Champions School Home Inspection Practice Test (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. Don’t worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.

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.

7. Use Other Tools

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

1. If a 2x8 joist has a 3 inch x 3 inch notch at the bottom where it rests on a beam:

A. The beam should also be notched.

B. The head room is reduced below.

C. The beam should be steel.

D. The joist may have a crack that extends horizontally from the notch.

2. During a home inspection, when is it appropriate to use an inspection mirror?

A. To read labels on electrical components.

B. To check for hidden leaks behind walls.

C. To assist in observing inadequate lighting conditions.

D. To identify pests in hard-to-reach areas.

3. Which statement is TRUE regarding settlement issues?

A. Uniform settlement is most often the result of building on undisturbed soils.

B. Expansive soils expand as they dry.

C. Lowering the basement floor to the top of the footing can cause settlement where there was no settlement initially.

D. Uniform settlement may stress utility pipes.

4. Assuming proper vent balance, what is the maximum number of square feet of attic floor to be vented?

A. 1 square foot of net free vent space for 150 square feet of attic floor

B. 1 square foot of net free vent space for 200 square feet of attic floor

C. 1 square foot of net free vent space for 300 square feet of attic floor

D. 1 square foot of net free vent space for 250 square feet of attic floor

5. Which statement about crawlspaces is false?

A. Crawlspaces can be heated or unheated.

B. The floor will be more comfortable if the crawlspace floor is insulated.

C. It is typically easier to insulate the walls than the crawlspace ceiling.

D. Insulating the walls can be done on the inside or outside.

6. Crawlspaces are most similar in construction to which type of foundation?

A. Monolithic slab.

B. Floating slab.

C. Basements.

D. Concrete block foundations.

7. What is one mechanism by which water may enter wall systems from the exterior of a building?

A. Rain driven by wind

B. Condensation from windows

C. Soil saturation

D. Evaporation from the ground

8. What materials are typically used in the construction of a party wall?

A. Wood framing and drywall.

B. Masonry block and wood frame.

C. Metal sheets and concrete blocks.

D. Brick and plaster.

9. Which type of wall is driven into the ground and resists loads on both sides?

A. Gravity wall

B. Piling wall

C. Cantilever wall

D. Anchored wall

10. How can the presence of step flashing on an asphalt shingle roof typically be verified?

A. Looking at the counter flashing.

B. Knowing the age of the shingles on the roof.

C. Knowing the number of layers of shingles on the roof.

D. Lifting the shingles adjacent to the chimney or wall.

Answers

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

Explanations

1. If a 2x8 joist has a 3 inch x 3 inch notch at the bottom where it rests on a beam:

A. The beam should also be notched.

B. The head room is reduced below.

C. The beam should be steel.

D. The joist may have a crack that extends horizontally from the notch.

When a joist is notched, particularly at its bottom edge, the structural integrity of the joist can be compromised. Notching removes material that contributes to the joist's ability to resist bending and shear forces. This kind of modification is generally discouraged in structural applications because it can lead to stress concentrations in the remaining material of the joist. If a crack develops from the notch, it is likely to extend horizontally as the joist experiences loads, due to the increased stress in that area. Therefore, the statement regarding the potential for a horizontal crack extending from the notch is valid in recognizing that the notching can lead to structural failure or weakening of the joist. Notching at the bottom is particularly detrimental because it reduces the tension capacity of the joist, which can lead to serious issues like cracking, especially under load. Understanding the implications of notching is critical for ensuring the safety and durability of structural elements in construction. The other possible choices do not directly relate to the consequences of the notch in the same way, focusing less on structural integrity and more on potential alterations or conditions that don't necessarily stem from the notch itself.

2. During a home inspection, when is it appropriate to use an inspection mirror?

A. To read labels on electrical components.

B. To check for hidden leaks behind walls.

C. To assist in observing inadequate lighting conditions.

D. To identify pests in hard-to-reach areas.

The use of an inspection mirror is particularly effective in scenarios where visibility is limited and direct line of sight is obstructed. One common application is checking for hidden leaks behind walls. In this context, an inspection mirror can help the inspector see areas that are otherwise difficult to access or observe directly, allowing them to identify signs of moisture, water stains, or plumbing issues without invasive methods. While reading labels on electrical components is important, inspection mirrors do not provide an advantage in those situations since labels are generally positioned where they can be directly viewed without obstruction. The use of mirrors in darker areas (related to lighting conditions) may not significantly enhance visibility compared to utilizing a flashlight or other illumination. Identifying pests in hard-to-reach areas is another reason for using inspection mirrors; however, it primarily supports the search for leaks and plumbing issues, where a closer examination of concealed spaces is often necessary. Thus, the most appropriate answer correctly highlights the mirror's utility in detecting hidden leaks, ensuring a thorough and effective inspection process.

