

CALIFORNIA GENERAL CONTRACTOR B 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 minimum opening size required for the passage of an air supply?**
 - A. 1 square in per 1000 BTUH
 - B. 1 square in per 5000 BTUH
 - C. 1/2 in per 5 BTUH
 - D. 1 foot per 2000 BTUH
- 2. A Class III hazardous structure typically includes which type of facility?**
 - A. Chemical plant
 - B. Barn
 - C. Gasoline station
 - D. Textile mill
- 3. What is the recommended spacing for ladders in trenches that are 4 feet or deeper?**
 - A. 50 feet
 - B. 75 feet
 - C. 100 feet
 - D. 150 feet
- 4. Which of these is the hardest plaster?**
 - A. Gauge plaster
 - B. Bond plaster
 - C. Gypsum Keene's cement
 - D. Prepared gypsum plaster
- 5. What is the primary purpose of using a push stick when operating a table saw?**
 - A. To push the wood through the blade
 - B. To keep hands away from the blade
 - C. To stabilize the saw platform
 - D. To quickly change blades

- 6. What type of shoes are recommended for working on a 4:12 sloped roof?**
- A. Leather soled
 - B. Rubber soled
 - C. Cleats
 - D. Sandals
- 7. Which type of saw is recommended for cutting a 2" diameter circular hole in a piece of wood?**
- A. Circular
 - B. Jig
 - C. Table
 - D. Radial
- 8. What is the typical spacing required for ladders in general construction practices?**
- A. 25 feet
 - B. 40 feet
 - C. 50 feet
 - D. 75 feet
- 9. Which process is essential for ensuring a site is ready for construction?**
- A. Site layout
 - B. Excavation
 - C. Permitting
 - D. Surveying
- 10. Which of the following is classified as a ferrous pipe?**
- A. Brass
 - B. Copper
 - C. Lead
 - D. Iron

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the minimum opening size required for the passage of an air supply?

- A. 1 square in per 1000 BTUH**
- B. 1 square in per 5000 BTUH
- C. 1/2 in per 5 BTUH
- D. 1 foot per 2000 BTUH

The correct answer, which indicates a minimum opening size of 1 square inch per 1000 BTUH, reflects standard requirements for air supply openings in HVAC systems. The reasoning behind this requirement is to ensure that there is adequate air flow into a system to maintain proper combustion and ventilation, particularly in confined spaces like utility rooms or basements where heating devices might be located. This standard ratio helps to prevent issues such as backdrafting, which can occur when the air supply is insufficient for the equipment's BTU output, leading to inefficient performance or unsafe conditions with potential gas appliances. Additionally, it promotes energy efficiency by ensuring that the heating system operates within its optimal parameters, effectively circulating warm air throughout the space being heated. In contrast, the other answer choices provide ratios that do not align with industry standards for air flow requirements. Proper ventilation is critical in construction and HVAC practices, and adherence to the correct minimum opening size is essential for safety and effectiveness in heating systems.

2. A Class III hazardous structure typically includes which type of facility?

- A. Chemical plant
- B. Barn
- C. Gasoline station
- D. Textile mill**

A Class III hazardous structure is defined by the nature and quantity of hazardous materials it handles or stores and its potential impact on public health and safety. In this context, a textile mill is categorized as a Class III hazardous structure due to the chemicals and processes involved in textile production. These facilities often use various chemicals, dyes, and solvents which can pose significant environmental and health risks if not managed properly. Textile mills typically have to follow strict regulations regarding chemical usage, storage, and disposal, which aligns with the characteristics of a Class III classification. This classification reflects concerns such as the risk of fire, chemical spills, or exposure to harmful substances for workers and surrounding communities. In contrast, while a chemical plant and a gasoline station also handle hazardous materials, they may be classified differently based on specific regulatory criteria and the extent of hazards they present. A barn, on the other hand, generally does not fall into this category since it typically does not involve confined hazardous chemical processes; thus, it is not considered a Class III hazardous structure.

3. What is the recommended spacing for ladders in trenches that are 4 feet or deeper?

- A. 50 feet**
- B. 75 feet
- C. 100 feet
- D. 150 feet

The recommended spacing for ladders in trenches that are 4 feet or deeper is indeed 50 feet. This guideline is established to ensure safe access and egress for workers operating in deep trenches, which can pose significant hazards due to their depth. Since trenches can create hazardous conditions including the risk of cave-ins, proper safety measures must be taken to allow workers to exit quickly in an emergency. Having ladders positioned every 50 feet allows workers to establish a safe and reliable means to escape, thereby significantly reducing the risk of injury. The emphasis on a 50-foot interval reflects safety standards and best practices that promote a safer working environment. In contexts where workers are engaged in tasks at depth, quick and easy access to ladders is essential for maintaining operational safety and compliance with safety regulations. Therefore, the recommended spacing is specifically designed to balance practical accessibility with safety guidelines.

4. Which of these is the hardest plaster?

- A. Gauge plaster
- B. Bond plaster
- C. Gypsum Keene's cement**
- D. Prepared gypsum plaster

Gypsum Keene's cement is recognized as the hardest type of plaster among the listed options. This particular plaster is specially formulated with a combination of gypsum and other materials that enhance its hardness and durability, making it suitable for applications requiring a strong finish. Its composition allows it to set quickly and result in a firm surface that is ideal for areas experiencing high levels of wear and tear. In contrast, while other types of plaster like gauge plaster, bond plaster, and prepared gypsum plaster serve specific functions in construction and finishing, they do not achieve the same level of hardness as Keene's cement. Gauge plaster is generally used for interior finish applications, bond plaster serves as a base for other types of finishes, and prepared gypsum plaster is a more standard formulation designed for general plastering purposes, without the heightened durability found in Keene's. Therefore, when looking for a plaster that provides the most resilience and structural integrity, gypsum Keene's cement stands out distinctly as the best choice.

