

# California Landscaping Contractor (C-27) 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. Can a contractor require employees to take lie detector tests?**
  - A. It is legal for contractors to require lie detector tests.**
  - B. It is legal only for unionized contractors.**
  - C. It is not legal for contractors to require lie detector tests; federal, state, or local agencies may require them.**
  - D. It is legal if the employee agrees to participate.**
  
- 2. Which of the following is commonly included in a home improvement contract?**
  - A. Approximate starting and completion dates**
  - B. The homeowner's favorite vacation plan**
  - C. A list of all inside jokes**
  - D. The color of the tool box**
  
- 3. When a previous contractor's work violates a local building code, the recommended response is to provide the owner with what?**
  - A. A list of potential penalties for the previous contractor**
  - B. An estimate for the needed repairs**
  - C. A request to void the contract**
  - D. Immediate legal action**
  
- 4. If you notice that the plans do not specify a fireproof door where one is required, you should report it to whom?**
  - A. Architect**
  - B. Contractor**
  - C. Owner**
  - D. Building inspector**
  
- 5. Which statement about fixed expenses is most correct?**
  - A. Overhead Is Generally Considered a Fixed Expense**
  - B. Overhead Fluctuates With Production Levels**
  - C. Direct Labor Is a Fixed Expense**
  - D. Taxes Are Never Fixed Expenses**

- 6. Where should the mechanics lien be filed for a home improvement project?**
- A. County Recorder's Office**
  - B. City Hall**
  - C. State Capitol**
  - D. Building Department**
- 7. Which statement about an inactive contractor's license is correct?**
- A. A qualifying individual does not have to be listed on an inactive license**
  - B. A qualifying individual must be listed on an inactive license**
  - C. Inactive licenses automatically expire after a year**
  - D. Inactive licenses cannot be reinstated**
- 8. If hazardous materials are discovered during construction and properly abated, who should notify the contractor in writing after abatement?**
- A. Homeowner**
  - B. Contractor**
  - C. Architect**
  - D. City inspector**
- 9. Is it legal to ask about arrests that did not lead to convictions during a job interview?**
- A. Yes, always.**
  - B. No, not legal to ask about arrests not leading to convictions.**
  - C. Yes, but only for certain positions.**
  - D. Only after a conditional offer.**
- 10. If required safety devices are missing from tools, what should an employee do?**
- A. Notify the contractor**
  - B. Continue the job**
  - C. Use a substitute device**
  - D. Ignore the issue**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Can a contractor require employees to take lie detector tests?**

- A. It is legal for contractors to require lie detector tests.**
- B. It is legal only for unionized contractors.**
- C. It is not legal for contractors to require lie detector tests; federal, state, or local agencies may require them.**
- D. It is legal if the employee agrees to participate.**

Lie detector tests are heavily regulated in employment. Under the federal Employee Polygraph Protection Act, private employers, including contractors, generally may not require or request polygraph tests of job applicants or current employees as a condition of hiring or ongoing work. Only government entities—federal, state, or local—and certain government-related scenarios have exemptions that allow polygraph testing. So a contractor cannot legally require lie detector tests, while government agencies may require them in specific, lawfully permitted situations. Even if someone consents to take a polygraph, the private employer is still typically barred from using such a test.

**2. Which of the following is commonly included in a home improvement contract?**

- A. Approximate starting and completion dates**
- B. The homeowner's favorite vacation plan**
- C. A list of all inside jokes**
- D. The color of the tool box**

Setting expectations for when work will begin and finish is essential in a home improvement contract. Having approximate starting and completion dates gives both the contractor and the homeowner a clear timeline to plan materials, scheduling, labor, inspections, and inspections. This timeline helps coordinate multiple tasks and crews and provides a reference point if delays occur or if change orders are needed to adjust the schedule. It's a practical, standard item because even though dates may shift, a project needs a reasonable timeframe documented to manage expectations, financing, and permitting processes. The other items aren't relevant to the contract's purpose: a homeowner's vacation plan is personal and not a contractual detail, a list of inside jokes isn't a contractual provision, and the color of a toolbox doesn't affect the agreement or the project scope.

**3. When a previous contractor's work violates a local building code, the recommended response is to provide the owner with what?**

- A. A list of potential penalties for the previous contractor**
- B. An estimate for the needed repairs**
- C. A request to void the contract**
- D. Immediate legal action**

When a project shows code violations from prior work, it's essential to be transparent about what it will take to fix them. The best move is to provide the owner with an itemized estimate for the repairs and any required compliance work, including permits and inspections if needed. This gives the owner a clear view of the financial and scope implications so they can decide how to proceed—whether you'll handle the corrections, how much it will cost, and how it affects the contract going forward. This approach isn't about assigning penalties to the previous contractor or taking drastic steps like voiding the contract or suing right away. Those actions aren't the immediate remedy; first, the owner needs a concrete plan and cost to bring the project into code compliance.

