

MCPPO Design and Construction 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. What is the primary goal of identifying the owner's needs in construction?**
 - A. To determine legal compliance**
 - B. To find the most cost-effective solution**
 - C. To establish a project timeline**
 - D. To ensure environmental sustainability**

- 2. Which of the following is a requirement following a delay that lasts longer than 15 days?**
 - A. The contractor must submit a claim in writing**
 - B. The owner must redirect the contractor's efforts**
 - C. All work must be re-scheduled**
 - D. Contractor's daily costs must be covered**

- 3. What provides a measure of advancement toward the conclusion of a project?**
 - A. Phase Completion**
 - B. Milestone**
 - C. Final Assessment**
 - D. Completion Certificate**

- 4. During which phase are deliverables presented to the owner as plans and specifications that are 10 to 30 percent complete?**
 - A. Construction Documents**
 - B. Schematic Design**
 - C. Design Development**
 - D. Pre-Construction Phase**

- 5. What is the outcome of the design stage in the construction process?**
 - A. A collection of project bids**
 - B. A summary of project costs**
 - C. A complete set of plans and specifications**
 - D. A schedule for project completion**

- 6. What is the purpose of obtaining a payment bond in construction contracts?**
- A. To provide insurance for the project**
 - B. To guarantee payment to contractors and subcontractors**
 - C. To cover administrative costs**
 - D. To secure land acquisition**
- 7. What is a common cause for contractors to seek change orders due to interference?**
- A. Poor project management**
 - B. Owner interference with task execution**
 - C. Insufficient planning**
 - D. Equipment malfunction**
- 8. What is the initial step in evaluating a proposed change order from a contractor?**
- A. Cost Comparison**
 - B. Scope Analysis**
 - C. Entitlement Analysis**
 - D. Risk Assessment**
- 9. True or False: The Designer Selection Law requires that all fees in a design contract be stated as a percentage of the construction cost.**
- A. True**
 - B. False**
 - C. Only for certain projects**
 - D. Only for public projects**
- 10. Who holds the ultimate responsibility for a public construction project?**
- A. The General Contractor**
 - B. The Project Designer**
 - C. The Public Owner (Awarding Authority)**
 - D. The Owner's Project Manager**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the primary goal of identifying the owner's needs in construction?

- A. To determine legal compliance**
- B. To find the most cost-effective solution**
- C. To establish a project timeline**
- D. To ensure environmental sustainability**

The primary goal of identifying the owner's needs in construction is to find the most cost-effective solution. This process involves understanding what the owner truly wants and needs from the project, which directly influences several aspects, including the budget, design, and functionality. By clearly defining these needs, the project team can align their strategies and resources to achieve the owner's vision while ensuring that the total costs are kept within budget. This can involve making choices that balance quality, functionality, and expenses, ultimately leading to a successful and satisfactory project outcome for the owner. Understanding the owner's needs allows the project team to avoid unnecessary expenses, prioritize essential features, and allocate resources efficiently, which are all crucial for maintaining financial feasibility throughout the construction process.

2. Which of the following is a requirement following a delay that lasts longer than 15 days?

- A. The contractor must submit a claim in writing**
- B. The owner must redirect the contractor's efforts**
- C. All work must be re-scheduled**
- D. Contractor's daily costs must be covered**

The requirement that follows a delay lasting longer than 15 days is that the contractor must submit a claim in writing. This process is important as it formally documents the specifics of the delay, including the reasons and any impacts on the project timeline and costs. A written claim helps both parties to clarify their positions and fosters communication regarding the resolution of the issue. This requirement ensures that all delays are properly recorded and potentially provides the contractor an opportunity to receive compensation or an extension of time due to circumstances that may have been beyond their control. The other options may not accurately reflect standard practices or requirements in the event of a delay. For instance, redirecting the contractor's efforts is not a mandated requirement in response to delays; it may or may not be necessary depending on the circumstances. Similarly, rescheduling all work may not be practical or realistic in every situation, and the need to cover the contractor's daily costs would depend on the specifics of the contract and the nature of the delay. Each of these aspects must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis rather than being a blanket requirement following a delay.

3. What provides a measure of advancement toward the conclusion of a project?

- A. Phase Completion**
- B. Milestone**
- C. Final Assessment**
- D. Completion Certificate**

A milestone serves as a significant marker in the timeline of a project, indicating the completion of a major phase, deliverable, or activity. These milestones are essential for tracking progress and understanding how much closer the project is to its overall completion. They allow project managers and stakeholders to evaluate whether the team is on schedule and meeting important objectives along the way. By setting these milestones, teams can also assess and communicate progress to everyone involved, helping to maintain clarity and focus. This makes milestones an integral part of project management, as they provide tangible benchmarks that signal advancement within the project lifecycle. In contrast, phase completion signifies the end of a particular stage within the project but does not inherently provide a means to measure advancement as precisely as milestones do. Final assessments and completion certificates are typically issued at the end of a project or phase, confirming that everything has been met according to the requirements, rather than ongoing measures of progress.

4. During which phase are deliverables presented to the owner as plans and specifications that are 10 to 30 percent complete?

- A. Construction Documents**
- B. Schematic Design**
- C. Design Development**
- D. Pre-Construction Phase**

The phase in which deliverables are presented to the owner as plans and specifications that are 10 to 30 percent complete is the Schematic Design phase. During this stage, the core concepts of the project are developed, and basic layouts, spatial relationships, and functions are explored, albeit at an early level of detail. The Schematic Design phase aims to provide a visual understanding of the overall design intent and initiates discussions about how the project will take shape. This phase serves to establish a foundational overview that can guide further development in subsequent phases. As a result, stakeholders can provide feedback and make informed decisions before the design becomes more fixed in the Design Development phase and later stages. The other phases focus on different aspects: Construction Documents involve detailed specifications and drawings meant for construction, Design Development expands on the initial design with more refinement but is still more complete than the Schematic Design, and the Pre-Construction Phase typically includes activities prior to actual construction rather than the initial design presentation.

