

Examination for Architects in Canada (ExAC) Section 2 - Code Research 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. What is the role of the local building authority?**
 - A. To create new building technologies**
 - B. To review plans and issue permits**
 - C. To provide financial support for construction**
 - D. To manage construction industry labor**

- 2. What are the maximum rise and run specifications for public stair treads?**
 - A. Max rise 200mm, Run no limit**
 - B. Max rise 180mm, Run no limit**
 - C. Max rise 150mm, Run 280mm**
 - D. Max rise 125mm, Run 355mm**

- 3. When is a crawl space considered a basement?**
 - A. If it has a height greater than 1800mm**
 - B. If it is equipped with mechanical ducts or piping and is occupied**
 - C. Both A and B**
 - D. If it has a horizontal dimension greater than 25m**

- 4. What does the code specify about emergency exits?**
 - A. Emergency exits can be blocked for security reasons**
 - B. Emergency exits must be easily accessible and marked**
 - C. Buildings do not require emergency exits if there is a fire alarm**
 - D. Emergency exits should be located only on the ground floor**

- 5. How often should fire protection systems be inspected, according to the code?**
 - A. Once every five years**
 - B. Only when a fire incident occurs**
 - C. Regularly, as specified by maintenance guidelines**
 - D. Fire protection systems do not require inspections**

- 6. What is meant by the term “emergency lighting” in building codes?**
- A. Lighting used for decorative purposes**
 - B. Illumination during a power failure for safe egress**
 - C. Ambient lighting for common areas**
 - D. Lighting that enhances energy efficiency**
- 7. How do climate considerations influence building codes?**
- A. By regulating aesthetic design choices**
 - B. By impacting insulation and weatherproofing regulations**
 - C. By determining construction timelines**
 - D. By limiting the types of materials used**
- 8. In which of the following scenarios is a thermal break not required for metal framed doors or windows?**
- A. Residential front doors**
 - B. Vehicular access doors**
 - C. Standard windows**
 - D. Fire-rated windows**
- 9. Which factor does structural load analysis primarily assess?**
- A. Energy consumption of materials**
 - B. Weather resistance**
 - C. Building aesthetics**
 - D. Expected loads and forces**
- 10. What are "construction standards" in building codes?**
- A. General guidelines for aesthetic decisions in construction**
 - B. Specifications outlining materials, methods, and quality of work**
 - C. Standards applicable only to eco-friendly buildings**
 - D. Procedures for training construction workers**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the role of the local building authority?

- A. To create new building technologies
- B. To review plans and issue permits**
- C. To provide financial support for construction
- D. To manage construction industry labor

The local building authority plays a crucial role in ensuring that construction projects comply with applicable building codes, safety regulations, and zoning laws. This authority is responsible for reviewing architectural and engineering plans submitted for proposed constructions to ensure they adhere to local and national standards. By issuing permits, the building authority ensures that work on a project can proceed legally and safely, reflecting their commitment to maintaining safety and compliance within the built environment. The process of plan review and permit issuance helps to prevent unsafe buildings from being constructed, ensuring public safety and welfare. This role involves sieving through documents and designs to check for potential code violations, which makes it a critical function in the construction process. Other options do not accurately represent the primary responsibilities of a local building authority. While creating new building technologies and managing labor might be aspects of the broader construction industry, they do not typically fall under the purview of what a local building authority handles. Providing financial support for construction does not align with the regulatory and oversight focus of local building authorities, which is concentrated on enforcing code compliance rather than financial investment.

2. What are the maximum rise and run specifications for public stair treads?

- A. Max rise 200mm, Run no limit
- B. Max rise 180mm, Run no limit**
- C. Max rise 150mm, Run 280mm
- D. Max rise 125mm, Run 355mm

The maximum rise for public stair treads is set at 180mm. This value is established to ensure that stairs remain safe and accessible for all users, including individuals with varying levels of mobility, such as those who may have difficulty navigating steeper rises. A rise of 180mm strikes a balance between safety and maintainability, reducing the risk of trips and falls. While the run (the depth of the tread) is not limited by this specification, it is essential for the run to provide adequate space for the foot to rest securely. Wider runs allow for a more comfortable ascending and descending experience. However, what is notable is that having a higher rise while maintaining an unlimited run could lead to discomfort or dangers in navigating stairs, which the building codes aim to mitigate. In contrast, the options that present rises higher than 180mm fail to meet accessibility standards, thus making the specified choice the most suitable.

