



Building Systems (BS) ARE Mock Exam (Architect Registration Exam): ARE Overview, Exam Prep Tips, Multiple-Choice Questions and Graphic Vignettes, Solutions and Explanations

By Gang Chen

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A Practical Guide & Mock Exam for the Building Systems (BS) Division of the ARE!

Every July, NCARB begins to draw the Architect Registration Examinations (ARE) questions from a new edition of ARE exam guide and scope. We have incorporated this latest information into our books.

To become a licensed architect, you need to have a proper combination of education and/or experience, meeting your Board of Architecture's special requirements, as well as passing all seven divisions of ARE.

This book provides an ARE overview, suggested references and resources, exam preparation and exam taking techniques, tips and guides, and a realistic and complete mock exam with solutions and explanations for the Building Systems (BS) division of the ARE.

More specifically this book covers the following subjects:

1. ARE, IDP, and Education Requirements
2. ARE Content, Format, and Preparation Strategies
3. Codes and Regulations
4. Environmental Issues
5. Plumbing: Principles and Materials & Technology
6. Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning Systems (HVAC): Principles and Materials & Technology
7. Electrical: Principles and Materials & Technology
8. Lighting: Principles and Materials & Technology
9. Specialties: Acoustics, Communications & Security, Conveying Systems, and Fire Detection & Suppression

10. Two Graphic Vignettes with Step-By-Step Solutions Using the NCARB Practice Program Software

The mock exam includes 95 challenging questions of the same difficulty level and format as the real exam (multiple-choice, check-all-that-apply, and fill-in-the-blank), and two graphic vignettes. This book will help you pass the BS division of the ARE and become a licensed architect!

Can you study and pass the ARE Building Systems (BS) Exam in 2 weeks?

The answer is yes IF you study the right materials: If you have ZERO experience but read the right materials, you can pass with 2 weeks of prep.

If you study our book, "Building Systems (BS) ARE Mock Exam (Architect Registration Exam)," you have an excellent chance of studying and passing the ARE Building Systems (BS) Exam in 2 weeks. We have added many tips and tricks that WILL help you pass the exam on your first try. Our goal is to take a very complicated subject and make it simple. "Building Systems (BS) ARE Mock Exam (Architect Registration Exam)" will save you time and money and help you pass the exam on the first try!

Is Building System the most difficult ARE division?

For many candidates, BS is the most difficult exam, but somehow I never find it to be very hard.

The key is NOT to be overwhelmed by the sea of information like MEEB, know what to read and what not to read. Think like an architect, and NOT like a MEP engineer, you should be able to pass.

Most people suffer from too much information (TMI) and too little time (TLT). It is the epidemic of modern time.

Learn how to cherish your limited time and effort, and still manage to pass under a situation that is NOT ideal.

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Editorial Review

From the Author

"FYI: NCARB made an error on the second electrical formula on the reference sheet.

The bottom formula on the reference sheet will make sense if the (lumens) is changed to (**lumens per fixture**), which = (lumens per lamp) x (number of lamps per fixture).

You need to know that **luminaires** means fixtures.

So the second electrical formula on the reference sheet should correctly read:

Number of luminaires = (footcandles) x (floor area) / (lumens per fixture) x (CU) x (LLF), where CU = coefficient of utilization and LLF = Light Lost Factor"

Quoted from page 24 of "Building Systems (BS) ARE Mock Exam (Architect Registration Exam)"

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Do I have to read MEEB line by line or from cover to cover?

Response: No, you don't have to.

MEEB is a double-edge sword:

MEEB has about 1,800 pages. It can be very helpful, and it can be the most dangerous study materials for you.

The easiest way to fail this exam is to get stuck with MEEB and get lost there.

Do NOT even think about reading MEEB line by line or from cover to cover. That will consume too much of your time, and you may NOT gain anything. Skim through it a few times, jump back and forth if you need to, and focus on the portions that you do not know or are not familiar with. Try to take as much **critical** information as possible from the book WITHOUT reading it line by line or from cover to cover. Focus on the **images, diagrams and charts**.

Your goal is NOT to read MEEB line by line or from cover to cover, your goal is to prepare and pass the BS division with your LIMITED time and effort.

