

CALIFORNIA SUPPLEMENTAL (CSE) PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



Prepare with structure. Pass with confidence



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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. What document notifies responsible agencies that an EIR will be prepared?**
 - A. Notice of Completion
 - B. Notice of Preparation
 - C. Notice of Determination
 - D. Environmental Impact Document
- 2. Which of the following is NOT considered an additional service in project programming?**
 - A. Site Evaluation and Planning
 - B. Measured Drawings
 - C. Landscape Design
 - D. Environmental Impact Assessment
- 3. Which agency is primarily responsible for completing the environmental review process under CEQA?**
 - A. Responsible Agency
 - B. Commenting Agency
 - C. Lead Agency
 - D. Trustee Agency
- 4. Which document allows the contractor to request clarification on a change before it is implemented?**
 - A. Proposal Request
 - B. Change Order
 - C. Construction Change Directive
 - D. Contract Administration Plan
- 5. Who is primarily responsible for keeping the owner informed of the progress of work when a construction manager is involved?**
 - A. The architect
 - B. The contractor
 - C. The construction manager
 - D. The owner themselves

- 6. Where is a Notice of Exemption filed if a project is exempt from CEQA compliance?**
- A. At the state agency's headquarters
 - B. At the local county clerk's office
 - C. At the office of planning and research
 - D. At the EPA regional office
- 7. What is the maximum surface cross slope allowed on accessible walkways as per California standards?**
- A. 2%
 - B. 5%
 - C. 8.33%
 - D. 10%
- 8. Which of the following is NOT required to obtain a Coastal Development Permit?**
- A. Placement of any solid material or structure
 - B. Changes in land use density or intensity
 - C. Maintenance of existing navigation channels
 - D. Removal of major vegetation
- 9. How is compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) addressed during the entitlement phase?**
- A. Review of economic impacts
 - B. Review for compliance with zoning code
 - C. Review for compliance with CEQA
 - D. Review of building materials
- 10. Which title represents the California Building Standards Code?**
- A. Title 20
 - B. Title 22
 - C. Title 24
 - D. Title 26

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What document notifies responsible agencies that an EIR will be prepared?

- A. Notice of Completion
- B. Notice of Preparation**
- C. Notice of Determination
- D. Environmental Impact Document

The Notice of Preparation is a significant document in the environmental review process under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). It serves as a formal notification to responsible agencies that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be prepared for a proposed project. This document alerts those agencies to the potential environmental impacts of the project and invites them to participate in the EIR process by providing input regarding the scope and content of the report. The importance of the Notice of Preparation lies in ensuring that relevant agencies are informed at an early stage so that they can contribute their expertise and concerns about the project's potential environmental effects. This coordination is critical for a comprehensive assessment of the project's impacts. The other document options relate to different stages of the CEQA process. A Notice of Completion indicates that a draft EIR has been completed and is available for review, while a Notice of Determination is issued after a final decision has been made on a project, informing the public of that decision and any mitigation measures. An Environmental Impact Document is a general term that refers to the reports prepared, including EIRs and negative declarations. Therefore, the Notice of Preparation is specifically geared towards notifying agencies about the initial intent to prepare an EIR.

2. Which of the following is NOT considered an additional service in project programming?

- A. Site Evaluation and Planning
- B. Measured Drawings
- C. Landscape Design
- D. Environmental Impact Assessment**

The correct response is based on the classification of services within project programming. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a critical study that evaluates the potential environmental effects of a proposed project before it is allowed to proceed. It typically falls under regulatory and compliance requirements rather than being categorized as an additional service within the framework of project programming. The other options represent additional services that play a supportive role in the execution and success of a project. Site Evaluation and Planning involves analyzing site conditions and determining the best approach for development; Measured Drawings provide accurate representations of existing conditions which are essential for architectural planning; and Landscape Design focuses on enhancing the aesthetic and functional aspects of a project's outdoor spaces. These services directly contribute to the planning and development aspects of a project, while an Environmental Impact Assessment is primarily concerned with compliance and sustainability issues, which are often mandated by law and may not be considered an optional or additional service.

