

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. On which sides of their commercial vehicles must licensed contractors display their name, business address, and license number?**
 - A. the front side only
 - B. both sides
 - C. the rear side only
 - D. not required to display
- 2. Who is primarily responsible for safety at the jobsite?**
 - A. The owner
 - B. The project manager
 - C. The employer and employees
 - D. The customers
- 3. How could a cash flow problem best be prevented on a home improvement project?**
 - A. Pay a large upfront sum
 - B. Each payment should relate to a definite stage of the project
 - C. Make payments only at project completion
 - D. Neglect lien waivers
- 4. If a contractor on a public works project is found to pay less than the prevailing wage, what is the remedy?**
 - A. Back wages must be paid to employees
 - B. A civil penalty to the agency
 - C. Termination of project personnel
 - D. Pursue criminal charges
- 5. Where must a health and safety citation or order be posted?**
 - A. Posted in a conspicuous place at the job site where the violation occurred
 - B. Posted in the contractor's office
 - C. Attached to the contract documents
 - D. With the subcontractor paperwork

- 6. What is the meaning of the contract statement 'THE AGENT IS LIABLE FOR FINAL PAYMENT'?**
- A. The agent is responsible for final payment
 - B. The client is responsible for final payment
 - C. The surety pays final payment
 - D. No one is responsible for final payment
- 7. A Notice of Cessation is only effective if labor has ceased for at least how many days prior to recording?**
- A. 30 days
 - B. 45 days
 - C. 60 days
 - D. 90 days
- 8. How is operating capital defined in financial terms?**
- A. Long-term assets minus long-term liabilities
 - B. Total assets minus total liabilities
 - C. Total current assets minus total current liabilities
 - D. Net income minus taxes
- 9. Which best describes accounts receivable?**
- A. Money due from customers who have purchased goods or services on credit
 - B. Money owed to suppliers
 - C. Cash on hand
 - D. Loans receivable from customers
- 10. After a budget is finalized, what should the contractor strive to do?**
- A. Stay within the budget, maintaining quality
 - B. Increase the budget to cover overruns
 - C. Submit bids with potential overruns
 - D. Delay the project until funds are available

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. On which sides of their commercial vehicles must licensed contractors display their name, business address, and license number?

- A. the front side only
- B. both sides**
- C. the rear side only
- D. not required to display

In California, when a contractor uses a vehicle for business, the license rules require the name, business address, and license number to be visible on the vehicle from both sides. Displaying this information on both sides makes it easy for anyone approaching the vehicle from either direction to verify credentials and contact the contractor if needed. It enhances accountability, reduces misunderstandings about who is performing the work, and helps inspectors or customers confirm licensure during on-site or roadside checks. If the information were only on the front or only on the rear, someone passing on the opposite side might not see it, so those single-sided placements don't meet the requirement.

2. Who is primarily responsible for safety at the jobsite?

- A. The owner
- B. The project manager
- C. The employer and employees**
- D. The customers

Safety on a jobsite is a shared duty between the employer and the workers. The employer must build a safe environment by identifying hazards, implementing a safety program, providing training, supplying proper PPE, maintaining equipment, and enforcing rules to keep everyone protected and in compliance with regulations. Workers, for their part, are responsible for following the safety procedures, using PPE correctly, operating tools and equipment safely, and reporting hazards they notice. Because safety hinges on both preventing risks and ensuring those precautions are actually followed, the primary responsibility sits with both the employer and the employees. The project manager helps coordinate safety efforts, but accountability lies with the employer as the entity employing the workers and with the workers who perform the work. Customers aren't responsible for jobsite safety.

3. How could a cash flow problem best be prevented on a home improvement project?

- A. Pay a large upfront sum
- B. Each payment should relate to a definite stage of the project**
- C. Make payments only at project completion
- D. Neglect lien waivers

Tying payments to clearly defined stages of the work is the clearest way to keep cash flowing as the project progresses. When every payment is linked to a milestone—completion of specific tasks, inspections, or phases—you're paying for what's actually done, not for what might happen later. This helps cover labor and material costs as they arise, reduces the risk of a big cash shortfall mid-project, and provides a natural checkpoint to approve progress before moving forward. It also allows you to hold back a portion of funds until the job is fully finished and standards are met, which protects both you and the contractor. Paying a large amount upfront can drain cash early and may not guarantee that work will move promptly or be completed to standard. Waiting to pay until project completion places all financial risk on the contractor and can stall progress if funds aren't available when needed. Lien waivers are important for protecting against future claims, but neglecting them doesn't address cash flow issues and can expose you to liens; the payment-at-milestones approach directly manages cash flow and progress.

