

ALABAMA CONTRACTORS LICENSE 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. What is the role of a project manager with regard to subcontractors?**
 - A. Hiring and overseeing them
 - B. Only scheduling their tasks
 - C. Training them on site
 - D. Conducting their interviews
- 2. What is the maximum length for any section of exterior structural glass veneer?**
 - A. 36 inches
 - B. 48 inches
 - C. 60 inches
 - D. 72 inches
- 3. A sump is not required for walls supporting less than how many feet of backfill?**
 - A. 3 feet
 - B. 5 feet
 - C. 2 feet
 - D. 4 feet
- 4. What should relief valves installed on water heaters be set to open above the operating pressure?**
 - A. 25 psi
 - B. 50 psi
 - C. 75 psi
 - D. 100 psi
- 5. Do attics containing appliances require a clear opening and unobstructed passageway for appliance removal?**
 - A. True
 - B. False

6. The minimum clearance required for chimneys to combustibles is generally at least how many inches?
- A. 2
 - B. 3
 - C. 4
 - D. 5
7. What is the minimum compressive strength in psi for a concrete basement slab with negligible weathering potential?
- A. 1,500
 - B. 2,000
 - C. 2,500
 - D. 4,000
8. Special loads for steel joists include all of the following, except:
- A. Bending moments
 - B. End moments
 - C. Concentrated loads
 - D. Non-uniform loads
9. Exterior wood framing walls must be made of at least which grade of wood?
- A. Utility
 - B. Grade 2
 - C. Grade 3
 - D. Grade 4
10. Are storm and screen doors permitted to swing over exterior stairs?
- A. True
 - B. False
 - C. Only if they are reinforced
 - D. Depends on the building code

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the role of a project manager with regard to subcontractors?

A. Hiring and overseeing them

B. Only scheduling their tasks

C. Training them on site

D. Conducting their interviews

The role of a project manager with regard to subcontractors primarily involves hiring and overseeing them. This responsibility encompasses selecting the right subcontractors for the specific tasks needed on a project, based on their skills, experience, and availability. Once hired, the project manager is responsible for ensuring that the subcontractors adhere to the project timelines, quality standards, and safety regulations. Effective oversight requires the project manager to maintain clear communication, monitor progress, and address any issues that may arise during the project's execution. While scheduling tasks, training, and conducting interviews can also be parts of a project manager's duties, these actions are typically secondary to the overall responsibility of hiring and managing subcontractors. For instance, while scheduling is important to ensure that subcontractors are working on the right tasks at the right time, it is ultimately just one aspect of the broader oversight role. Additionally, training subcontractors on-site may fall under the purview of specific trades or foremen rather than the project manager, and conducting interviews may often be handled by other personnel within the organization or specific procurement teams. The core function remains focused on the comprehensive management and coordination of subcontractors to achieve the project's goals efficiently.

2. What is the maximum length for any section of exterior structural glass veneer?

A. 36 inches

B. 48 inches

C. 60 inches

D. 72 inches

The maximum length for any section of exterior structural glass veneer is 60 inches. This standard is set to ensure safety and structural integrity in construction. Longer spans can pose challenges related to load distribution, weather resistance, and the potential for cracking or breaking under stress. By limiting the length to 60 inches, building codes aim to enhance the performance of the material in various environmental conditions, including thermal expansion and contraction. This regulation also helps to maintain aesthetic consistency and overall durability in construction projects involving glass veneers. Understanding these parameters is crucial for ensuring compliance with building regulations and promoting the longevity of architectural features.

3. A sump is not required for walls supporting less than how many feet of backfill?

- A. 3 feet**
- B. 5 feet
- C. 2 feet
- D. 4 feet

In construction, a sump is typically used to collect and discharge water that accumulates in an area, particularly where there may be a risk of water infiltration around basement walls or foundations. The requirement for a sump is often related to the amount of backfill soil pressure that walls must support. When walls are supporting less than 3 feet of backfill, the pressure exerted by the soil is generally considered manageable without the need for additional drainage systems like a sump. This is largely because the risk of water accumulating and exerting damaging lateral pressure on the walls increases with greater backfill depths. Therefore, for less than 3 feet of backfill, standard drainage practices may adequately handle any potential water infiltration without necessitating a sump to prevent structural issues. Understanding this requirement helps contractors to gauge when to implement more sophisticated drainage solutions for excavation sites based on the amount of backfill being supported, contributing to better planning, construction practices, and site management.

4. What should relief valves installed on water heaters be set to open above the operating pressure?

- A. 25 psi
- B. 50 psi
- C. 75 psi**
- D. 100 psi

Relief valves on water heaters are crucial safety devices designed to prevent excessive pressure buildup inside the tank. These valves open to release water and reduce pressure when it exceeds a predetermined limit, ensuring that the water heater operates safely within its recommended pressure range. Setting relief valves to open at 75 psi is appropriate because it typically aligns with the operating pressures of residential water heating systems. Most standard residential water heaters are designed to operate at a maximum working pressure of around 60-80 psi. Therefore, setting the relief valve to open at 75 psi provides a safety buffer, preventing the possibility of dangerous over-pressurization while ensuring that the system remains effective during normal operation. Choosing a lower pressure setting, such as 25 or 50 psi, might result in frequent trips of the valve, causing unnecessary water loss and reducing the efficiency of the system. Setting it at 100 psi could lead to the danger of excessive pressure buildup leading to possible rupture or catastrophic failure of the water heater. Thus, 75 psi strikes a balance between safety and operational efficiency, making it the ideal choice for relief valves in water heaters.