3. Which statement is TRUE regarding settlement issues?

A. Uniform settlement is most often the result of building on undisturbed soils.

B. Expansive soils expand as they dry.

C. Lowering the basement floor to the top of the footing can cause settlement where there was no settlement initially.

D. Uniform settlement may stress utility pipes.

The statement that uniform settlement may stress utility pipes is correct because uniform settlement occurs when a structure sinks uniformly due to various factors, such as soil compaction, moisture changes, or load distribution. As the building settles evenly, any utility pipes that are interconnected to the foundation or buried in the soil may experience tension or compression. This stress can lead to leaks or breaks, potentially causing significant damage or disruptions to the utility system. Understanding the impact of uniform settlement on utility pipes is crucial for home inspectors, as it helps them identify potential issues that may not be immediately visible but could lead to substantial problems down the road. Additionally, maintenance and repair strategies for utility systems must consider the changes that occur in settlement scenarios, emphasizing the importance of monitoring and addressing settlement concerns during inspections. In the context of the other statements, while they address various types of soil behavior and construction issues, they do not accurately relate to the implications of settlement on utility infrastructure in the same way that the correct answer does.

4. Assuming proper vent balance, what is the maximum number of square feet of attic floor to be vented?

A. 1 square foot of net free vent space for 150 square feet of attic floor

B. 1 square foot of net free vent space for 200 square feet of attic floor

C. 1 square foot of net free vent space for 300 square feet of attic floor

D. 1 square foot of net free vent space for 250 square feet of attic floor

The correct answer states that a maximum of 1 square foot of net free vent space is required for every 300 square feet of attic floor area when assuming proper vent balance. This guideline is important for ensuring effective attic ventilation, which helps prevent moisture buildup, reduce heat accumulation in the summer, and promote energy efficiency in the home. Ventilation in attics typically relies on a balance between intake vents and exhaust vents to create proper airflow. When ventilation is adequate, it allows for the free flow of air that can help to control the temperature and moisture levels within an attic space. The 1:300 ratio is a commonly accepted standard in the industry, which has been found to be efficient for many residential buildings. A ratio of 1 square foot of net free area for 300 square feet of attic space ensures that there is enough ventilation to allow air exchanges that are necessary for maintaining proper environmental conditions in the attic. This ratio reflects best practices in home inspection and design, contributing to overall building health and longevity.

5. Which statement about crawlspaces is false?

A. Crawlspaces can be heated or unheated.

B. The floor will be more comfortable if the crawlspace floor is insulated.

C. It is typically easier to insulate the walls than the crawlspace ceiling.

D. Insulating the walls can be done on the inside or outside.

The statement indicating that the floor will be more comfortable if the crawlspace floor is insulated is not accurate. Insulating the crawlspace walls tends to be more effective than insulating the floor itself because heat rises. When walls are insulated, it helps maintain the overall temperature of the living space above, while insulating the floor may not provide the same level of comfort, especially if the crawlspace is outside of the conditioned area. Additionally, insulation strategies often focus on preventing moisture and improving energy efficiency rather than directly making the floor "more comfortable." The other statements highlight various aspects of crawlspace insulation. Crawlspaces can indeed be either heated or unheated, which is contingent on the specific building design and climate considerations. Insulating the walls can often be more productive compared to insulating the ceiling, particularly in terms of preventing heat loss and moisture issues. Furthermore, insulation can be installed on both the interior and exterior sides of crawlspace walls, offering flexibility depending on construction and design choices.

6. Crawlspaces are most similar in construction to which type of foundation?

A. Monolithic slab.

B. Floating slab.

C. Basements.

D. Concrete block foundations.

Crawlspaces are most similar in construction to basements because both involve spaces beneath the main structure of the building that are designed to be used for access to plumbing and electrical systems while also providing some degree of protection from the elements. Like basements, crawlspaces are typically supported by foundation walls and are elevated above the ground, which helps prevent moisture issues. They both serve similar functions in terms of accessibility and facilitating an air circulation system that can reduce humidity. However, unlike basements, crawlspaces are generally not meant for living space and are shorter in height. Monolithic slabs and floating slabs are types of foundations that do not include a designated space beneath the structure, making them fundamentally different from both crawlspaces and basements. Concrete block foundations can resemble the structural aspects of crawlspaces but may not incorporate the same ventilation and access features typical of crawlspaces or basements.

