

CALIFORNIA LANDSCAPING CONTRACTOR (C-27) 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. A small contractor with no employees working from a garage: which type of insurance is not necessary at this time?**
 - A. General liability
 - B. Property
 - C. Automobile
 - D. Workers' compensation
- 2. When a joint control addendum is used, which item does not have to be included in a home improvement contract?**
 - A. Schedule of payments
 - B. Description of work
 - C. Change order procedures
 - D. Timeframe for completion
- 3. 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
- 4. Who is ultimately responsible for ensuring safety equipment is actually used on the jobsite?**
 - A. Company executives.
 - B. Safety inspectors.
 - C. Contractor.
 - D. Crew members.
- 5. If a contractor's supplier goes on strike, what should you do?**
 - A. Contact the owner immediately
 - B. Sue the supplier
 - C. Increase the bid
 - D. Do nothing

- 6. Why should contractors keep good business records?**
- A. To determine if the business is making a profit
 - B. To maximize tax payments
 - C. To track daily weather
 - D. To select suppliers
- 7. In a home improvement contract, arbitration may not be enforceable if the clause is not included and initialed by both parties. Arbitration may apply to which person?**
- A. Licensee
 - B. Owner
 - C. Contractor
 - D. Subcontractor
- 8. Which age-related fact is stated regarding driving as part of employment duties?**
- A. Drivers must be at least 25 for company vehicles
 - B. An 18-year-old can legally drive a vehicle as part of normal job duties
 - C. Only managers may drive company vehicles
 - D. There is no age restriction for driving on the job
- 9. Social Security tax for a self-employed contractor is based on the rate set for which period?**
- A. Based on the rate set for the self-employed for the year in which the tax is paid
 - B. Based on a fixed rate that never changes
 - C. Paid by the employer only
 - D. Not applicable to self-employed individuals
- 10. Public works contractors must renew their registrations with the DIR by which date?**
- A. June 1
 - B. July 1
 - C. August 1
 - D. October 1

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. A small contractor with no employees working from a garage: which type of insurance is not necessary at this time?

- A. General liability
- B. Property
- C. Automobile

D. Workers' compensation

The key idea here is that workers' compensation is tied to having employees. If you're a solo contractor with no workers, there's no one to cover, so workers' comp isn't required at this time. General liability is still important because it protects you if someone is injured or if property is damaged at a job site. Property insurance covers damage to your tools, equipment, or the garage/shop space you're using. Automobile insurance is needed for any vehicles you use for the business, such as driving to job sites or transporting gear. So, while workers' compensation isn't needed yet, you'd typically want general liability, property, and auto coverage to cover common business risks. You can add workers' comp later if you hire employees.

2. When a joint control addendum is used, which item does not have to be included in a home improvement contract?

- A. Schedule of payments**
- B. Description of work
- C. Change order procedures
- D. Timeframe for completion

The key idea is that a joint control addendum changes who handles and approves payments, not the basic scope or process of the work. When such an addendum is in place, a third party (the joint controller) oversees payments according to its own rules, so the contract itself does not need a separate scheduled payment plan. The contract still needs a clear description of the work to define what is being done, and it needs change order procedures to handle any alterations properly. It also benefits from a stated timeframe for completion to set expectations and address delays. In short, the payment schedule is not required in the contract because payment control is delegated to the joint controller, while the description of work, change order procedures, and completion timeframe remain essential.

3. 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.

4. Who is ultimately responsible for ensuring safety equipment is actually used on the jobsite?

- A. Company executives.
- B. Safety inspectors.
- C. Contractor.**
- D. Crew members.

On a jobsite, the contractor is ultimately responsible for ensuring safety equipment is actually used. The contractor must provide the PPE, train workers on proper use, maintain the equipment, and enforce its use through supervision and discipline. While crew members have a personal duty to wear PPE as directed and safety inspectors can check compliance, the on-site authority and accountability lie with the contractor who controls the worksite and the safety program. Executives may set safety policies and allocate resources, but the day-to-day enforcement and ensuring use of safety gear happen at the contractor level.

