

Construction Quality Management (CQM) for USACE 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. 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 options may the designer indicate on drawings about submittals?**
 - A. No exceptions taken, corrections required, revisions and resubmission, or rejection.**
 - B. Approved as submitted.**
 - C. Not required to review.**
 - D. Ready for construction.**

- 2. What is quality?**
 - A. Conformance to properly developed requirements**
 - B. On-time project completion**
 - C. Staying under budget**
 - D. Aesthetic appeal of the finished project**

- 3. Documents that are used in the project or become part of the project record, but are not submittals, have what fate?**
 - A. They are discarded after use**
 - B. They are stored in the contractor's office only**
 - C. They become part of the project record**
 - D. They are sent to the owner's archive**

- 4. What are contractor benefits of CQM?**
 - A. Increased profit and production, better communications, planning, improved organizational skills, and outstanding performance evaluations to obtain future contracts.**
 - B. Reduced project scope and fewer meetings**
 - C. Higher risk of penalties**
 - D. Less documentation and reporting requirements**

- 5. Which SD format requires a table of contents listing page numbers and catalog numbers?**
 - A. SD-03 Product Data**
 - B. SD-05 Design Data**
 - C. SD-07 Certificates**
 - D. SD-10 O&M**

- 6. SD-11 closeout submittals are associated with which stage of project management?**
- A. Design phase**
 - B. Closeout phase**
 - C. Initial procurement**
 - D. Construction start**
- 7. What should specs be sufficient to fully describe?**
- A. Quality and performance of materials and workmanship**
 - B. Provide general statements**
 - C. List suppliers**
 - D. Provide only test methods**
- 8. Are Submittals contract documents?**
- A. Yes**
 - B. No**
 - C. Sometimes, depending on project**
 - D. Only after final approval**
- 9. Which document-related action is explicitly described in the SD-11 closeout submittals format?**
- A. The document must be used in the project or become part of the project record**
 - B. The document must be destroyed after use**
 - C. The document must be archived by the subcontractor**
 - D. The document must be publicly posted**
- 10. How should data be provided in SD-11 closeout submittals?**
- A. In imperial units only**
 - B. In the unit of measure used in the contract documents**
 - C. In any unit of measurement the vendor chooses**
 - D. In the project engineer's preferred unit**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What options may the designer indicate on drawings about submittals?

- A. No exceptions taken, corrections required, revisions and resubmission, or rejection.**
- B. Approved as submitted.**
- C. Not required to review.**
- D. Ready for construction.**

The main idea is that submittal review results are communicated on drawings to tell the contractor exactly what to do next. The designer can indicate four possible statuses for a submittal: no exceptions taken, meaning the submittal is acceptable as submitted and can proceed; corrections required, meaning some items don't conform and must be fixed and resubmitted; revisions and resubmission, meaning more substantial changes are needed and a revised submittal must be provided; or rejection, meaning the submittal does not meet requirements and a new submittal is needed. This range covers both acceptable elements and the actions needed to bring nonconforming work into compliance. Other options like "approved as submitted" aren't listed as the official submittal status on the drawings in this context, "not required to review" isn't a communication about the submittal's status, and "ready for construction" describes a phase rather than the review outcome.

2. What is quality?

- A. Conformance to properly developed requirements**
- B. On-time project completion**
- C. Staying under budget**
- D. Aesthetic appeal of the finished project**

Quality means delivering work that conforms to the requirements and standards defined for the project. This rests on having clear, approved, and verifiable requirements, so the finished work can be checked through inspections, tests, and documentation to prove it meets those criteria. If the product or workmanship aligns with every specified requirement, it's considered high quality; if it deviates, it's not. Project on-time and staying under budget describe schedule and cost performance, not whether the work meets the defined standards. Aesthetic appeal can be an element of quality, but only if it's included in the requirements; otherwise it isn't the baseline definition of quality. The essential idea is conformance to what was properly developed and agreed upon for the project.

- 3. Documents that are used in the project or become part of the project record, but are not submittals, have what fate?**
- A. They are discarded after use**
 - B. They are stored in the contractor's office only**
 - C. They become part of the project record**
 - D. They are sent to the owner's archive**

Documents that are used on the job or become part of the project record, even though they aren't submittals, are kept as part of the project records. These items capture decisions, field conditions, communications, and other activities that document how the project was executed. Keeping them for reference, audits, and closeout ensures there is a complete history of the project for accountability and future maintenance. They aren't discarded after use, nor limited to the contractor's office, and they aren't automatically sent to an archive unless the contract requires it.

4. What are contractor benefits of CQM?

- A. Increased profit and production, better communications, planning, improved organizational skills, and outstanding performance evaluations to obtain future contracts.**
- B. Reduced project scope and fewer meetings**
- C. Higher risk of penalties**
- D. Less documentation and reporting requirements**

The main idea is that Construction Quality Management (CQM) brings tangible benefits to the contractor by integrating quality into everyday work, which boosts efficiency, communication, and future opportunities. When quality is planned in and checked throughout the project, waste and rework drop, processes become more efficient, and production increases. Clearer communication and better planning come from having defined quality procedures, responsibilities, and checkpoints, which also strengthen organizational skills as teams coordinate activities, document results, and track progress. All of this tends to improve performance enough to yield outstanding evaluations, and those strong past-performance records are a key factor in winning future contracts with agencies like USACE. The other options don't fit because CQM emphasizes thorough documentation, regular reviews, and proactive quality control rather than reducing scope or meetings, increasing penalties, or cutting back on reporting.

