

California Fencing Contractor (C-13) License 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. Which of the following can be used to set steel posts?**
 - A. Sand**
 - B. Hydraulic cements**
 - C. Filling**
 - D. Gravel**

- 2. Which hinge should be used to fasten a hinge to a wood gate post when the bolt must pass through the post?**
 - A. Butt hinge**
 - B. Lag and strap**
 - C. Bolt and strap**
 - D. Strap hinge**

- 3. Which bolt is best for a brace band?**
 - A. Fitted bolt**
 - B. Locked joint**
 - C. Machine bolt**
 - D. Carriage bolt**

- 4. What unit of measure is used for paying fence quantities (excluding gates)?**
 - A. Per yard**
 - B. Per square foot**
 - C. Per linear foot or mile**
 - D. Per pound**

- 5. Which type of hinge may be used to flush-mount a gate with a narrow gate posts?**
 - A. T-Hinges**
 - B. T- Strap Hinges**
 - C. Pneumatic closures**
 - D. T-Bolts**

- 6. Power driven staples aren't permitted on:**
- A. Wire mesh**
 - B. Wooden posts**
 - C. Wooden gates**
 - D. Wooden rails**
- 7. Present day wrought metal items are usually made of hot rolled, low carbon steel or duct alloys of which two materials?**
- A. Aluminum**
 - B. Copper**
 - C. Iron**
 - D. Aluminum and Copper**
- 8. When repairing damaged coatings, all welds made after galvanizing shall be ground smooth and wire brushed; the cleaned areas shall be coated with which material?**
- A. Zinc Dip Coat**
 - B. 50-50 Solder**
 - C. Galvanized Paint**
 - D. Any of the above**
- 9. Sheet steel is cut with a ___ and bent into the desired shape with ___?**
- A. Torch, Pliers**
 - B. A Shear, Shaper**
 - C. A Shear, Power Break**
 - D. None of the above**
- 10. ___ ornamental fence systems offer superior corrosion resistance and low maintenance.**
- A. Galvanized steel**
 - B. Welded steel**
 - C. Aluminum**
 - D. Welded steel assembled**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which of the following can be used to set steel posts?

- A. Sand
- B. Hydraulic cements**
- C. Filling
- D. Gravel

Setting steel posts requires a binding material that hardens to create a solid anchor around the post, resisting both pullout and lateral loads. Hydraulic cement provides that needed bonding and strength: it cures quickly and gains substantial strength in the presence of moisture, forming a rigid, durable base for the post. This makes it suitable for setting posts in various soils and conditions, and it speeds up the install since you don't have to wait long for full strength. Sand, gravel, or simple backfill don't lock the post in place; they mostly fill space or provide drainage and can shift under load, which can lead to instability over time.

2. Which hinge should be used to fasten a hinge to a wood gate post when the bolt must pass through the post?

- A. Butt hinge
- B. Lag and strap
- C. Bolt and strap**
- D. Strap hinge

When the bolt must pass through the post, you need hardware that is designed for through-bolting. A bolt and strap hinge is built for exactly that: a through-bolt goes clean through the gate post, and the strap helps spread the load along the post, giving a strong, stable connection that resists movement and sag over time. This setup is ideal for heavy wood gates that face side-to-side forces and wind. A butt hinge is typically mortised into the post and gate and relies on screws, not a bolt passing through the post, so it doesn't meet the through-post requirement. A strap hinge by itself is usually surface-mounted and doesn't inherently ensure a through-post bolt. Lag and strap uses lag screws rather than a through bolt, which also doesn't satisfy the through-post connection.

3. Which bolt is best for a brace band?

- A. Fitted bolt
- B. Locked joint
- C. Machine bolt
- D. Carriage bolt**

When securing a brace band to a wooden post, you want a bolt that won't spin as you tighten the nut. A carriage bolt fits that need perfectly because it has a smooth, domed head and a square shoulder just beneath the head. The square neck locks into the wood, preventing the bolt from turning while you tighten the nut on the opposite side. That makes for a secure, stable connection between the brace and the post without the bolt head spinning or loosening. Other options aren't as well suited. A fitted bolt isn't the standard choice for this wood-to-wood connection and doesn't reliably prevent rotation. A machine bolt is more common where you have threaded holes or metal-to-metal assemblies, and in wood it can spin unless you've prepared the hole or used a captive nut. A locked joint isn't a bolt type at all, so it doesn't describe a reliable fastening method for a brace band.

