This is an open book test to prepare you to answer questions you are likely to encounter as a Master Gardener. Feel free to consult with your peers to develop your answers. Please cite specific print and web references used.

1. As part of an employee wellness program, an organization in Wickenberg wants to plant an orchard on the property that will provide fruit for as many months of the year as possible. They are starting from scratch, on a piece of land that is currently without any landscaping, except for decomposed granite.
   a. What questions will you ask before giving recommendations?
   b. How should they prepare the soil?
   c. What irrigation method and schedule would you recommend?
   d. What varieties should they plant?
   e. How often should they fertilize? With what? Why?
   f. When and why should they prune?

2. A school in your neighborhood has asked you to help them plan vegetable garden. They would like to convert some of the playground to a large garden to teach science and health. The area is currently in turf. The school is on a nine-month calendar (mid-August to mid-May).
   a. How should they get rid of the turf? When is the best time to do it?
   b. How should they prepare the soil for a veg garden?
   c. Provide a monthly planting/harvest calendar.

3. You are approached at the Home and Garden show by a person concerned that the jacarandas and queen palms in their landscape look terrible and seem to be dying.
   a. What are some reasons they look bad?
   b. What do you recommend the person does in the future?

4. Recommend five low water use shade trees.

5. Recommend five plants to use near pools.

6. Recommend five plants to plant on the north side of a house.

7. Recommend 10 fragrant, medicinal or culinary plants to put near the kitchen.
8. A caller wants to know why there are brown patches and weeds in their summer lawn.
   a. What are the most likely causes?
   b. What steps should be taken to ensure the irrigation system is applying enough water to the right places?
   c. How should the weed problem be managed?

9. What turf varieties would you recommend to someone with active children and dogs?

10. A homeowner comes to the MG help desk with a sticky tomato leaf that is covered in tiny, yellow bugs.
    a. What characteristics would you look for in the insects to facilitate identification?
    b. Suggest some control options.

11. What might cause a bunch of holes, ½" in diameter to occur on a Texas ebony?
    a. How can they be prevented? Treated?

12. A homeowner’s association board member wants your advice on pruning. Some board members want to control the size of 5 year old ‘Desert Museum’ palo verdes by cutting the main scaffold branches back to a uniform length.
    a. What advice would you give this HOA?
    b. What is the rationale behind your advice?

13. You are being interviewed by a reporter for an article about healthy landscapes. The reporter wants to know why shrubs are sheared into cubes, balls and barrels. What do you tell her?

14. A neighbor notices your MG badge and asks what the badge means. Who are Master Gardeners and how can someone earn the badge?