

# ACG Certified Commissioning Authority (CxA) Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

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# Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

**Remember:** successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

# How to Use This Guide

**This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:**

## **1. Start with a Diagnostic Review**

**Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.**

## **2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions**

**Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.**

## **3. Learn from the Explanations**

**After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.**

## **4. Track Your Progress**

**Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.**

## **5. Simulate the Real Exam**

**Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.**

## **6. Repeat and Review**

**Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.**

**There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!**

## Questions

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1. The \_\_\_\_\_ forms the core of the final commissioning report.
  - A. The Cx Plan
  - B. OPR
  - C. Basis of Design
  - D. Commissioning plan
  
2. Who is responsible for both coordination and progress meetings during the Construction Phase?
  - A. CxA
  - B. Shared
  - C. CxT
  - D. CxP
  
3. Who is responsible for Acceptance Phase Control Program Review?
  - A. CxT
  - B. CxA
  - C. Shared
  - D. CxP
  
4. CHWS stands for which term?
  - A. Chilled Water Storage
  - B. Chilled Water Supply
  - C. Condenser Water Supply
  - D. Cooling Water System
  
5. What does CHWS stand for in HVAC context?
  - A. Condenser water supply
  - B. Chilled water sensor
  - C. Chilled water supply
  - D. Cooling water supply

- 6. Who is responsible for preparing the Cx Outline during the Pre-Design Phase?**
- A. Project Manager**
  - B. Architect**
  - C. Contractor**
  - D. CxA**
- 7. In commissioning, which acronym stands for the authority who leads the process?**
- A. CA**
  - B. CT**
  - C. BAS**
  - D. CHWR**
- 8. Which of the following is a typical member of the HVAC Commissioning Team from construction phase through project end?**
- A. owner**
  - B. lender**
  - C. facility manager**
  - D. janitor**
- 9. What does TCC stand for?**
- A. Thermal Control Committee**
  - B. Temperature Coordination Contractor**
  - C. Thermostat Calibration Contractor**
  - D. Temperature Control Contractor**
- 10. Which term is used to describe commissioning activities in existing buildings aimed at diagnosing ongoing problems or supporting planned maintenance?**
- A. Retro-Commissioning**
  - B. Re-Commissioning**
  - C. Initial Commissioning**
  - D. Decommissioning**

## Answers

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1. D
2. C
3. A
4. B
5. C
6. D
7. A
8. A
9. D
10. A

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## **Explanations**

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1. The \_\_\_\_\_ forms the core of the final commissioning report.

A. The Cx Plan

B. OPR

C. Basis of Design

**D. Commissioning plan**

The main idea being tested is what organizes and anchors the entire final commissioning report. The Commissioning Plan defines how verification will be done—scope, sequence, responsibilities, and the acceptance criteria for each system. Because the final report records results, deviations, and resolutions, it is built around that plan. It provides the backbone that links the tests performed to the objectives and criteria established at the start, making the report coherent and traceable. Inputs like the Owner’s Project Requirements and the Basis of Design guide what needs to be achieved and how the design intends to meet it, but they describe intent and goals rather than the verification process itself. The formal term used for the document that drives and structures the testing and verification is Commissioning Plan, not just an informal “Cx Plan,” which is why this option is considered the core reference for the final report.

2. Who is responsible for both coordination and progress meetings during the Construction Phase?

A. CxA

B. Shared

**C. CxT**

D. CxP

Coordination and progress meetings during the Construction Phase are driven by the Commissioning Team, the CxT. This group handles the day-to-day execution of commissioning activities, keeping all stakeholders—designers, contractors, and the owner—on the same page. They schedule and lead coordination meetings to resolve interface and sequencing issues and run progress meetings to track testing status, open deficiencies, and recovery actions. The Commissioning Authority (CxA) sets the requirements and oversees the overall process, but the hands-on leadership of these meetings and the day-to-day coordination sits with the CxT. The other roles are more task- or oversight-focused, so the CxT is the best fit for this responsibility.

### 3. Who is responsible for Acceptance Phase Control Program Review?

- A. CxT**
- B. CxA
- C. Shared
- D. CxP

Acceptance phase testing focuses on proving that the installed control program behaves as designed, with the actual sequences, interlocks, and setpoints functioning correctly in the field. The Commissioning Technician is the one who performs the hands-on review of the control program during this phase. They run the acceptance test procedures, verify the controller logic on the actual hardware, observe how sequences respond, adjust parameters as needed, and collect the evidence that will be used for owner sign-off. The Commissioning Authority leads and coordinates the overall process, and the commissioning provider has accountability, but the detailed control-program validation in acceptance rests with the technician who implements and tests it on site.

