

AIC CERTIFIED ASSOCIATE CONSTRUCTOR (CAC) PRACTICE EXAM (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. How long should OSHA Form 300 be kept by the employer? (alternate wording)**
 - A. until hazard abated
 - B. 3 months
 - C. 1 year
 - D. 5 years
- 2. Which payment term is most favorable to the purchaser?**
 - A. Cash on demand
 - B. 3/20 Net 60
 - C. 2/20 Net 60
 - D. 2/10 Net 20
- 3. Which legal structure typically results in the least total taxes at the entity level for business income?**
 - A. Corporation
 - B. Partnership
 - C. Sole Proprietorship
 - D. LLC
- 4. Which equipment is most suitable for removing and stockpiling a shallow soil layer from a large site?**
 - A. Dragline
 - B. Loader
 - C. Scraper
 - D. Excavator
- 5. Which of the following items is never included with a purchase order?**
 - A. labor
 - B. material
 - C. tax
 - D. rental equipment

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. If three equal resistors are connected in parallel, how does the total resistance compare to each individual resistor?
- A. Greater than each
 - B. Equal to each
 - C. Less than each
 - D. Cannot be determined
8. Which management system was developed based on Toyota's Production System?
- A. ISO 9000
 - B. TQM
 - C. Six Sigma
 - D. Lean
9. Which of the following types of excavation equipment is most suitable for final grading of a roadway?
- A. dozer
 - B. grader
 - C. loader
 - D. backhoe
10. In a roof slope expressed as 5:12, what does this ratio represent?
- A. Rise per run
 - B. Run per rise
 - C. Angle in degrees
 - D. Horizontal distance only

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. How long should OSHA Form 300 be kept by the employer? (alternate wording)

- A. until hazard abated
- B. 3 months
- C. 1 year
- D. 5 years**

OSHA requires keeping the Form 300, Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses, for five years after the end of the calendar year that the record covers. This retention window lets you track safety trends over time and provides enough history for OSHA audits or employer reviews. For example, injuries that occurred in 2024 must be kept through December 31, 2029. (The same five-year retention applies to the related forms 301 and 300A.)

2. Which payment term is most favorable to the purchaser?

- A. Cash on demand
- B. 3/20 Net 60**
- C. 2/20 Net 60
- D. 2/10 Net 20

Understanding payment terms is about how early you must pay and what discount you can gain for paying sooner. The most favorable for the purchaser is the term that gives the largest savings for early payment while still allowing a long overall payment window. In these options, the term offering a 3% discount if you pay within 20 days, with payment still due in full within 60 days, provides the biggest incentive to pay early (the 3% discount) without sacrificing the flexibility of a net 60-day term. The other options either offer a smaller discount (2%) or require paying within a shorter window (10 or 20 days) with the same or shorter overall term, making them less advantageous. Cash on demand offers no discount or credit at all, so it's the least favorable for the purchaser. Therefore, the 3% discount for payment within 20 days, with net due in 60 days, is the best choice for the purchaser.

3. Which legal structure typically results in the least total taxes at the entity level for business income?

- A. Corporation
- B. Partnership
- C. Sole Proprietorship**
- D. LLC

The key idea here is how taxes are applied at the entity level versus to the individual owner. In a sole proprietorship, there is no separate business entity tax—the income or loss from the business is reported directly on the owner's personal tax return. The business itself doesn't pay a distinct corporate tax first, so the taxes do not accrue at the entity level. The owner then pays personal income tax (and self-employment tax on net earnings) on those profits, which is separate from any entity-level tax. That's why this form is typically described as having the least or no entity-level tax. Other structures can vary: a C corporation pays corporate income tax at the entity level, reducing after-tax profits and potentially leading to double taxation when profits are distributed as dividends. Pass-through forms like partnerships or LLCs (default, not taxed as a corporation) don't pay entity-level income tax either, but they introduce allocations to owners and, in practice, can involve more complexity in reporting. For the specific emphasis on taxes paid by the entity itself, sole proprietorship is the clearest example of no entity-level taxation.

