

History of Architecture 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. One of the winged heavenly beings that support the throne of God, or a chubby rosy-faced child with wings, is called what?**
 - A. Cherubin**
 - B. Nymphaeum**
 - C. Scroll**
 - D. Newel**

- 2. Which Scottish architect and designer was prominent in the Arts and Crafts movement in Great Britain?**
 - A. Charles Mackintosh**
 - B. Tomas Mapua**
 - C. Frank Gehry**
 - D. Erich Mendelsohn**

- 3. What are the steps forming the base of a columned Greek temple called?**
 - A. Crepidoma**
 - B. Order**
 - C. Naos**
 - D. Thermae**

- 4. The Erechtheion is attributed to which architect?**
 - A. Mnesicles**
 - B. Phidias**
 - C. Cossutius**
 - D. Welton Becket**

- 5. Who created the Dymaxion House, described as 'the first machine for living'?**
 - A. Buckminster Fuller**
 - B. Marcel Lajos Breuer**
 - C. Felix Candela**
 - D. Minoru Yamasaki**

- 6. Who is the known architect associated with the early Renaissance?**
- A. Donato Bramante**
 - B. Filippo Brunelleschi**
 - C. Andrea Palladio**
 - D. Leon Battista Alberti**
- 7. Which term denotes a phase of architecture that revived classical forms by looking to antiquity in the 18th-19th centuries?**
- A. Antiquarian**
 - B. Neoclassical**
 - C. Baroque**
 - D. Rococo**
- 8. What term refers to the principal place of worship in Islam used for Friday prayers?**
- A. Masjid**
 - B. Mosque**
 - C. Madrasa**
 - D. Minaret**
- 9. The architect known for integrating circular and square geometries into design is which of the following?**
- A. Le Corbusier**
 - B. Richard Meier**
 - C. Mies van der Rohe**
 - D. Buckminster Fuller**
- 10. Who was the architect of the National Library, Philippines?**
- A. Felipe Mendoza**
 - B. Juan Nakpil**
 - C. Frank Lloyd Wright**
 - D. Le Corbusier**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. One of the winged heavenly beings that support the throne of God, or a chubby rosy-faced child with wings, is called what?

A. Cherubin

B. Nymphaneum

C. Scroll

D. Newel

This tests your familiarity with the names of winged celestial beings in religious art and text. The beings who guard or support the throne of God are known as cherubim; in English, the singular is cherub (and in some older spellings you'll see cherubin). The word cherubin specifically points to that same class of winged beings and, in art, is also used for the familiar chubby, winged child figure. So Cherubin is the best answer because it covers both the divine throne-guarding being and the familiar Renaissance image of a putto-like winged child. The other terms don't relate to these concepts.

2. Which Scottish architect and designer was prominent in the Arts and Crafts movement in Great Britain?

A. Charles Mackintosh

B. Tomas Mapua

C. Frank Gehry

D. Erich Mendelsohn

The Arts and Crafts movement in Great Britain emphasized handcrafted work, honest materials, and a unified approach to design that spans architecture, interiors, and objects. Charles Rennie Mackintosh stands out in Scotland for embodying this idea by treating the building as a crafted whole—blending architecture with furniture, metalwork, and decorative detail. His Glasgow School of Art project is a landmark example, showcasing carefully chosen materials, simplified forms, and cohesive design language that extends from structure to furnishings. He helped shape the Glasgow Style, merging Arts and Crafts principles with modern clarity and distinctive, vertical lines. In contrast, the other designers listed come from different contexts or later movements, so Mackintosh is the Scottish figure most closely associated with the Arts and Crafts era in Britain.

3. What are the steps forming the base of a columned Greek temple called?

A. Crepidoma

B. Order

C. Naos

D. Thermae

The base formed by the stepped platform of a columned Greek temple is called crepidoma. It's the multi-level foundation the structure sits on, typically rising in three steps up to the stylobate, which is the uppermost surface where the columns begin. The stylobate itself is the final level of the crepidoma and directly supports the column bases. Understanding this helps distinguish it from related terms: the stylobate is the top platform, naos is the temple's inner chamber, and thermae are baths.

4. The Erechtheion is attributed to which architect?

- A. Mnesicles**
- B. Phidias**
- C. Cossutius**
- D. Welton Becket**

Attribution of a major temple on the Athenian Acropolis reveals how ancient projects were credited to a designer. The Erechtheion, built in the late fifth century BCE as part of the Acropolis rebuilding, is traditionally linked to Mnesicles, the architect associated with shaping the Acropolis plan and overseeing key structures of that program. This fits the building's sophisticated, irregular plan—designed to fit a rugged site and accommodate multiple sanctuaries—culminating in the distinctive Porch of the Caryatids. Phidias, though famed as a sculptor who directed sculptural programs for monuments like the Parthenon, is not regarded as the Erechtheion's architect. Welton Becket is a modern 20th-century architect and could not have worked on ancient Greece. Cossutius appears in some uncertain historical references but is not the standard attribution, making Mnesicles the most widely accepted designer for the Erechtheion.