5. What is the primary purpose of using a push stick when operating a table saw?

- A. To push the wood through the blade
- B. To keep hands away from the blade**
- C. To stabilize the saw platform
- D. To quickly change blades

The primary purpose of using a push stick when operating a table saw is to keep hands away from the blade. This tool serves as an essential safety device that allows the operator to guide the workpiece through the saw without putting their fingers or hands in proximity to the sharp blade, which significantly reduces the risk of injury. By using a push stick, the operator maintains a safe distance from the cutting area while still exerting the necessary force to move the material through the saw. This practice is crucial in woodworking and carpentry to ensure that safety protocols are followed consistently. While other tools and techniques are also important in table saw operation, none provide the same level of protection for the user's hands as a push stick, which emphasizes its fundamental role in promoting safe woodworking practices.

6. What type of shoes are recommended for working on a 4:12 sloped roof?

- A. Leather soled
- B. Rubber soled**
- C. Cleats
- D. Sandals

Rubber-soled shoes are highly recommended for working on a 4:12 sloped roof due to their superior traction and slip resistance. The slope of the roof requires footwear that can provide a firm grip on the surface to prevent slipping, especially when it is wet or when roofing materials are present. Rubber soles are designed to offer good friction against various surfaces, making them ideal for maintaining balance and security while navigating sloped areas. In contrast, leather-soled shoes may not provide the same level of traction on sloped surfaces, especially in adverse weather conditions. Cleats, while offering grip, can be unnecessary for most roofing situations and may damage the roofing material. Sandals lack the support and protection needed for working on a roof, where there is a risk of falling or injury from sharp materials. Thus, rubber-soled footwear is the best choice for safety and functionality when working on a sloped roof.

7. Which type of saw is recommended for cutting a 2" diameter circular hole in a piece of wood?

- A. Circular
- B. Jig**
- C. Table
- D. Radial

A jig saw is the ideal tool for cutting a 2" diameter circular hole in wood. This type of saw is designed for intricate and curved cuts, making it perfect for cutting circles or shapes that require precision. The blade of a jig saw is thin and can navigate around curves, allowing for more control compared to other saws. When cutting a circular hole, the ability to pivot and maneuver the blade is essential, and the jig saw excels in this area. It can easily make clean cuts without splintering the wood, provided you use the appropriate speed and feed rate. Additionally, it allows for easy adjustment and can accommodate various blade types suitable for different materials and thicknesses. While a circular saw is effective for straight cuts, it lacks the finesse needed for tight curves and wouldn't be able to cut a perfect circle. Table saws are typically used for making straight cuts on larger pieces of material and wouldn't be as effective for circular cuts unless specialized jigs are used. Radial arms saws, mainly designed for cross-cutting larger pieces, also lack the precision needed for such small, intricate cuts.

8. What is the typical spacing required for ladders in general construction practices?

- A. 25 feet
- B. 40 feet
- C. 50 feet**
- D. 75 feet

In general construction practices, the typical spacing for ladders is 50 feet. This distance is recommended to ensure that workers have safe and convenient access to elevated areas without having to travel excessively far, which can lead to unsafe practices or accidents. The 50-foot spacing guideline helps maintain a balance between accessibility and safety, allowing workers to perform their tasks efficiently while minimizing the risks associated with climbing ladders. Using a shorter spacing, such as 25 or 40 feet, may seem reasonable but can lead to unnecessary redundancy and clutter on construction sites. Conversely, a longer spacing like 75 feet could exacerbate safety concerns, making it more challenging for workers to access necessary areas in a timely manner. Therefore, the standard spacing of 50 feet serves to optimize both safety and functionality in construction environments.

9. Which process is essential for ensuring a site is ready for construction?

- A. Site layout
- B. Excavation
- C. Permitting
- D. Surveying**

Surveying is essential for ensuring that a construction site is ready because it involves measuring and evaluating the land to determine its boundaries, topography, and any potential issues that could affect the construction process. Accurate surveying provides critical information about the land's condition, including elevation changes, the locations of existing structures, and utility lines. This foundational understanding is crucial for decisions regarding design, layout, and construction methods. Surveying precedes other processes like site layout, excavation, and permitting since it provides the necessary data to guide those subsequent actions. If a site isn't surveyed correctly, it could lead to significant issues later, such as improper site layout, unforeseen excavation challenges, or complications in obtaining permits, as local regulations often require precise land measurements. Therefore, surveying lays the groundwork for all other activities on a construction site, ensuring that they are executed based on accurate, reliable information.

10. Which of the following is classified as a ferrous pipe?

- A. Brass
- B. Copper
- C. Lead
- D. Iron**

Ferrous pipes are those that contain iron, which makes them susceptible to rust and corrosion but also provides strength and durability. Iron is a primary metal used in the production of various types of piping due to its strength and structural integrity. Pipes made of iron or steel (which is an alloy that primarily consists of iron) are often used in construction and plumbing applications. In contrast, brass is an alloy of copper and zinc, while copper itself is a non-ferrous metal that does not contain iron. Lead, although it is a heavy metal, also does not contain iron and is classified separately from ferrous materials. Thus, among the options provided, iron is the only material that fits the classification of a ferrous pipe due to its iron content.

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:

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

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