

AIC Certified Associate Constructor (CAC) 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. To check if a 25-foot-high block wall is within tolerances, which tool and use is most appropriate?**
 - A. Use a plumb bob to measure the vertical plane**
 - B. Use a building level to determine its length**
 - C. Use a total station to quantify the number of blocks**
 - D. Use a pinellas rod to measure against a horizontal plane**

- 2. Which component makes up the largest share by volume in general purpose concrete?**
 - A. aggregate**
 - B. cement paste**
 - C. water**
 - D. air**

- 3. Fine-grained soils are soils finer than a _____.**
 - A. No. 200 sieve**
 - B. No. 60 sieve**
 - C. No. 400 sieve**
 - D. No. 100 sieve**

- 4. Which type of accident accounts for the majority of fatalities in the construction industry?**
 - A. Falls**
 - B. Inhalation**
 - C. Explosion**
 - D. Cranes**

- 5. In a project where the architect is named as the initial decision maker for contractor disputes including claims of errors and omissions against them, what is the most appropriate action?**
 - A. The clause is patently unethical and should be removed**
 - B. Designers are unable to make unbiased ruling on their own work so it should be removed**
 - C. While not unethical, perceptions can be more important than reality and it should be removed**
 - D. If the designer does not render an opinion then the error and omissions insurance is voided and as such should remain**

- 6. Which poster describes the regulations for wage payment and hours of work for all industries and must be posted at the job site?**
- A. Prevailing Wage Rates**
 - B. Material Safety Data Sheet**
 - C. Fair Labor Standards**
 - D. Safety and Health Protection**
- 7. How should a 3-phase, 120/208V load be wired?**
- A. One hot, one neutral and one ground conductor**
 - B. Two hot and one neutral conductor**
 - C. Three hot and one neutral conductor**
 - D. Three hot conductors**
- 8. How is total float defined?**
- A. the amount of slack in a node**
 - B. the amount of slack within an activity**
 - C. how much a series of activities can be delayed without delaying a project**
 - D. the amount of slack accumulated throughout the logic network**
- 9. Which of the following alternative dispute methods is often required by contract to resolve a claim?**
- A. negotiation**
 - B. mediation**
 - C. arbitration**
 - D. litigation**
- 10. Who should maintain the job diary?**
- A. Superintendent**
 - B. Foreman**
 - C. Project Manager**
 - D. All members of the project management team**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. To check if a 25-foot-high block wall is within tolerances, which tool and use is most appropriate?

- A. Use a plumb bob to measure the vertical plane**
- B. Use a building level to determine its length**
- C. Use a total station to quantify the number of blocks**
- D. Use a pinellas rod to measure against a horizontal plane**

The test is about identifying vertical alignment (plumb) of a tall wall. A plumb bob gives a true vertical reference by gravity, so suspending it from the top of the wall lets you see if the wall remains aligned to that vertical line along its height. Checking against the vertical reference across the 25-foot height lets you verify plumbness within the specified tolerance. Other tools aren't as well suited for this specific check: a building level is used to assess horizontal surfaces and levels, not verticality; a total station can measure coordinates and angles but is more complex and unnecessary for a straight plumb check; a pinellas rod is used with a horizontal level to measure elevations relative to a horizontal plane, not to assess vertical alignment of a wall.

2. Which component makes up the largest share by volume in general purpose concrete?

- A. aggregate**
- B. cement paste**
- C. water**
- D. air**

In general purpose concrete, the bulk of the material's volume comes from the aggregates—the sand and gravel that form the skeleton of the mix. The cement paste, made from cement and water, coats and binds these particles and fills the remaining voids, but it occupies less volume than the aggregates. Water is essential for the chemical reaction that hardens the cement, yet after hydration it becomes part of the paste, not a separate large component. Air voids exist but are a small portion of the volume in standard mixes. Because the aggregates provide most of the volume, they are the largest share by volume.

3. Fine-grained soils are soils finer than a _____.

- A. No. 200 sieve**
- B. No. 60 sieve**
- C. No. 400 sieve**
- D. No. 100 sieve**

In sieve analysis, the boundary between coarse- and fine-grained soils is set by the No. 200 sieve. Particles that pass through this sieve are smaller than about 0.075 mm, so soils finer than the No. 200 sieve are considered fine-grained (typically silts and clays). That's why the sentence ends with the No. 200 sieve. The other sieve sizes correspond to coarser openings and do not define the standard split used to separate fine- from coarse-grained soils.

4. Which type of accident accounts for the majority of fatalities in the construction industry?

- A. Falls**
- B. Inhalation**
- C. Explosion**
- D. Cranes**

Working at height is the largest fatal risk in construction. Falls from ladders, scaffolds, roofs, and other elevated surfaces routinely cause more deaths than any other hazard because projects often involve working at multiple elevations and frequent changes in height. When protection fails or is insufficient, even a brief slip or misstep can be deadly. That's why fall protection measures—guardrails, personal fall arrest systems, proper ladder and scaffold use, and safe edge work—are central to construction safety. Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and OSHA consistently show that falls from elevation make up the largest share of construction fatalities, roughly one-third of all fatal injuries in the industry. The other hazards—injuries from inhalation, explosions, or crane accidents—do occur, but they account for a smaller portion of fatalities in construction, so they don't reach the same level as falls.