Gang Chen, Author, AIA, LEED AP BD+C

The following is a feedback on our suggestions from one of the ARE candidates who took the BS exam:

"I concur, this was the only exam I failed I read MEEB, I got sucked in, I read line for line every chapter noted on that forum chart floating around. I lost a complete summer (took very long time to read MEEB, + everything else posted on FTP + Kaplan, etc.). I was beyond devastated and did not recover for about 6 months until I could psychologically take the next ARE exam (and I did not take that one!) Well, here I am on the precipice and only thing between me + my stamp is BS (I love the irony of its abbreviation). 'Round 2' has officially started - this weekend! I am scared + unsure on how to proceed but this time I plan on keeping MEEB at bay - **restricting it to only illustrations, charts, diagrams ...**"

The following is a feedback from one of our readers who just passed the BS exam:

"Well, Gang, I don't know how, but you were RIGHT. It's a PASS!!!!!!!!!"

Our response: Congratulations! You should be proud of yourself. BS is the hardest exam for many.

You are not the only one, many of our readers pass two of the most difficult exams (BS in ARE and LEED AP BD+C) and have no clues why they pass, but we know why.

If you read our book, you should be able to master the fundamentals, have a solid foundation, learn the techniques to be a good exam-taker, and you'll be fine. We make sure you are covered.

It is better to pass without a clue than to think you know everything and fail, right?

ARE Mock Exam series by ArchiteG, Inc.

Time and effort is the most valuable asset of a candidate. How to cherish and effectively use your limited time and effort is the key of passing any exam. That is why we publish the ARE Mock Exam series to help you to study and pass the ARE exams in the shortest time possible. We have done the hard work so that you can save time and money. We do not want to make you work harder than you have to.

Do not force yourself to memorize a lot of numbers. Read through the numbers a few times, and you should have a very good impression of them.

You need to make the judgment call: If you miss a few numbers, you can still pass the exam, but if you spend too much time drilling these numbers, you may miss out on the big pictures and fail the exam.

The official NCARB sample MC questions have no explanations, and the official NCARB sample vignettes have no step-by-step solutions. The existing ARE practice questions or exams by others are either way too easy or way over-killed. They do NOT match the real ARE exams at all.

We have done very comprehensive research on the official NCARB guides, many related websites, reference materials, and other available ARE exam prep materials. We match our mock exams vignettes questions as close as possible to the NCARB samples and the real ARE exams instead. Some other readers had failed an ARE exam two or three times before, and they eventually passed the exam with our help.

All our books include a step-by-step solution to each of the NCARB sample vignette with screenshots and related NCARB software commands, a complete set of MC questions (except for the SD ARE mock exam) and vignettes matching the real ARE exams, including number of questions, format, type of questions, etc. We also include detailed answers and explanations to our MC questions, and a step-by-step solution to each

of the mock vignette with screenshots and related NCARB software commands. Our DWG files for our mock exam vignettes can also be installed and used with the NCARB software.

There is some extra information on ARE overviews and exam-taking tips in Chapter One. This is based on NCARB AND other valuable sources. This is a bonus feature we included in each book because we want our readers to be able to buy our ARE mock exam books together or individually. We want you to find all necessary ARE exam information and resources at one place and through our books.

All our books are available at
GreenExamEducation.com

Check out FREE tips and info for all ARE Exams at **GeeForum.com**, you can post jpeg files of your vignettes or your questions for other users' review.

From the Inside Flap

What others are saying about *Building Systems (BS) ARE Mock Exam (Architect Registration Exam)*...

"Great Practice Exam

"In my opinion, the Building Systems (BS) test is one of the most difficult of the ARE Exams. For me, it was difficult to not be overwhelmed by the amount of content covered by the Exam. This Mock Exam is the perfect tool to keep you focused on the content that matters and to evaluate what you know and what you need to study. It definitely helped me pass the exam!!"

--**Michael Harvey ("Harv")**

"Great resource for the BS exam

It is a guide that gives you the exact information you need before you start taking the tests and more specific information for the BS Exam. The BS exam section breaks it down into the specifics you need to know and what you should not waste your time on. One of the hard parts of the exam is trying to figure out where NCARB gets its material from.

