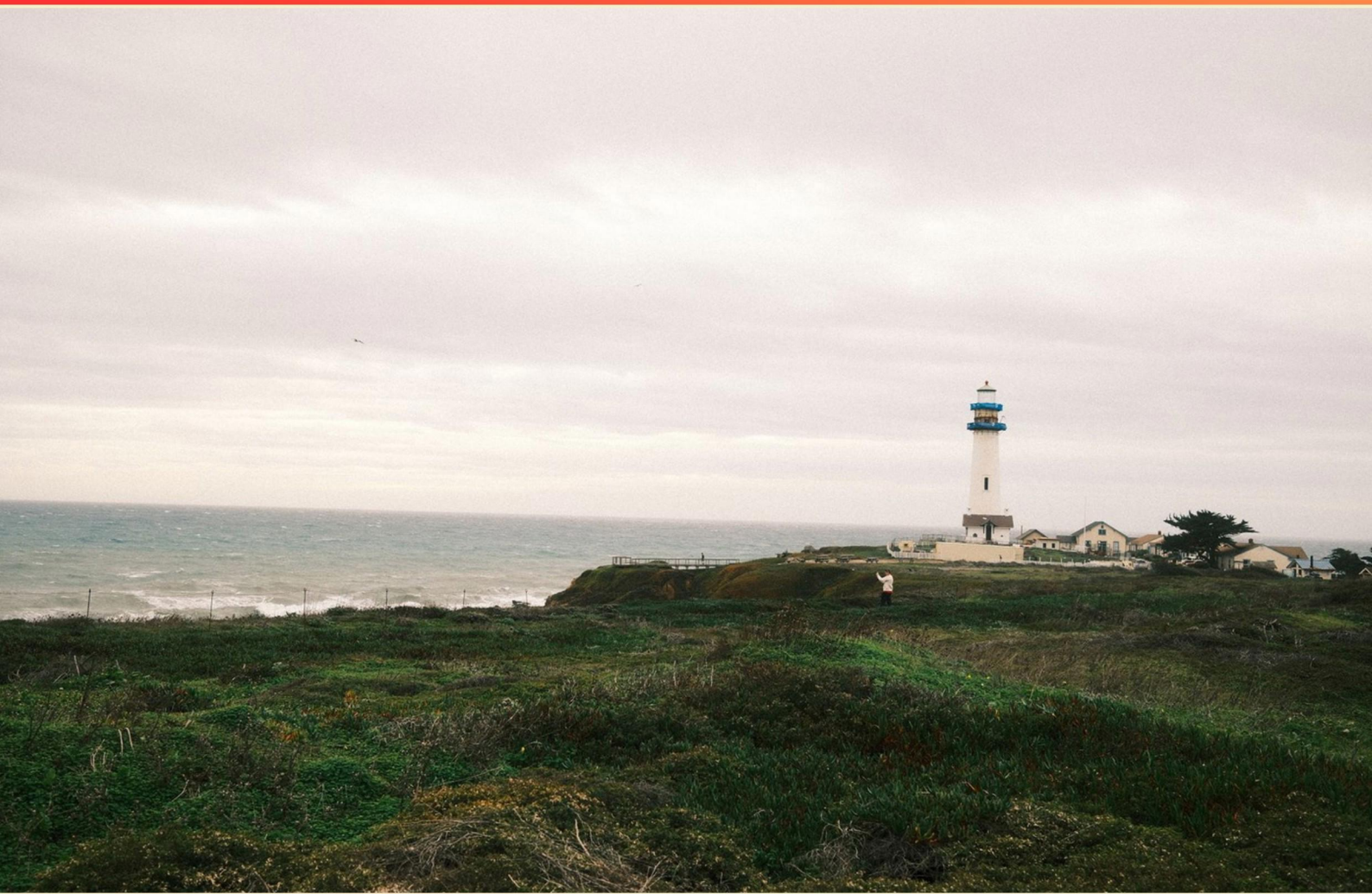


CALIFORNIA LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

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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 type of measures does CALGreen include?**
 - A. Mandatory measures only
 - B. Non-mandatory measures only
 - C. Both mandatory and non-mandatory measures
 - D. Recommendations solely for commercial structures
- 2. What is included in the categories of EIR under CEQA?**
 - A. Social Services and Public Outreach
 - B. Hazards and Hazardous Materials
 - C. Community Health and Safety
 - D. Labor and Employment Relations
- 3. Which of the following is a requirement for using the prescriptive option for landscapes?**
 - A. Use of manual irrigation systems only
 - B. Installation of automatic controllers using ET or soil moisture data
 - C. Sprinkler system must operate without any sensors
 - D. All areas must be irrigated by flood methods
- 4. Which measure calculates irrigation efficiency?**
 - A. Pressure per foot rise
 - B. The relationship of ETo and LA
 - C. The ratio of water applied to water needed
 - D. The constant converting gallons to inches
- 5. What additional feature is needed on top of the filter material in a greywater disposal field?**
 - A. A layer of gravel
 - B. A storage tank
 - C. A layer of straw or building paper
 - D. A layer of mulch

- 6. What is a potential method for addressing surface stormwater drainage mentioned in CALGreen?**
- A. Installing rainwater barrels
 - B. Using swales
 - C. Building artificial lakes
 - D. Excavating underground tunnels
- 7. Which of the following is a requirement for using recycled water in MWELO?**
- A. Must be indicated in plans
 - B. Must be used for all irrigation
 - C. Prohibited for edible plants
 - D. Must be freshened daily
- 8. Which list includes types of plants that are important for various environmental conditions?**
- A. Invasive plant species only
 - B. Native plants for specific local conditions
 - C. Only ornamental plants suitable for landscaping
 - D. Non-native plants with high water needs
- 9. What type of plants are suggested for dry soil conditions in California landscapes?**
- A. Only invasive species
 - B. Native and adapted plants
 - C. Exclusively high-water requirement plants
 - D. Plants requiring full sun but no drought resistance
- 10. When should an irrigation audit report be submitted?**
- A. During project initiation
 - B. At project completion
 - C. Only if problems are detected
 - D. Prior to plant installation

