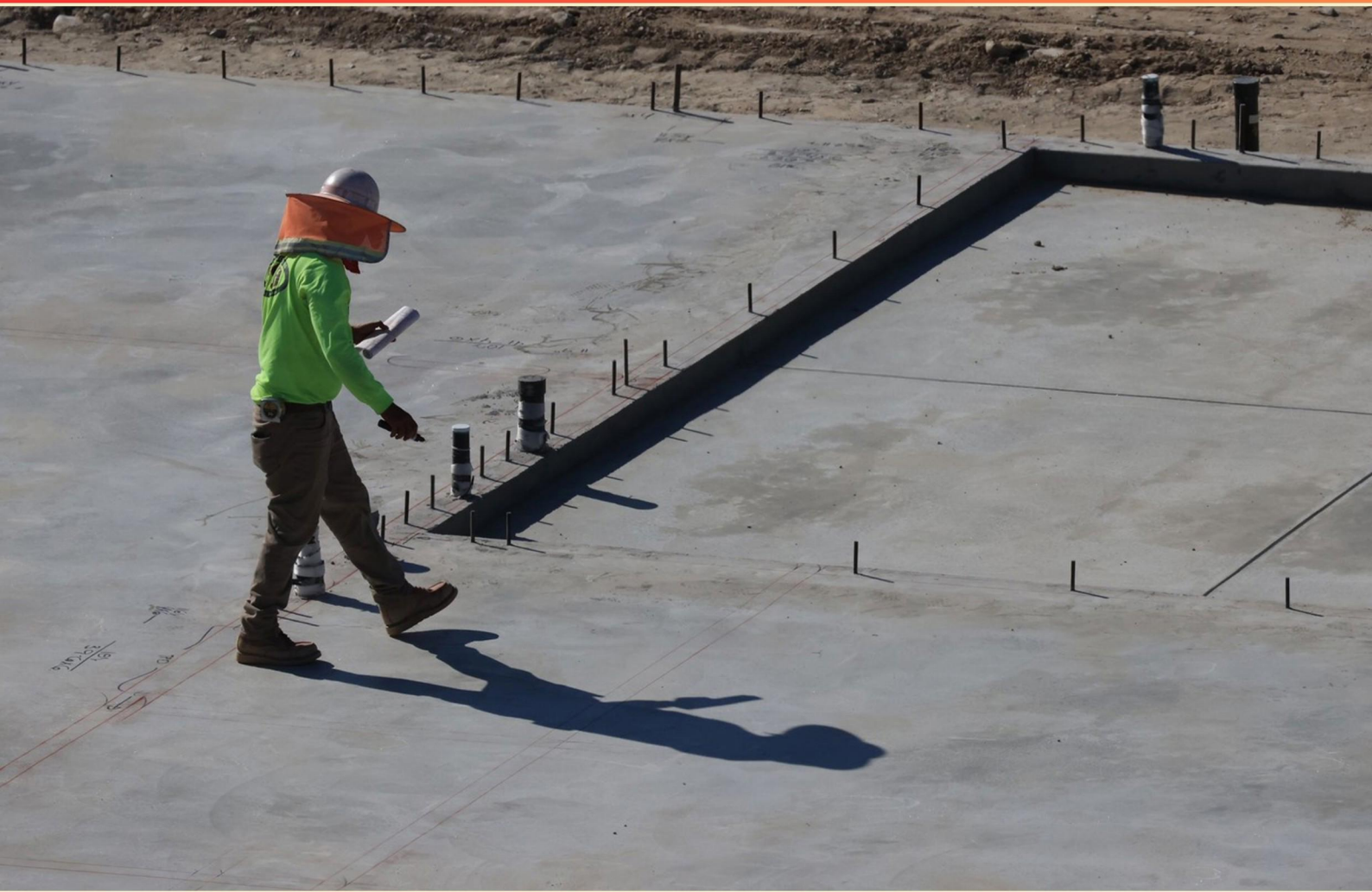


GENERAL CONTRACTOR PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

**VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

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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 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
2. Which of the following measurements is equivalent to 5,280 feet?
 - A. One mile
 - B. Ten kilometers
 - C. Five acres
 - D. Two kilometers
3. If a roof has a slope of 1/4 inch per foot, what is the maximum height of insulation if the roof drain is 6 inches high?
 - A. 8 inches
 - B. 10 inches
 - C. 11 inches
 - D. 12 inches
4. What is the purpose of cutting notches in the horns when installing windows with a stool?
 - A. To create an aesthetic appearance
 - B. To extend the stool beyond the casing's edges
 - C. To allow for better insulation
 - D. To reduce the weight of the window
5. What is the safety factor of form ties?
 - A. 1 to 1
 - B. 2 to 1
 - C. 3 to 1
 - D. 4 to 1

