

ACI CONCRETE FINISHER PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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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. Backer rod use in joint sealing?

- A. Provides a compressible support at the bottom of the joint to control sealant depth and allow movement.
- B. Bonds the sealant to the concrete surface.
- C. Serves as a permanent filler to seal the joint.
- D. Acts as an adhesive to stick forms.

2. At which meeting should the question about which finisher(s) can request water additions to the concrete be answered?

- A. Preconstruction meeting
- B. Safety briefing
- C. Daily crew meeting
- D. Quality control meeting

3. When planning a floor installation, why is it important to standardize finishing methods across the entire area?

- A. Difference in colors
- B. To ensure higher finishing speed
- C. To reduce curing time
- D. To increase air entrainment

4. Truck-mounted conveyors are especially useful on jobs with which condition?

- A. Height restrictions
- B. Limited space
- C. Poor weather
- D. Low visibility

5. Which spacing is the rule of thumb for a long, wide slab if thickness is known?

- A. 24-30 times the slab thickness in inches
- B. 8-10 ft apart
- C. 6-8 ft apart
- D. 40-50 ft apart

- 6. What is the function of a darby or magnesium float in finishing?**
- A. To apply curing compound
 - B. To smooth and level the surface after initial screed and bull float
 - C. To texture the surface for slip resistance
 - D. To mix additional aggregate into the surface
- 7. Which finish inconsistency is most likely to be noticed by occupants after the floor has cured?**
- A. Difference in colors
 - B. Reduced slip resistance
 - C. Increased polish
 - D. Higher thermal mass
- 8. What is a disadvantage of using trailer pumps for SOG placements?**
- A. Delays are caused by removing heavy pipe line sections as the placement progresses
 - B. They require more maintenance
 - C. They cannot reach long distances
 - D. They create excessive noise
- 9. When should a broom finish be applied on a concrete slab?**
- A. During the initial screed phase
 - B. Before any stiffening occurs
 - C. After the surface has stiffened sufficiently to hold texture but before final set
 - D. After the surface has fully set and gained hardness
- 10. What is the role of a release agent in decorative concrete?**
- A. Prevent bonding of formwork to the surface.
 - B. Seal the pores.
 - C. Color the surface.
 - D. Strengthen the surface.

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Backer rod use in joint sealing?

- A. Provides a compressible support at the bottom of the joint to control sealant depth and allow movement.**
- B. Bonds the sealant to the concrete surface.
- C. Serves as a permanent filler to seal the joint.
- D. Acts as an adhesive to stick forms.

Backer rod provides a compressible support at the bottom of the joint so the sealant depth is properly controlled and the sealant can accommodate movement without tearing or excessive adhesion to the bottom. By acting as a backstop, it ensures the sealant bonds mainly to the sides of the joint and forms the correct bead profile, which is essential for a durable, flexible seal. It also reduces the amount of sealant needed and prevents sag during application. It is not used to bond the sealant to concrete, nor is it a permanent filler, nor an adhesive for forms, since its purpose is the spacer and movement allowance, not adhesion or permanent filling.

2. At which meeting should the question about which finisher(s) can request water additions to the concrete be answered?

- A. Preconstruction meeting**
- B. Safety briefing
- C. Daily crew meeting
- D. Quality control meeting

Decisions about modifying the concrete mix, like who can request water additions, are determined in the planning stage so responsibilities and approvals are clear before work begins. The preconstruction meeting is where the project team—engineers, designers, contractors, and QC—discusses and documents the approved process for field adjustments to the mix, including who has authority to authorize water additions and under what limits. This ensures everyone understands the procedure and that changes stay within the established mix design and project requirements. Safety briefings focus on hazards and safe practices, not technical mix changes. Daily crew meetings handle day-to-day tasks and on-site coordination, but they don't set the overarching authorization and documentation for mix adjustments. Quality control meetings deal with verifying conformance and testing results, but the authority and process for making mix adjustments should already be defined beforehand in the preconstruction planning.

3. When planning a floor installation, why is it important to standardize finishing methods across the entire area?

- A. Difference in colors**
- B. To ensure higher finishing speed
- C. To reduce curing time
- D. To increase air entrainment

Standardizing finishing methods across the whole floor helps you achieve a uniform color and overall appearance. The way the surface is finished—trowel passes, timing between steps, moisture control, and pressure—directly influences how the concrete dries and oxidizes. If different sections are finished with different techniques or at different times, you'll often see patches of lighter or darker color, making the floor look inconsistent. Using a consistent approach everywhere minimizes those color variations and gives a cohesive final look. As for the other options, finishing speed depends more on the operator and equipment, curing time is driven by the mix and curing practices, and air entrainment is a property of the concrete mix, not something created by changing finishing methods.