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which type of measures does CALGreen include?

- A. Mandatory measures only
- B. Non-mandatory measures only
- C. Both mandatory and non-mandatory measures**
- D. Recommendations solely for commercial structures

CALGreen, which stands for the California Green Building Standards Code, encompasses both mandatory and non-mandatory measures aimed at promoting sustainable building practices. The mandatory measures are requirements that all new residential and commercial buildings must comply with, ensuring that certain minimum standards for energy efficiency, water conservation, and overall sustainability are met. In addition to these mandatory components, CALGreen also includes non-mandatory measures, which serve as guidelines that builders and designers can adopt to enhance sustainability beyond the baseline requirements. These non-mandatory measures encourage innovation and more ambitious sustainable practices, allowing for flexibility and options tailored to specific project needs. This combination of both mandatory and non-mandatory measures makes CALGreen a comprehensive framework that promotes sustainability across various types of buildings and development projects, rather than being limited to just basic requirements or a focus solely on commercial structures.

2. What is included in the categories of EIR under CEQA?

- A. Social Services and Public Outreach
- B. Hazards and Hazardous Materials**
- C. Community Health and Safety
- D. Labor and Employment Relations

The correct choice emphasizes the importance of Hazards and Hazardous Materials in the context of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Under CEQA, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must address a variety of categories to evaluate the potential environmental effects of a proposed project. The category of Hazards and Hazardous Materials is critical because it assesses the risk posed to the environment and public health by the presence or involvement of hazardous substances. This includes evaluating potential contamination, the handling of hazardous materials, and the site's proximity to known hazardous sites. Understanding this aspect is crucial for ensuring that projects do not adversely affect human health and the environment, making this category a fundamental part of the EIR requirements under CEQA. It aligns with the broader goals of CEQA to promote informed decision-making and mitigate environmental impacts, particularly from hazardous materials that could pose significant risks.