4. If a contractor on a public works project is found to pay less than the prevailing wage, what is the remedy?

A. Back wages must be paid to employees

B. A civil penalty to the agency

C. Termination of project personnel

D. Pursue criminal charges

When a public works project uses prevailing wages, workers must be paid the required rate for every hour they work. If an employer pays less, the direct remedy is to provide back wages to the employees for the difference in pay for the hours worked. This makes workers whole for the underpayment and preserves fair competition by ensuring contractors cannot undercut by underpaying labor. Civil penalties can also be assessed by the enforcing agency or the contract may trigger other consequences, and criminal charges could be pursued for willful violations, but those actions are separate from the worker-focused remedy of paying back the wage difference. The immediate way to address the wage shortfall is to compensate the employees with back wages for the hours worked at the correct prevailing rate.

5. Where must a health and safety citation or order be posted?

A. Posted in a conspicuous place at the job site where the violation occurred

B. Posted in the contractor's office

C. Attached to the contract documents

D. With the subcontractor paperwork

The key idea is that safety notices must be visible to workers where they're actually working so they can see what needs to be fixed and take action. Posting a citation in the job site itself ensures everyone on site, including frontline workers and supervisors, sees it and can comply promptly. Putting it in the contractor's office or attaching it to contract documents wouldn't guarantee visibility to those performing the work, so they're less effective for driving immediate corrective steps. That's why the best choice is to place the health and safety citation or order in a conspicuous location at the job site where the violation occurred.

6. What is the meaning of the contract statement 'THE AGENT IS LIABLE FOR FINAL PAYMENT'?

A. The agent is responsible for final payment

B. The client is responsible for final payment

C. The surety pays final payment

D. No one is responsible for final payment

When a contract states that the agent is liable for final payment, the key idea is that the agent personally guarantees the last payment due under the contract. This means if the principal (the client or boss who actually hires and funds the work) can't or won't pay the final bill, the agent must pay that final amount themselves. It's a personal obligation attached to the agent's role, intended to ensure there's a party readily obligated to complete the payment at the end of the project. This goes beyond the usual principal-liability setup, providing a backstop for subcontractors and suppliers to receive the final funds. The other possibilities don't fit because the clause is specifically naming the agent as the party responsible for that final payment, not the client, not the surety, and not "no one."

7. A Notice of Cessation is only effective if labor has ceased for at least how many days prior to recording?

- A. 30 days**
- B. 45 days
- C. 60 days
- D. 90 days

In California mechanics lien practice, a Notice of Cessation marks a real break in work on the project and becomes effective only if that pause lasts at least 30 days before you record it. This 30-day threshold ensures the notice signals a genuine cessation rather than a brief interruption, like a short delay due to weather or scheduling. Recording the notice after a 30-day pause helps protect the claimant's lien rights by clearly documenting the pause and its date, which matters for how lien timelines are interpreted if work resumes later. If the cessation is shorter than 30 days, the notice isn't considered effective, so the claimant would need to pursue other steps to preserve or enforce lien rights.

8. How is operating capital defined in financial terms?

- A. Long-term assets minus long-term liabilities
- B. Total assets minus total liabilities
- C. Total current assets minus total current liabilities**
- D. Net income minus taxes

Operating capital, often called working capital, is about the liquidity available to run daily operations. It compares what the business has in the short term (current assets such as cash, accounts receivable, and inventory) with what it owes in the short term (current liabilities such as accounts payable and short-term debt). The key idea is to show how much funds are available to cover everyday needs like payroll, supplier payments, and other operating costs. The most accurate way to express this is current assets minus current liabilities. A positive result means the business can fund its day-to-day activities from its short-term resources; a negative result signals a potential cash shortfall needing external financing. The other options point to long-term resources or overall profitability, which don't capture the day-to-day liquidity used to operate.

9. Which best describes accounts receivable?

- A. Money due from customers who have purchased goods or services on credit**
- B. Money owed to suppliers
- C. Cash on hand
- D. Loans receivable from customers

Accounts receivable are money a business expects to collect from customers who were billed for goods or services on credit. It shows up as a current asset because you expect to convert it to cash within a short time. For a landscaping contractor, this happens when you complete a job and bill the client on credit; until they pay, that amount sits as accounts receivable. This is different from money owed to suppliers (which is accounts payable), from cash on hand (actual cash you have available), or from loans receivable from customers (where you've lent money to a customer rather than awaiting payment for a recent sale). In practice, you also account for potential uncollectible amounts with an allowance for doubtful accounts and monitor aging to manage collections.

10. After a budget is finalized, what should the contractor strive to do?

A. Stay within the budget, maintaining quality

B. Increase the budget to cover overruns

C. Submit bids with potential overruns

D. Delay the project until funds are available

After a budget is finalized, the focus is on executing the project so costs stay within the approved amount while delivering the planned scope and quality. This means strict cost control: monitor actual spending against the budget, forecast variances, and only change scope through formal change orders. Use value engineering and smart procurement to avoid waste, optimize labor, and adjust methods or sequencing to stay efficient. Keeping to the budget protects profitability, meets client expectations, and reduces risk of disputes. Pursuing higher costs, submitting plans with overruns, or delaying work would undermine the plan, so the best approach is to complete the project within the allocated funds while maintaining quality.

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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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