3. Which agency is primarily responsible for completing the environmental review process under CEQA?

- A. Responsible Agency
- B. Commenting Agency
- C. Lead Agency**
- D. Trustee Agency

The agency primarily responsible for completing the environmental review process under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is the Lead Agency. The Lead Agency is tasked with overseeing the CEQA process for a specific project, including preparation of the necessary environmental documents such as Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) or Negative Declarations. This agency is typically the one that has the principal responsibility for approving or carrying out the project in question. The Lead Agency's role is crucial because it ensures that environmental considerations are integrated into the decision-making process. It coordinates with other agencies, manages public input, and determines the scope of the environmental review. This includes analyzing potential environmental impacts, proposing mitigation measures, and ultimately deciding whether to approve the project based on the findings of the environmental review. In contrast, the Responsible Agency is one that may have some degree of jurisdiction or responsibility over a portion of the project but does not lead the environmental review process. Commenting Agencies provide input and feedback on the environmental documents but do not have a decision-making role in the approval of the project. Trustee Agencies have specific responsibilities relating to the management of natural resources and have a role in protecting particular environmental resources, but like Responsible Agencies, they do not take the lead in the CEQA review process.

4. Which document allows the contractor to request clarification on a change before it is implemented?

- A. Proposal Request**
- B. Change Order
- C. Construction Change Directive
- D. Contract Administration Plan

The document that allows a contractor to request clarification on a change before it is implemented is the Proposal Request. This document serves as a formal request from the contractor to the owner or project manager, seeking additional information or clarification regarding a proposed change to the project. By using a Proposal Request, the contractor ensures that they have a clear understanding of the changes that need to be made, including the implications for time and cost. This process is essential for effective communication and helps prevent misunderstandings once changes are put into action. The other options do not facilitate this preliminary request for clarification in the same way. For instance, a Change Order is used to document agreed-upon changes after they have been discussed and approved, while a Construction Change Directive indicates changes ordered by the owner without a contractor's consent initially. The Contract Administration Plan outlines the overall framework for managing the contract but does not specifically address individual change requests.

5. Who is primarily responsible for keeping the owner informed of the progress of work when a construction manager is involved?

- A. The architect
- B. The contractor
- C. The construction manager**
- D. The owner themselves

The construction manager plays a pivotal role in the oversight of construction projects and serves as the critical link between the owner, contractors, and other stakeholders. Their primary responsibility is to ensure that the project runs smoothly, on time, and within budget, while also keeping the owner informed of the progress at every stage of the process. This responsibility includes regular updates regarding scheduling, any potential issues that arise, and how the workers are meeting the project specifications. By facilitating clear communication between the owner and the various parties involved, the construction manager ensures that the owner's expectations are aligned with the project developments. In contrast to the roles of the architect, contractor, or the owner, the construction manager's focus is specifically on managing the construction process and acting as the owner's representative. While an architect may provide aesthetic and design updates, they do not typically manage the operational aspects, and the contractor is primarily focused on executing the work rather than communicating project management updates. Hence, the construction manager is essential in fulfilling the owner's need for information throughout the project.

6. Where is a Notice of Exemption filed if a project is exempt from CEQA compliance?

- A. At the state agency's headquarters
- B. At the local county clerk's office
- C. At the office of planning and research**
- D. At the EPA regional office

A Notice of Exemption is filed with the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) when a project is determined to be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance. This process is important as it provides public notice of the exemption and ensures transparency in environmental decision-making. The OPR serves as the central hub for environmental information in California and assists local and state agencies in implementing CEQA. Filing the notice with the OPR helps streamline the process and ensures that there is a consistent approach to managing exempt projects across the state. Filing with a local county clerk's office, while common for other forms of notifications and documents, is not the standard practice for Notices of Exemption specifically under CEQA. The same concept applies to the options regarding the state agency's headquarters and the EPA regional office, as neither are designated for this type of filing related to CEQA exemptions.

