

# CIM ASTM Level 1 Certification Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

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**SAMPLE**

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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

- 1. Where should cylinders that are to be field cured be stored?**
  - A. In a controlled laboratory environment**
  - B. As near as possible to the same formed work**
  - C. In a shaded and ventilated area**
  - D. In a secure location away from the construction site**
- 2. Is a plastic container suitable for measuring concrete according to the slump test method?**
  - A. Yes, it is suitable**
  - B. No, it must be measured in a steel container**
  - C. Yes, but only for certain tests**
  - D. No, a wooden container is preferred**
- 3. What effect does using large amounts of alcohol have on the direct reading of air content?**
  - A. It indicates lower air content**
  - B. It indicates accurate air content**
  - C. It tends to indicate a higher air content**
  - D. It does not affect the reading**
- 4. What temperature range should the measuring device cover?**
  - A. 20 to 100 degrees Fahrenheit**
  - B. 30 to 120 degrees Fahrenheit**
  - C. 0 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit**
  - D. 10 to 150 degrees Fahrenheit**
- 5. What is the purpose of starting strength tests quickly after composite sample fabrication?**
  - A. To ensure consistent material quality**
  - B. To improve the curing process**
  - C. To analyze admixture effectiveness**
  - D. To meet regulatory deadlines**

- 6. To ensure correctness, how should the measurement for slump be reported?**
- A. Exact inch measurement**
  - B. Nearest  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch**
  - C. Nearest  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch**
  - D. Average of three tests**
- 7. What shape is the mold used for the slump test?**
- A. Cube**
  - B. Cylinder**
  - C. Pyramid**
  - D. A cone**
- 8. What type of surface should the slump mold be placed on?**
- A. Soft and uneven**
  - B. Rigid and flat, moist and non absorbent**
  - C. Wet and absorbent**
  - D. Any flat surface**
- 9. What happens if the concrete level is lower than the top of the mold during rodding?**
- A. Concrete must be added**
  - B. The test must be canceled**
  - C. Only the second layer needs to be adjusted**
  - D. Additional layers are not required**
- 10. If the concrete contains aggregate larger than the maximum allowed for this test, the sample must be what?**
- A. Air-dried**
  - B. Wet sieved over 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch sieve**
  - C. Crushed and recombined**
  - D. Discarded**



## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Where should cylinders that are to be field cured be stored?**

- A. In a controlled laboratory environment**
- B. As near as possible to the same formed work**
- C. In a shaded and ventilated area**
- D. In a secure location away from the construction site**

Cylinders that are to be field cured should be stored as near as possible to the same formed work. This practice is important because it allows the test specimens to experience similar environmental conditions to the curing element they represent. By positioning the cylinders close to the actual concrete being poured and cured, factors such as temperature, humidity, and exposure to sunlight are consistent. This proximity ensures that the cylinders can properly reflect the curing conditions of the site, which is essential for obtaining accurate strength test results. In contrast, storing cylinders in a controlled laboratory environment might not replicate the field conditions where the concrete is placed. Similarly, while a shaded and ventilated area might be suitable for some curing processes, it doesn't provide the same environmental context as the actual site. Placing them in a secure location away from the construction site could lead to discrepancies in the way they cure, potentially affecting the reliability of the testing outcomes.

**2. Is a plastic container suitable for measuring concrete according to the slump test method?**

- A. Yes, it is suitable**
- B. No, it must be measured in a steel container**
- C. Yes, but only for certain tests**
- D. No, a wooden container is preferred**

The slump test is a standardized method used to determine the workability of fresh concrete. According to ASTM C143, the slump test requires the use of a specific type of container for accurate and reliable results. A steel container is specified because it provides the necessary stiffness and strength to hold the concrete in place during the test. Steel containers are also less prone to deformation and do not absorb moisture or deform under the weight of the concrete, ensuring that the test results reflect the true characteristics of the concrete mix. Plastic containers may be flexible or may deform under the weight of the concrete, which can lead to inaccurate measurements of the slump. Additionally, plastic can absorb water, which could alter the moisture content of the concrete mix being tested. This makes it unsuitable for the requirements set by ASTM standards. Wooden containers, while sometimes used in other contexts, are not preferred for the slump test because they can absorb moisture and may not provide the necessary rigidity. Therefore, using a steel container is essential for maintaining the integrity of the test and ensuring the accuracy of measurements taken during the slump test.

