

ASSOCIATE 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. Which description provides the BEST example of how to report progress on the job site?**
 - A. Poured concrete for the foundation
 - B. Poured 75 CY Concrete Placed Rebar, Stripped Forms for Columns D1 -D4
 - C. Columns were constructed
 - D. Job site remains on schedule
- 2. What type of disputes is the NLRB empowered to resolve?**
 - A. Employee-employer conflicts
 - B. Organized Labor-Contractor disputes
 - C. Safety violations on job sites
 - D. Government regulatory compliance
- 3. What does the term "Uprights" refer to in timber shoring tables?**
 - A. The horizontal supports
 - B. The vertical sheet piles that restrain the soil
 - C. The base of the framework
 - D. The top brace of the structure
- 4. What items must be consulted to properly price a New Contract Change Order Proposal for a Road and Bridge Project?**
 - A. General Conditions and Project Budget
 - B. Supplementary Conditions and Prevailing Wage Rate Table
 - C. Cost Estimate and Project Timeline
 - D. Owner Specifications and Change Order Forms
- 5. What do the field thumb penetration, pocket penetrometer, and sheervane measure?**
 - A. Density of soil
 - B. Unconfined Compressive Strength
 - C. Water content
 - D. Soil cohesion

- 6. Featherbedding is an agreement that focuses on ensuring payment for:**
- A. Work performed accurately
 - B. Excessive work hours
 - C. Services not rendered
 - D. Work performed by contractors
- 7. What is fundamentally important in maintaining a construction license?**
- A. Completing a projects within budget
 - B. Adhering to safety regulations and standards
 - C. Maximizing gross margins
 - D. Reducing workforce size to cut costs
- 8. What is the definition of bid peddling?**
- A. A contractor approaches competitors to lower bids
 - B. A subcontractor approaches the awarded contractor to lower price
 - C. A contractor reduces scope to lower bid price
 - D. A contractor increases bid price after submission
- 9. Under which law are corporations typically formed?**
- A. Federal Law
 - B. Constitutional Law
 - C. State Law
 - D. International Law
- 10. Which party is typically responsible for obtaining the necessary permits for construction projects?**
- A. Subcontractor
 - B. General Contractor
 - C. Owner
 - D. Project Manager

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which description provides the BEST example of how to report progress on the job site?

- A. Poured concrete for the foundation
- B. Poured 75 CY Concrete Placed Rebar, Stripped Forms for Columns D1 -D4**
- C. Columns were constructed
- D. Job site remains on schedule

The choice that reflects the best way to report progress on the job site is the detailed example which specifies the quantity of work completed and the specific tasks undertaken. Stating "Poured 75 CY Concrete Placed Rebar, Stripped Forms for Columns D1 -D4" provides a comprehensive overview that communicates both the quantity of materials worked with and the specific actions taken. This level of detail not only illustrates the amount of progress made but also allows for better tracking of tasks completed against project milestones. By including the cubic yardage of concrete poured, the reporting demonstrates an understanding of both the scale of work and the technical aspects of the construction process. This type of reporting can help project managers and stakeholders assess the project's progress more effectively since it provides clear, measurable outcomes. In contrast, the other options either provide vague descriptors or lack specific quantitative metrics. Mentioning just "Poured concrete for the foundation" or "Columns were constructed" does not give sufficient detail about the extent of work completed or specific tasks accomplished. The remark about the job site remaining on schedule is helpful for understanding the timeline but does not capture the concrete actions taken on site, which are crucial for project tracking and management.

2. What type of disputes is the NLRB empowered to resolve?

- A. Employee-employer conflicts
- B. Organized Labor-Contractor disputes**
- C. Safety violations on job sites
- D. Government regulatory compliance

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) plays a critical role in resolving disputes that arise between organized labor and employers in the context of collective bargaining and union activities. This empowering of the NLRB is essential for maintaining a balance in labor relations, ensuring that workers' rights to organize and engage in collective bargaining are protected under the National Labor Relations Act. The NLRB's jurisdiction specifically includes addressing issues such as unfair labor practices committed by employers or labor organizations, representation elections to determine employee's choice of union, and other matters related to labor relations in organized settings. Therefore, the focus on organized labor and their negotiations with contractors highlights the NLRB's primary function in addressing the complexities of labor agreements and disputes that could arise from them. In contrast, the other options represent matters the NLRB does not typically handle. Employee-employer conflicts might seem relevant, but the NLRB specifically focuses on collective aspects rather than individual disputes. Safety violations are generally addressed by agencies like OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration), while government regulatory compliance falls under other regulatory bodies that deal with industry standards and practices. Therefore, the correct association of the NLRB with organized labor and contractor disputes stands out as the most accurate representation of its core