5. If a contractor's supplier goes on strike, what should you do?

- A. Contact the owner immediately**
- B. Sue the supplier
- C. Increase the bid
- D. Do nothing

When a supplier goes on strike, the immediate priority is to communicate with the owner about potential impacts. This keeps the project transparent and allows everyone to adjust plans proactively. By letting the owner know there may be delays or changes in material availability, you can together explore practical options—such as identifying substitute materials, sourcing alternative suppliers, or reworking the schedule. This approach also sets up the proper process for handling changes through a change order, so any added costs or extended timelines are documented and agreed upon. Suing the supplier doesn't address the project needs and can create a liability-heavy path that doesn't solve the scheduling problem. Increasing the bid without a justified basis isn't appropriate and can damage trust and breach contractual expectations. Doing nothing leaves the owner in the dark about delays, which can lead to claims of mismanagement. A swift, open update helps protect the project, the contractor's reputation, and the owner's interests.

6. Why should contractors keep good business records?

- A. To determine if the business is making a profit**
- B. To maximize tax payments
- C. To track daily weather
- D. To select suppliers

Keeping good business records is essential for knowing whether the company is financially healthy. In contracting, you need to track every job's income and costs—labor, materials, subcontractors, equipment, permits, overhead, and any change orders. By regularly comparing what you estimated for a project with what actually happened, you can see if that job was profitable and how your overall business performance is trending. This information guides pricing future bids, helps you plan cash flow, and supports tax reporting. Without solid records, you're guessing about profitability, which can lead to underpricing, cost overruns, or tax problems. While records can aid taxes and supplier decisions, the primary purpose is to determine if the business is making a profit and to manage financial health.

7. In a home improvement contract, arbitration may not be enforceable if the clause is not included and initialed by both parties. Arbitration may apply to which person?

- A. Licensee
- B. Owner
- C. Contractor
- D. Subcontractor

Arbitration clauses in home improvement contracts are enforceable only when both parties sign and initial the clause, creating a mutual agreement to resolve disputes outside court. These clauses govern disputes arising from the contractor's work, so they primarily bind the party performing the work—the licensee (the licensed contractor). While the homeowner would also be bound if they signed and initialed the clause, the clause's effect is to apply to the licensee, since the contractor's obligations under the contract are what typically give rise to such disputes. If the clause isn't initialed by both sides, it may not be enforceable.

8. Which age-related fact is stated regarding driving as part of employment duties?

- A. Drivers must be at least 25 for company vehicles
- B. An 18-year-old can legally drive a vehicle as part of normal job duties
- C. Only managers may drive company vehicles
- D. There is no age restriction for driving on the job

Driving as part of a job depends on the legal driving age. Once someone is 18 and holds a valid license, they can legally drive a vehicle for normal job duties, so an 18-year-old can perform driving tasks on the job. This aligns with basic licensing rules that mark adulthood and full driving privileges as of 18, allowing them to operate company vehicles for work. The other statements aren't accurate: requiring a minimum of 25 is unnecessary, driving isn't restricted to managers, and there is indeed an age standard for lawful driving on the job. Keep in mind employers should verify licenses and maintain safe driving policies.

9. Social Security tax for a self-employed contractor is based on the rate set for which period?

- A. Based on the rate set for the self-employed for the year in which the tax is paid
- B. Based on a fixed rate that never changes
- C. Paid by the employer only
- D. Not applicable to self-employed individuals

Self-employment tax is figured each tax year. The rate used is the rate in effect for the year you owe the tax, and it can change from year to year. You apply that year's rate to your net earnings from self-employment (up to the Social Security wage base for that year). The tax is paid by you, the self-employed person, not by an employer.

10. Public works contractors must renew their registrations with the DIR by which date?

A. June 1

B. July 1

C. August 1

D. October 1

Public works contractors must keep their DIR registration current to bid on or perform public projects. The renewal deadline is July 1 each year, so you should complete the renewal by that date. Renewing on time keeps you eligible to bid on new public works contracts and ensures any required information and fees are up to date. If you miss the deadline, you can lose the ability to bid on public works projects until you renew. Renewal is done through the DIR Public Works Contractor Registration portal, where you update your business details and confirm workers' compensation coverage as needed. The other dates listed aren't the established renewal deadline.

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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://californiac27.examzify.com>

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

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