3. When is a crawl space considered a basement?

- A. If it has a height greater than 1800mm
- B. If it is equipped with mechanical ducts or piping and is occupied
- C. Both A and B**
- D. If it has a horizontal dimension greater than 25m

A crawl space is considered a basement under specific conditions that pertain to its height and usage. The consideration of both height and the presence of certain mechanical systems or occupancy is essential in delineating between a crawl space and a basement. The criteria set forth in the correct answer highlight that a crawl space that exceeds a height of 1800mm (or approximately 6 feet) is often classified as a basement due to the potential for human occupancy and use. Additionally, the presence of mechanical ducts or piping indicates that the space is designed for more than mere storage; it may serve as a functional part of the building's infrastructure, further justifying its classification as a basement. In essence, both the height and the presence of systems that support human activity or environment management within the space contribute to its classification. Thus, both factors from the correct answer are significant in defining when a crawl space transitions into the category of a basement.

4. What does the code specify about emergency exits?

- A. Emergency exits can be blocked for security reasons
- B. Emergency exits must be easily accessible and marked**
- C. Buildings do not require emergency exits if there is a fire alarm
- D. Emergency exits should be located only on the ground floor

Emergency exits play a crucial role in ensuring the safety of building occupants during emergencies, particularly in cases of fire or other hazardous situations. The code specifies that emergency exits must be easily accessible and marked to ensure that individuals can quickly and safely evacuate the building. This includes clear signage that indicates the direction of the exits and ensuring that the paths leading to these exits are unobstructed and readily identifiable. Marking emergency exits properly aids in reducing panic and confusion, allowing occupants to exit swiftly, which is vital in emergency situations. Accessibility ensures that all individuals, including those with disabilities, can reach these exits without hindrance. Therefore, the requirement for emergency exits to be easily accessible and adequately marked is both a safety measure and a legal obligation within building codes, underscoring the importance of maintaining these standards in architectural practice.

5. How often should fire protection systems be inspected, according to the code?

A. Once every five years

B. Only when a fire incident occurs

C. Regularly, as specified by maintenance guidelines

D. Fire protection systems do not require inspections

Fire protection systems are critical for ensuring safety in buildings, and they require regular inspections to maintain their functionality and compliance with safety codes. The option that states these systems should be inspected "regularly, as specified by maintenance guidelines" aligns with best practices in building safety and the requirements outlined in building codes. Regular inspections are essential to identify potential issues before they become critical, ensuring that systems like fire alarms, sprinklers, and fire extinguishers are operational when needed. The maintenance guidelines typically provide specific intervals for inspections based on the type of system and its usage, helping to ensure that all fire protection measures remain effective over time. While fire protection systems do require consistent evaluation, inspections only during incidents or not at all would compromise safety and could violate local codes and regulations. Therefore, adhering to the maintenance guidelines for regular inspections is necessary for the effective performance of fire safety measures in buildings.

6. What is meant by the term "emergency lighting" in building codes?

A. Lighting used for decorative purposes

B. Illumination during a power failure for safe egress

C. Ambient lighting for common areas

D. Lighting that enhances energy efficiency

The term "emergency lighting" in building codes specifically refers to illumination provided during a power failure or other emergency situations to ensure the safe egress of occupants from a building. This is crucial for maintaining safety during emergencies when normal lighting may fail or be insufficient due to power outages, smoke, or other hazardous conditions. Emergency lighting systems are designed to activate automatically when the main power supply is interrupted, illuminating exit paths, stairways, and other critical areas to guide people safely to exits. Effective emergency lighting is essential to minimize panic, help occupants navigate to safety, and comply with applicable codes and standards that govern building safety. This type of lighting must also meet specific performance criteria to ensure adequate visibility and functionality during such critical moments.

