Architecture Drawings and Elements

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Which architectural drawing shows rooms, interior walls, and door locations as if viewed from above at one level?

A. Floor plan
B. Front elevation
C. Longitudinal section
D. Perspective rendering

Correct answer: A. Floor plan

A floor plan shows the horizontal arrangement at a level. Walls, doors, and room boundaries help a reader follow the layout.

2. What is the horizontal member spanning the top of a door or window opening called?

A. Cornice
B. Sill
C. Lintel
D. Baluster

Correct answer: C. Lintel

The lintel crosses the opening above it. A sill is at the bottom of a window opening.

3. What is the central stone at the crown of a traditional masonry arch called?

A. Jamb
B. Keystone
C. Sill
D. Parapet

Correct answer: B. Keystone

The keystone sits at the crown of the arch. The jambs form the vertical sides of the opening below it.

4. A simple pitched roof has two slopes and a triangular wall area at each end. Which roof form matches that description?

A. Single-slope roof
B. Hipped roof
C. Flat roof
D. Gable roof

Correct answer: D. Gable roof

A gable roof has two pitched sides and a gable at either end. A hipped roof slopes toward the ends as well.

5. Which classical order can you recognize by the paired scroll shapes on the capital?

A. Doric
B. Ionic
C. Corinthian
D. Tuscan

Correct answer: B. Ionic
The Ionic capital is characterized by scroll-shaped volutes. The Corinthian capital uses a more elaborate leaf treatment.

6. A designer wants to compare the visible height and alignment of windows on the north exterior wall. Which drawing gives a straight-on record of that face?

A. North elevation
B. Roof plan
C. Ground-floor plan
D. A section cut parallel to the north wall through the interior

Correct answer: A. North elevation
An elevation looks squarely at the specified face. It conveys the positions and heights of exterior features.

7. A short wall projects above the edge of a flat roof. Which term describes that wall?

A. Transom
B. Plinth
C. Jamb
D. Parapet

Correct answer: D. Parapet
A parapet is a low wall at an exposed edge such as a roof, terrace, or bridge.

8. An exterior arched support bridges the gap between a church wall and a separate outer pier near the roof. Which element is described?

A. Clerestory window
B. Rib vault
C. Flying buttress
D. Tracery

Correct answer: C. Flying buttress
A flying buttress crosses open space between the high wall and an outer support. A rib vault is part of the building’s interior ceiling system.

9. Which view would show the vertical relationship of a stepped foundation, a floor, and an attic along a specified cut through a building?

A. Section
B. Site plan
C. Street elevation
D. Roof plan

Correct answer: A. Section
A section exposes vertical relationships along an imaginary cut. It can show levels hidden from the exterior.

10. A plan has a scale of 1:100. A wall measures 42 millimeters on that unchanged plan. What length does the drawing represent?

A. 0.042 meters
B. 0.42 meters
C. 42 meters
D. 4.2 meters

Correct answer: D. 4.2 meters
Multiply the drawing length by 100 to get 4,200 millimeters, which is 4.2 meters.

11. A classical capital is described as basket-like, with rows of carved acanthus leaves. Which order is most characteristic of that decoration?

A. Doric
B. Ionic
C. Corinthian
D. Tuscan

Correct answer: C. Corinthian
Acanthus leaves are a signature detail of the Corinthian capital. They distinguish it from the simpler Doric profile and the Ionic scrolls.

12. A classical entrance has a triangular ornament framed by cornices above its columns. Which term best fits that complete framed feature?

A. Pilaster
B. Pediment
C. Parapet
D. Balustrade

Correct answer: B. Pediment
A pediment is a framed feature, often triangular, placed above a classical front or an opening. The horizontal and sloping moldings define its outline.

13. An elevation shows an upper window directly above a lower one. Which additional drawing would best reveal that the rooms behind them have different ceiling heights?

A. A second elevation of the same exterior wall
B. A site plan centered on the entrance
C. A roof plan showing its ridgeline
D. An interior section through both rooms

Correct answer: D. An interior section through both rooms
A vertical section through the rooms can show their floors and ceilings together. The elevation shows how the openings align outside.

14. A drawing labeled 1:50 was enlarged to 200% of its printed size. A printed scale bar grew with it, and numerical dimensions were left unchanged. Which reference still works when measuring on the enlarged sheet?

A. The enlarged scale bar
B. The original 1:50 ratio applied to ruler readings
C. The paper’s original sheet width
D. The margin width before enlargement

Correct answer: A. The enlarged scale bar
The scale bar and drawing grew by the same factor, so measuring against the bar gives the same real dimensions. Ruler readings interpreted at 1:50 would be twice as large.

15. An elevation shows two windows of equal width side by side. The floor plan marks both openings and a partition that runs from between the windows to the opposite wall. What can you infer from the two drawings?

A. The windows must lie on different floor levels.
B. Both windows serve the same undivided room.
C. The equal-width openings serve separate interior spaces at that level.
D. The facade drawing shows how high the dividing partition rises.

Correct answer: C. The equal-width openings serve separate interior spaces at that level.
The elevation shows the appearance from outside. The partition identified on the plan separates the rooms behind the two openings.