3. What does the term "Uprights" refer to in timber shoring tables?

- A. The horizontal supports
- B. The vertical sheet piles that restrain the soil**
- C. The base of the framework
- D. The top brace of the structure

The term "Uprights" in the context of timber shoring tables specifically refers to the vertical sheet piles that are used to support and restrain the soil. These uprights play a critical role in maintaining the structural integrity of the shoring system by providing vertical support. They help to distribute the load of the soil and any applied forces, ensuring that the shoring remains stable and effective during excavation or construction activities. In timber shoring, the design typically involves various components, and the uprights are specifically designed to counteract lateral soil pressures. This function is essential to prevent collapses or other failures that could endanger workers or surrounding structures. Alternative choices refer to different components or configurations that do not accurately capture the defining characteristic of what uprights are. For example, horizontal supports would be more akin to cross-bracing elements, while the base of the framework would outline the foundational structure rather than the vertical support needed during excavation. The top brace may also be a support feature but does not fulfill the same role as the vertical uprights in providing direct resistance to soil pressure.

4. What items must be consulted to properly price a New Contract Change Order Proposal for a Road and Bridge Project?

- A. General Conditions and Project Budget
- B. Supplementary Conditions and Prevailing Wage Rate Table**
- C. Cost Estimate and Project Timeline
- D. Owner Specifications and Change Order Forms

To properly price a New Contract Change Order Proposal for a Road and Bridge Project, consulting the Supplementary Conditions and the Prevailing Wage Rate Table is essential. The Supplementary Conditions outline specific contractual requirements and modifications that are applicable to the project beyond the general conditions, affecting both the scope of work and potential costs. They help define what additional requirements or considerations may come into play due to the change order, ensuring that the contractor's pricing reflects any specific conditions dictated by the project. The Prevailing Wage Rate Table is also crucial, as it details the minimum wage rates that must be paid to workers on public projects, which is especially relevant for road and bridge construction. Changes to the scope of work can involve additional labor costs that need to comply with prevailing wage laws, making it necessary to factor these rates into pricing accurately. Understanding these two documents allows the contractor to prepare a well-informed and compliant change order proposal that reflects the true costs associated with the changes while adhering to legal wage requirements.

5. What do the field thumb penetration, pocket penetrometer, and shear vane measure?

- A. Density of soil
- B. Unconfined Compressive Strength**
- C. Water content
- D. Soil cohesion

The field thumb penetration, pocket penetrometer, and shear vane are tools specifically designed to measure the unconfined compressive strength of soil. Unconfined compressive strength assesses how much load or pressure soil can withstand before failure, making these methods crucial in geotechnical engineering and construction. Unconfined compressive strength tests provide valuable information about the strength characteristics of cohesive soils, which helps determine their suitability for construction projects. The thumb penetration test utilizes the thumb's pressure to gauge the soil's firmness, while the pocket penetrometer measures the resistance of soil to penetration using a small handheld device. Similarly, the shear vane test measures the resistance exerted by the soil when it's sheared at a specific angle, providing a direct measurement of the soil's shear strength. Although density of soil, water content, and soil cohesion are essential factors in soil mechanics, they are not the primary focus of these specific testing methods. Hence, the correct choice highlights the significance of measuring unconfined compressive strength in field applications related to soil stability and construction integrity.

6. Featherbedding is an agreement that focuses on ensuring payment for:

- A. Work performed accurately
- B. Excessive work hours
- C. Services not rendered**
- D. Work performed by contractors

Featherbedding refers to practices where workers or unions require employers to pay for services that are either unnecessary or not actually performed. This often manifests in agreements where workers are guaranteed payment despite the absence of work being done, effectively creating a situation where individuals receive compensation without fulfilling their job responsibilities. In this context, the correct answer highlights that featherbedding involves payment for services not rendered, reflecting the concept where workers are compensated regardless of their actual output or contributions. This can lead to inefficient labor practices and increased costs for employers, as they are compelled to pay for positions or work that isn't actively contributing to productivity. Understanding featherbedding is critical for recognizing how such agreements can affect labor relations and overall workplace efficiency.