The book gives you tips on what books the diagrams and MC questions in NCARB's study guide are similar to. It also references websites and PDF's throughout the book, which is very helpful. The exam section emphasizes the need to not read everything, but to concentrate on the specifics (i.e. diagrams, images etc.) and emphasizes this several times throughout the book. The graphic vignette section was extremely helpful and its importance in the book clarifies the need to make sure you know the graphic section in order to pass the exam (a very helpful hint).

One of the best features of the book was the practice questions. It is hard to find many books that give good questions that are more in line with what NCARB will be asking and it is also good to have an extra set of questions to study from. The book goes further than a conventional study/exam guide. It explains the profession of architecture and goes more into the professions future. Overall this book is a great resource not just for the exam review, but also for the general knowledge of becoming an architect and what to expect, in a very concise, step by step, and easy to read format."

--**Rebecca Rubinow ("R")**

"Great resource

"Building Systems is easily the hardest exam of the ARE's in my opinion. For preparation, there is nothing that prepares you more than questions. There is an overload of information out there, you tube, online

resources like Wikipedia, MEEB, etc., but a lack of real questions. Answering the questions through practice is the best way to study, as opposed to reading the entire MEEB book-which I did as well. The questions in this book are very similar to the exam (took it twice). Also, the ARE exam questions try to trick and throw you off. These questions also do the same thing, and he explains in his answers why. There are over a 100 questions, including insight and tips on passing the vignette. Highly recommended..."

--**Andrew Consigli ("Nate")**

"Great ARE BS Practice Exam

"This is a comprehensive mock exam with a very detailed answer explanation for each questions and reference materials to look up that covers other relevant areas. Personally, I have taken most of the other available mock exams prior to this, and I found the questions in this book more similar to the official NCARB sample questions in comparison (but contains great explanations that the NCARB questions clearly lacks). The book also includes a section of a step-by-step instruction on solving the vignette that is easy to understand and helped me improve my speed greatly. Highly recommended."

--**csquare**

"Great study resource!

"It's always a great study tool to have Practice exams like this one! Seems to be very comprehensive and includes a little bit of everything that you need to know for the exam! Great supplemental resource!"

--**Sean Primeaux**

"Great Mock Exam Exercise!

"One of the best things I like this book is how the author have included some of his insights and utilized online resources into the introduction of the book. He provided some Youtube links or online regulations references that readers could refer to about specific topics. The book provides detail answers for each mock exam questions. The mock exam becomes very helpful in reminding the readers their weaknesses in certain topics and provides an opportunity for readers to go back and revise areas they are not familiar with.

There were a couple of questions did show up in a similar format in my actual ARE exam experience. For candidates who have difficulties in understanding the formula and calculations for certain topics, the book provides simple and easy to understand questions that helps readers to practice the formula and be familiarize with the calculations. The book not only includes one mock exam it also have guidelines and one practice question for the graphic vignette. Personally I will suggest to post your practiced vignette in the ARE forum for review and comments. Since there is not many ARE mock exams published in the market, it is one of the very useful study materials to have for the BS exam."

--**Rose Hung**

"Building Systems (BS) ARE Mock Exam (Architect Registration Exam)

"Excellent study guide with study tips, general test info, and recommended study resources. Hands down one of the best practice exams that I have came across for this exam. Most importantly, the practice exam includes in depth explanations of answers. Definitely recommended."

-- **Taylor Cupp**

"Great Supplement!! "This publication was very helpful in my preparation for my BS exam. It contained a mock exam, followed by the answers and brief explanations to the answers. I would recommend this as an additional study material for this exam." -- **Cynthia Zorrilla-Canteros ("czcante")**

"Great practice test!

"Excellent addition to the mounds of study material. The key to passing all of the divisions of the ARE 4.0 is

practice/mock tests so you get accustomed to the wording and thinking of the actual test. This BS mock exam is an excellent resource!"

--**Katheryn Morgan**

"Fantastic!

"When I first began to prepare for this exam; the number of content areas seemed overwhelming and daunting at best. However, this guide clearly dissected each content area into small management components. Of all the study guides currently available for this test - this exam not only included numerous resources (web links, you tube clips, etc..) the sample test was extremely helpful. The sample test incorporated a nice balance of diagrams, calculations and general concepts - this book allowed me to highlight any "weak" content areas I had prior to the real exam. In short - this is an awesome book!"

