

MICHIGAN BUILDERS LICENSE PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

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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. Which of the following is a concern when installing a new layer of shingles on top of an old layer?**
 - A. Weight of the new shingles
 - B. Water damage
 - C. Ventilation issues
 - D. Cosmetic appearance

- 2. What material should be placed beneath a pressure-treated sill and the concrete slab?**
 - A. Plywood
 - B. Vapor barrier
 - C. 30/felt
 - D. Plastic sheeting

- 3. How is roof pitch expressed?**
 - A. As a degree measurement
 - B. By calculating the rise over the run
 - C. As a percentage
 - D. By a linear foot measurement

- 4. Which of the following would not constitute grounds for a complaint against a licensee?**
 - A. Negligence in performing tasks
 - B. Unexpected rain at a job site
 - C. Failure to meet deadlines
 - D. Safety violations

- 5. What is the purpose of placing insulation in a building?**
 - A. To reduce noise
 - B. To improve energy efficiency
 - C. Both A and B
 - D. None of the above

- 6. Under what condition is above deck thermal insulation permitted?**
- A. When installed with a flexible covering
 - B. When covered with an approved roof covering
 - C. When placed on below-grade foundations
 - D. When using non-combustible materials
- 7. Who is responsible for calling MISS DIG for the proper location of underground services before digging?**
- A. The homeowner
 - B. The supervisor on site
 - C. The contractor performing the work
 - D. The local government
- 8. What is another term for a combined construction loan and mortgage?**
- A. Bridge loan
 - B. Permanent financing
 - C. Construction permanent loan
 - D. Short-term loan
- 9. What type of footing is appropriate for a lot that slopes?**
- A. Continuous footing
 - B. Shallow footing
 - C. Stepped footing
 - D. Pier footing
- 10. Which aspect is considered when assessing the porosity of surfaces for mortar adhesion?**
- A. Surface texture
 - B. Age of the surface
 - C. Environmental conditions
 - D. All of the above

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which of the following is a concern when installing a new layer of shingles on top of an old layer?

- A. Weight of the new shingles
- B. Water damage**
- C. Ventilation issues
- D. Cosmetic appearance

Installing a new layer of shingles on top of an old layer can lead to significant concerns, particularly regarding water damage. When multiple layers of shingles are added, it may inhibit proper drainage of water and can trap moisture between the layers. This moisture buildup can lead to a higher risk of leaks and damage to the roof deck and underlying structures. If water is retained, it can cause deterioration of the wood, mold growth, and ultimately compromise the integrity of the roofing system. Ventilation issues also arise when a new layer of shingles is added, as the additional material can restrict airflow, leading to insufficient ventilation in the attic space. This can further exacerbate moisture issues and increase energy costs due to heat buildup. The weight of the new shingles is indeed a concern, but unless the roof structure is significantly compromised or overloaded, it may not be the primary issue compared to moisture-related problems. While cosmetic appearance is an important factor for homeowners, it does not pose a functional risk like potential water damage or ventilation issues would. Thus, the gravity of water damage makes it a critical concern in the context of roofing practices.

2. What material should be placed beneath a pressure-treated sill and the concrete slab?

- A. Plywood
- B. Vapor barrier
- C. 30/felt**
- D. Plastic sheeting

The correct material to place beneath a pressure-treated sill and the concrete slab is generally a vapor barrier. A vapor barrier serves a critical role in construction by preventing moisture from the ground from rising into the building structure. This is especially important when dealing with materials like concrete that can absorb moisture and affect the integrity of the wood above. In the context of this question, although 30-pound felt is sometimes used in construction to act as a moisture barrier, it is not as effective as a dedicated vapor barrier. The primary role of a vapor barrier is to stop moisture diffusion, which is essential in areas where a concrete slab is utilized. Using a vapor barrier prevents potential health issues related to mold and wood rot that can arise from excessive moisture exposure. While other materials like plywood or plastic sheeting might provide some level of moisture protection, they do not specifically fulfill the same function as a dedicated vapor barrier in the context of protecting building materials that are sensitive to moisture. Thus, it is crucial to use a material designed specifically for that purpose, which validates the choice of a vapor barrier as the appropriate option for installation beneath a pressure-treated sill and concrete slab.

3. How is roof pitch expressed?

- A. As a degree measurement
- B. By calculating the rise over the run**
- C. As a percentage
- D. By a linear foot measurement

Roof pitch is typically expressed by calculating the rise over the run, which is a ratio that compares the vertical height of the roof (the rise) to the horizontal distance from the peak to the edge (the run). This ratio is often represented in terms of inches, such as "4 in 12," which means that for every 12 inches run horizontally, the roof rises 4 inches vertically. This method provides an easily understandable way to communicate roof angles, making it practical for builders and architects to design and construct roofs accurately. While other methods, like degrees or percentages, can also represent roof pitch, the rise over run measurement is deeply ingrained in construction practices, allowing for straightforward calculations of drainage, structural support, and material requirements. Knowing how to use the rise over run method allows builders to accurately assess and install roofing, ensuring it meets design specifications and performs effectively in terms of water runoff and structural integrity.

4. Which of the following would not constitute grounds for a complaint against a licensee?

- A. Negligence in performing tasks
- B. Unexpected rain at a job site**
- C. Failure to meet deadlines
- D. Safety violations

Unexpected rain at a job site would not constitute grounds for a complaint against a licensee because it is considered an act of God or a natural event that is beyond the control of the contractor or licensee. Weather conditions can be unpredictable and can affect construction timelines and work conditions. In contrast, negligence in performing tasks, failure to meet deadlines, and safety violations are all factors that reflect a licensee's professional conduct, responsibility, and adherence to industry standards. These actions can result in complaints because they directly pertain to the quality of work and the safety of the job site, which are key expectations of a licensed builder. A licensee is expected to effectively manage projects, including planning for potential weather issues, but not all unforeseen circumstances can be anticipated or mitigated, as is the case with unexpected rain.

