

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Renovation Estimates

1. Front yard below stone retaining wall, left and right of front walk:

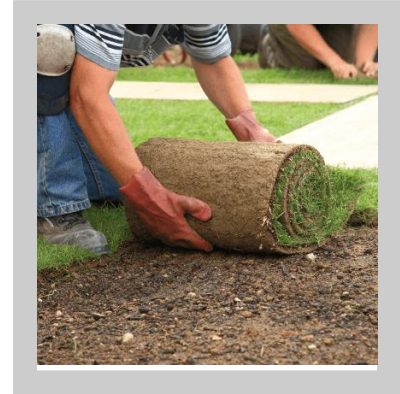
Area: 854 square feet

Soil: Till and amend soil with 1.75" compost and lime Plant:

Creeping Red Fescue

Mulch: Wheat straw

Irrigation: Establish watering system Materials and Labor: \$723



2. Side yard to right of house:

Area: 576 square feet

Soil: Till and amend soil with 1.5" compost and lime Plant: Liriope

Mulch: 3" double ground hardwood Irrigation: Establish watering system

Materials and Labor: \$525

3. Foundation Beds, left and right of front door: Area: 400 square feet

Soil: Till and amend soil with 2.25" compost and lime

Plant: Boxwood, 12 at 7 gallon size plants, and 18 at 3 gallon size

plants Mulch: 2" double ground hardwood

Materials and Labor: \$1266

4. Border bed above the stone wall and

driveway: Area: 80 feet length, 380 square feet

Soil: Till and amend soil with 2.25" compost and

lime Plant: Vinca Minor

Mulch: 2" double ground

hardwood Materials and Labor:

\$355

**Schedule of Services:**

Work is expected to commence: Wednesday, July 13

Work is expected to be completed: Wednesday, July 27, barring any unforeseen circumstances

*This contract can be reviewed at any time by either party and shall be in effect until satisfactory completion of the project(s). Changes in contract specifics must be provided as written amendments to this contract with the signature approval of both parties.*

- 1) According to the passage, Vinca Minor is to be planted
  - A. in the foundation beds
  - B. in the side yard to the right of house
  - C. above the stone wall and driveway
  - D. to the left and right of front door
  
- 2) The project described in the passage would most likely fall under the category of
  - A. landscaping
  - B. construction
  - C. design
  - D. irrigation
  
- 3) According to the passage, Creeping Red Fescue is different from Liriope, Boxwood, and Vinca Minor in that it
  - A. is less expensive
  - B. does not require a watering system
  - C. needs the least amount of compost and lime
  - D. requires wheat straw mulch

4) As visitors approach the front door, which of the following plants will they see in front of them?

- A. Liriope
- B. grass
- C. Boxwood
- D. Creeping Red Fescue

5) As used in the “Schedule of Services” section, which is the best antonym for **commence**?

- A. stop
- B. begin
- C. continue
- D. order

6) According to the passage, if, after the contract is signed by both parties, the contractor wants to increase the amount charged for materials and labor, he or she would have to

- A. get permission from the customer
- B. amend the current contract and sign it
- C. amend the current contract, sign it, and have it signed by the customer
- D. write a new contract and have it signed by both parties

7) Why do you think so much work is being done around one home all at the same time? Why would so much change happen so quickly? Explain your ideas.

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## Answers and Explanations

1) C

Core Standard: **Key Ideas and Details**

In the “Estimates” section, item 4 describes work to be done to the “border bed above the stone wall and driveway.” Further down in item 4, the plant for that area is identified as “Vinca Minor.” Using this information, we can understand that the Vinca Minor will be planted in the border bed above the stone wall and driveway. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

Boxwood will be planted in the foundation beds, which are to the left and right of the front door. This means both **(A)** and **(D)** are incorrect.

Liriope will be planted in the side yard to the right of the house. This makes **(B)** incorrect.

2) A

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

The language of the project’s description helps us understand what type of project this is. In the “Estimates” section, the author uses words such as “till,” “soil,” “plant,” and “mulch.” From these words, we can infer that the project will involve tilling the soil, planting new plants, and then mulching them. These actions are all aspects of a landscaping project, so **(A)** is correct.