4. Which equipment is most suitable for removing and stockpiling a shallow soil layer from a large site?

- A. Dragline
- B. Loader
- C. Scraper**
- D. Excavator

This item tests selecting equipment for bulk removal and stockpiling of a shallow soil layer over a large area. A scraper is best because it combines digging, loading, hauling, and dumping in one self-contained machine. It cuts the soil, carries it in an on-board bowl, and deposits it at a stockpile without needing separate trucks or loaders, which makes it highly efficient for large-scale, shallow-layer work. Its design is optimized for high production on flat or gently rolling terrain, where it can continuously move material to a nearby stockpile. The other options fit different roles. A dragline digs deep and can reach into difficult corners or waterways, but it isn't optimized for moving large volumes to on-site stockpiles. A loader can move material quickly but relies on separate haul units to transport it long distances, adding cycles and cost on a big site. An excavator digs and can load into trucks or conveyors, but for bulk earthmoving across a large area, the need for loading and hauling equipment elsewhere reduces overall efficiency compared with a self-contained scraper.

5. Which of the following items is never included with a purchase order?

- A. labor**
- B. material
- C. tax
- D. rental equipment

A purchase order is used to authorize the purchase and delivery of items or services from an external supplier. It covers things that will be delivered or performed by someone outside your organization, such as materials, equipment rental, or external services. Labor, on the other hand, is the cost of your own workforce or subcontracted personnel, and it's typically tracked through payroll or a separate subcontract/contracting arrangement rather than a PO line item. Because labor isn't a delivered item from a supplier, it isn't included on a purchase order. That's why rental equipment and material commonly appear on POs, and taxes can be part of the pricing or invoicing, but labor doesn't.

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. If three equal resistors are connected in parallel, how does the total resistance compare to each individual resistor?

- A. Greater than each
- B. Equal to each
- C. Less than each**
- D. Cannot be determined

When resistors are in parallel, the total resistance is smaller than any single resistor because the current has multiple paths to take. The math shows this clearly: $1/R_{eq} = 1/R_1 + 1/R_2 + 1/R_3$. If all three resistors are equal to R , then $1/R_{eq} = 1/R + 1/R + 1/R = 3/R$, so $R_{eq} = R/3$. Since $R/3$ is less than R , the total resistance is smaller than each individual resistor. This is the hallmark of parallel circuits: adding parallel paths increases conductance ($G = 1/R$), so the overall resistance drops. For example, with $R = 6$ ohms, three in parallel give $R_{eq} = 2$ ohms.

8. Which management system was developed based on Toyota's Production System?

- A. ISO 9000
- B. TQM
- C. Six Sigma
- D. Lean**

Lean originated from Toyota's Production System, which aimed to eliminate waste and create smooth, just-in-time flow. By adopting its core ideas—delivering clear value to the customer, removing non-value-adding steps, using pull systems to signal demand, and pursuing continuous improvement (kaizen)—Lean became the management approach developed from TPS and spread across industries. The other options are quality frameworks that arose separately: ISO 9000 sets global quality management standards, TQM is a broad quality improvement philosophy, and Six Sigma focuses on reducing variation with statistical methods. None of these are derived from Toyota's Production System in the same way Lean is.

9. Which of the following types of excavation equipment is most suitable for final grading of a roadway?

- A. dozer
- B. grader**
- C. loader
- D. backhoe

Final grading of a roadway requires very precise control of elevation and cross-slope to create a smooth, drivable surface with proper drainage. A grader is built specifically for this finishing work. Its long blade can be raised, lowered, angled, and tilted to shave high spots and fill low ones while maintaining a consistent grade over long distances. Operators can set and maintain the desired crown and cross-slope, often aided by grade-control systems to hit exact elevations. The other machines aren't as suited for finishing work: a bulldozer handles rough bulk leveling and pushing material but isn't ideal for the fine, uniform finish needed on a road; a loader moves material but doesn't provide the long, even contact with the surface required for a precise grade; a backhoe is designed for digging and trenching rather than finishing surfaces. So, for the final, precise finishing of a roadway surface, the grader is the best choice.

10. In a roof slope expressed as 5:12, what does this ratio represent?

- A. Rise per run
- B. Run per rise
- C. Angle in degrees
- D. Horizontal distance only

A roof slope of 5:12 tells you the vertical change relative to horizontal distance. For every 12 units of horizontal run, the roof rises 5 units—that is, it expresses rise per run. It isn't run per rise, it isn't the angle itself (though you can find the angle by taking the arctangent of 5 divided by 12), and it isn't just horizontal distance. If you convert to a percent, 5/12 is about 41.7%, which gives another sense of the slope's steepness.

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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://aiccac.examzify.com>

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

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