5. What is the purpose of placing insulation in a building?

- A. To reduce noise
- B. To improve energy efficiency
- C. Both A and B**
- D. None of the above

The purpose of placing insulation in a building encompasses both reducing noise and improving energy efficiency, making the selection of both benefits the most comprehensive choice. Insulation works by creating a barrier that helps to slow down the transfer of heat, which is crucial for energy efficiency. By keeping desired temperatures in a home—whether it's warm in the winter or cool in the summer—insulation reduces the energy needed for heating and cooling systems, thereby lowering utility bills and conserving energy. In addition to energy efficiency, insulation plays a significant role in soundproofing. It can absorb sound, preventing noise from traveling between rooms or from outside to inside, which enhances comfort and privacy in a living space. Thus, the dual benefits of insulation not only contribute to a more sustainable and cost-effective building but also improve the overall quality of life for occupants by minimizing unwanted noise.

6. Under what condition is above deck thermal insulation permitted?

- A. When installed with a flexible covering
- B. When covered with an approved roof covering**
- C. When placed on below-grade foundations
- D. When using non-combustible materials

Above deck thermal insulation is permitted when it is covered with an approved roof covering. This requirement ensures that the insulation is adequately protected from environmental factors such as moisture, UV radiation, and other elements that could degrade its performance and reduce its effectiveness. By using an approved roof covering, it also aids in maintaining the integrity of the building envelope, which is crucial for energy efficiency and the longevity of the roofing system. While flexible coverings, below-grade insulation, and non-combustible materials might be relevant in different contexts or applications, they do not specifically address the conditions under which above deck insulation should be utilized and protected. The primary concern in roofing systems is ensuring that any insulation installed above the deck remains durable and effective throughout its intended lifespan, which is why proper covering is emphasized in building codes and standards.

7. Who is responsible for calling MISS DIG for the proper location of underground services before digging?

- A. The homeowner
- B. The supervisor on site
- C. The contractor performing the work**
- D. The local government

Calling MISS DIG to locate underground services before digging is a critical step in ensuring safety and compliance with regulations. In this context, the contractor performing the work holds the responsibility for initiating this call. Contractors are typically the ones directly engaged with the excavation process, making them aware of the specific areas where digging will occur. The contractor is trained to understand various pre-construction requirements, including safety protocols designed to prevent damage to underground utilities and enhance job site safety. By ensuring that a MISS DIG call is made, the contractor helps avert potential accidents, service interruptions, and costly damages that could arise from hitting unmarked underground utilities. This responsibility underscores the importance of proper planning and coordination in construction projects, where the contractor must prioritize the safety of the workers, the public, and the existing infrastructure.

8. What is another term for a combined construction loan and mortgage?

- A. Bridge loan
- B. Permanent financing
- C. Construction permanent loan**
- D. Short-term loan

A combined construction loan and mortgage is often referred to as a construction permanent loan. This type of financing is specifically designed for projects that involve both the construction phase and the long-term mortgage phase, allowing the borrower to secure funding for the construction of a home and then transition into a permanent mortgage without taking out separate loans for each phase. This type of loan streamlines the borrowing process, as the borrower only needs to go through the application and closing processes once, simplifying both the management of payments and the organization of financing. Once construction is complete, the loan converts to a permanent mortgage, making it an efficient option for borrowers looking to build new homes.

9. What type of footing is appropriate for a lot that slopes?

- A. Continuous footing
- B. Shallow footing
- C. Stepped footing**
- D. Pier footing

In situations where a lot slopes, using a stepped footing is appropriate due to its ability to accommodate changes in elevation. Stepped footings are designed with steps that follow the natural contour of the terrain, effectively distributing the weight of the structure across varying heights. This helps to ensure proper support and stability, preventing issues such as settling, cracking, or shifting that can occur if a standard footing is used on an uneven surface. Stepped footings are particularly advantageous because they allow for the foundation to remain level while adapting to the slope of the land. This adaptability is crucial in maintaining the integrity of the building as it maintains a level structure by aligning with the slope of the site. In contrast, options like continuous, shallow, or pier footings may not adequately accommodate significant changes in grade and could lead to structural challenges or increased susceptibility to soil movement. Thus, a stepped footing is the ideal solution for sloped lots.

10. Which aspect is considered when assessing the porosity of surfaces for mortar adhesion?

- A. Surface texture**
- B. Age of the surface
- C. Environmental conditions
- D. All of the above

When evaluating the porosity of surfaces for mortar adhesion, surface texture is a critical aspect. The texture of a surface directly affects its ability to allow mortar to bond properly. A rough or porous surface typically provides more mechanical interlock for the mortar, enhancing adherence. Conversely, a smooth or non-porous surface may hinder adhesion, as there are fewer points for the mortar to grip onto. While factors like age of the surface and environmental conditions are also important in the overall context of mortar application, they do not specifically relate to the porosity in the same direct way that surface texture does. Age can impact the surface's condition and may influence its porosity indirectly, but it is not a fundamental factor for determining porosity itself. Environmental conditions, such as humidity and temperature, can affect setting and curing but do not alter the inherent porosity of a surface. Thus, while all aspects could have some relevance in a broader construction context, the surface texture is the primary factor when specifically assessing porosity for mortar adhesion.

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://michiganbuilderslicense.examzify.com>

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

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