 A planner must protect and enhance the integrity of the profession and must be responsible in criticism of the profession
- B. 2 A planner must accurately represent the qualifications, views, and findings of colleagues.
- C. 3 A planner who reviews the work of other professionals must do so in a fair, considerate, professional, and equitable manner

Correct Answer:

Answer: The answer is given as an example. You need to write an essay based on the text given in the task. You want to be fair in your treatment of a colleague while at the same time making sure that you do not engage a consultant who will not be able to fulfill the requirements of the professional services agreement. Alternative 1 saves you work, but ignores the fact that you have information which affects your confidence in one of the proposers You would not be in violation of the Code by doing nothing because you would have followed all of your community\\'s standard procedures for hiring However, you would have failed to be attentive to the apparitional intent of the Code. Alternative 2 would be the most desirable and is most consistent with the Code requirement to fairly treat the views of a colleague In this case you wish to treat fairly the views of those who have disparaged the consultant as well as the view of the consultant him or herself Unless you have specifically stated in your RFP that the only references you will check are those provided by the consultant, you are free to seek out additional information. To be fair, you should mention to the consultant that you will be checking with other colleagues. If you have major unresolved issues as a result of further checking, the consultant should be given an opportunity to respond.

QUESTION 4

Scenario

A pro-development city manager tells you, the planner, that you must provide findings to support a shift in a natural resources boundary in order to accommodate a particular development. What might you do if your findings do not support the shift but there is pressure from the city manager to provide findings that are contrary to your findings?

A. Answer: See the solution below

Correct Answer: A

With data on the regulations as well as on the potential long-term consequences of not complying with the regulations, go to the city manager to explain why you cannot approve the project or alter the facts. This information may be sufficient to resolve the situation. You might need to look for creative solutions that will allow for a modified project to move forward and bring these to the city manager. For example, alter the location of development and use the area near the natural resource as an open space amenity. You may need to remove yourself from the situation and refer it to



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your director. Suppose the city manager goes ahead and approves the project in spite of your findings. Before blowing the whistle, be sure to consult with other planners and other qualified professionals including, if appropriate, the city attorney, to exhaust efforts for reconsideration of the matter. If you should choose to blow the whistle, understand that this may have negative consequences, and so be prepared. Accepting such consequences will be more beneficial to you than behaving unethically. It is very important throughout this process to document everything. Be sure to keep accurate records showing dates, places and content of any conversations, messages and meetings relative to the issue. Remember that a planner must accept the decision of employers, unless the decision is illegal or unethical. Remember that a planner\\'s first obligation is to the public interest, and a development that will have negative environmental consequences is not in the public interest, but a development that will create jobs may be in the public interest (Ethical Principle 2)

QUESTION 5

What two cities does Jean Gottman\\'s book discuss?

- A. Dallas and Fort Worth
- B. Philadelphia, PA and Trenton, NJ
- C. Washington DC and Alexandria, VA
- D. Washington DC and Boston, MA

Correct Answer: D

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