

CSLB Concrete C-8 License 1 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 statement describes the recommended spacing for control joints in driveways?**
 - A. Exactly 20 feet on center.**
 - B. Spacing equal to the slab width.**
 - C. At a distance equal to the width of the slab.**
 - D. No joints are required.**

- 2. Which statement about concrete cover is true?**
 - A. It is measured from the concrete surface to the outermost surface of the steel.**
 - B. It is measured from the center of the steel to the outer surface.**
 - C. It is measured from the top of the concrete to the rebar.**
 - D. It is not important.**

- 3. In the shortcut method for a 4-inch slab, the volume in cubic yards is found by dividing the circle area by which number?**
 - A. 27**
 - B. 81**
 - C. 9**
 - D. 63**

- 4. Which factor is most important when applying concrete to concrete?**
 - A. Set Time**
 - B. Bond**
 - C. Workability**
 - D. Color**

- 5. Which statement about rebar sizes is correct?**
 - A. Number 2 rebar is 1/2 inch diameter**
 - B. Number 3 rebar is 3/8 inch diameter**
 - C. Number 4 rebar is 3/8 inch diameter**
 - D. Number 5 rebar is 5/16 inch diameter**

- 6. What rebar size is used for stem walls?**
- A. #3**
 - B. #4**
 - C. #5**
 - D. 1/2 Inch**
- 7. There are many surface finishes that can be applied to smooth finished concrete. What considerations should be taken into account before application?**
- A. Depends on finish to be applied.**
 - B. Cure time and moisture content are the only factors**
 - C. Type of cement determines the finish**
 - D. Environmental conditions only**
- 8. The main field of the slab must be reinforced with what grid size?**
- A. 18 inches by 18 inches**
 - B. 12 inches by 12 inches**
 - C. 24 inches by 24 inches**
 - D. 6 inches by 6 inches**
- 9. In the Traditional Method for slab volume, how is the volume calculated?**
- A. Multiply the area of the slab by the thickness of the slab (in inches)**
 - B. Multiply the area by the thickness in feet**
 - C. Subtract void areas from the rectangle area**
 - D. Divide the area by 81**
- 10. In the example, what is the price per cubic yard of concrete?**
- A. \$85 per cubic yard**
 - B. \$90 per cubic yard**
 - C. \$95 per cubic yard**
 - D. \$100 per cubic yard**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which statement describes the recommended spacing for control joints in driveways?

- A. Exactly 20 feet on center.**
- B. Spacing equal to the slab width.**
- C. At a distance equal to the width of the slab.**
- D. No joints are required.**

Control joints are placed to guide where cracks will form as concrete shrinks and temperature changes, so cracks stay in predictable lines rather than randomly across the surface. The best spacing is about the width of the slab, which makes the panels roughly square and helps keep cracks from running long distances. This approach reduces unsightly cracking and makes maintenance easier. A fixed distance like 20 feet doesn't adapt to different driveway widths, and having no joints at all leads to uncontrolled cracking. So, spacing the joints equal to the slab width best achieves the desired result. For example, if the driveway is 8 feet wide, place joints about every 8 feet along the length.

2. Which statement about concrete cover is true?

- A. It is measured from the concrete surface to the outermost surface of the steel.**
- B. It is measured from the center of the steel to the outer surface.**
- C. It is measured from the top of the concrete to the rebar.**
- D. It is not important.**

Concrete cover is defined as the distance from the outer surface of the concrete to the outer surface of the reinforcing steel. This measurement ensures the steel is protected from moisture, chemicals, and fire and that there is proper bonding with the surrounding concrete. The statement that best matches this definition is the one that measures from the concrete surface to the outer surface of the rebar, not to its center. Measuring to the center would understate the actual cover, and measuring only from the top surface ignores the requirement around the entire circumference of the bar. It's also not unimportant; cover is critical for durability and structural performance, and codes specify minimum cover values based on exposure and member type.

3. In the shortcut method for a 4-inch slab, the volume in cubic yards is found by dividing the circle area by which number?

- A. 27
- B. 81**
- C. 9
- D. 63

When using the shortcut method for a circular slab, you're converting a circle's area in square feet into a volume in cubic yards. Start by taking the circle's area in square feet, then multiply by the thickness in feet. For a 4-inch slab, thickness is 4 inches = 1/3 foot. So volume in cubic feet is the area times 1/3. To convert cubic feet to cubic yards, divide by 27 (since 1 cubic yard = 27 cubic feet). Put together, you multiply by 1/3 and then divide by 27, which is the same as dividing by 81. Therefore, the volume in cubic yards equals the circle area (in square feet) divided by 81.

4. Which factor is most important when applying concrete to concrete?

- A. Set Time
- B. Bond**
- C. Workability
- D. Color

When placing fresh concrete against an existing surface, the most important factor is the bond between the two layers. This bond lets the new concrete adhere and transfer loads across the interface, so the two pours act as a single structural element rather than two unconnected slabs. Achieving good bond depends on proper surface preparation: cleaning and removing laitance, roughening the old surface to create mechanical keying, controlling moisture (not too wet or dry), and using appropriate bonding agents or a compatible mix if needed. If the bond isn't solid, you'll get cold joints, delamination, or cracking at the interface, regardless of how doable the concrete is to place or how fast it sets. Set time, workability, and color matter in other ways—set time affects early strength and finishing, workability influences how easily you place and consolidate, and color is cosmetic—so they don't determine the structural integrity of the joint like bond does.