3. Which of the following is a requirement for using the prescriptive option for landscapes?

- A. Use of manual irrigation systems only
- B. Installation of automatic controllers using ET or soil moisture data**
- C. Sprinkler system must operate without any sensors
- D. All areas must be irrigated by flood methods

The requirement for using the prescriptive option in landscapes is that automatic controllers utilizing evapotranspiration (ET) or soil moisture data must be installed. This approach promotes more efficient water use by ensuring that irrigation adapts to the actual moisture needs of the plants, taking into account environmental conditions that affect evaporation and transpiration rates. The use of such advanced irrigation controllers allows for precise application of water, reducing waste and promoting plant health, which aligns with sustainable landscape practices. The other options do not meet the criteria established for the prescriptive approach. Manual irrigation systems do not provide the same level of efficiency and adaptability as automated systems. Requiring sprinkler systems to operate without sensors contradicts the intent of optimizing water use, as sensors are crucial for monitoring moisture levels and preventing over- or under-watering. Similarly, mandating flood irrigation for all areas would not be practical or appropriate for many landscape scenarios, as this method is not suitable for all types of plants or soil conditions, thereby undermining the goal of water conservation and efficient landscape management.

4. Which measure calculates irrigation efficiency?

- A. Pressure per foot rise
- B. The relationship of ETo and LA
- C. The ratio of water applied to water needed**
- D. The constant converting gallons to inches

The measure that calculates irrigation efficiency is the ratio of water applied to water needed. This metric is crucial because it directly assesses how effectively an irrigation system delivers the necessary water to meet the plants' requirements without excess waste. Irrigation efficiency focuses on optimizing water use so that plants receive just the right amount of moisture for their growth without over-irrigating, which can lead to runoff and water loss. Understanding this ratio helps landscape architects design more sustainable irrigation systems, conserve water, and ensure the health of the landscape. By comparing the amount of water actually applied to the amount of water that is necessary for the plants based on factors such as evapotranspiration rates and plant needs, professionals can evaluate and improve their irrigation practices. This assessment is vital not only for resource management but also for complying with water conservation regulations, which are especially pertinent in California's climate.

5. What additional feature is needed on top of the filter material in a greywater disposal field?

- A. A layer of gravel
- B. A storage tank
- C. A layer of straw or building paper
- D. A layer of mulch

In a greywater disposal field, the addition of a layer of straw or building paper serves a crucial role in the treatment and distribution of greywater. This layer helps to enhance the filtration process and encourages the growth of beneficial microorganisms that assist in breaking down organic material present in the greywater. The presence of straw or building paper can also facilitate the absorption of excess moisture and helps to manage surface erosion while allowing air and moisture to pass through, which is vital for a healthy subsurface ecosystem. This layer acts as a protective barrier and helps maintain moisture levels in the soil, thereby promoting vegetation growth that can further assist with the uptake of water and nutrients. By including this feature, the overall efficiency of the greywater disposal system is improved, which is essential for effective sustainable landscape practices.

6. What is a potential method for addressing surface stormwater drainage mentioned in CALGreen?

- A. Installing rainwater barrels
- B. Using swales
- C. Building artificial lakes
- D. Excavating underground tunnels

Using swales is a recognized method for managing surface stormwater drainage as outlined in CALGreen. Swales are shallow, vegetated channels designed to slow down and filter stormwater runoff. They facilitate natural infiltration into the ground, which reduces surface water runoff and helps recharge groundwater supplies. The vegetation in swales also provides increased water quality benefits by filtering pollutants from stormwater before it enters larger water bodies. Swales can effectively manage stormwater in various settings, including residential, commercial, and industrial areas, making them a versatile and sustainable solution. Their design allows for the landscaping to blend with the natural environment, promoting aesthetic value and ecological benefits. In contrast, other options like installing rainwater barrels, while useful for capturing roof runoff for later use, do not address broader surface drainage issues effectively on their own. Building artificial lakes and excavating underground tunnels are more extensive and costly solutions that may not be practical for all situations, especially when simple surface solutions like swales can be employed more efficiently.

