

California Roofing Contractor Exam (C-39 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. If a roof has a slope of 24:12, what is its angle to the horizontal?**
 - A. 60 degrees**
 - B. 63 degrees**
 - C. 45 degrees**
 - D. 30 degrees**

- 2. The primary determinant of what roof to install is the roof's:**
 - A. Slope or pitch**
 - B. Material type**
 - C. Building height**
 - D. Climatic region**

- 3. What is the area of a triangular roof with sides 10 feet, 20 feet, and 20 feet?**
 - A. 97 sq ft**
 - B. 90 sq ft**
 - C. 100 sq ft**
 - D. 110 sq ft**

- 4. What is the minimum underlayment for wood shingles?**
 - A. 15 lb**
 - B. None required**
 - C. 30 lb**
 - D. 60 lb**

- 5. On a siphon hose in a kettle, what causes the check valve to jam open?**
 - A. Excess carbon buildup around the pump**
 - B. Low fuel level**
 - C. Damaged hose**
 - D. Overheating**

- 6. By how much should the offset joints of overlapping slate courses be at minimum?**
- A. 1**
 - B. 2**
 - C. 3**
 - D. 4**
- 7. The load that includes people and equipment on a roof is called:**
- A. Dead load**
 - B. Live load**
 - C. Wind load**
 - D. Thermal load**
- 8. What is the minimum weight of moisture-proof felt?**
- A. 15 lb/100 sq ft**
 - B. 12 lb/100 sq ft**
 - C. 20 lb/100 sq ft**
 - D. 10 lb/100 sq ft**
- 9. On built-up roofs, cement each felt sheet with how many pounds per square of asphalt or how many pounds per square of pitch?**
- A. 20 pounds per square of asphalt and 30 pounds per square of pitch**
 - B. 10 pounds per square of asphalt and 20 pounds per square of pitch**
 - C. 15 pounds per square of asphalt and 25 pounds per square of pitch**
 - D. 25 pounds per square of asphalt and 35 pounds per square of pitch**
- 10. What is the area of a circular roof with a 12-foot radius?**
- A. 452 sq ft**
 - B. 144 sq ft**
 - C. 900 sq ft**
 - D. 376 sq ft**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. If a roof has a slope of 24:12, what is its angle to the horizontal?

- A. 60 degrees
- B. 63 degrees
- C. 45 degrees
- D. 30 degrees

When you convert a roof slope to an angle, use the tangent relationship: $\tan(\theta) = \text{rise/run}$. A slope of 24:12 means rise is 24 for every 12 of run, so $\tan(\theta) = 24/12 = 2$. Therefore $\theta = \arctan(2) \approx 63.4$ degrees. Among the options, the one that matches closest is about 63 degrees. A 60-degree angle would require $\tan \theta \approx 1.732$, not 2, and 45 or 30 degrees correspond to much smaller tangents (1 and ~ 0.577).

2. The primary determinant of what roof to install is the roof's:

- A. Slope or pitch
- B. Material type
- C. Building height
- D. Climatic region

The main factor guiding what roof system you install is how steep the roof is—the slope or pitch. The slope determines how water will shed off the roof and what installation methods, underlayment, and roofing materials are feasible. Traditional shingles work best on moderate to steep slopes because gravity helps water shed and they rely on a well-sealed intersection with flashing. Very low-slope or flat roofs require waterproof membrane systems (EPDM, TPO, built-up, etc.) with careful flashing details to prevent leaks. Other materials have their own slope requirements: tiles often need a higher slope to ensure drainage and prevent cracking, while metal can cover a broader range but still needs enough slope to avoid ponding. Climate and height matter for wind, snow, and insulation considerations, but the slope primarily determines the appropriate roof type and installation method.

3. What is the area of a triangular roof with sides 10 feet, 20 feet, and 20 feet?

- A. 97 sq ft
- B. 90 sq ft
- C. 100 sq ft
- D. 110 sq ft

Finding the area uses the triangle formula: area equals base times height divided by two. Here the triangle forms a triangle roof section with a base of 10 feet and two equal sides of 20 feet. The height comes from dropping a line from the top vertex to the midpoint of the base, which creates a right triangle with half the base as 5 feet and a leg of 20 feet. $\text{Height} = \sqrt{20^2 - 5^2} = \sqrt{400 - 25} = \sqrt{375} \approx 19.36$ feet. Now the area is $(1/2) \times \text{base} \times \text{height} = (1/2) \times 10 \times 19.36 \approx 96.8$ square feet. This rounds to about 97 square feet, matching the closest option. In practice, this is the typical way to estimate roof sections when you know the side lengths of the triangular end.

4. What is the minimum underlayment for wood shingles?

- A. 15 lb
- B. None required**
- C. 30 lb
- D. 60 lb

Wood shingles provide the primary weatherproofing when installed correctly, so a separate underlayment isn't required in the standard installation. The shingles' overlapping pattern sheds water, and a deck that's dry and properly prepared is typically sufficient without a secondary moisture barrier. Adding underlayment can even be unnecessary or problematic if it traps moisture between layers. Therefore, the minimum underlayment in this common scenario is none. Always follow manufacturer instructions and local codes if conditions call for additional protection, but in the typical wood-shingle installation, no underlayment is mandated.