7. What is the maximum surface cross slope allowed on accessible walkways as per California standards?

- A. 2%**
- B. 5%
- C. 8.33%
- D. 10%

The maximum surface cross slope allowed on accessible walkways according to California standards is 2%. This requirement is in place to ensure that walkways are navigable for individuals with disabilities, particularly those who may be using mobility devices. A cross slope of more than 2% can pose significant challenges and increase the risk of slipping or losing control for users. In California, accessibility standards are designed to promote safer and more inclusive environments, which is why the 2% standard is critical. It offers a level of stability and ease of movement for individuals with varying abilities and mobility challenges. Understanding why the other options do not apply involves recognizing that higher cross slopes like 5%, 8.33%, or 10% would create steeper inclines that could impede accessibility, going against the aim of creating compliant, safe walkways for all users. These measures ensure that public spaces are accessible and contribute to overall safety and usability.

8. Which of the following is NOT required to obtain a Coastal Development Permit?

- A. Placement of any solid material or structure
- B. Changes in land use density or intensity
- C. Maintenance of existing navigation channels**
- D. Removal of major vegetation

The correct answer highlights a key distinction in the requirements for obtaining a Coastal Development Permit. A Coastal Development Permit is necessary for various activities that could impact the coastal environment, such as placing structures, altering land use, or removing major vegetation. However, the maintenance of existing navigation channels typically does not fall under these requirements. Maintaining existing navigation channels is considered a necessary activity for ensuring safe passage for boats and other vessels and is generally regulated under different authorities, specifically focusing on navigational safety rather than coastal development impacts. This makes it less likely to require a Coastal Development Permit, as its primary purpose serves an existing infrastructure function rather than promoting new development that could impact coastal resources. On the other hand, the other options involve alterations or additions to the coastal environment that could significantly affect the ecosystem, visual aesthetics, or resource availability, making them essential topics for review under the Coastal Act provisions.

9. How is compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) addressed during the entitlement phase?

- A. Review of economic impacts
- B. Review for compliance with zoning code
- C. Review for compliance with CEQA**
- D. Review of building materials

During the entitlement phase, compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is primarily concerned with ensuring that a proposed project meets the environmental review requirements established by the Act. This involves an assessment of the potential environmental impacts of the project and determining whether those impacts can be mitigated or avoided entirely. The review process includes collecting relevant data, evaluating significant effects on the environment, engaging with the community, and providing opportunities for public comment. CEQA mandates that lead agencies conduct thorough environmental reviews before proceeding with project approvals, which is critical for protecting California's environmental resources. This process can include various types of environmental documents like negative declarations, mitigated negative declarations, or environmental impact reports, depending on the project's anticipated impacts. In contrast, other options focus on areas that, while important for the overall project approval process, do not directly pertain to the environmental analysis mandated by CEQA. For instance, reviewing economic impacts may be part of a broader assessment but is not a requirement under CEQA. Similarly, ensuring compliance with zoning codes is a separate regulatory process that does not explicitly involve environmental considerations under CEQA, and reviewing building materials tends to focus on construction standards rather than environmental impacts. Thus, the emphasis on compliance with CEQA during the entitlement phase is

10. Which title represents the California Building Standards Code?

- A. Title 20
- B. Title 22
- C. Title 24**
- D. Title 26

The California Building Standards Code is appropriately represented by Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations. This title encompasses the regulations for the construction and alteration of buildings within the state, ensuring that they meet specific standards for safety, accessibility, and energy efficiency. Title 24 includes the California Building Code, which outlines requirements for various aspects of building design and construction, including structural integrity, fire safety, and mechanical systems. Titles 20, 22, and 26 do not pertain to building standards; rather, they focus on other areas of the regulatory framework. Title 20 deals with energy resources, Title 22 covers environmental health standards, and Title 26 is associated with regulations concerning the California Air Resources Board and air quality management. Each of these titles has its own distinct focus and application, which is why Title 24 is the correct choice for representing the California Building Standards Code.

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://californiasupplemental-cse.examzify.com>

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

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