

HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

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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 term refers to the principal chamber in a Greek temple that houses the statue of the deity?**
 - A. Naos
 - B. Narthex
 - C. Gymnaceum
 - D. Baldachino

- 2. Who designed SM Megamall?**
 - A. Antonio Sin Diong
 - B. Juan Nakpil
 - C. Felipe Mendoza
 - D. Gabriel Formoso

- 3. Which architect is associated with the introduction of thin-shell construction in architecture?**
 - A. Felix Candela
 - B. Bernini
 - C. Minoru Yamasaki
 - D. Agrippa

- 4. Which architect advocated planning rooms by volume?**
 - A. Oscar Niemeyer
 - B. Le Corbusier
 - C. Kenzo Tange
 - D. Francisco Manosa

- 5. Triangular piece of wall above the entablature is called a ____**
 - A. Pediment
 - B. Architrave
 - C. Frieze
 - D. Cornice

- 6. Which architect is associated with the saying 'A house is a machine to live in'?**
- A. Le Corbusier
 - B. Phidias
 - C. Welton Becket
 - D. Eliel Saarinen
- 7. What term describes a monumental gateway to an Egyptian temple with slanting walls flanking the entrance portal?**
- A. Pylon
 - B. Megaron
 - C. Atrium House
 - D. Royal pyramids
- 8. The Rizal Memorial Stadium was designed by which architect?**
- A. Juan Nakpil
 - B. Felipe Mendoza
 - C. Antonio Sin Diong
 - D. Gabriel Formoso
- 9. Rustication is a stoneworking method most associated with which historical period?**
- A. Renaissance
 - B. Gothic
 - C. Baroque
 - D. Classical
- 10. Which term denotes a small private bath in Roman houses or palaces?**
- A. Balneum
 - B. Insulae
 - C. Domus
 - D. Megaron

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which term refers to the principal chamber in a Greek temple that houses the statue of the deity?

- A. Naos**
- B. Narthex
- C. Gymnaceum
- D. Baldachino

In classical Greek temple design, the main interior chamber that housed the deity's statue is the naos, also called the cella. This inner sanctuary is the focal space of the temple, enclosed and set behind the frontal porch (the pronaos) and often opposite a back room (the opisthodomos) used for storage or offerings. The statue of the god or goddess stood inside the naos, making it the primary locus of cult ritual and reverence within the temple. The other terms don't fit the Greek temple context: the narthex is associated with entrance spaces in Christian churches; the gymnaceum (or gynaeceum) refers to a women's or gym-related space in other settings; and a baldachino is a ceremonial canopy over an altar in later Christian architecture, not a feature of Greek temple interiors.

2. Who designed SM Megamall?

- A. Antonio Sin Diong**
- B. Juan Nakpil
- C. Felipe Mendoza
- D. Gabriel Formoso

This item hinges on knowing who is credited with designing SM Megamall, a landmark project that helped define the mega-mall era in the Philippines. Antonio Sin Diong is the architect associated with SM Megamall, and the design reflects a focus on a massive, continuous interior retail spine, scalable plan, and efficient circulation that could handle enormous pedestrian flow and future expansion. His approach to such a large-scale retail complex emphasizes creating a climate-controlled, public interior that functions as a social hub as well as a shopping destination, integrating with the Ortigas Center urban fabric while allowing for growth. This attribution matches historical lists of designers for the project and illustrates how early mega-mall architecture in Manila prioritized mass, flexibility, and urban context.

3. Which architect is associated with the introduction of thin-shell construction in architecture?

- A. Felix Candela**
- B. Bernini
- C. Minoru Yamasaki
- D. Agrippa

Thin-shell construction relies on curved, thin concrete membranes that carry loads efficiently through membrane action, allowing large spans with relatively little material. Felix Candela is renowned for introducing and advancing this approach, pushing reinforced concrete into elegant double-curved shells—often hyperbolic paraboloids—that create spacious, economical roofs. His mid 20th century experiments in Mexico popularized thin-shell architecture and influenced many later designers. The other figures belong to different eras and styles—Bernini with Baroque sculpture and architecture, Minoru Yamasaki with modernist high-rise design, and Agrippa as an ancient Roman figure—so Candela is the one most closely associated with the introduction of thin-shell construction.

4. Which architect advocated planning rooms by volume?

- A. Oscar Niemeyer
- B. Le Corbusier
- C. Kenzo Tange
- D. Francisco Manosa

Placing rooms by volume means shaping interior spaces from three dimensional bodies so that proportion, light, air, and circulation arise from the size and arrangement of those volumes rather than from simple floor area. Le Corbusier championed this approach, treating architecture as a discipline of manipulating volumes to create humane, functional spaces. He articulated a modular system—the Modulor—that ties human scale to architectural proportions, so rooms and buildings are conceived as built-out volumes: simple geometric blocks (cubes, prisms, cylinders) arranged to define the plan, height, and flow of a dwelling or city. This volume-based thinking is evident in his early Dom ino concept and later housing projects, where the spatial quality comes from the organization of three dimensional space around structural and proportional volumes. Oscar Niemeyer, by contrast, is renowned for expressive, sculptural forms and curves, focusing on the aesthetic language of volumes and surfaces rather than a systematic planning of interior rooms by volumetric units. So the architect who advocated planning rooms by volume is Le Corbusier.