5. Which SD format requires a table of contents listing page numbers and catalog numbers?

- A. SD-03 Product Data**
- B. SD-05 Design Data**
- C. SD-07 Certificates**
- D. SD-10 O&M**

Document organization and traceability are the focus here. SD-03 Product Data is the format that requires a table of contents listing page numbers and catalog numbers because this type of documentation consolidates supplier catalog information and product specifications. Having a TOC with page references and the catalog numbers makes it easy to locate each item quickly, verify that the correct products and specifications are being used, and cross-check against procurement and installation records. This structured indexing supports quality control during construction by ensuring all required product data is present and easily accessible for reviewers. The other SD formats are oriented toward different content. SD-05 Design Data centers on design calculations and design-related drawings, not typically needing a catalog-numbered TOC. SD-07 Certificates deals with certs and compliance documents. SD-10 O&M focuses on operation and maintenance information. While these documents are important, they do not end with the same catalog-numbered table-of-contents requirement that SD-03 Product Data specifies.

6. SD-11 closeout submittals are associated with which stage of project management?

- A. Design phase**
- B. Closeout phase**
- C. Initial procurement**
- D. Construction start**

SD-11 closeout submittals are tied to the project closeout phase, the stage when the project is finishing up and ready to hand over to the owner. These submittals gather all final documentation needed for operation and maintenance, such as manuals, warranties, as-built drawings, test and commissioning records, spare parts lists, and final certifications. They show that all contractual requirements have been completed and provide the owner with everything needed to operate the facility. This is not during the design phase, which focuses on design submittals; not during initial procurement, which handles supplier and product data approvals; and not at construction start, which occurs earlier in the project.

7. What should specs be sufficient to fully describe?

A. Quality and performance of materials and workmanship

B. Provide general statements

C. List suppliers

D. Provide only test methods

Specs should be written to fully describe the quality and performance requirements for materials and workmanship. They need to specify the exact attributes that matter for the project—such as material properties, durability, dimensional tolerances, finish quality, and workmanship standards—and clearly define how those requirements will be verified, including acceptable testing methods, inspection criteria, and acceptance criteria. Vague general statements don't provide a clear standard, and focusing only on listing suppliers or only on test methods omits the performance expectations you're trying to achieve. For example, a concrete specification would detail required compressive strength, slump, air content, curing method, and surface finish, plus how each will be measured and what constitutes acceptable performance. In short, a good spec communicates the design intent in objective terms so any contractor can meet the expectations without ambiguity.

8. Are Submittals contract documents?

A. Yes

B. No

C. Sometimes, depending on project

D. Only after final approval

Submittals are not contract documents. The contract documents are the agreement, general and supplementary conditions, drawings, and specifications that create the binding terms of the project. Submittals are the contractor's or supplier's documents—such as shop drawings, product data, samples, and certifications—submitted for owner/architect/engineer review to verify that proposed materials and workmanship comply with the contract requirements. They function as part of the project execution process, not as the legal basis of the contract. They may be approved or revised to show compliance, but their purpose is to demonstrate conformity with the contract documents, not to define them.

9. Which document-related action is explicitly described in the SD-11 closeout submittals format?

- A. The document must be used in the project or become part of the project record**
- B. The document must be destroyed after use**
- C. The document must be archived by the subcontractor**
- D. The document must be publicly posted**

The action described is that closeout documents must be used in the project or become part of the project record. This reflects the purpose of SD-11 closeout submittals: to ensure all final documents are integrated into the project's records so they're available for operations, maintenance, and future reference. Keeping the documents in the project file provides a traceable, complete record of what was built, tested, and approved, which supports accountability and long-term usability of the information. Destroying the documents after use, archiving by a subcontractor, or publicly posting them aren't the stated requirements for SD-11 closeout submittals; those practices would either remove needed project information from the official record or raise confidentiality and access concerns.

10. How should data be provided in SD-11 closeout submittals?

- A. In imperial units only**
- B. In the unit of measure used in the contract documents**
- C. In any unit of measurement the vendor chooses**
- D. In the project engineer's preferred unit**

Data in SD-11 closeout submittals must be in the unit of measure specified in the contract documents. Using the contract's designated units keeps measurements consistent across all project records, making it clear what was delivered, paid for, and accepted. It also ensures that drawings, bills of materials, and performance data align with what the contracting officer expects during closeout. If the contract calls for imperial units, provide measurements in inches, feet, pounds, etc.; if metric is specified, use meters, kilograms, and so on. Following the contract units prevents confusion, avoids delays, and supports accurate verification and acceptance. Using the vendor's preferred units or the project engineer's preferred unit introduces potential misinterpretation and is not authoritative unless the contract explicitly requires or authorizes it.

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://cqmforusace.examzify.com>

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

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