7. How do climate considerations influence building codes?

- A. By regulating aesthetic design choices
- B. By impacting insulation and weatherproofing regulations**
- C. By determining construction timelines
- D. By limiting the types of materials used

Climate considerations play a vital role in shaping building codes, particularly in relation to insulation and weatherproofing regulations. These regulations are designed to ensure that buildings can withstand the specific climatic conditions of an area, whether it be extreme temperatures, high humidity, heavy snowfall, or strong winds. Insulation standards are crucial because they dictate how well a building retains heat in cold climates or cool air in hot climates. Proper insulation minimizes energy consumption for heating and cooling, which is not only vital for energy efficiency but also for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Weatherproofing regulations are equally important as they protect buildings from the adverse effects of water ingress, wind, and other environmental factors. By specifying the required materials, construction techniques, and performance criteria, building codes ensure structures are resilient and maintain their integrity over time in the face of climate-induced challenges. Regulating aesthetic design choices, influencing construction timelines, or limiting types of materials, while they could be influenced by climate, do not directly relate to the essential functional needs dictated by climate conditions. The primary focus in building codes is to ensure safety, efficiency, and sustainability in response to the environmental factors, making insulation and weatherproofing regulations the most relevant aspect.

8. In which of the following scenarios is a thermal break not required for metal framed doors or windows?

- A. Residential front doors
- B. Vehicular access doors**
- C. Standard windows
- D. Fire-rated windows

A thermal break is a material that reduces the flow of thermal energy through conductive materials, such as metal. It prevents heat transfer and can help improve energy efficiency by reducing the risk of condensation and thermal bridging. In the case of vehicular access doors, these doors are often designed for high-performance and are typically installed in commercial or industrial applications where energy efficiency and insulation properties are less critical than in residential or standard window applications. Since these doors are usually exposed to larger temperature fluctuations and used frequently for high-traffic areas, the design often prioritizes strength and durability over thermal insulation. As a result, a thermal break may not be necessary in these scenarios. On the other hand, residential front doors, standard windows, and fire-rated windows typically require thermal breaks to enhance energy efficiency and comply with building codes that mandate better thermal performance in settings where temperature control is more critical. For instance, residential doors and standard windows help maintain comfortable indoor environments and reduce heating/cooling costs, while fire-rated windows must meet specific criteria to contain fire and smoke, further complicating their construction needs.

9. Which factor does structural load analysis primarily assess?

- A. Energy consumption of materials**
- B. Weather resistance**
- C. Building aesthetics**
- D. Expected loads and forces**

Structural load analysis is focused on evaluating the expected loads and forces that a building structure will be subjected to during its lifespan. This includes assessing various types of loads, such as dead loads (permanent static forces), live loads (temporary dynamic forces such as occupants and furniture), environmental loads (like wind and seismic forces), and others. By accurately analyzing these loads, architects and engineers can ensure that the structure is capable of supporting the weight and stresses it will encounter, maintaining safety and stability. The other factors mentioned, such as energy consumption of materials, weather resistance, and building aesthetics, are important considerations in the overall design and performance of a building but do not specifically pertain to structural load analysis. Energy consumption relates to sustainability and efficiency, weather resistance addresses durability and protection against environmental factors, and building aesthetics pertains to the visual appeal and design of the structure. While these elements are important in the design process, they do not directly involve the technical calculations and assessments that characterize structural load analysis.

10. What are "construction standards" in building codes?

- A. General guidelines for aesthetic decisions in construction**
- B. Specifications outlining materials, methods, and quality of work**
- C. Standards applicable only to eco-friendly buildings**
- D. Procedures for training construction workers**

Construction standards within building codes are detailed specifications that outline the materials, methods, and quality of work required for construction projects. These standards are integral to ensuring that buildings are constructed safely, efficiently, and in compliance with relevant regulations. They cover a wide range of aspects, including structural integrity, fire safety, energy efficiency, and accessibility, thereby creating a baseline for quality and safety in the built environment. While the other options mention relevant considerations, they do not accurately capture the essence of construction standards. For instance, guidelines for aesthetic decisions pertain more to design preferences than to technical specifications. Standards applicable only to eco-friendly buildings are a subset of a broader range of construction standards, which apply to all types of buildings. Lastly, procedures for training construction workers refer to educational approaches, rather than the concrete specifications and requirements that govern the actual construction process. Thus, option B is the most comprehensive and correct representation of what construction standards entail within building codes.

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://exacsec2coderesearch.examzify.com>

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

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