5. Which statement about rebar sizes is correct?

- A. Number 2 rebar is 1/2 inch diameter
- B. Number 3 rebar is 3/8 inch diameter**
- C. Number 4 rebar is 3/8 inch diameter
- D. Number 5 rebar is 5/16 inch diameter

Rebar sizing follows a simple rule: as the size number goes up, the diameter gets larger. In practice, the common diameters are 1/4", 3/8", 1/2", 5/8", and so on. The diameter 3/8" is the standard match for the size being described, so the statement tying that diameter to the size is correct. The other pairings don't align with the standard sizing: 1/2" is paired with a larger size than the one referenced, 3/8" is the correct match for the described size, and 5/16" is not a standard diameter paired with that size designation.

6. What rebar size is used for stem walls?

- A. #3
- B. #4**
- C. #5
- D. 1/2 Inch

Stem walls need reinforcement to resist soil pressure and the bending moments that come with backfill. In typical construction, a half-inch diameter reinforcing bar is used for this location because it provides adequate strength without unnecessary bulk. Rebar sizes are specified by a numeric designation that corresponds to the approximate diameter, so the commonly applied size for stem walls matches a bar of about 1/2 inch in diameter. Using a smaller bar would be undersized for the loads, while a larger bar would add cost with little practical benefit for standard stem-wall reinforcement. Therefore, the appropriate choice is the size that corresponds to a half-inch diameter.

7. There are many surface finishes that can be applied to smooth finished concrete. What considerations should be taken into account before application?

- A. Depends on finish to be applied.**
- B. Cure time and moisture content are the only factors
- C. Type of cement determines the finish
- D. Environmental conditions only

Before applying any surface finish to smooth finished concrete, the preparation and conditions must be matched to the finish you plan to use. Different finishes have different adhesion and cure requirements, so there isn't a single universal checklist. For epoxy or polyurethane coatings, you typically need a clean, dry surface with the right roughness, and you must stay within specified temperature, humidity, and moisture limits; staining or sealing products have their own thresholds for moisture and porosity but still require a clean, dust-free surface and proper environmental conditions. Contaminants, curing compounds, or excess moisture can ruin adhesion, so manufacturer guidelines for substrate preparation, cure time, and conditions are essential. In short, the key factor is which finish is going on—the preparation, moisture handling, cure timing, and environmental ranges all depend on that choice.

8. The main field of the slab must be reinforced with what grid size?

- A. 18 inches by 18 inches**
- B. 12 inches by 12 inches**
- C. 24 inches by 24 inches**
- D. 6 inches by 6 inches**

Reinforcing a concrete slab is all about distributing tensile resistance evenly across the interior to control cracking and transfer loads. For the main interior area (the field) of a typical slab, using a grid spaced 18 inches by 18 inches gives a regular, predictable pattern that helps keep cracks narrow and the slab durable under shrinkage and service loads. This spacing strikes a practical balance between providing enough steel to carry tension and avoiding overkill or excessive cost. Smaller grid spacing, like 6 inches by 6 inches, would be unnecessarily dense and wasteful for most slabs. A 24 inches by 24 inches grid would leave wider sections of concrete unsupported in tension, potentially allowing larger cracks and reducing durability. A 12 inches by 12 inches grid is more conservative and increases material and labor without always improving performance for standard residential slabs. So 18 inches by 18 inches is the standard choice that reliably covers typical needs while remaining economical.

9. In the Traditional Method for slab volume, how is the volume calculated?

- A. Multiply the area of the slab by the thickness of the slab (in inches)**
- B. Multiply the area by the thickness in feet**
- C. Subtract void areas from the rectangle area**
- D. Divide the area by 81**

The volume of a slab is found by applying the area of the slab to its thickness. In the Traditional Method, you determine the footprint (length times width) and multiply by the slab's thickness to get the volume, with the understanding that you'll convert the resulting units to cubic feet or cubic yards as needed. This is the fundamental relationship: $\text{volume} = \text{area} \times \text{thickness}$. For example, if the area is 600 square feet and the thickness is 4 inches, you multiply to get 2400 (foot-inches). You then convert inches to feet (divide by 12) to get 200 cubic feet, and finally convert to cubic yards if required (divide by 27). Subtracting void areas would change the area, not the volume itself. Dividing the area by a constant has no physical meaning for volume in this context. Using thickness in feet can work, but it requires consistent unit conversion to keep the final volume in cubic feet or cubic yards.

10. In the example, what is the price per cubic yard of concrete?

- A. \$85 per cubic yard
- B. \$90 per cubic yard**
- C. \$95 per cubic yard
- D. \$100 per cubic yard

The price per cubic yard is found by dividing the total price by the number of cubic yards. If the example shows 9 cubic yards of concrete costing \$810 in total, you'd calculate $810 \div 9 = 90$. So the unit price is \$90 per cubic yard. Delivery, tax, or other charges, if present, are extra and don't change the base price per yard for the concrete itself.

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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://cslbconcretec81.examzify.com>

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

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