- 6. How far apart should masonry cleanouts on stone veneer walls be spaced?**
- A. 24 inches
 - B. 30 inches
 - C. 36 inches
 - D. 42 inches
- 7. What is the minimum height requirement for a parapet masonry wall used as a fire block?**
- A. 24 inches
 - B. 30 inches
 - C. 36 inches
 - D. 42 inches
- 8. Which type of bond will have all vertical joints lined up?**
- A. Sack bond
 - B. Running bond
 - C. Stacked bond
 - D. Flemish bond
- 9. What potential issue may arise from using mechanical fasteners on foam insulation on a concrete wall?**
- A. It may compromise insulation performance.
 - B. They may corrode quickly.
 - C. They may not hold properly.
 - D. They are too heavy.
- 10. What is the required depth for a pile to be considered fixed and laterally supported?**
- A. 5 ft below the ground surface in soft material at 10 feet below ground surface
 - B. 3 ft below grade in stable soil
 - C. 6 ft below in any type of soil
 - D. 4 ft below in soft soil

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. 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.

2. Which of the following measurements is equivalent to 5,280 feet?

- A. One mile**
- B. Ten kilometers
- C. Five acres
- D. Two kilometers

Five thousand two hundred eighty feet is equivalent to one mile. This conversion stems from the definition that there are 5,280 feet in one mile, making it a standard measurement in the customary system used in the United States. The other options do not correspond to this specific measurement. For instance, ten kilometers is approximately 6,213.71 feet, which is longer than a mile. Similarly, five acres refers to a unit of area and does not translate directly into a linear measurement like feet or miles. Two kilometers, which is about 1,242.74 feet, is also shorter than one mile. Thus, option A is the only correct answer as it accurately reflects the standard measurement of distance.

3. If a roof has a slope of 1/4 inch per foot, what is the maximum height of insulation if the roof drain is 6 inches high?

- A. 8 inches
- B. 10 inches
- C. 11 inches**
- D. 12 inches

To determine the maximum height of insulation on a roof with a slope of 1/4 inch per foot, you must understand how roof drainage works and how the slope affects water flow. The given slope means that for every foot of horizontal distance, there is a vertical drop of 1/4 inch. Since the roof drain is 6 inches high, this is the total vertical distance available before water reaches the drain. To calculate how much insulation can be installed while still allowing for effective drainage, you should first convert the vertical distance from inches to feet. Six inches converts to 0.5 feet (since there are 12 inches in a foot). With this information, the total slope from the edge of the roof down to the drain must be computed. In this case, if you consider the roof as sloping towards the drain, for every foot of horizontal run, you're looking at a fall of 0.25 feet (or 3 inches). Therefore, if we want to find the maximum height at the edge of the roof where insulation can be installed, you can calculate how high the insulation can go before it reaches the drain. Starting from the height of the drain (0.5 feet), you need to calculate how many feet

4. What is the purpose of cutting notches in the horns when installing windows with a stool?

- A. To create an aesthetic appearance
- B. To extend the stool beyond the casing's edges**
- C. To allow for better insulation
- D. To reduce the weight of the window

The purpose of cutting notches in the horns when installing windows with a stool is to extend the stool beyond the casing's edges. This design feature enhances the visual appeal of the window installation while also serving a functional purpose. By allowing the stool to project past the casing, it creates a more pronounced, traditional look that can contribute to the overall architecture of the building. Additionally, extending the stool beyond the casing can help to manage water drainage away from the window, reducing the risk of water entering the structure. While aesthetic considerations are important, the primary function of the notches is related to installation practicality and ensuring an effective seal around the window, rather than purely for looks, insulation properties, or weight reduction.

5. What is the safety factor of form ties?

- A. 1 to 1
- B. 2 to 1**
- C. 3 to 1
- D. 4 to 1

The safety factor of form ties is an important component in construction, particularly when dealing with concrete formwork. A safety factor of 2 to 1 indicates that the form ties are designed to support loads that are twice as much as the anticipated maximum load they are expected to encounter during use. This factor provides a level of reliability and reduces the risk of failure during construction operations. In the realm of construction safety, this 2 to 1 ratio is commonly accepted as a standard, ensuring that the formwork is stable and capable of resisting the forces exerted on it, including the weight of wet concrete and other environmental factors. A higher safety factor could indicate greater reliability, but in this context, 2 to 1 strikes a balance between safety and practicality, making it an industry standard. Choosing different ratios, such as 1 to 1 or higher ratios of 3 to 1 or 4 to 1, might either indicate insufficient strength to handle unforeseen conditions or unnecessary over-engineering, respectively. Understanding this safety factor is crucial for contractors to ensure structural integrity and worker safety on job sites.