--**Rachel Casey (RC)**

"You won't be disappointed "I received my PASS letter yesterday for building systems, I was so happy because I did not want to retake this over for the third time. Gang's building systems ARE mock exam helped me to prepare myself for what I think is the hardest test of the seven ARE exams. There are so many content areas for this test from HVAC, Plumbing, Electrical, Lighting, Specialties, Environmental Issues, and not to forget the Mechanical/Electrical Vignette. I wanted to make sure that when I went into this test for the second time that I was prepared to take on this monster of a test and the ARE mock exam helped. It gives you tips on how to tackle the Mechanical/Electrical Vignette, the mock exam questions are by far one of the best mock exams because it also gives you explanations to the answers and if you get it wrong then you can go back and review/study what your weak points are in the mock exam. I have one more test to take and reading the reviews of Gang's other mock exams, I will be purchasing the Building Design and Construction Systems mock exam. I highly recommend the Building Systems mock exam by Gang, because you won't be disappointed."

--**Tamarah Begay (Subi)**

About the Author

Gang Chen holds a master's degree from the School of Architecture, University of Southern California (USC), Los Angeles, and a bachelor's degree from the School of Architecture, South China University of Technology. He has over 20 years of professional experience. Many of the projects he was in charge of or participated in have been published extensively in *Architecture*, *Architectural Record*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Orange County Register*, etc. He has worked on a variety of unusual projects, including well-known, large-scale healthcare and hospitality projects with over one billion dollars in construction costs; award-winning school designs, highly-acclaimed urban design and streetscape projects, multifamily housing, high-end custom homes, and regional and neighborhood shopping centers.

Gang Chen is a LEED AP BD+C and a licensed architect in California. He is also the internationally acclaimed author of other fascinating books, including *Building Construction*, *Planting Design Illustrated*, ARE Mock Exam Series and LEED Exam Guides Series, which include one guidebook for each of the LEED exams. For more information, visit **GreenExamEducation.com**

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Janet Magnuson:

This Building Systems (BS) ARE Mock Exam (Architect Registration Exam): ARE Overview, Exam Prep Tips, Multiple-Choice Questions and Graphic Vignettes, Solutions and Explanations are usually reliable for

you who want to be considered a successful person, why. The reason of this Building Systems (BS) ARE Mock Exam (Architect Registration Exam): ARE Overview, Exam Prep Tips, Multiple-Choice Questions and Graphic Vignettes, Solutions and Explanations can be among the great books you must have is actually giving you more than just simple studying food but feed a person with information that probably will shock your before knowledge. This book will be handy, you can bring it all over the place and whenever your conditions in the e-book and printed people. Beside that this Building Systems (BS) ARE Mock Exam (Architect Registration Exam): ARE Overview, Exam Prep Tips, Multiple-Choice Questions and Graphic Vignettes, Solutions and Explanations forcing you to have an enormous of experience such as rich vocabulary, giving you trial run of critical thinking that we all know it useful in your day activity. So , let's have it appreciate reading.

Ray Davis:

This book untitled Building Systems (BS) ARE Mock Exam (Architect Registration Exam): ARE Overview, Exam Prep Tips, Multiple-Choice Questions and Graphic Vignettes, Solutions and Explanations to be one of several books that best seller in this year, this is because when you read this guide you can get a lot of benefit into it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book retailer or you can order it via online. The publisher in this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more easily to read this book, since you can read this book in your Smart phone. So there is no reason to your account to past this e-book from your list.

Patricia Oyler:

Reading can called brain hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book especially book entitled Building Systems (BS) ARE Mock Exam (Architect Registration Exam): ARE Overview, Exam Prep Tips, Multiple-Choice Questions and Graphic Vignettes, Solutions and Explanations your thoughts will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe unknown for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging just about every word written in a e-book then become one form conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get before. The Building Systems (BS) ARE Mock Exam (Architect Registration Exam): ARE Overview, Exam Prep Tips, Multiple-Choice Questions and Graphic Vignettes, Solutions and Explanations giving you a different experience more than blown away your thoughts but also giving you useful details for your better life in this era. So now let us teach you the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind is going to be pleased when you are finished studying it, like winning a. Do you want to try this extraordinary paying spare time activity?

Harry Fulford:

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