

General Contractor 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 type of aggregate is best for improving the flow of concrete when being pumped?**
 - A. Crushed stone**
 - B. Granite gravel**
 - C. Round rock, such as river rock**
 - D. Sand**
- 2. What is the maximum horizontal distance allowed between fire blocking in a concealed space of a wood-framed wall?**
 - A. 8 feet**
 - B. 10 feet**
 - C. 12 feet**
 - D. 15 feet**
- 3. What is the standard nozzle size used for sandblasting brick?**
 - A. 1/8**
 - B. 1/4**
 - C. 1/2**
 - D. 3/4**
- 4. On an exterior wall, flashing or coping shall be no less than:**
 - A. Equal to No. 24 galvanized sheeting**
 - B. Equal to No. 26 galvanized sheeting**
 - C. Equal to No. 28 galvanized sheeting**
 - D. Equal to No. 30 galvanized sheeting**
- 5. What is the proper way to pick up a truss?**
 - A. By the base plate**
 - B. By the side**
 - C. By the bottom chord**
 - D. By the top chord**

6. Referring to test plans, how many roof drains are needed in build-up areas?

- A. 6
- B. 10
- C. 12
- D. 15

7. What is the minimum height required between finished floor and joist in a kitchen?

- A. 6 FT
- B. 7 FT
- C. 8 FT
- D. 9 FT

8. When using steel banding as a guardrail on scaffolding, how should it be utilized?

- A. As a toprail or midrail
- B. As a base support
- C. Steel banding should not be used as a toprail or midrail
- D. For securing materials only

9. If a truck can carry 10 yards of soil and the total excavated soil has a swell factor of 1.2, how many trucks are needed to haul away the soil?

- A. 8 trucks
- B. 10 trucks
- C. 12 trucks
- D. 15 trucks

10. What is the minimum penetration of fasteners into studs when applying vinyl siding?

- A. 1/2 inch
- B. 3/4 inch
- C. 1 inch
- D. 1 1/4 inches

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which type of aggregate is best for improving the flow of concrete when being pumped?

- A. Crushed stone**
- B. Granite gravel**
- C. Round rock, such as river rock**
- D. Sand**

Round rock, such as river rock, is considered the best type of aggregate for improving the flow of concrete when being pumped due to its smooth, rounded shape. The rounded edges reduce friction between particles, facilitating easier movement through the pump and minimizing the likelihood of blockages. This shape allows for better interlocking and placement within the concrete mix, enhancing the overall workability of the mixture. Furthermore, when aggregates have a rounded shape, they require less water to achieve a workable consistency, which is beneficial in pumping scenarios where maintaining the correct water-cement ratio is crucial for strength and durability. In contrast, angular aggregates, like crushed stone or granite gravel, may create more friction and resistance when being pumped, resulting in a lower flowability compared to the smoother, rounded aggregates. Sand can also contribute to the mix, but it is primarily used for filling voids and improving the paste content in the concrete rather than significantly enhancing the flow characteristics by itself when pumped. Thus, round rock is specifically advantageous in enhancing concrete flow during pumping applications.

2. What is the maximum horizontal distance allowed between fire blocking in a concealed space of a wood-framed wall?

- A. 8 feet**
- B. 10 feet**
- C. 12 feet**
- D. 15 feet**

In wood-framed construction, fire blocking plays a crucial role in inhibiting the spread of fire within concealed spaces, such as those found in walls, floors, and ceilings. The correct answer specifies a maximum horizontal distance of 10 feet between fire blocking. This distance is stipulated in building codes to ensure that if a fire starts in a concealed space, it is contained and reduced in its ability to spread quickly through the voids created by structural components. The requirement for 10 feet as the maximum distance ensures that fire has a limited area to travel, allowing for effective fire containment measures to be utilized. It aligns with fire safety practices designed to protect occupants and limit property damage. Adequate fire blocking is essential in these spaces to create barriers that stop flames and smoke from moving horizontally. In this context, the other distance options are longer than the specified limit, which would allow greater horizontal spread of fire, thus undermining the purpose of fire blocking. Therefore, the established maximum distance of 10 feet adheres to regulatory guidelines intended to promote safety in wood-framed constructions.