6. How far apart should masonry cleanouts on stone veneer walls be spaced?

- A. 24 inches
- B. 30 inches**
- C. 36 inches
- D. 42 inches

Masonry cleanouts are essential components in stone veneer walls that allow for the removal of debris and facilitate maintenance of the wall assembly. Proper spacing of these cleanouts is vital for ensuring effective drainage and airflow, which can prevent moisture accumulation and potential damage to the wall system. The recommended spacing of cleanouts at 30 inches serves to provide adequate access for cleaning without compromising the structure's integrity or aesthetics. This distance allows for effective management of any debris that may accumulate within the wall cavity. Closer spacing might be excessive and unnecessary, making maintenance burdensome, while wider spacing could result in less effective cleaning and increased risk of blockages over time. Thus, setting the cleanouts at a distance of 30 inches strikes a balance between accessibility and structural functionality, supporting both the longevity of the stone veneer and the ease of maintenance for the contractor.

7. What is the minimum height requirement for a parapet masonry wall used as a fire block?

- A. 24 inches
- B. 30 inches**
- C. 36 inches
- D. 42 inches

The minimum height requirement for a parapet masonry wall utilized as a fire block is 30 inches. This height is established to ensure adequate fire safety and containment. A parapet wall, which extends above the roofline, serves multiple purposes, including preventing the spread of flames across rooftops and providing a required barrier to assist in fire containment. In construction codes and fire safety regulations, the specific height of a parapet wall is crucial in restricting the lateral spread of fire, especially in closely spaced buildings. The 30-inch height requirement helps ensure that the parapet is tall enough to effectively obstruct flames and embers, thereby enhancing the overall safety of the structure. When considering the other height options, while heightening the parapet wall may offer additional fire safety benefits, 30 inches has been determined to be the minimum adequate height as per building code regulations for it to function effectively as a fire block.

8. Which type of bond will have all vertical joints lined up?

- A. Sack bond**
- B. Running bond
- C. Stacked bond
- D. Flemish bond

In masonry, a type of bond refers to the pattern in which bricks are laid. A sack bond is characterized by its arrangement where all vertical joints align in each row of bricks, creating a uniform and linear appearance. This type of bond involves placing bricks with their long sides facing outwards and stacking them directly above one another, resulting in a visually consistent pattern that emphasizes the vertical lines. The other types of bonds have different layouts that do not exhibit this lined-up vertical joint characteristic. For instance, running bond features bricks laid in a staggered pattern where the vertical joints do not align directly above one another. Stacked bond is also notable, as it focuses on a consistent vertical and horizontal alignment, but it typically doesn't create the same level of stability or aesthetic appeal as a sack bond. Flemish bond combines headers and stretchers in a specific alternating pattern, also resulting in a less uniform vertical joint alignment. Thus, the distinct feature of aligned vertical joints in a sack bond sets it apart from these other bonding techniques, making it the correct choice for this question.

9. What potential issue may arise from using mechanical fasteners on foam insulation on a concrete wall?

A. It may compromise insulation performance.

B. They may corrode quickly.

C. They may not hold properly.

D. They are too heavy.

Using mechanical fasteners on foam insulation attached to a concrete wall can potentially compromise insulation performance. This is primarily because mechanical fasteners can create thermal bridges that allow heat transfer through the insulation, reducing its overall effectiveness. The fasteners can penetrate the foam, disrupting its continuous insulation layer, which is essential for minimizing energy loss and optimizing thermal resistance. While other issues related to fasteners, such as corrosion, inadequate holding strength, or weight, may also be relevant considerations in different contexts, the primary concern with foam insulation is its thermal integrity. Getting a good insulation performance is crucial in maintaining energy efficiency in the building envelope, and any disruption that leads to reduced insulation effectiveness is a significant issue.

10. What is the required depth for a pile to be considered fixed and laterally supported?

A. 5 ft below the ground surface in soft material at 10 feet below ground surface

B. 3 ft below grade in stable soil

C. 6 ft below in any type of soil

D. 4 ft below in soft soil

In the context of pile foundations, the depth required for a pile to be considered fixed and laterally supported is crucial for ensuring stability and resistance to lateral loads. The correct answer emphasizes that the pile must be extended deep enough into competent material to achieve adequate support. For a pile to be considered fixed and laterally supported, it typically needs to penetrate a stable soil layer that can provide the necessary resistance against lateral forces. The depth of 5 feet below the ground surface in soft material aligns with engineering principles that take into account the variable nature of soil types. In softer soils, the required depth must be greater to achieve sufficient resistance compared to more stable soils. In addition, the mention of 10 feet below ground surface establishes that in softer conditions, further depth is often required to reach a firm and stable layer. This detail assures that the pile is effectively anchored to resist tipping or lateral movement. The other options do not meet the criteria established by structural engineering guidelines or practices. They either underestimate the necessary penetration depth in challenging soil conditions or do not account for different soil types adequately, which can impact overall stability and load-bearing capacity. Therefore, the careful consideration of soil type and required depth in option A is what makes it the correct choice in evaluating pile foundations

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:

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

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