

ACI Concrete Finisher Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

Table of Contents

Copyright 1

Table of Contents 2

Introduction 3

How to Use This Guide 4

Questions 5

Answers 8

Explanations 10

Next Steps 16

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

- 1. A drying period after curing increases resistance to freezing and thawing damage. Which statement best describes this effect?**
 - A. It increases resistance to freezing and thawing.**
 - B. It decreases resistance to freezing and thawing.**
 - C. It has no effect on freeze-thaw resistance.**
 - D. It increases curing time but not freeze-thaw resistance.**

- 2. The direction of the first machine floating pass should be _____ to the direction of the last finishing procedure.**
 - A. Perpendicular**
 - B. Parallel**
 - C. Diagonal**
 - D. Irregular**

- 3. What is the expected conclusion if both machine and hand finishing are used on the same floor?**
 - A. Difference in colors**
 - B. Higher compressive strength**
 - C. Equal density**
 - D. Uniform porosity**

- 4. In hot weather, when slab curing may start after placing but before finishing, which two methods can be used?**
 - A. Retarders and Fog Sprayers**
 - B. Curing Blankets and Insulation**
 - C. Water Curing and Plastic Sheeting**
 - D. Steam Curing and Heating**

- 5. The action that reduces sealing when using a magnesium bull float is to**
 - A. tilt the head up**
 - B. keep blade flat**
 - C. press harder**
 - D. move slowly**

6. When hand floating finishers should always start with the _____ and then move to the _____ size of float.
- A. Largest, smallest
 - B. Smallest, largest
 - C. Medium, large
 - D. Largest, medium
7. On stiffer concrete, a forward-turn, forward-pass combination on a rider allows the finish to always _____ the concrete being floated or troweled.
- A. face
 - B. follow
 - C. cover
 - D. touch
8. Edging and jointing is not required on most floors and should not be done unless specified.
- A. True
 - B. False
 - C. Sometimes
 - D. Never
9. The F-number system is a method for determining which floor characteristics?
- A. Floor flatness and levelness
 - B. Concrete compressive strength
 - C. Air content
 - D. Curing temperature
10. Delaying troweling until the concrete is too stiff to close up reduces the possibility of delamination and makes it easier to achieve high flatness F-numbers. True or False?
- A. True
 - B. False
 - C. Not sure
 - D. It depends

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. A drying period after curing increases resistance to freezing and thawing damage. Which statement best describes this effect?

- A. It increases resistance to freezing and thawing.**
- B. It decreases resistance to freezing and thawing.**
- C. It has no effect on freeze-thaw resistance.**
- D. It increases curing time but not freeze-thaw resistance.**

Drying after curing reduces the moisture inside the concrete pores. When water inside those pores freezes, it expands and creates internal pressures that can crack and damage the material. With a drying period, there is less water present to freeze, so the pressures generated during freezing are smaller. That lowers the potential for damage over repeated freeze-thaw cycles, making the concrete more resistant to freeze-thaw damage. So, the statement that describes this effect best is that it increases resistance to freezing and thawing.

2. The direction of the first machine floating pass should be _____ to the direction of the last finishing procedure.

- A. Perpendicular**
- B. Parallel**
- C. Diagonal**
- D. Irregular**

The key idea is that finishing texture and flatness improve when you cross the paths of your passes. The first machine floating pass should be perpendicular to the direction of the last finishing pass because finishing in a different direction helps blend and cross over any ridges or high spots created by the first pass. That cross-direction pattern creates a more uniform surface, reduces visible track marks from the final pass, and aids in pulling the cream and smoothing the surface evenly. If the passes were parallel, the last finishing stroke could ride along the grooves left by the first pass, making the surface look grooved and less uniform. A diagonal or irregular direction wouldn't provide the predictable cross-hatch effect that helps achieve consistent texture and planarity.

3. What is the expected conclusion if both machine and hand finishing are used on the same floor?

- A. Difference in colors**
- B. Higher compressive strength**
- C. Equal density**
- D. Uniform porosity**

When both machine and hand finishing are used on the same floor, you're combining two finishing methods that interact differently with the surface. Machine finishing tends to compact and smooth the surface quickly, which can remove or distribute the cement paste in a different way than hand finishing, and it may expose aggregates differently. Hand finishing progresses more slowly and leaves a surface with a different amount of paste and sheen. These differences in surface treatment lead to visible color variation across the floor, making a difference in colors the most likely and noticeable conclusion. The other outcomes—higher compressive strength, equal density, or uniform porosity—aren't guaranteed results of mixing finishing methods on the same slab, since strength and density depend mainly on the mix and curing, and porosity can vary with finishing but isn't as directly dictated by the combination of methods.