The passage does not mention the construction of any structures in the project, so **(B)** is incorrect.

Although landscaping involves design, the project is not just design, or planning. The project includes actually planting the new plants and landscaping the yard. This makes **(C)** incorrect.

Although items 1 and 2 list “establish water system” as an irrigation task, this is only one part of the project and not representative of the project as a whole. The project involves more than just irrigation. Therefore **(D)** is not the best choice.

3) D

Core Standard: **Key Ideas and Details**

In item 1 of the “Estimates” section, Creeping Red Fescue is listed as the plant that will go in the front yard below the stone wall. It requires wheat straw as mulch. The other three plants listed in items 2-4 all require double ground hardwood mulch. Since Creeping Red Fescue requires a different type of mulch than all the other plants, **(D)** is correct.

The passage does not provide enough information for us to figure out which plant is the least expensive, because we do not know how much the plants themselves cost. We only know the total cost for each section to be landscaped. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect.

Item 1 lists “establish water system” for the Creeping Red Fescue as one of the tasks, so it does require a watering system. This means **(B)** is incorrect.

In item 1, we learn that Creeping Red Fescue requires 1.75” of compost and lime. In item 2, we learn that Liriope only requires 1.5”. This means that Liriope, not Creeping Red Fescue, needs the least amount of compost and lime. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.

4) C

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

Item number 3 of the “Estimates” section describes work to be done to the “Foundation Beds, left and right of front door.” Further down, the plant for the area is identified as “Boxwood.” If Boxwood will be planted to the left and right of the front door, we can understand that Boxwood is the plant that visitors will see as they approach the front door. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

Liriope will be planted in the side yard to the right of the house, according to item 2. Since the side yard is beside the house, it is not what visitor will see directly in front of them as they approach the front door. This means **(A)** is incorrect.

Although grass is a common plant for front yards, the passage does not mention grass at all, so **(B)** is incorrect.

According to item 1, Creeping Red Fescue will be planted below the stone wall in the front yard. We can assume that anything below the wall will be farther away from the front door, and anything above the wall will be closer to the front door. This means that Creeping Red Fescue would eventually be behind visitors as they approached the front door, whereas the Boxwoods would still be in front of them. This means **(D)** is incorrect.

5) A

Core Standard: **Craft and Structure**

**commence** (*verb*): to start or begin.

In the “Schedule of Services” section, the contract states that “work is expected to commence: Wednesday, July 13.” After this, it states that “Work is expected to be completed: Wednesday, July 27, barring any unforeseen circumstances.” Given that the first date is earlier than the second date, and the second date is when the work should be completed, it can be inferred that the first date is the time when work is scheduled to begin. After all, in order to be completed, the work must have begun. Therefore *commence* means to start or begin. A good antonym for begin is *stop*, so **(A)** is correct.

It does not make sense for the work to *continue* on July 13, because there is no previous date when the work could have begun. Something must begin in order to continue. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.

Although the work may be ordered by someone, it does not make sense to have a date when work is expected to *order*. Work itself cannot order something. This makes **(D)** incorrect.

6) C

Core Standard: **Key Ideas and Details**

According to paragraph 2 in the “Schedule of Services” section, “Changes in contract specifics must be provided as written amendments to this contract with the signature approval of both parties.” If the contractor wants to increase the amount charged for materials and labor, this would be a change in contract specifics. Given that both parties (contractor and customer) must provide their signature to show their approval of the amended contract, we can understand that the contractor would have to amend the current contract, sign it, and have it signed by the customer. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

Although the contractor would have to get permission from the customer, he or she would have to get it in a specific way, namely as a signature on an amended contract. This means **(A)** is incorrect.

According to the passage, both parties must sign the amended contract, so it is not enough for just the contractor to sign it. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect.

The passage does not say that the contractor would have to write a new contract. Rather, the changes could be “written amendments” to the existing contract. This makes **(D)** incorrect.