

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. Which tile has different tones of red color in a single tile?**
 - A. Monochrome**
 - B. Variegated**
 - C. Striated**
 - D. Uniform**

- 2. What is a seal cap?**
 - A. The mortar cap around the top of a chimney**
 - B. A decorative ridge cap for the roof edge**
 - C. The metal flashing around chimney openings**
 - D. A vent cap for roof penetrations**

- 3. Which statement about slate nails holes positioning is correct?**
 - A. Nail holes are always at the very top edge**
 - B. Nail holes are typically about one third down from the top**
 - C. Nail holes are near the bottom edge**
 - D. Nail holes are placed randomly**

- 4. Why isn't plastic cement used on wood shingles?**
 - A. It rusts**
 - B. Wood will expand and force the cement off**
 - C. It is too expensive**
 - D. It dries too quickly**

- 5. The end of flex-pipe for hot asphalt must extend which distance relative to the wall?**
 - A. Below the wall**
 - B. Above the wall and onto the roof area**
 - C. Inside the wall opening**
 - D. Along the ground surface**

- 6. Roller-type felt laying machines should be:**
 - A. Locked and stationary on the roof**
 - B. In motion across the roof**
 - C. On the ground only**
 - D. Controlled by crane**

- 7. What is the minimum underlayment for wood shakes?**
- A. 15 lb**
 - B. None required**
 - C. 30 lb**
 - D. 60 lb**
- 8. 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**
- 9. Which measurement represents the minimum sidelap between adjacent wood shingle courses?**
- A. 1-1/2 inches**
 - B. 1 inch**
 - C. 3/4 inch**
 - D. 2 inches**
- 10. The guideline for alternate courses best described by which statement?**
- A. There should be no direct alignment**
 - B. Sidelap must be 1-1/2 inches**
 - C. Joints must align on every third course**
 - D. Joints must align on all courses**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which tile has different tones of red color in a single tile?

- A. Monochrome**
- B. Variegated**
- C. Striated**
- D. Uniform**

Variegated tiles are designed to have color variation within a single tile, showing multiple shades of red on one piece. This happens naturally during firing or with varying glaze, creating a blended, multi-tone appearance. Monochrome would be a single, uniform color throughout the tile. Uniform implies the color stays the same across the entire tile without variation. Striated would show distinct bands or stripes rather than blended tones in one tile. So when a tile contains different tones of red within it, it's variegated.

2. What is a seal cap?

- A. The mortar cap around the top of a chimney**
- B. A decorative ridge cap for the roof edge**
- C. The metal flashing around chimney openings**
- D. A vent cap for roof penetrations**

A seal cap is the mortar cap that sits on top of a masonry chimney. It's a concrete or mortar crown that covers the top surface of the chimney and slopes to shed water away from the bricks and mortar joints. This protects the chimney from water intrusion, which can cause deterioration and leaks over time. It's not the decorative ridge cap along the roof edge, not the metal flashing around chimney openings, and not a vent cap for roof penetrations—the seal cap's job is to seal and shed water from the top of the chimney itself.

3. Which statement about slate nails holes positioning is correct?

- A. Nail holes are always at the very top edge**
- B. Nail holes are typically about one third down from the top**
- C. Nail holes are near the bottom edge**
- D. Nail holes are placed randomly**

In slate roofing, the nail holes are positioned about one third of the way down from the top edge. This placement lets the slate stay thick enough near the top to resist cracking when you drive the nail, while still leaving a sufficient portion above the hole to help with wind uplift resistance and to be covered by the slate above, which helps keep water from penetrating around the fastener. If the hole were right at the top edge, the slate is more prone to cracking and the nail can be more exposed to movement and weather. If the hole were near the bottom edge, the fastening would be less secure and the slate could be more easily displaced. Random placement would not provide consistent performance or proper weather sealing.