**4. If you notice that the plans do not specify a fireproof door where one is required, you should report it to whom?**

- A. Architect**
- B. Contractor**
- C. Owner**
- D. Building inspector**

The main idea is that design document issues are handled by the design professional who prepared the plans. If a fireproof door is required but not shown on the drawings, you should report it to the architect. They own the drawings and specifications, including fire-resistance requirements, and can verify, clarify, and revise the plans through the RFI process or an addendum. The building inspector enforces code based on the corrected plans, but they don't originate or fix design omissions. The contractor follows the plans, and the owner funds changes, but the correct party to address missing design details is the architect.

**5. Which statement about fixed expenses is most correct?**

**A. Overhead Is Generally Considered a Fixed Expense**

**B. Overhead Fluctuates With Production Levels**

**C. Direct Labor Is a Fixed Expense**

**D. Taxes Are Never Fixed Expenses**

Fixed expenses are costs that stay the same regardless of how much work you do, at least within a normal operating range. For a landscaping contractor, overhead includes things like office rent, insurance, depreciation on equipment, and salaries for non-billable staff. These costs must be paid to keep the business running, whether you mow one lawn or fifty, so they're generally treated as fixed. The statement that overhead fluctuates with production level isn't describing fixed costs accurately; that would be closer to variable costs. Direct labor is typically variable because it changes with how much work you're performing, not a constant cost independent of activity. And taxes aren't universally fixed or never fixed—some taxes are fixed (like certain license or property taxes), while others vary with business activity or income. So the best characterization is that overhead is generally a fixed expense.

**6. Where should the mechanics lien be filed for a home improvement project?**

**A. County Recorder's Office**

**B. City Hall**

**C. State Capitol**

**D. Building Department**

The main idea is that a mechanics lien must be attached to the property to protect the supplier's or contractor's right to payment. To accomplish that, it has to be recorded in the land records of the county where the property sits. In California, that means filing with the County Recorder's Office in the county where the home is located. This creates a public record of the lien against the property, which is essential if enforcement becomes necessary. The other offices don't handle liens: City Hall deals with local ordinances and city administration, the State Capitol is for state government matters, and the Building Department handles permits and inspections. None of those places records property liens.

7. Which statement about an inactive contractor's license is correct?

- A. A qualifying individual does not have to be listed on an inactive license**
- B. A qualifying individual must be listed on an inactive license
- C. Inactive licenses automatically expire after a year
- D. Inactive licenses cannot be reinstated

Understanding this topic: a license can be active (you're allowed to perform contracting work) or inactive (you're not currently practicing, but the license remains on file for future use). The person who has the required experience and oversight, the qualifying individual, is tied to a license when it's active. When a license is inactive, there's no ongoing requirement to have a qualifying individual listed on it because you aren't using the license to do work. You maintain the license in its inactive status and can reactivate later, at which point you may need to designate or update a qualifying individual depending on current rules. This is why the statement that a qualifying individual does not have to be listed on an inactive license is correct. Inactive licenses aren't automatically terminated or expiring after a set period, and they can be reinstated when you're ready to return to work, following the board's reinstatement process.

8. If hazardous materials are discovered during construction and properly abated, who should notify the contractor in writing after abatement?

- A. Homeowner**
- B. Contractor
- C. Architect
- D. City inspector

When hazardous materials are found and properly abated, the written notice to resume work should come from the project owner. The owner is the contractual party who authorizes changes and directs the contractor. A written notice to proceed after abatement confirms that the safety issue has been addressed, approvals are in place, and the contractor may continue with construction under the existing contract. While the architect, city inspector, or the contractor itself may be involved in sign-offs, it is the owner who holds the authority and responsibility to issue the directive to proceed.

9. Is it legal to ask about arrests that did not lead to convictions during a job interview?

- A. Yes, always.
- B. No, not legal to ask about arrests not leading to convictions.**
- C. Yes, but only for certain positions.
- D. Only after a conditional offer.

Arrests that did not lead to a conviction should not be asked about in a job interview because an arrest does not prove guilt and can unfairly bias a hiring decision. California law protects job applicants from having arrest records used to disqualify them when there is no conviction, focusing the assessment on actual proven conduct rather than unproven accusations. This helps ensure fair hiring and prevents discrimination based on a record that may have never resulted in a conviction.

**10. If required safety devices are missing from tools, what should an employee do?**

- A. Notify the contractor**
- B. Continue the job**
- C. Use a substitute device**
- D. Ignore the issue**

**When a required safety device is missing, the tool is not safe to use. The proper action is to stop using the tool and notify the contractor so they can repair, replace, or remove the tool from service. This puts safety first and ensures the issue is addressed before work continues. The contractor has the responsibility to provide safe equipment, and reporting hazards helps prevent injuries. Continuing the job, using a substitute device, or ignoring the issue creates a serious risk and isn't acceptable.**

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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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://californiac27.examzify.com>**

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

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