5. Triangular piece of wall above the entablature is called a ____

- A. Pediment
- B. Architrave
- C. Frieze
- D. Cornice

In classical architecture, the triangular space that sits above the horizontal entablature and caps the front of a building is called a pediment. It acts as a decorative gable, often containing a tympanum that may be sculpted or painted. This feature is distinct from the parts of the entablature itself—the architrave is the lowest band, the frieze is the middle decorated band, and the cornice is the projecting top molding. The pediment's shape and placement give the façade its recognizable temple-like silhouette and help unify the vertical and horizontal elements of the elevation.

6. Which architect is associated with the saying 'A house is a machine to live in'?

- A. Le Corbusier
- B. Phidias
- C. Welton Becket
- D. Eliel Saarinen

Le Corbusier is the architect tied to that saying. He framed a dwelling as a machine for living, stressing efficiency, standardization, and flexible, function-driven space over ornament. In *Vers une architecture*, he argues architecture should be rational—designed like an industrial process with modular parts that can be produced and reused, giving living spaces open plans and adaptable layouts. This mindset is echoed in his famous five points of architecture, which promote a structural system that supports light, adaptable interiors and allows the house to function like a well made machine. The other names are notable figures in modernism, but the specific phrase about a house as a machine for living is uniquely associated with Le Corbusier.

7. What term describes a monumental gateway to an Egyptian temple with slanting walls flanking the entrance portal?

- A. Pylon**
- B. Megaron
- C. Atrium House
- D. Royal pyramids

In ancient Egyptian temple architecture, the monumental gateway described is a pylon. A pylon is defined by massive, flaring towers with slanted walls that frame the central entrance, creating a towering, ceremonial threshold that signals the approach to sacred space. This paired, trapezoidal form emphasizes procession and aspires to a sense of monumental grandeur, often decorated with reliefs celebrating the king and deities. The other terms don't fit: a megaron is a Greek rectangular hall with a frontal porch, an Atrium House refers to a type of residential plan with an open central space, and royal pyramids are tomb structures, not gateways to temple precincts.

8. The Rizal Memorial Stadium was designed by which architect?

- A. Juan Nakpil**
- B. Felipe Mendoza
- C. Antonio Sin Diong
- D. Gabriel Formoso

The main idea here is identifying who shaped a landmark public building in Manila and how that fits into Philippine architectural history. The Rizal Memorial Stadium was designed by Juan Nakpil, a prominent Filipino architect who played a key role in shaping national public architecture during the early 20th century and was later honored as a National Artist for Architecture. Built in the early 1930s to host the Far Eastern Championship Games, the stadium reflects Nakpil's approach to monumental, formally organized public spaces that respond to Manila's climate and urban context. This project is consistently attributed to Nakpil in architectural histories and records of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex. The other architects mentioned are notable figures in different contexts, but this stadium is associated with Nakpil.

9. Rustication is a stoneworking method most associated with which historical period?

- A. Renaissance**
- B. Gothic
- C. Baroque
- D. Classical

Rustication is a stoneworking technique that uses large blocks with a rough, textured surface and sharply dressed edges to create a strong, grounded appearance. This treatment became a defining feature of Renaissance architecture, especially in Italy, where architects used it to convey monumental solidity and to echo classical ideals of order and permanence. By placing a rugged, heavy base at the lower part of a facade and contrasting it with smoother upper stories, rustication visually grounds the building and emphasizes its mass in a way that aligns with the Renaissance revival of ancient principles. Gothic architecture emphasizes verticality and intricate detailing rather than the heavy, deliberately rough-faced blocks that rustication showcases. Baroque architecture leans toward movement, drama, and ornate surface treatment, though rusticated textures can appear here and there. Classical architecture, drawing on ancient sources, typically employs more restrained, smooth ashlar work without the distinctive rough-block rhythm that characterizes rustication.

10. Which term denotes a small private bath in Roman houses or palaces?

A. Balneum

B. Insulae

C. Domus

D. Megaron

Balneum denotes a small private bath inside a Roman house or palace. In Roman domestic architecture, distinctions exist between spaces for daily living, private bathing, and public facilities. A private bathing room within a residence is described as a balneum, contrasted with public or large-scale baths called thermae or balnea in general use. The other terms refer to different concepts: insulae are apartment blocks where many people lived, domus is a general term for a single-family house, and megaron is a Greek term for a large hall, not used in Roman domestic architecture.

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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!

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