7. What is one mechanism by which water may enter wall systems from the exterior of a building?

A. Rain driven by wind

B. Condensation from windows

C. Soil saturation

D. Evaporation from the ground

Water can enter wall systems from the exterior of a building through several mechanisms, with rain driven by wind being a significant factor. When rain falls, it can be propelled by strong winds, causing it to strike the walls at angles that can exceed the typical vertical fall. This can lead to water being driven behind siding, cladding, or other exterior materials, increasing the likelihood of moisture penetration into wall cavities. Understanding this mechanism is critical for home inspectors because it helps in assessing potential water damage and the overall integrity of a building's envelope. Proper drainage systems, adequate flashing, and proper installation of exterior materials are essential measures to mitigate this risk. The other options, while they relate to water intrusion or moisture presence, do not directly describe how water gets into wall systems from an exterior source. Condensation occurs internally, soil saturation primarily affects basements or foundations, and evaporation from the ground does not typically lead to moisture directly entering walls.

8. What materials are typically used in the construction of a party wall?

A. Wood framing and drywall.

B. Masonry block and wood frame.

C. Metal sheets and concrete blocks.

D. Brick and plaster.

The correct choice highlights that party walls are often constructed using a combination of masonry block and wood frame. This mix of materials provides structural integrity and effective sound insulation, which are two primary functions of a party wall that separates two dwelling units. Masonry blocks are robust and provide excellent fire resistance, while wood framing can help support additional structural loads and can be easier to work with in terms of applying finishes or attaching fixtures. This dual approach allows for flexibility in construction as well as insulation against noise transmission between the connected units. While other materials such as wood framing and drywall, metal sheets and concrete blocks, or brick and plaster may be used in different types of construction or specific situations, they do not typically encapsulate the essential qualities and practical advantages of a party wall designed for duplexes or semi-detached homes.

9. Which type of wall is driven into the ground and resists loads on both sides?

A. Gravity wall

B. Piling wall

C. Cantilever wall

D. Anchored wall

The type of wall that is driven into the ground and effectively resists loads from both sides is known as a piling wall. This construction technique involves driving piles deep into the ground, which enables the wall to handle lateral loads—such as soil and water pressure—from both directions. Piling walls are typically used in situations where the soil conditions require significant resistance to lateral forces, making them particularly effective in waterfront applications or sites with unstable soil. Their ability to transfer loads to deeper, more stable soil layers ensures structural integrity under varying conditions. In contrast, gravity walls rely on their weight to resist pressures from one side and do not have the same capability to handle loads from both sides. Cantilever walls, while providing support primarily from one side, depend on their shape and design to counteract pressure from the soil they retain. Anchored walls use tension elements, like cables or rods, attached to the wall to help resist lateral pressure, but they still rely on some degree of anchoring in one direction rather than pedaling resistance from both sides. Thus, the piling wall stands out for its dual-resistance capability due to its deep placement and structure.

10. How can the presence of step flashing on an asphalt shingle roof typically be verified?

A. Looking at the counter flashing.

B. Knowing the age of the shingles on the roof.

C. Knowing the number of layers of shingles on the roof.

D. Lifting the shingles adjacent to the chimney or wall.

The presence of step flashing on an asphalt shingle roof can be verified by lifting the shingles adjacent to the chimney or wall. Step flashing is installed between the roof and vertical structures like chimneys or walls to create a watertight seal. By gently lifting the shingles in this area, an inspector can visually confirm whether step flashing is present and properly installed. Inspectors typically look for step flashing because its absence can lead to leaks, making it a critical component of roof waterproofing. If the flashing is in place, it should be visible beneath the shingles. This method allows for a direct assessment of the roof's flashing details, which is essential for ensuring the roof's integrity. Other options do not provide a reliable means to verify the presence of step flashing. For instance, counter flashing is a different type of flashing that works in conjunction with step flashing but doesn't indicate its presence. Knowing the age of the shingles or the number of layers does not provide specific information about their installation or the flashing condition.

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://championsschhomeinsp.examzify.com

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