7. What is fundamentally important in maintaining a construction license?

- A. Completing a projects within budget
- B. Adhering to safety regulations and standards**
- C. Maximizing gross margins
- D. Reducing workforce size to cut costs

Maintaining a construction license is fundamentally tied to adhering to safety regulations and standards. This focus is crucial because compliance with safety protocols not only ensures the well-being of workers and the public but also aligns with legal requirements set forth by licensing authorities. Failure to comply with safety standards can lead to serious consequences, including fines, revocation of licenses, and potentially hazardous situations on construction sites. In the construction industry, safety regulations cover a wide range of practices, from the use of protective equipment to hazard communication and site management. Licensing boards take these regulations seriously, as they reflect the commitment of contractors to operate responsibly and to protect everyone involved in the construction process. While factors like completing projects within budget, maximizing gross margins, and managing workforce size are important for business success and profitability, they do not directly influence the maintenance of a construction license in the same critical way that safety compliance does. Therefore, the focus on safety ensures that contractors can legally perform work and are seen as trustworthy by clients and regulatory agencies.

8. What is the definition of bid peddling?

- A. A contractor approaches competitors to lower bids
- B. A subcontractor approaches the awarded contractor to lower price**
- C. A contractor reduces scope to lower bid price
- D. A contractor increases bid price after submission

Bid peddling refers to a situation where a subcontractor approaches the contractor who has already been awarded a project, attempting to negotiate a reduced subcontract price. This practice can create conflicts in the bidding process and might undermine the competitive bidding atmosphere. Choosing this option highlights the nuanced dynamics of subcontractor relationships in the construction bidding process. When a subcontractor engages in bid peddling, they may be trying to capitalize on an established contract to secure a more favorable financial outcome for themselves, which can lead to tension and disputes regarding the contract's integrity and the fairness of bidding practices. In contrast, the other options describe various activities in competitive bidding but do not accurately capture the essence of bid peddling, which specifically focuses on the interaction between an awarded contractor and a subcontractor aiming to renegotiate pricing after the contract award.

9. Under which law are corporations typically formed?

- A. Federal Law
- B. Constitutional Law
- C. State Law**
- D. International Law

Corporations are typically formed under state law. This is because each state has its own set of laws and regulations governing the formation, operation, and dissolution of corporations. When someone wishes to create a corporation, they must file specific documents, such as articles of incorporation, with the relevant state authority, usually the Secretary of State. State law provides the framework for determining the rights and responsibilities of the corporation and its shareholders, including compliance requirements, taxation, and governance structures. The reason federal law does not apply to the general formation of corporations is that corporate law is primarily a matter of state jurisdiction. While certain federal regulations may apply to specific aspects of corporate operations, such as securities laws for public companies, the foundational aspects of corporate existence start at the state level. Constitutional law does not pertain to the actual formation of a corporation but rather addresses the overarching legal framework of a nation and the rights of individuals. International law governs relationships between sovereign states and does not dictate how corporations are formed within a specific country.

10. Which party is typically responsible for obtaining the necessary permits for construction projects?

- A. Subcontractor
- B. General Contractor**
- C. Owner
- D. Project Manager

The general contractor is typically responsible for obtaining the necessary permits for construction projects because they oversee the entire scope of work and coordinate various aspects of the project on behalf of the owner. This responsibility often includes ensuring compliance with local regulations and building codes, which necessitate obtaining the proper permits for the construction activities to be legally conducted. The general contractor acts as the primary liaison between the owner and the local authorities, managing the permit application process to ensure that all required documentation is submitted and approvals are received timely. This role is vital in preventing delays or legal issues that may arise from working without the proper permissions. While owners may be involved in the permitting process, especially in smaller projects, the general contractor typically takes on this responsibility as part of their project management duties. Project managers primarily focus on day-to-day oversight and management of the project schedule, budget, and resources, rather than dealing with permits directly. Subcontractors, although they play a crucial role in executing specific tasks on-site, usually do not handle the permits related to the project.

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://associatecontractors.examzify.com>

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

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