5. On a siphon hose in a kettle, what causes the check valve to jam open?

- A. Excess carbon buildup around the pump**
- B. Low fuel level
- C. Damaged hose
- D. Overheating

The key idea is that a check valve must seat tightly to stop backflow. Excess carbon buildup around the pump creates a sticky, abrasive film and roughness that prevents the valve disc or ball from seating fully against its seat. With the seating compromised, the valve remains open or cannot close properly, so fuel keeps flowing backward and the valve appears to be jammed in the open position. This deposit-driven sticking is a common cause because it directly interferes with the moving parts and seating surface, unlike a low fuel level (which mainly affects priming), a damaged hose (which usually leaks or loses pressure), or overheating (which could warp parts but doesn't specifically cause the valve to stay open due to carbon deposits). Regular cleaning and avoiding buildup help the valve seal reliably.

6. By how much should the offset joints of overlapping slate courses be at minimum?

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3**
- D. 4

Staggering joints in slate roofing is essential for weather resistance and strength. When each course overlaps the one below, the vertical joints between slates don't line up from course to course. If the joints align too closely, water can find a straight path through a stack of joints, and the roof loses durability against wind uplift and leaks. By ensuring a minimum offset between joints in successive courses, the joints are blocked by slates in adjacent courses, distributing the load and improving the roof's integrity. The minimum offset for overlapping slate courses is three inches. This amount is enough to prevent a continuous vertical seam while allowing proper overlap and interlock of the slates. Offsets smaller than three inches (like one or two inches) can permit aligned joints and greater leak risk, while four inches is acceptable but exceeds the minimum requirement.

7. The load that includes people and equipment on a roof is called:

- A. Dead load**
- B. Live load**
- C. Wind load**
- D. Thermal load**

Live load is the portion of a roof's load that comes from use and occupancy. It varies with time because it includes people and movable equipment on the roof, such as workers, tools, and portable gear. This is different from dead load, which is the permanent weight of the roof structure and finishing materials, and from wind and thermal loads, which are environmental forces or temperature-related effects. When maintenance crews are on the roof with their gear, that temporary weight must be supported just like the roof must be designed for those varying loads. That's why the load described as including people and equipment falls under live load.

8. What is the minimum weight of moisture-proof felt?

- A. 15 lb/100 sq ft**
- B. 12 lb/100 sq ft**
- C. 20 lb/100 sq ft**
- D. 10 lb/100 sq ft**

Minimum weight for moisture-proof felt is 15 lb per 100 square feet. In roofing underlayment, the felt's weight reflects its thickness and tear resistance, which are crucial for providing a reliable moisture barrier under the roofing material. A 15-lb/100-sq-ft felt offers enough strength to resist tearing during installation and to help prevent moisture intrusion, while still being practical to handle and install. Lighter options, like 10 or 12 lb, would be more prone to tearing and moisture leaks, making them less protective. A heavier option, such as 20 lb, does meet performance needs, but it's not the minimum requirement. Therefore, 15 lb per 100 sq ft is the accepted minimum.

9. On built-up roofs, cement each felt sheet with how many pounds per square of asphalt or how many pounds per square of pitch?

- A. 20 pounds per square of asphalt and 30 pounds per square of pitch
- B. 10 pounds per square of asphalt and 20 pounds per square of pitch
- C. 15 pounds per square of asphalt and 25 pounds per square of pitch
- D. 25 pounds per square of asphalt and 35 pounds per square of pitch

When you're cementing felt sheets on a built-up roof, you're bonding each layer to the deck with asphalt, and the amount you apply is specified per square (a square is 100 square feet). The standard practice distinguishes between flat/ordinary bonding and pitched (sloped) surfaces to ensure a reliable seal under different conditions. The bonding rate is 20 pounds of asphalt per square for general cementing, but on pitched roofs you need more adhesion to resist gravity, wind uplift, and potential runoff, so 30 pounds per square is used. This balance provides a strong, durable bond without unnecessary excess. So the correct approach is to use 20 pounds per square of asphalt for the standard bonding and 30 pounds per square for pitch, reflecting the differing needs of flat versus pitched surfaces.

10. What is the area of a circular roof with a 12-foot radius?

- A. 452 sq ft
- B. 144 sq ft
- C. 900 sq ft
- D. 376 sq ft

Area of a circle is π times the radius squared. With a radius of 12 feet, you square the radius ($12^2 = 144$) and multiply by π , giving 144π square feet. Numerically, 144π is about 452.39, so the circular roof area is roughly 452 square feet. This aligns with the option that matches 144π . The other numbers come from missing the π factor or using different radii, so they don't fit a circle with a 12-foot radius.

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://roofingc39.examzify.com>

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

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