5. In a project where the architect is named as the initial decision maker for contractor disputes including claims of errors and omissions against them, what is the most appropriate action?

- A. The clause is patently unethical and should be removed**
- B. Designers are unable to make unbiased ruling on their own work so it should be removed**
- C. While not unethical, perceptions can be more important than reality and it should be removed**
- D. If the designer does not render an opinion then the error and omissions insurance is voided and as such should remain**

Safeguarding impartiality in dispute resolution is the central idea here. When the architect could be the subject of claims and also has the authority to decide those disputes, a real or perceived conflict of interest emerges. Even if there isn't deliberate bias, stakeholders may question the fairness of outcomes, which can erode trust in the process and complicate risk management and insurance support. The best course is to remove the architect from acting as the initial decision maker and instead use an independent, neutral party or a balanced panel to handle disputes and any related E&O issues. This preserves credibility and reduces perceived bias, which is crucial for effective governance on a project. The other options overstate or misstate the situation: labeling the arrangement as patently unethical isn't warranted if transparency and proper safeguards can be put in place; claiming designers cannot be unbiased is too absolute and ignores mitigation options; and stating insurance would be voided if an opinion isn't rendered introduces improper pressure and isn't an accurate or appropriate policy outcome.

6. Which poster describes the regulations for wage payment and hours of work for all industries and must be posted at the job site?

- A. Prevailing Wage Rates**
- B. Material Safety Data Sheet**
- C. Fair Labor Standards**
- D. Safety and Health Protection**

The main idea is identifying which posting communicates workers' pay and hours rights and must be shown at the worksite. The poster that covers these topics is the one under the Fair Labor Standards Act, which sets minimum wage, overtime rules, and related recordkeeping requirements. Because it directly describes how workers should be paid and how many hours count as work, and because employers are required to display this information publicly at the job site, it's the most relevant and universally applicable posting. The other options focus on different subjects: wage scales for certain government contracts (not a general posting for all industries), chemical safety information, or general safety and health rights. For informing workers about pay and hours and meeting posting duties, the Fair Labor Standards Act poster is the best fit.

7. How should a 3-phase, 120/208V load be wired?

- A. One hot, one neutral and one ground conductor**
- B. Two hot and one neutral conductor**
- C. Three hot and one neutral conductor**
- D. Three hot conductors**

In a 3-phase 208V system with a wye configuration, each phase to neutral provides 120V, and any two phases are 208V apart. A device that is rated for 120/208V can use 120V from a phase to neutral, or 208V between two phases. To power such a load, you need access to all three hot conductors plus a neutral, giving four conductors in total. The ground conductor is separate for safety and is not used to carry the load current. Without the neutral, you'd only have 208V between phases; without all three hots, you'd lose the 3-phase capability. So the correct wiring is three hot conductors plus one neutral.

8. How is total float defined?

- A. the amount of slack in a node**
- B. the amount of slack within an activity**
- C. how much a series of activities can be delayed without delaying a project**
- D. the amount of slack accumulated throughout the logic network**

Total float measures how much delay the schedule can tolerate before the project's finish date is affected. In CPM, each activity has earliest and latest times; total float is the difference between the latest finish and the earliest finish (equivalently, the difference between latest start and earliest start). This value shows how long that portion of the schedule can slip without pushing the project completion date. If an activity lies on the critical path, its total float is zero, meaning any delay will delay the project. Positive total float means there is some scheduling flexibility. The idea described—how much a series of activities can be delayed without delaying the project—captures this concept, since it reflects delay tolerance across the project timeline rather than within a single moment in isolation.

9. Which of the following alternative dispute methods is often required by contract to resolve a claim?

- A. negotiation**
- B. mediation**
- C. arbitration**
- D. litigation**

Arbitration is often chosen in contracts as the required path to resolve disputes because it provides a private, binding decision outside the courtroom. A contract clause that mandates arbitration offers a faster, more streamlined process than litigation and allows the parties to select arbitrators with expertise in the subject matter. The resulting award is usually final and enforceable in many jurisdictions, including across borders under the New York Convention, which makes arbitration especially attractive in international deals. In contrast, negotiation is simply an initial effort to settle, and mediation is a non-binding step aimed at reaching agreement but not the final resolution. Litigation, while available, is costly, public, and can be slower, so parties often prefer to rely on arbitration to obtain a confidential and efficient outcome.

10. Who should maintain the job diary?

- A. Superintendent**
- B. Foreman**
- C. Project Manager**
- D. All members of the project management team**

Keeping a job diary is about building a reliable, ongoing record of what happens on the job—what was done, decisions made, delays, weather, safety events, inspections, deliveries, and subcontractor activity. Because this documentation underpins change orders, schedule updates, claims, and accountability, it's best treated as a team responsibility within the project management group. Each member contributes entries relevant to their responsibilities: the project manager notes contractual implications and decisions; the superintendent captures on-site activities, conditions, and progress; the foreman records crew work and quality issues; and others add information as their work intersects with the diary. Sharing the duty ensures important events aren't missed, improves accuracy through multiple perspectives, and keeps the record useful if someone is unavailable later. It also promotes clear communication and traceability, which helps resolve disputes and support project controls.

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://aiccac.examzify.com>

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

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