What Is an Architectural Elevation?

Worksheet

An elevation is an orthographic (non-perspective) drawing of one face of a building, projected onto a vertical plane so that all vertical and horizontal measurements stay true to scale.

Questions

1. What makes an elevation different from a perspective drawing?

A) It uses vanishing points
B) It shows true, undistorted scale
C) It is only used for interiors
D) It cannot show height

2. Dashed lines on an elevation typically represent

A) Visible edges
B) Dimension lines
C) Hidden or background edges
D) Material hatching

3. A building elevation drawn at 1:50 scale shows a wall as 6 cm tall on paper. What is the real height?

A) 3 m
B) 6 m
C) 30 m
D) 0.12 m

4. How many principal elevations does a rectangular building usually have?

A) 1
B) 2
C) 4
D) 8

5. A building elevation is drawn at 1:100 scale. The building is 12 m tall on site. How tall is it on the drawing sheet?

6. A window sits 1.5 m above finished floor level (FFL) and is 1.2 m tall. At what height range does it appear on the south elevation?

7. A 2-storey house has floor-to-floor heights of 3.0 m and 2.8 m plus a 0.6 m parapet. What is the total elevation height above ground?

8. Define: What is an elevation in architecture?

9. Define: What's the difference between a plan and an elevation?

10. Define: Why are hidden lines dashed on an elevation?

Answer Key

1. B) It shows true, undistorted scale - Elevations use parallel (orthographic) projection, so measurements stay accurate at scale - no vanishing points.

2. C) Hidden or background edges - Dashed lines indicate edges or elements hidden behind the projection plane.

3. A) 3 m - 6 cm 50 = 300 cm = 3 m.

4. C) 4 - Typically four: north, south, east, west.

5. Scale 1:100 means 1 cm on paper = 100 cm (1 m) on site 12 m 100 = 0.12 m = 12 cm on the drawing

6. Sill height = FFL + 1.5 m Head height = sill + window height = 1.5 + 1.2 = 2.7 m So the window is drawn between the 1.5 m and 2.7 m lines above FFL

7. Ground to first floor = 3.0 m First floor to roof = 2.8 m Roof to parapet top = 0.6 m Total = 3.0 + 2.8 + 0.6 = 6.4 m

8. A to-scale orthographic drawing of one exterior face of a building, without perspective distortion.

9. A plan is a horizontal cut looking down; an elevation is a vertical projection looking at a face straight-on.

10. Dashed lines show edges or forms behind the projection plane that aren't directly visible from that view.