### 4. CHWS stands for which term?

- A. Chilled Water Storage
- B. Chilled Water Supply**
- C. Condenser Water Supply
- D. Cooling Water System

Understanding HVAC abbreviations helps you read diagrams and specs quickly. CHWS specifically identifies the supply leg of the chilled water loop—it's the chilled water that leaves the chiller and flows to the cooling coils and air handling units to absorb heat from the spaces. This supply path is typically paired with CHWR for the return line, which brings warmer water back to the chiller to be cooled again. Chilled Water Storage would imply an actual tank holding cooled water, which CHWS denotes a piping supply path rather than storage. Condenser Water Supply refers to the water used to cool the chiller's condenser, a different circuit altogether. Cooling Water System is too generic and does not specify the chilled-water supply line. So the term CHWS is the Chilled Water Supply.

### 5. What does CHWS stand for in HVAC context?

- A. Condenser water supply
- B. Chilled water sensor
- C. Chilled water supply**
- D. Cooling water supply

In HVAC labeling, CHWS denotes the chilled water supply. CHW stands for chilled water, and the S marks the supply side, meaning the water that leaves the chiller and flows to cooling coils or air handling units to provide cooling. This naming helps distinguish the path of the cooled water from other parts of the system, like the return line (which would carry water back after heat exchange) or the condenser-side loops. The other options refer to a sensor or to different water loops (condenser or cooling water), which are not what the designation CHWS represents. So the correct interpretation is the chilled water supply.

**6. Who is responsible for preparing the Cx Outline during the Pre-Design Phase?**

- A. Project Manager**
- B. Architect**
- C. Contractor**
- D. CxA**

The plan for how commissioning will be carried out—the Cx Outline—belongs to the person who leads the commissioning effort. In the Pre-Design Phase, the CxA develops the strategy, scope, roles, responsibilities, tests, and documentation approach that will guide the project’s commissioning activities. This ensures the commissioning process is aligned with the Owner’s Project Requirements and the design intent from the start, and it sets the framework for how systems will be verified and tested later. Others on the team—Project Manager, Architect, and Contractor—will input and execute their parts, but the responsibility to prepare the outline sits with the CxA, who oversees and integrates the entire commissioning process.

**7. In commissioning, which acronym stands for the authority who leads the process?**

- A. CA**
- B. CT**
- C. BAS**
- D. CHWR**

The person who leads the commissioning process is the Commissioning Authority. This role acts as the owner’s agent to plan, coordinate, and oversee all commissioning activities from start to finish. The Commissioning Authority develops the commissioning plan, sets test procedures, witnesses and documents tests, verifies that the installed systems meet the design intent and performance requirements, and produces the final commissioning report for turnover. The Building Automation System is the system being tested, not the leader of the process. The other acronyms listed don’t designate the lead role in commissioning.

**8. Which of the following is a typical member of the HVAC Commissioning Team from construction phase through project end?**

- A. owner**
- B. lender**
- C. facility manager**
- D. janitor**

The essential point is who represents the project's goals and decisions throughout the commissioning process. The owner, or the owner's designated representative, stays engaged from planning and design through construction, commissioning, and turnover, ensuring that HVAC tests and performance outcomes meet the owner's requirements and that any issues are resolved before occupancy. This continuity is why the owner is the typical member of the commissioning team across the entire timeline. The lender is focused on financing and loan conditions rather than technical testing. A facility manager might be involved around turnover to plan operations, but they are not a standard, ongoing member of the commissioning team during construction and commissioning. A janitor has no role in the commissioning process.

**9. What does TCC stand for?**

- A. Thermal Control Committee**
- B. Temperature Coordination Contractor**
- C. Thermostat Calibration Contractor**
- D. Temperature Control Contractor**

Understanding acronyms in building commissioning helps you identify who is responsible for specific systems. Temperature Control Contractor is the term used for the party in charge of the building's temperature control systems. This includes the HVAC controls, building automation system, sensors, actuators, and the control sequences that govern how space temperatures are maintained. The TCC coordinates with other trades and the commissioning team to verify that setpoints, deadbands, hysteresis, and control loops function as designed, and that the BAS responds correctly to changes in load or occupancy. The other options aren't standard terms for this role: they describe concepts or scopes not typically used to name a contractor responsible for temperature control systems.

**10. Which term is used to describe commissioning activities in existing buildings aimed at diagnosing ongoing problems or supporting planned maintenance?**

- A. Retro-Commissioning**
- B. Re-Commissioning**
- C. Initial Commissioning**
- D. Decommissioning**

Retro-commissioning is the process applied to a building that is already in operation, focusing on diagnosing problems that have developed over time and supporting planned maintenance. It starts from how the building actually operates rather than how it was designed, identifying faults, miscalibrations, and control sequence issues that affect performance, comfort, or energy use. The goal is to tune and adjust existing systems so they run more reliably and efficiently, with maintenance planning informed by actual operating conditions. This distinguishes it from initial commissioning, which is done for new buildings to ensure systems are installed and tested correctly; from re-commissioning, which involves repeating the commissioning process after significant changes, and from decommissioning, which means shutting down or removing systems. The focus on an existing building, diagnosing current problems, and supporting maintenance makes retro-commissioning the correct term.

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## Next Steps

**Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.**

**As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.**

**If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at [hello@examzify.com](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://acgcxa.examzify.com>**

**We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!**

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