4. What unit of measure is used for paying fence quantities (excluding gates)?

- A. Per yard
- B. Per square foot
- C. Per linear foot or mile**
- D. Per pound

The main idea here is that fence work is driven by the length of the fence line. The amount of materials (posts, rails, boards) and the labor needed grow with how long the fence runs along a property, not with the area it surrounds or the weight of materials. Because of that, the standard way to price fence work is by length—per linear foot, or per mile for very long runs. Gates are not included in this line item because they're separate components and priced differently. Per yard is a length unit, but in fencing practice it's not the typical method used for pricing whole runs; pricing is done in linear feet or miles for clarity and consistency. Per square foot would charge by area, which doesn't align with how a fence is constructed. Per pound would price by weight, which doesn't reflect the way fence quantities are measured for installation.

5. Which type of hinge may be used to flush-mount a gate with a narrow gate posts?

- A. T-Hinges
- B. T- Strap Hinges**
- C. Pneumatic closures
- D. T-Bolts

For flush-mounting a gate on narrow posts, you need a hinge that can anchor securely without demanding a thick post. The T-strap hinge fits this situation because its strap design wraps around or sits tight to the post and gate, distributing the load over a larger area and allowing the leaves to sit flush against the post faces. This makes it possible to mount the gate so it closes tightly and swings freely even when the post is narrow, without needing bulky mortises or oversized posts. Pneumatic closures are for closing the gate automatically, and T-bolts are fasteners rather than hinges, so they don't provide the appropriate mounting behavior.

6. Power driven staples aren't permitted on:

- A. Wire mesh**
- B. Wooden posts
- C. Wooden gates
- D. Wooden rails

When securing a wire mesh fence, you need fasteners that preserve the mesh's integrity and allow it to stay taut. Power-driven staples can pierce, crush, or distort the mesh, creating weak spots, sag, or gaps and making it hard to maintain a uniform, secure barrier. The proper method is to use fasteners that grip the mesh without puncturing it, such as hog rings, wire ties, or U-nails, applied around wooden posts or rails to hold the mesh in place. Wood components like posts, gates, and rails are intended to bear these types of fasteners, while the mesh itself should be fastened with mesh-friendly hardware to avoid damage.

7. Present day wrought metal items are usually made of hot rolled, low carbon steel or duct alloys of which two materials?

- A. Aluminum
- B. Copper
- C. Iron
- D. Aluminum and Copper**

Wrought items are shaped by deformation processes, and among the common ductile families used today are alloys based on aluminum and copper. Aluminum forms strong, lightweight alloys with elements like magnesium and silicon, which are widely used in structural and consumer parts. Copper forms very ductile alloys such as brass (copper with zinc) and bronze (copper with tin), which are valued for their malleability, corrosion resistance, and ease of fabrication. Those two base metals—aluminum and copper—are the sources of the typical ductile wrought alloys found in modern manufacturing, which is why they're the correct pair. The single-material options don't capture that broad, widely used category of ductile alloys, and iron isn't part of this particular pair.

8. When repairing damaged coatings, all welds made after galvanizing shall be ground smooth and wire brushed; the cleaned areas shall be coated with which material?

- A. Zinc Dip Coat
- B. 50-50 Solder**
- C. Galvanized Paint
- D. Any of the above

When galvanized coatings are welded, the zinc protective layer is damaged at the weld and around it, so the repair area must be coated to restore corrosion resistance. After grinding and cleaning, the best fit in this context is to apply a tin-lead solder (50-50 solder) over the cleaned area. The solder creates a continuous, sealed surface on the weld zone, protecting the base metal from moisture and rust while a longer-term zinc-containing finish can be applied later. This immediate coating helps maintain the galvanic protection of the repaired spot.

9. Sheet steel is cut with a ___ and bent into the desired shape with ___?

- A. Torch, Pliers
- B. A Shear, Shaper
- C. A Shear, Power Break**
- D. None of the above

In sheet metal fabrication, cutting and bending use different tools. A shear cleanly cuts sheet steel along a straight line, while a power break (brake) bends the sheet along a line using matched dies to create precise angles. This pairing—shear for cutting and power break for bending—is standard for forming fence components from sheet metal. A torch can cut but tends to heat warp and is not as precise; a shaper or pliers aren't the right tools for making these bends on sheet metal.

10. ___ ornamental fence systems offer superior corrosion resistance and low maintenance.

A. Galvanized steel

B. Welded steel

C. Aluminum

D. Welded steel assembled

Aluminum fencing systems offer superior corrosion resistance and low maintenance because aluminum naturally forms a protective oxide layer that resists corrosion and doesn't rust, even in humid or coastal environments. This means the fence can maintain its appearance without frequent painting or protective coatings. In contrast, steel fences rely on coatings like galvanization or paint; when those coatings wear or are damaged, rust can develop at exposed areas and welds, leading to more maintenance over time. Aluminum's lighter weight also reduces stress on the structure, helping keep the finish intact with less upkeep. For ornamental designs that need a durable, long-lasting, low-maintenance finish, aluminum is typically the best choice.

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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://californiac13.examzify.com>

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

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