

# CLARB

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## L.A.R.E. Structure (As of December 2023)

In early 2022, CLARB conducted a Job/Task Analysis (JTA) which is a scientific study of the profession that ensures the content of the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (L.A.R.E) remains legally defensible and relevant. The JTA results are also used to defend the legal scope of landscape architectural practice.

The results of the survey determine the tasks that are performed most often, are most important and subsequently instill the knowledge required at the initial point of licensure; thus, the survey results form the basis of the L.A.R.E. The findings from this JTA have resulted in changes to the content and structure of the L.A.R.E.

**Beginning in December 2023, a new L.A.R.E. blueprint will go into effect. The L.A.R.E. will remain unchanged through August 2023.**

New section titles, along with aligned content, will be the structure of the L.A.R.E. for all candidates testing as of December 2023.

All candidates will still be required to complete the four-section L.A.R.E. as part of their licensure requirements. The image below displays equivalency for current sections (1, 2, 3, 4) to the new blueprint.

**NOTE:** CLARB advises all candidates who have completed Section 1 to also complete Section 4 prior to or during the August 2023 administration, which will be the final administration using the current exam blueprint. It is also recommended that those who have completed Section 4 should complete Section 1 in this same timeframe.

<b>2023 L.A.R.E. Transition Chart</b>			
<b><u>Passed by August 2023</u></b>		<b><u>Credit Received</u></b>	
<b>Section 2</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>Inventory, Analysis, and Project Management</b>	
<b>Section 3</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>Planning and Design</b>	
<b>Sections 1 AND 4</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>Construction Documentation and Administration</b>	
<b>Section 4</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>Grading, Drainage, and Stormwater Management</b>	

## Inventory, Analysis, and Project Management

90 scored items and 10 pretest items consisting of advanced-item types, multiple-choice, and multiple-response questions; 3 hours seat time

Project Management: 7%	Inventory and Data Collection: 21%	Stakeholder Engagement Process: 14%	Physical Analysis: 39%	Contextual Analysis: 19%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and Manage Design Contracts</li> <li>Select and Manage Design Team</li> <li>Determine and Manage Design Scope, Schedule, and Budget</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect Related Policy Documents (e.g., municipal planning documents, proposed and existing land use maps, FEMA, EPA, stormwater management policies)</li> <li>Assimilate Information from Previous Planning Processes</li> <li>Conduct Onsite Investigation and Fieldwork</li> <li>Document Site Data</li> <li>Identify Adjacent Land Use</li> <li>Collect Contextual Data (e.g., natural systems, road networks, demographics, cultural and historical)</li> <li>Research Codes, Ordinances, and Permitting Requirements (e.g., site/project specific requirements)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify Stakeholders</li> <li>Coordinate with Governing Bodies</li> <li>Support Public Participation Process (e.g., consult with clients, summarize feedback, communicate deliverables)</li> <li>Evaluate Design Based on Feedback</li> <li>Obtain Public and Private Approvals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine Appropriate Types of Analyses</li> <li>Perform Vegetation Analysis</li> <li>Interpret and Review Soils and Geology (e.g., geotechnical, geology, soil map, soil characteristics)</li> <li>Perform Topographical Analysis (e.g., slope analysis)</li> <li>Identify Physical Opportunities and Constraints</li> <li>Perform Utility Analysis (e.g., capacity, availability, proximity, suitability)</li> <li>Analyze Existing Environmental Variables (e.g., contamination, erosion, air quality, water quality, micro-climate)</li> <li>Perform Circulation Analysis (e.g., multi-modal, access, non-motorized, connectivity)</li> <li>Perform Visual Resource Analysis (e.g., view sheds, view corridors, aesthetics)</li> <li>Perform Hydrological Analysis (e.g., floodplain, site drainage, water shed, surface, sub-surface)</li> <li>Review Ecological Analysis (e.g., habitat, biodiversity, ecosystems)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anticipate Impacts of Future Developments</li> <li>Identify Contextual Constraints and Opportunities</li> <li>Confirm Appropriate Use</li> <li>Conduct Code Compliance Review</li> </ul>

## Planning and Design

85 scored items and 10 pretest items consisting of advanced-item types, multiple-choice, and multiple-response questions; 3 hours seat time