**3. What effect does using large amounts of alcohol have on the direct reading of air content?**

- A. It indicates lower air content**
- B. It indicates accurate air content**
- C. It tends to indicate a higher air content**
- D. It does not affect the reading**

The use of large amounts of alcohol in the measurement of air content in concrete or similar materials tends to indicate a higher air content due to the displacement of air bubbles. When alcohol is introduced into the mix, it affects the behavior of the air voids within the material. Specifically, alcohol can reduce the surface tension of the liquid substrate, allowing for easier release of trapped air bubbles, which can lead to a misleadingly inflated reading for air content. This phenomenon occurs because alcohol may interact differently with the air voids compared to water, causing the air content to be overestimated in direct measurements. Consequently, when performing readings with alcohol present, one should be aware that the readings can misrepresent the actual air content, typically reflecting a higher value than what exists. Other options do not accurately capture this interaction. The notion that it indicates lower air content or an accurate measurement fails to consider the interaction dynamics of alcohol with air voids. Additionally, stating that it has no effect ignores the significant changes that can occur in the physical and chemical properties of the air bubbles within the material. Understanding these dynamics is essential for achieving accurate assessments of air content in concrete testing.

**4. What temperature range should the measuring device cover?**

- A. 20 to 100 degrees Fahrenheit**
- B. 30 to 120 degrees Fahrenheit**
- C. 0 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit**
- D. 10 to 150 degrees Fahrenheit**

The recommended temperature range for the measuring device should encompass typical conditions encountered in many applications, ensuring accurate readings in varied environments. A range of 30 to 120 degrees Fahrenheit allows for flexibility in measurements, accommodating both lower and upper extremes that might be present in various settings. This range is practical for numerous industrial applications, particularly where materials could be exposed to elevated temperatures or processed in environments subject to fluctuations in temperature. Additionally, a minimum of 30 degrees Fahrenheit helps ensure that the device can accurately measure temperatures above freezing, which is critical in many operational contexts. On the upper end, reaching up to 120 degrees Fahrenheit is sufficient for many industries without being too restrictive, permitting the device to effectively monitor temperatures in warmer environments. While other options may cover specific situations, they either present too narrow a range or do not accommodate higher temperature extremes commonly encountered.

**5. What is the purpose of starting strength tests quickly after composite sample fabrication?**

- A. To ensure consistent material quality**
- B. To improve the curing process**
- C. To analyze admixture effectiveness**
- D. To meet regulatory deadlines**

The purpose of starting strength tests quickly after composite sample fabrication is to ensure consistent material quality. Performing strength tests promptly allows for an accurate assessment of the composite's performance characteristics immediately after curing begins. The integrity and quality of the materials can be influenced by various factors, including temperature, humidity, and the specific conditions during the curing process. Quick testing helps to capture data that reflect the actual condition of the material, making it easier to determine if the material meets the necessary specifications and standards. It also provides immediate feedback on the effectiveness of the mixing and curing processes. If any issues with material quality arise, such as inconsistencies or defects, they can be addressed quickly, ensuring that subsequent batches maintain high-quality standards. This proactive approach is vital for maintaining the overall integrity of construction projects where composite materials are used.

**6. To ensure correctness, how should the measurement for slump be reported?**

- A. Exact inch measurement**
- B. Nearest  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch**
- C. Nearest  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch**
- D. Average of three tests**

When reporting the measurement for slump, using the nearest quarter inch is essential for ensuring precision while maintaining practical usability of the measurement. Concrete slump tests are conducted to assess the workability and consistency of concrete mixes, and accuracy in reporting the slump height is crucial for interpreting the mixing quality and structural potential of the concrete. The choice to round to the nearest quarter inch strikes a balance between the need for precise information and the natural variability that exists in concrete mixtures. This level of precision is sufficient for most practical applications while still being feasible to measure accurately during testing. While an exact inch measurement may seem precise, it is often impractical due to the natural discrepancies encountered in slump results, and opting for a measurement to the nearest half inch may not capture the variations essential for proper assessments. Reporting the average of three tests, while important in solidifying result consistency, does not pertain directly to how individual measurements should be reported—rather, it relates to ensuring reliability in the overall results. Thus, rounding to the nearest quarter inch is the most appropriate choice for clarity and utility in reporting slump measurements.