4. In hot weather, when slab curing may start after placing but before finishing, which two methods can be used?

- A. Retarders and Fog Sprayers**
- B. Curing Blankets and Insulation**
- C. Water Curing and Plastic Sheeting**
- D. Steam Curing and Heating**

In hot weather, the key is to control both the rate of hydration and moisture loss so you can finish after placement without causing surface cracking or excessive heat. A chemical retarder slows the cement hydration, delaying stiffening and reducing early temperature rise, which keeps finishing workable even when placement and finishing aren't simultaneous. A fog sprayer provides a light mist to the surface, cooling it and maintaining surface moisture without soaking the slab. Using both creates a favorable window for finishing after placement while still protecting the cure. Curing blankets and insulation are more about retaining heat in cold conditions, not addressing heat buildup in hot weather. Water curing with plastic sheeting can help keep moisture but plastic can trap heat and excess moisture, making it less controlled than combining a retarder with surface mist. Steam curing and heating would add heat, which isn't desirable in hot conditions.

5. The action that reduces sealing when using a magnesium bull float is to

- A. tilt the head up
- B. keep blade flat**
- C. press harder
- D. move slowly

Keeping the magnesium bull float blade level reduces sealing by spreading the contact pressure evenly across the surface rather than concentrating it at an edge. When the head is tilted upward, the float tends to dig in more at certain points and push surface fines and moisture toward the surface, creating a tighter, seal-like top layer. Pushing harder or moving more slowly also increases compaction and burnish, which enhances sealing. By maintaining a flat blade and using light, broad passes, you minimize this early densification and preserve a more open, workable surface texture.

6. When hand floating finishers should always start with the _____ and then move to the _____ size of float.

- A. Largest, smallest**
- B. Smallest, largest
- C. Medium, large
- D. Largest, medium

Starting with the largest float lets you quickly level uneven spots and bring up a smooth cream on the surface, establishing the overall contour. Then moving to progressively smaller floats refines the texture and produces a smooth, dense finish without creating new imperfections. Beginning with a smaller float would push and trap ridges that a larger tool would have flattened, and using a larger size later would tend to rework rather than refine the surface.

7. On stiffer concrete, a forward-turn, forward-pass combination on a rider allows the finish to always _____ the concrete being floated or troweled.

- A. face**
- B. follow
- C. cover
- D. touch

When finishing stiff concrete with a rider, the tool should present its face to the surface being worked. The face is the flat, broad surface that actually smooths and seals the concrete. Keeping the face of the finishing tool in contact with the concrete as you run a forward-turn, forward-pass ensures the finish is applied evenly and pressingly, producing a tight, uniform surface on the stiff mix. If the tool isn't oriented with its face toward the surface, you risk gouging, tearing, or an uneven finish. The other expressions don't describe the essential orientation needed for proper finishing on stiff concrete.

8. Edging and jointing is not required on most floors and should not be done unless specified.

A. True

B. False

C. Sometimes

D. Never

Edging and jointing are finishing steps driven by the project specifications. They aren't automatic requirements for every floor; you perform them when the plan or contract calls for it. Edging creates a clean, rounded edge along the slab to help prevent edge chipping and to improve the edge finish, while jointing places control joints to control where cracking due to shrinkage will occur. If the specifications don't require these steps—perhaps because the floor will be covered, overlaid, ground, or finished in a way that hides or makes these joints unnecessary—then they aren't done. So, in many projects, you wouldn't edge or joint unless the spec specifies it.

9. The F-number system is a method for determining which floor characteristics?

A. Floor flatness and levelness

B. Concrete compressive strength

C. Air content

D. Curing temperature

The F-number system measures floor surface quality, focusing on how flat and level the concrete floor is. It uses two values: one for flatness (how well the surface lies in a single plane over short stretches) and one for levelness (how parallel the surface is to a perfectly horizontal plane over those stretches). These numbers come from profiling the floor with a device that records the surface profile as you move across the area, then translating that data into FF (flatness) and FL (levelness) values. A lower number means tighter tolerances and a smoother, more even surface, while a higher number allows more deviation. This system is specifically about the surface characteristics that affect finishing and coatings, not about concrete strength, air content, or curing temperature, which are governed by other tests and procedures.

10. Delaying troweling until the concrete is too stiff to close up reduces the possibility of delamination and makes it easier to achieve high flatness F-numbers. True or False?

A. True

B. False

C. Not sure

D. It depends

Timing of troweling is crucial for both surface bonding and achieving a smooth, flat finish. If you delay finishing until the concrete is too stiff to close up, the surface can become a weak, highly laitance-rich layer that doesn't bond well to the underlying concrete. That weak bond increases the risk of delamination between the surface and the sublayer. At the same time, a surface finished in that late, stiff state won't respond well to smoothing, so you're likely to leave unevenness and ridges that keep the F-numbers from being high. The right approach is to finish while the surface has stiffened enough to hold shape but is still plastic enough to be closed and blended consistently. Delaying too long does not reduce delamination or improve flatness; it tends to worsen both.

SAMPLE

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.

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

<https://aciconcretedefinisher.examzify.com>

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

SAMPLE