

# Caltrans Visual Impact Assessment Training

## Pre- and Post-Training

### ANSWER KEY

INSTRUCTIONS: Please take this test twice. Once before you begin the training and again after you have completed the course. The purpose of the test is three-fold. First, by taking it before the training, it will identify those concepts you do not currently understand, allowing you to focus your study on those areas. By taking it at the end of the training, it may identify areas that you are still not completely conversant, allowing you an opportunity to review particular lessons before trying to conduct a VIA on your own. Lastly, by comparing the results of the Pre-Training Test with the results of the Post-Training Test, you can gauge if the training was effective and how much you have learned.

Rather than writing your answers on the test, use the *Answer Sheet* for easy comparison between the two tests.

Correct answers are in **bold** and highlighted with **yellow**.

1. Is the assessment of visual impacts required by both federal and California state laws? **Yes** or No.
2. If so, which laws? (Check any that apply.)
  - HEPA
  - NEPA**
  - EPA
  - FAA
  - CEQA**
  - None of the above
  - All of the above
3. Why is the FHWA VIA Process considered objective? (Check any that apply.)
  - It uses tested methods
  - It has scientific rigor
  - It is legally defensible
  - It has repeatable accurate measurements
  - It has been consistently reliable
  - It is useful
  - All of the above**
  - None of the above
4. A *landscape type* is composed of *landform* and *land cover*. **True** or False.
5. A *landscape unit* can be described as a *landscape type* (or types) defined with a defined boundary. **True** or False.
6. A *visual assessment unit* is defined by a *landscape unit* and a *viewshed* and has a least one key view. **True** or False.

7. Under CEQA, an historic building may be considered a scenic resource. **True** or False.
8. Only the views of the traveler, those people with views from the highway, are evaluated in a VIA done by Caltrans. True or **False**.
9. Viewer Response is composed of (check any that apply):
- Viewer educational level
  - Viewer sensitivity**
  - Viewer social standing
  - Viewer distractions
  - Viewer exposure**
10. Visual Character is composed of (check any that apply):
- Pattern Character**
  - Pattern Elements**
  - Pattern Complexity
  - Complex Patterns
  - Social Character
11. Pick three elements that compose visual quality according to the FHWA (check any that apply):
- Vividness**
  - Color fastness
  - Intactness**
  - Formalness
  - Unity**
  - Holistic
12. A visual impact can be described as the stimulus caused by a change in existing visual resources and a viewer's response to that change. **True** or False.
13. Is it appropriate for a VIA to compare visual impacts caused by different alternatives? **True** or False.
14. The landscape architect should author the section in the environmental document on cumulative impacts as it is related to visual impacts. True or **False**.