## 7. What shape is the mold used for the slump test?

- A. Cube
- B. Cylinder
- C. Pyramid
- D. A cone**

The mold used for the slump test is shaped like a cone. This conical shape is essential for accurately measuring the workability of fresh concrete. During the slump test, fresh concrete is placed into the cone-shaped mold in three layers, each layer being compacted. After the mold is carefully lifted, the amount the concrete slumps or settles downward is measured. The conical design of the mold helps facilitate the flow of the concrete and provides a definitive shape for consistent measurements. The other shapes, such as a cube or a cylinder, do not allow for this specific type of flow behavior measurement, which is critical for understanding the concrete's consistency. A pyramid shape would also not conform to the requirements of the slump test, as it would not provide a uniform surface area for observing the slump. Thus, the conical shape is both practical and fundamental for this type of test, ensuring accurate workability assessments of the concrete mix.

## 8. What type of surface should the slump mold be placed on?

- A. Soft and uneven
- B. Rigid and flat, moist and non absorbent**
- C. Wet and absorbent
- D. Any flat surface

The slump mold should be placed on a rigid and flat surface that is moist and non-absorbent to ensure accurate test results. A rigid surface is essential because it provides stability during the test, preventing any deformation of the mold that could affect the slump measurement. If the surface were soft and uneven, it could lead to errors in the slump reading as the mold might shift or settle during the measurement process. Additionally, placing the mold on a moist and non-absorbent surface helps to prevent excessive moisture loss from the concrete mix, which could also impact the consistency and, subsequently, the slump result. An absorbent surface might draw moisture away from the concrete, resulting in a false or misleading slump measurement. By ensuring that the mold is on the correct surface, technicians can achieve reliable and accurate measurements of the concrete's workability, which is a critical factor in the quality of the final product.

**9. What happens if the concrete level is lower than the top of the mold during rodding?**

- A. Concrete must be added**
- B. The test must be canceled**
- C. Only the second layer needs to be adjusted**
- D. Additional layers are not required**

When conducting a test that involves rodding concrete, it is important that the concrete reaches the appropriate level within the mold. If the concrete level is lower than the top of the mold during rodding, it indicates that there is insufficient concrete to fill the mold properly. This situation necessitates the addition of more concrete to ensure that the mold is filled to the required level. This is important because an accurate representation of the concrete's properties depends on having the proper volume and density within the mold. Filling the mold completely allows for an accurate measurement and testing of the compacted concrete, which is crucial for obtaining valid results. In the context of the other options, canceling the test or adjusting only one layer would not address the fundamental issue of insufficient concrete volume in the mold, and additional layers being unnecessary contradict the requirement for adequate material coverage in the mold for proper testing.

**10. If the concrete contains aggregate larger than the maximum allowed for this test, the sample must be what?**

- A. Air-dried**
- B. Wet sieved over 1 ½ inch sieve**
- C. Crushed and recombined**
- D. Discarded**

When concrete contains aggregate larger than the maximum size permitted for a particular test, the sample must be wet sieved over a specified sieve size, in this case, a 1 ½ inch sieve. This process ensures that any oversized particles are effectively removed while retaining the necessary material that adheres to the maximum aggregate size limits for the test. Wet sieving prevents the aggregation of fine particles that might occur in a dry sieve procedure and helps maintain accuracy in the test results by ensuring the consistency of the sample being tested. By using water during the sieving process, it minimizes dust and helps in separating finer materials from larger aggregates, providing a more accurate representation of the maximum aggregate size allowed in concrete mix design.



## 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://cimastmlevel1.examzify.com>**

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