4. Why isn't plastic cement used on wood shingles?

- A. It rusts
- B. Wood will expand and force the cement off**
- C. It is too expensive
- D. It dries too quickly

Wood shingles change size with moisture and temperature. They swell and shrink, so any material used to seal or attach must be able to flex with that movement. Plastic cement is relatively rigid once it sets, so it can't follow the wood's expansion and contraction. As the wood moves, the cement bond fails and detaches, leading to cracks, lifting, and leaks. The other options don't address this movement issue—rust only concerns metal, cost isn't the primary failure mechanism, and drying speed isn't the real problem here.

5. The end of flex-pipe for hot asphalt must extend which distance relative to the wall?

- A. Below the wall
- B. Above the wall and onto the roof area**
- C. Inside the wall opening
- D. Along the ground surface

Directing the end of the flex-pipe above the wall and onto the roof area keeps hot asphalt and its vapors away from the wall and any openings. This placement prevents drips from running down the face of the wall or into wall cavities, reduces the chance of heat or flames contacting combustible materials on the wall, and gives the applicator a clear, safe area on the roof to work. If the end were below the wall or inside a wall opening, hot asphalt or vapors could vent into the wall space or drip into unwanted areas, creating fire, moisture, and contamination hazards. Extending the end along the ground lacks the proper clearance and ventilation, increasing slip, trip, and burn risks and failing to keep fumes and material away from the wall.

6. Roller-type felt laying machines should be:

- A. Locked and stationary on the roof**
- B. In motion across the roof
- C. On the ground only
- D. Controlled by crane

Securing rolling equipment on a roof is essential to prevent uncontrolled movement. A roller-type felt laying machine sits on the roof and can slide or roll due to gravity, wind, or operator motion. Locking it so it stays stationary during operation keeps the machine from shifting out of alignment and protects workers from being struck or knocked off the roof. When you need to reposition, release the lock, move it, then re-lock in the new position. It shouldn't be operated in motion across the roof, and it isn't limited to being on the ground or controlled by crane for normal use.

7. What is the minimum underlayment for wood shakes?

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

Wood shakes need a fairly robust underlayment to protect the roof deck and provide a smooth, water-resistant surface for the shakes to sit on. The minimum weight commonly required for wood shake roofs is 30-pound roofing felt. Lighter felt, like 15-pound, can tear more easily and may not provide enough protection or durability under the rough surface of shakes. A 60-pound underlayment is thicker than typically required and not the standard minimum for shakes. Some situations may call for special or additional barriers, but for the standard installation, 30-pound felt is the lowest accepted underlayment.

8. 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.

9. Which measurement represents the minimum sidelap between adjacent wood shingle courses?

- A. 1-1/2 inches**
- B. 1 inch**
- C. 3/4 inch**
- D. 2 inches**

The key idea is how much the upper course must cover the seam of the lower course to keep water out and accommodate wood's movement. For wood shingles, a generous side lap is needed so wind-driven rain can't sneak under the seams as shingles shrink and expand with moisture and temperature. The standard minimum sidelap that most codes and manufacturers specify is 1-1/2 inches. This amount provides reliable weatherproofing and helps ensure the joints stay covered over time. Smaller laps (like 3/4 inch or 1 inch) can leave vulnerable gaps, while a lap of 2 inches is larger than typically required and wastes material.

10. The guideline for alternate courses best described by which statement?

- A. There should be no direct alignment**
- B. Sidelap must be 1-1/2 inches**
- C. Joints must align on every third course**
- D. Joints must align on all courses**

Joints in alternate courses must be offset so they don't line up from course to course. This staggered arrangement is essential because it breaks up vertical seams that could create a continuous weak line from the eave to the ridge. When joints don't align, water intrusion paths are disrupted and wind resistance improves, since no single seam is carrying the load straight up through every course. In asphalt shingles, you typically offset by at least a practical amount (often about half a shingle or more, depending on the product) to maintain this staggered pattern. If joints lined up on every course, or on every third or all courses, you'd create predictable weak points and increased potential for leaks or wind damage. A roof that keeps joints from aligning across courses offers better durability and weatherproofing.

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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