7. Which of the following is a requirement for using recycled water in MWELO?

- A. Must be indicated in plans**
- B. Must be used for all irrigation
- C. Prohibited for edible plants
- D. Must be freshened daily

The requirement for using recycled water in MWELO (Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance) specifies that it must be indicated in plans. This is crucial as it ensures that all stakeholders, including landscape architects, project managers, and regulatory authorities, are aware of how recycled water will be utilized in irrigation systems. This indication in the plans helps to facilitate appropriate design, prevent contamination, and ensure compliance with local regulations regarding the use of recycled water. Additionally, indicating recycled water use in the plans supports transparency and accountability in landscape projects, allowing for effective implementation of water conservation practices and facilitating maintenance practices that are in line with safety and health standards. Including recycled water as a designated part of the irrigation system encourages responsible management and maximizes the benefits of using these resources sustainably.

8. Which list includes types of plants that are important for various environmental conditions?

- A. Invasive plant species only
- B. Native plants for specific local conditions**
- C. Only ornamental plants suitable for landscaping
- D. Non-native plants with high water needs

The selection of native plants for specific local conditions is crucial for effective landscape architecture and environmental sustainability. Native plants are naturally adapted to the local climate, soil types, and ecosystem dynamics, which means they require less water, fertilizers, and maintenance compared to non-native species. This adaptation also enhances local biodiversity by providing habitat and food sources for native wildlife, such as pollinators and birds, which are essential for a healthy ecosystem. Utilizing native plants fosters resilience in the landscape by ensuring that plant communities can withstand local pests and diseases and changes in environmental conditions. Additionally, these plants can improve soil health and help with carbon sequestration, contributing positively to the broader landscape's environmental function. The other options either focus on plants that are not conducive to sustainable practices or do not meet the ecological needs of local environments. Invasive species can disrupt local ecosystems, ornamental plants may lack ecological benefits, and non-native plants with high water needs can exacerbate water scarcity issues in certain regions. Thus, selecting native plants aligns with sustainable principles vital for landscape architecture in California.

9. What type of plants are suggested for dry soil conditions in California landscapes?

- A. Only invasive species
- B. Native and adapted plants**
- C. Exclusively high-water requirement plants
- D. Plants requiring full sun but no drought resistance

Selecting native and adapted plants for dry soil conditions in California landscapes is optimal due to their inherent ability to thrive in such environments. California has a diverse range of climatic zones, and many native species have evolved to withstand long periods of drought, making them well-suited to the state's Mediterranean climate. These plants often have deep root systems, drought-resistant features such as waxy leaves, and other adaptations that enable them to efficiently utilize available water resources. By using native and adapted plants, landscape architects can create sustainable designs that require minimal irrigation and maintenance, reducing water usage and promoting biodiversity. Furthermore, these plants typically support local wildlife, enhancing the ecological value of the landscape. This choice aligns with contemporary practices in landscape architecture, which emphasize sustainability and resilience in plant selection to withstand the challenges posed by climate change and increasing water scarcity.

10. When should an irrigation audit report be submitted?

- A. During project initiation
- B. At project completion**
- C. Only if problems are detected
- D. Prior to plant installation

Submitting an irrigation audit report at project completion is essential for several reasons. When a project is completed, it presents an opportunity to assess the performance of the irrigation system in its entirety, ensuring that everything has been installed and is functioning as intended. This timing enables landscape architects and irrigation specialists to evaluate the efficiency of the system, check for uniform water distribution, and confirm that the system adheres to the design specifications and state regulations. At this point, any deficiencies or areas needing adjustment can be addressed before the project is officially handed over. Moreover, conducting the audit at this stage helps facilitate long-term sustainability and water conservation practices, as it allows for adjustments based on actual performance data. This proactive approach helps beneficiaries understand the importance of maintaining the irrigation system effectively, thereby improving plant health and environmental outcomes. In summary, the timing of the irrigation audit at project completion serves to finalize the system's functionality, ensuring it meets specified design objectives and promotes efficient water usage.

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://calandscapearchitecture.examzify.com>

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

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