5. Who created the Dymaxion House, described as 'the first machine for living'?

- A. Buckminster Fuller**
- B. Marcel Lajos Breuer**
- C. Felix Candela**
- D. Minoru Yamasaki**

Buckminster Fuller created the Dymaxion House, and it was described as “the first machine for living.” The idea behind it is to treat housing as an efficient, standardized system rather than a purely artisanal object. Fuller developed a prefabricated, modular dwelling that could be mass-produced, shipped easily, and assembled with minimal waste, embodying the notion of living spaces designed for maximum performance with minimal resources. The term Dymaxion signals dynamic maximum efficiency, tying the design to a broader quest to apply industrial methods to housing and urban life. This approach situates the Dymaxion House within Fuller's larger body of work, which sought to optimize materials, energy use, and adaptability through mechanical, reusable components. While other modernists made lasting contributions to architecture, none created this specific house. Marcel Breuer advanced tubular steel design and modernist housing concepts, Felix Candela is renowned for striking thin-shell concrete structures, and Minoru Yamasaki is known for high-rise buildings; but the Dymaxion House is a Buckminster Fuller project.

6. Who is the known architect associated with the early Renaissance?

- A. Donato Bramante**
- B. Filippo Brunelleschi**
- C. Andrea Palladio**
- D. Leon Battista Alberti**

The early Renaissance in architecture is about reviving classical forms and a rational, proportioned way of organizing space. Filippo Brunelleschi is the architect most closely tied to that shift in Florence. His Dome of the Florence Cathedral epitomizes how engineering ingenuity can underpin a new architectural language rooted in clear geometry, balanced proportions, and the use of classical orders. The careful sequencing of spaces and the restrained, temple-like quality of projects like the Pazzi Chapel show a disciplined clarity that became a defining language for Renaissance architecture. While others on the list—such as Bramante, Palladio, and Alberti—are important figures in later stages or different strands of the Renaissance (Bramante in the High Renaissance, Palladio in the mature Venetian tradition, Alberti as a crucial early theorist and designer), Brunelleschi's innovations mark the emergence of Renaissance architecture itself.

7. Which term denotes a phase of architecture that revived classical forms by looking to antiquity in the 18th-19th centuries?

- A. Antiquarian**
- B. Neoclassical**
- C. Baroque**
- D. Rococo**

The main idea here is how architects in the 18th to 19th centuries deliberately revived the forms of ancient Greece and Rome. This revival is known as Neoclassical architecture. It sought the clarity, symmetry, and disciplined use of classical orders—Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian—often featuring temple-front façades and restrained ornament. This movement grew out of a shift toward rationality and civic virtue associated with the Enlightenment, influencing public buildings and monuments across Europe and the United States. Antiquarian describes a scholarly interest in antiquities rather than a design style, while Baroque and Rococo represent earlier, more decorative and dynamic approaches. So, the term that denotes this revival of classical forms is Neoclassical.

8. What term refers to the principal place of worship in Islam used for Friday prayers?

- A. Masjid**
- B. Mosque**
- C. Madrasa**
- D. Minaret**

Masjid is the term for the principal place of worship in Islam where Friday prayers (Jumu'ah) are held. It comes from the Arabic root related to prostration and prayer, emphasizing its function as a dedicated sacred space for communal worship led by an imam with a Friday sermon (khutbah). In architectural history, masjid denotes the building's religious purpose rather than just its exterior form. The other options don't fit: a madrasa is a religious school, a minaret is the tall tower often associated with mosques, and the word mosque is simply the English translation, while the specific Islamic term used in practice is masjid.

9. The architect known for integrating circular and square geometries into design is which of the following?

- A. Le Corbusier**
- B. Richard Meier**
- C. Mies van der Rohe**
- D. Buckminster Fuller**

Understanding how geometry shapes architecture helps explain why this designer stands out. In modern design, clean, pure forms are used to organize space, light, and movement, and some architects play with contrasting geometries to create visual and experiential tension. Richard Meier is especially known for this kind of deliberate geometric language. His work often relies on a precise, almost mathematical order—square, rectilinear volumes organized on a grid—yet he doesn't stop there. Circular or curved elements are introduced within or between those rectilinear forms, so the circle and the square coexist in a single composition. This pairing creates dynamic intersections of light, shadow, and circulation, giving spaces a measured clarity while adding moments of visual relief and surprise. The result is architecture that reads as a coherent system of geometry where both round and square forms contribute to how you perceive volume and movement. Le Corbusier, while deeply geometric, emphasizes modular grids, proportion, and rectilinear massing as a core language, with curves playing a less central role. Mies van der Rohe's hallmark is minimalist, rectilinear purity—steel and glass in spare, unwavering modernist blocks. Buckminster Fuller centers on spherical and geodesic forms, engineering-scale wonders rather than a circle-square dialogue. In this sense, Richard Meier's distinctive blend of circular and square geometries best fits the description.

10. Who was the architect of the National Library, Philippines?

- A. Felipe Mendoza**
- B. Juan Nakpil**
- C. Frank Lloyd Wright**
- D. Le Corbusier**

Understanding who designed a national public building helps you see how architecture carries a country's identity at a given time. The National Library of the Philippines in Manila is credited to Felipe Mendoza, a prominent Filipino architect known for shaping government and institutional buildings in the mid-20th century. Mendoza's work on major civic projects embraced a modern, orderly vocabulary that conveyed stability and progress, which aligned with the era's push to project national sophistication through public architecture. While other important Filipino architects like Juan Nakpil contributed greatly to the country's built environment, and foreign architects certainly shaped architectural modernism worldwide, the official historical record for this library attributes the design to Mendoza.

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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://historyofarchitecture.examzify.com>

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