4. Truck-mounted conveyors are especially useful on jobs with which condition?

A. Height restrictions

B. Limited space

C. Poor weather

D. Low visibility

Focusing on how to place concrete when overhead clearance is limited is what this question is getting at. Truck-mounted conveyors are built to reach into tight vertical spaces and deliver concrete where a taller, heavier setup would struggle. Because they're mounted on a towable truck, you can position the unit close to the pour and extend the boom to the exact height needed without raising giant pumps or cranes. This makes them especially useful when there are height restrictions—low ceilings, openings, or other overhead obstacles—since you can still place concrete at the required elevation without violating those limits. Other conditions don't address vertical reach in the same way. Limited space is more about ground area, poor weather or low visibility don't inherently hinge on the equipment's ability to discharge at a restricted height. So the ability to work within height restrictions is the standout advantage of truck-mounted conveyors.

5. Which spacing is the rule of thumb for a long, wide slab if thickness is known?

A. 24-30 times the slab thickness in inches

B. 8-10 ft apart

C. 6-8 ft apart

D. 40-50 ft apart

For long, wide slabs, cracking is managed by setting contraction joints at spacing that scales with how thick the slab is. The standard rule of thumb is to space joints at 24 to 30 times the slab thickness, with the thickness measured in inches (giving the spacing in inches). So a 6-inch slab would have joints about 144 to 180 inches apart (roughly 12–15 ft). Fixed spacings like 8–10 ft, 6–8 ft, or 40–50 ft don't account for varying thicknesses and can either under-control or over-control cracks depending on how thick the slab is. This 24–30 times thickness rule provides a consistent, thickness-dependent guideline for effective crack control.

6. What is the function of a darby or magnesium float in finishing?

A. To apply curing compound

B. To smooth and level the surface after initial screed and bull float

C. To texture the surface for slip resistance

D. To mix additional aggregate into the surface

The main idea here is smoothing and leveling the surface after the slab has been screed and bull floated. A darby or magnesium float is used to strike off high spots and fill small voids, creating a flatter, more uniform plane. This step further refines the surface while it's still plastic, making it ready for the final finish (whether that's troweling for a smooth look or a light texture). Using this float too early or too aggressively can overwork the surface, but done correctly it produces a consistent, dense top layer. The other tasks don't fit this function: applying curing compound is done after finishing the surface is set, texturing for slip resistance is typically done later (or with a broom) to create a texture, and adding more aggregate would disrupt the finish rather than smooth and level it.

7. Which finish inconsistency is most likely to be noticed by occupants after the floor has cured?

- A. Difference in colors**
- B. Reduced slip resistance
- C. Increased polish
- D. Higher thermal mass

A difference in color is the finish inconsistency most likely to catch occupants' attention after the floor has cured. Color variations on a cured concrete surface are highly noticeable visually and signal uneven mix distribution, moisture content, or finishing practices across the floor. People walking on the surface will quickly notice lighter or darker patches, which stands out more than other potential inconsistencies. Reduced slip resistance, while important for safety, is something occupants feel when walking and may depend on contamination or texture, not something they see at a glance. Increased polish implies a polishing process that isn't always part of a typical cured floor, so it's not as universally evident. Higher thermal mass is a material property and not something occupants commonly observe simply from looking at or walking on the surface after curing.

8. What is a disadvantage of using trailer pumps for SOG placements?

- A. Delays are caused by removing heavy pipe line sections as the placement progresses**
- B. They require more maintenance
- C. They cannot reach long distances
- D. They create excessive noise

Trailer-mounted pumps in slabs-on-grade work require moving the pipeline as the pour advances. The heavy pipe sections must be disconnected, lifted, moved forward, and reconnected, which introduces downtime and extra labor that slow down the placement. This time loss is the most noticeable drawback for SOG pours. Maintenance, reach, and noise can matter in some setups, but they're not the primary disadvantage tied to SOG placements with trailer pumps.

9. When should a broom finish be applied on a concrete slab?

- A. During the initial screed phase
- B. Before any stiffening occurs
- C. After the surface has stiffened sufficiently to hold texture but before final set
- D. After the surface has fully set and gained hardness**

Broom finishing depends on the concrete's stiffness at the right moment. The texture should be applied once the surface has stiffened enough to hold the broom pattern but before the concrete reaches its final set. If done too early when the surface is still plastic, the broom will drag and smear, making the texture uneven. If done too late after it has fully set, the surface is too hard to take the texture at all and the broom marks won't form properly. Applying at the proper stage gives a consistent, slip-resistant surface with a clear, uniform pattern.

10. What is the role of a release agent in decorative concrete?

A. Prevent bonding of formwork to the surface.

B. Seal the pores.

C. Color the surface.

D. Strengthen the surface.

Release agents create a barrier between the formwork and the fresh concrete so the forms can be removed without sticking or tearing the surface. In decorative concrete, this anti-adhesion property is crucial for clean demolding and it can also leave a slight film or texture that contributes to the finished look. This is not about sealing pores after curing (that's a sealer's job), nor about adding color to the surface (that comes from pigments or stains), nor about increasing strength (that depends on mix design and curing). So the primary role is to prevent bonding between the formwork and the concrete surface.

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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.

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

<https://aconcretefinisher.examzify.com>

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

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