5. What is the outcome of the design stage in the construction process?

- A. A collection of project bids**
- B. A summary of project costs**
- C. A complete set of plans and specifications**
- D. A schedule for project completion**

The design stage in the construction process culminates in a complete set of plans and specifications, which serve as the foundational documents for the entire project. During this stage, architects and engineers work collaboratively to translate the project requirements and objectives into detailed drawings and written instructions. These documents outline how the project will be constructed, including architectural details, structural elements, mechanical systems, and finishes, ensuring that every aspect is clearly defined. The complete set of plans and specifications is crucial not only for the construction team to understand what needs to be built but also for securing permits, and making accurate bids. It provides clarity and serves as a contractual basis for the work to be performed, hence guiding contractors and subcontractors throughout the execution of the project. Without these comprehensive documents, the risk of miscommunication, errors, and project delays increases significantly, underscoring the importance of the design stage in the overall construction process.

6. What is the purpose of obtaining a payment bond in construction contracts?

- A. To provide insurance for the project**
- B. To guarantee payment to contractors and subcontractors**
- C. To cover administrative costs**
- D. To secure land acquisition**

Obtaining a payment bond in construction contracts serves the critical function of guaranteeing payment to contractors and subcontractors. This bond is a form of financial security that ensures that the parties involved in the construction project will be compensated for their labor and materials, even if the project owner fails to make the required payments. It protects subcontractors and suppliers, providing them with a reliable source to claim payment should the primary contractor default. This security fosters trust among stakeholders in the construction process, as it mitigates the risk of financial loss for those who contribute to the project. The assurance of payment through a bond is vital in encouraging competitive bidding and ensuring that contractors can secure the necessary workforce and materials without the worry of payment delays or defaults. The other options do not align with the primary function of a payment bond; insurance for the project, covering administrative costs, and securing land acquisition addresses different aspects of construction contracts and do not guarantee payment directly to contractors and subcontractors.

7. What is a common cause for contractors to seek change orders due to interference?

- A. Poor project management**
- B. Owner interference with task execution**
- C. Insufficient planning**
- D. Equipment malfunction**

Contractors often seek change orders due to owner interference with task execution because such interference can significantly affect the work flow and progress on a project. When the owner makes changes to the project requirements, requests alterations, or engages in activities that disrupt the contractor's planned work schedule, it creates a situation where the original terms of the contract can no longer be fulfilled. This interference may lead to delays, the need for rework, or additional costs that were not accounted for in the original contract, necessitating a change order to adjust the contract terms and compensation accordingly. Understanding that owner interference can impact not just the timeline but also the overall project execution is key for effective project management and maintaining project efficiency. Insufficient planning and poor project management certainly contribute to conflicts, but they do so primarily by creating a less organized framework within which the project operates. Equipment malfunction is generally related to operational issues rather than decision-making or interference from the owner's side.

8. What is the initial step in evaluating a proposed change order from a contractor?

- A. Cost Comparison**
- B. Scope Analysis**
- C. Entitlement Analysis**
- D. Risk Assessment**

The initial step in evaluating a proposed change order from a contractor is entitlement analysis. This involves determining whether the contractor is entitled to the change order based on the contract terms and any relevant conditions. In this phase, the evaluator reviews the contract's language, previous communications, and the context of the proposed change to assess whether it falls within the provisions that allow for changes. Understanding entitlement is crucial because it establishes the framework for the subsequent evaluations of scope, cost, and risk. By confirming whether the contractor has a lawful claim for the change, decision-makers can proceed confidently to analyze how the change impacts the project in terms of scope, budget, and associated risks. It ensures that all parties are aligned with the contractual obligations before delving into the specifics of cost and the overall implications of implementing the change.

9. True or False: The Designer Selection Law requires that all fees in a design contract be stated as a percentage of the construction cost.

- A. True
- B. False**
- C. Only for certain projects
- D. Only for public projects

The statement is false. The Designer Selection Law does not mandate that all fees in a design contract be expressed strictly as a percentage of the construction cost. Instead, design fees can be negotiated in various ways, such as on a fixed fee basis, hourly rates, or through other arrangements that both the designer and client agree upon. This flexibility allows for a variety of project types and scopes, accommodating different needs and circumstances in design contracts. Moreover, the Designer Selection Law aims to ensure a fair process in selecting designers and evaluating proposals based on qualifications and project needs rather than strictly on cost, which allows for a more comprehensive assessment of value beyond just financial considerations.

10. Who holds the ultimate responsibility for a public construction project?

- A. The General Contractor
- B. The Project Designer
- C. The Public Owner (Awarding Authority)**
- D. The Owner's Project Manager

The ultimate responsibility for a public construction project lies with the Public Owner, also known as the Awarding Authority. This is because the Public Owner is the entity that establishes the project's objectives, secures funding, and oversees its execution to ensure that it meets legal and regulatory requirements. They are involved in the decision-making processes related to project scope, budget, and timelines, and they are accountable for the overall success and compliance of the project. While the General Contractor is responsible for executing the work according to the plans and specifications, and the Project Designer is tasked with creating the designs that guide construction, they both operate under the directives and authority of the Public Owner. The Owner's Project Manager plays a crucial role in managing the project on behalf of the Public Owner, but they do not hold the ultimate responsibility, as that authority resides with the Public Owner. This clear delineation of accountability is fundamental in public construction projects to ensure that projects are delivered effectively while adhering to public standards and requirements.

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://mcppodesignconstruction.examzify.com>

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

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