3. What is the standard nozzle size used for sandblasting brick?

- A. 1/8**
- B. 1/4**
- C. 1/2**
- D. 3/4**

The standard nozzle size used for sandblasting brick is typically 1/4 inch. This size strikes a balance between delivering sufficient abrasive pressure and ensuring effective cleaning without damaging the brick surface. Using a nozzle that is too small may lead to an inadequate volume of abrasive material, reducing cleaning efficiency, while a nozzle that is too large could impart excessive force, which risks damaging the brick or causing over-abrading. In the context of different materials and surfaces, selecting the proper nozzle size is crucial for achieving the desired outcome. For example, softer materials might require smaller nozzles to prevent damage, whereas tougher substrates might tolerate larger nozzles. Therefore, for sandblasting brick, the 1/4 inch nozzle is the standard choice to ensure both effectiveness and safety for the material being worked on.

4. On an exterior wall, flashing or coping shall be no less than:

- A. Equal to No. 24 galvanized sheeting**
- B. Equal to No. 26 galvanized sheeting**
- C. Equal to No. 28 galvanized sheeting**
- D. Equal to No. 30 galvanized sheeting**

The correct answer stems from the requirements for flashings and copings in construction, which need to ensure durability and resistance to water infiltration. No. 26 galvanized sheeting is a specification that balances strength and weight, providing adequate protection against the elements while remaining manageable for installation. Galvanized sheeting is commonly used in these applications due to its corrosion-resistant properties, which prolong the service life of the flashing or coping. Using No. 26 galvanized sheeting ensures that these components can withstand not only wind and rain but also the wear and tear from environmental factors over time, leading to structural integrity and maintenance efficiency. The other options represent thicknesses that would either not provide the necessary durability (in the case of No. 28 or No. 30) or may be excessively heavy and cumbersome for typical installations (if referring to No. 24). Thus, No. 26 strikes an ideal balance between functionality and practicality for exterior wall applications.

5. What is the proper way to pick up a truss?

- A. By the base plate
- B. By the side
- C. By the bottom chord
- D. By the top chord**

Picking up a truss by the top chord is the proper method because this area is specifically designed to bear loads and provide structural stability during lifting. The top chord is a critical component of the truss that supports the roof or structural element it's designed to carry. When lifting a truss, it's essential to maintain its integrity and ensure it is balanced, which is more effectively achieved by lifting from the top chord. The other methods of picking up a truss can lead to potential issues. Lifting by the base plate can be unstable, especially if the truss is not fully supported on a flat surface. Picking it up by the sides may not provide enough support to maintain a proper balance, risking bending or twisting during the lift. Lifting from the bottom chord may also lead to structural stress or damage since the bottom chord is primarily designed to handle tension rather than serve as a lifting point. Overall, lifting from the top chord promotes safety and preserves the truss's structural design.

6. Referring to test plans, how many roof drains are needed in build-up areas?

- A. 6
- B. 10
- C. 12**
- D. 15

In determining the appropriate number of roof drains needed in build-up areas, it is essential to consider factors such as the size of the roof area, local building codes, and the specific drainage requirements outlined in the project specifications. Typically, a standard guideline suggests that one drain is sufficient for every 750 square feet of roof area, but this can vary based on the design and the slope of the roof. Choosing twelve drains indicates an intention to ensure adequate drainage capacity, thereby preventing water accumulation and potential leaks or structural issues. This number typically aligns with industry standards for larger roof areas, allowing for effective water management and minimizing the risk of overflow during heavy rains. Additionally, having a higher number of drains can account for any unexpected increases in water volume caused by heavy precipitation or other factors. The other figures may not provide sufficient coverage, which could lead to inadequate drainage. Therefore, the selection of twelve drains reflects a well-thought-out approach to managing water on the roof and ensuring the longevity and integrity of the building.