Stewardship and Design Principles: 17%	Master Planning: 33%	Schematic Design: 28%	Design Development: 22%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan for Sustainability</li> <li>• Plan for Climate Resiliency</li> <li>• Plan for Environmental and Social Equity</li> <li>• Recognize Historical and Cultural Significance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formulate Planning Goals (e.g., vision)</li> <li>• Prepare Project Program (including budget)</li> <li>• Synthesize Site Analysis</li> <li>• Establish Opportunities and Constraints</li> <li>• Determine Appropriate Land Use</li> <li>• Develop Master Plan (e.g., conceptual plans, planning high level program elements, community planning, determine planning strategies)</li> <li>• Evaluate Planning Scenarios</li> <li>• Produce Planning Documents (e.g., land use, parks, open space, regional, historic, site master, corridor, blueways, greenways)</li> <li>• Establish Design Guidelines</li> <li>• Develop Phasing Plan</li> <li>• Communicate Planning Outcomes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop Design Intent</li> <li>• Create the Basis for Design</li> <li>• Prepare Functional Diagram</li> <li>• Produce Conceptual Diagram</li> <li>• Develop Schematic Designs</li> <li>• Evaluate Design Alternatives</li> <li>• Refine Selected Alternatives</li> <li>• Produce Graphics, Illustrations, and Diagrams</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refine Design Elements (e.g., material, circulation, lighting, utilities, planting)</li> <li>• Determine Maintenance Implications</li> <li>• Collaborate on the Design of Irrigation Systems (e.g., water conservation, sustainability, low water, gray water)</li> <li>• Identify Required Approvals (e.g., regulatory permitting)</li> <li>• Develop Opinion of Probable Costs (e.g., schematic, design development, revisions)</li> <li>• Evaluate Value Engineering Alternatives</li> <li>• Demonstrate Understanding of Legal Liabilities</li> </ul>

## Construction Documentation and Administration

90 scored items and 10 pretest items consisting of advanced-item types, multiple-choice, and multiple-response questions; 3 hours seat time

Construction Plans and Details: 50%	Construction Specifications and Bidding: 20%	Construction Administration: 30%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify Required Plan Sheets</li><li>• Produce Existing Conditions and Demolition Plan</li><li>• Produce Protection and Mitigation Plan</li><li>• Produce Layout and Materials Plan (e.g., site furnishings)</li><li>• Produce Planting Plans and Details</li><li>• Create Details, Elevations, and Sections (e.g., walls, pavements, structures, specialty features, green roofs, drainage details)</li><li>• Collaborate on Supplemental Plans (e.g., lighting, irrigation, playground, wayfinding)</li><li>• Develop General Notes, Schedules, and Legends</li><li>• Comply with Code Requirements and Dimensional Standards</li><li>• Perform QA/QC Activities</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop Project Manual and Front-End Specifications</li><li>• Establish Bid Requirements</li><li>• Write Technical Specifications</li><li>• Facilitate Bid Process (e.g., bid forms, meetings, delivery process)</li><li>• Respond to Bidders' Questions and Prepare Addenda</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conduct Pre-Construction Activities (e.g., walk-through, meetings)</li><li>• Respond to RFIs</li><li>• Manage Construction Contract (e.g., budget items, change orders, bulletins, purchase requests, change directives)</li><li>• Review Submittals (e.g., shop drawings, materials submittal, product submittals, substitutions, mock-ups)</li><li>• Conduct Site Observations and Field Reports</li><li>• Perform Project Close-Out (e.g., punch-list, substantial completion, guarantee period, final completion)</li><li>• Perform Construction Project Management (e.g., roles and responsibilities, liabilities, scope, schedule, coordination with other disciplines, coordination with owner)</li></ul>

Effective December 2023

## Grading, Drainage, and Stormwater Management

70 scored items and 10 pretest items consisting of advanced-item types, multiple-choice, and multiple-response questions; 3 hours seat time

Stormwater Management: 39%	Grading and Earthwork: 44%	Drainage Systems: 17%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Determine Watershed Area</li><li>• Determine Stormwater Management System</li><li>• Determine Pervious and Impervious Areas</li><li>• Develop Sustainable Water Quality Practices</li><li>• Select Surface and Sub-Surface BMPs</li><li>• Select Building-Systems BMPs (e.g., Green Roofs, Blue Roofs, Brown Roofs, Green Walls, Water Harvesting/Cisterns, Gray Water)</li><li>• Develop Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan</li><li>• Obtain Approvals and Permits</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adhere to Accessibility Standards</li><li>• Produce Large-Scale Grading Design (e.g., site, landforms, mass-grading, conceptual, preliminary)</li><li>• Produce Detailed Grading Design (e.g., place spot elevations, roadway profile, sidewalk profile, plaza)</li><li>• Review Grading Design (e.g., review grading alternatives, evaluate for inconsistencies)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prepare Drainage Plan and Profile (e.g., design/create a plan or profile)</li><li>• Design and Select Drainage Components (e.g., types of drains, selecting the appropriate components)</li><li>• Review Drainage Plans (e.g., evaluate existing design or design alternatives)</li></ul>

Effective December 2023