5. Do attics containing appliances require a clear opening and unobstructed passageway for appliance removal?

A. True

B. False

In homes with attics that contain appliances, such as HVAC systems or water heaters, it is essential to have a clear opening and unobstructed passageway for the maintenance and removal of these appliances. The requirement for these passageways ensures that technicians can access the equipment safely and efficiently, which is crucial for both routine maintenance and emergency situations. The building codes and regulations are designed to prevent any potential hazards that may arise from obstructed pathways when accessing heavy or bulky equipment. This is especially important as it enhances safety during repairs and minimizes the risk of damaging the structure or the appliances themselves. Furthermore, keeping the passageway clear facilitates proper ventilation and functionality of the appliances, ensuring they operate safely and effectively. Therefore, the assertion that attics containing appliances do require a clear opening and unobstructed passageway is indeed true.

6. The minimum clearance required for chimneys to combustibles is generally at least how many inches?

A. 2

B. 3

C. 4

D. 5

The minimum clearance required for chimneys to combustibles is generally established to ensure safety and reduce the risk of fire. A clearance of at least 4 inches is specified because this distance helps to prevent excessive heat from the chimney from igniting combustible materials nearby. This standard is based on fire safety regulations that recognize that heat produced by the flue or chimney can lead to thermal ignition of adjacent materials if adequate space is not maintained. Ensuring a minimum of 4 inches allows for both the safe operation of the chimney and protects surrounding structures. Options stating lower clearance distances do not provide sufficient safety margins, increasing the risk of fire hazards. Therefore, adhering to the 4-inch clearance requirement is vital for building code compliance and ensuring the safety of structures involving chimneys.

7. What is the minimum compressive strength in psi for a concrete basement slab with negligible weathering potential?

A. 1,500

B. 2,000

C. 2,500

D. 4,000

The minimum compressive strength for a concrete basement slab with negligible weathering potential is 2,500 psi. This strength is typically appropriate for interior residential applications where the concrete is not exposed to severe environmental conditions, such as extreme freeze-thaw cycles or chemical exposure that could undermine its structural integrity. Concrete with a compressive strength of 2,500 psi is suitable for many foundation applications, as it provides a balance between workability and durability for typical basement conditions. While higher strength concrete, such as 4,000 psi, may offer more durability, particularly in harsher environments, the specifications for basement slabs with negligible weathering potential specifically indicate that 2,500 psi is sufficient to handle normal loads and conditions found in such spaces without the risk of premature failure. The lower strengths, such as 1,500 or 2,000 psi, tend to be inadequate for structural elements due to their limited load-bearing capabilities, which could compromise the overall integrity of the basement slab. Therefore, while 2,500 psi meets the necessary criteria for this application, options reflecting lower strengths do not provide the necessary resilience for a foundation.

8. Special loads for steel joists include all of the following, except:

- A. Bending moments
- B. End moments
- C. Concentrated loads
- D. Non-uniform loads**

In the context of steel joists, special loads are specific forces and moments that can influence how the joists behave under stress. These loads typically include bending moments, end moments, and concentrated loads. Bending moments refer to the internal moments that arise from loads applied to the structure, which cause it to bend. End moments occur at the supports or ends of the joists, significantly affecting their stability and design. Concentrated loads are individual point loads that act on a specific location of a joist, which can lead to local stress concentrations. Non-uniform loads, while important in construction, do not fall under the category of special loads for steel joists. Instead, they represent a loading scenario where the load varies along the length of the joist, which is typically analyzed as a continuous load rather than a specific special load. Thus, it's clear why non-uniform loads are not included in the list of special loads for steel joists.

9. Exterior wood framing walls must be made of at least which grade of wood?

- A. Utility
- B. Grade 2**
- C. Grade 3
- D. Grade 4

The requirement for exterior wood framing walls to be made of at least Grade 2 wood is rooted in the need for structural integrity and durability. Grade 2 lumber is classified as having a good balance of strength and appearance, making it suitable for applications such as framing where it is exposed to the elements. This grade provides sufficient load-bearing capacity and resistance to warping and splitting, ensuring that the structural components can withstand various weather conditions. Lower grades like Utility, Grade 3, and Grade 4 do not meet the necessary criteria for strength and durability when used in exterior applications. Utility grade may have defects that significantly compromise structural integrity, while Grades 3 and 4 contain more imperfections, making them less reliable for framing purposes. Therefore, using Grade 2 wood ensures compliance with building codes and industry standards, promoting safety and longevity in construction projects.

10. Are storm and screen doors permitted to swing over exterior stairs?

- A. True**
- B. False
- C. Only if they are reinforced
- D. Depends on the building code

Storm and screen doors are generally allowed to swing over exterior stairs as long as they meet specific safety and building code requirements. When these doors are properly installed, they can provide additional protection from the elements while allowing for safe egress. In residential settings, building codes typically address the clearance and safety of doors in relation to stairs. The reason the correct response emphasizes that it is permissible lies in the understanding that, when properly designed and installed, storm and screen doors do not obstruct passage or present a safety hazard when they swing over a staircase. However, having the doors swing back towards the stairs may require adherence to regulations that ensure they do not create an impediment or risk of falling. The other choices highlight misunderstandings about standard practices or suggest unnecessary conditions that are generally not required for the typical installation of such doors.

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://alabamacontractors.examzify.com>

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

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