7. What is the minimum height required between finished floor and joist in a kitchen?

- A. 6 FT**
- B. 7 FT**
- C. 8 FT**
- D. 9 FT**

In residential construction, the minimum ceiling height for habitable spaces, including kitchens, is generally established by building codes to ensure adequate space for occupants and to promote safety. The typical requirement is at least 7 feet between the finished floor and the lowest point of any structural component, such as joists. This height allows for comfortable movement within the space and accommodates standard kitchen fixtures and cabinetry without causing issues with headroom. Ceiling height under 7 feet can lead to a cramped feeling and may violate local building code requirements, which is why this specific measurement is significant. It ensures that kitchens, a space where people often stand and perform tasks, has enough overhead clearance for functionality and safety.

8. When using steel banding as a guardrail on scaffolding, how should it be utilized?

- A. As a toprail or midrail**
- B. As a base support**
- C. Steel banding should not be used as a toprail or midrail**
- D. For securing materials only**

Steel banding should not be used as a toprail or midrail because it does not meet the structural requirements and safety standards established for guardrails in scaffolding systems. Guardrails are designed to prevent falls and must be constructed from materials that can withstand certain loads; steel banding is typically not formulated for such uses and does not provide the necessary strength, durability, or rigidity required for effective fall protection. Using inappropriate materials like steel banding could lead to severe safety hazards, including the risk of falls, because they may fail under stress or during impact. The proper components for guardrails include designated toprails and midrails made from materials specifically intended for this application, ensuring that they can adequately protect workers by being both robust and reliable in their function.

9. If a truck can carry 10 yards of soil and the total excavated soil has a swell factor of 1.2, how many trucks are needed to haul away the soil?

- A. 8 trucks**
- B. 10 trucks**
- C. 12 trucks**
- D. 15 trucks**

To determine how many trucks are needed to haul away the excavated soil with a swell factor, it's essential to understand what the swell factor signifies in excavation work. The swell factor indicates how much the volume of soil increases after excavation. In this case, a swell factor of 1.2 means that for every cubic yard of soil that is excavated, the volume expands to 1.2 cubic yards once it is loose. If a truck can carry 10 yards of soil, the first step is to deem how much material needs to be loaded into the trucks given the swell factor. For instance, if the original excavation yields an amount of soil before swelling, you multiply that by the swell factor to find the adjusted volume that requires transportation. Assuming the total original volume of the soil to be removed is 10 cubic yards (for illustration), the expanded volume would be calculated as: 10 cubic yards (original) \times 1.2 (swell factor) = 12 cubic yards (after swell) Now, knowing each truck can carry 10 cubic yards, you divide the total volume of soil that needs to be removed by the capacity of one truck: 12 cubic yards (expanded volume) \div 10 cubic yards (capacity of one truck) = 1.2 trucks (rounded up to the nearest whole truck).

10. What is the minimum penetration of fasteners into studs when applying vinyl siding?

- A. 1/2 inch**
- B. 3/4 inch**
- C. 1 inch**
- D. 1 1/4 inches**

The minimum penetration of fasteners into studs when applying vinyl siding is important for ensuring the durability and stability of the siding attachment. A penetration of 3/4 inch into the studs is generally sufficient to provide a secure hold, allowing the fasteners to anchor the siding effectively while also accommodating any potential movement or expansion due to temperature changes. Using fasteners that penetrate less than 3/4 inch may not provide enough grip, which could lead to the siding becoming loose over time. Conversely, penetrating further than necessary, such as 1 inch or more, does not significantly improve the hold and may lead to waste or increased costs. Therefore, adhering to the standard of 3/4 inch balances strength and efficiency, making it the recommended minimum for fastening vinyl siding securely to the studs.

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://gencontract.examzify.com>

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

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