

MINNESOTA CONTRACTORS PRACTICE EXAM (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. How many coats are required when installing gypsum over metal lath or wire mesh?**
 - A. 1
 - B. 2
 - C. 3
 - D. 4

- 2. What is the ground snow load in the Twin Cities?**
 - A. 35 psf
 - B. 40 psf
 - C. 50 psf
 - D. 60 psf

- 3. What action may the Commissioner take if someone is fraudulently using another builder's license number?**
 - A. The builder can be issued a Stop Work Order
 - B. The builder can be issued a Cease and Desist Order, the license holder may have the license revoked, and both parties may be fined
 - C. The builder can issue a Cease and Desist Order
 - D. The builder can be issued a ticket and charged with a misdemeanor

- 4. Which of the following is TRUE of a contractor who operates without a valid license?**
 - A. The contractor may file a lien at any time without providing a pre-lien notice.
 - B. Any contractor's lien is automatically valid and they may obtain judgment.
 - C. The contractor holds a valid "hold" on the mortgage for a period of 90 days.
 - D. The contractor has no legal right to claim a lien.

- 5. Base material under a below grade concrete floor, if required, shall consist of?**
 - A. a 6 inch base mixture of sand and gravel
 - B. clay soil, if there is adequate drainage
 - C. a 4 inch base of sand, gravel, crushed stone, or crushed slag smaller than 2 inches in diameter
 - D. a 9 inch base of gravel

- 6. What is the typical size of rebar used in residential construction?**
- A. #2 rebar
 - B. #3 rebar
 - C. #4 rebar
 - D. #5 rebar
- 7. When may an individual be a qualifying person for two corporations?**
- A. When both corporations have the same ownership
 - B. When at least 25% of each corporation has common ownership and the individual is a managing employee
 - C. When at least 50% of each corporation has common ownership
 - D. Never; a person cannot be a qualifying person for two corporations
- 8. What is the minimum diameter anchor bolt that may be used without a noncorrosive coating?**
- A. 1/8 inch
 - B. 1/4 inch
 - C. 3/8 inch
 - D. 1/2 inch
- 9. In what instance is a contractor's emergency repair permissible without a permit?**
- A. For cosmetic damages
 - B. For repairs that can wait until next week
 - C. For immediate structural threats
 - D. For minor electrical issues
- 10. Chimney requirements state that the chimney must extend at least 2 feet above any portion of the building within how many feet of the chimney?**
- A. 2 feet
 - B. 5 feet
 - C. 8 feet
 - D. 10 feet

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. How many coats are required when installing gypsum over metal lath or wire mesh?

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

When installing gypsum over metal lath or wire mesh, the requirement is typically for three coats. This procedure consists of a scratch coat, a brown coat, and a finish coat. The scratch coat is the first layer applied directly to the metal lath or wire mesh, allowing for good adhesion. After the scratch coat has set, the brown coat is applied, which serves to build up the thickness and provide a level base for the final finish. The finish coat is the last layer, providing a smooth surface that is suitable for painting or other finishes. This three-coat system not only enhances the durability of the installation but also ensures that the finished surface has the desired appearance and integrity. Each coat serves a distinct purpose in creating a stable and reliable gypsum surface over metal lath or wire mesh.

2. What is the ground snow load in the Twin Cities?

- A. 35 psf
- B. 40 psf
- C. 50 psf**
- D. 60 psf

The ground snow load in the Twin Cities is defined as 50 pounds per square foot (psf). This value is established by building codes and local regulations to ensure structures can safely bear the weight of snow accumulation, which can vary significantly based on geographic location and climate conditions. The Twin Cities experience considerable snowfall, particularly during winter months, making it vital for construction standards to reflect these environmental factors to prevent structural failures. Understanding the appropriate snow load is crucial for any contractor in order to design buildings that can withstand potential snow-related stresses without compromising safety. The other choices do not align with the established standards for this region, which is why they are not correct. While snow loads may differ in other areas or under different circumstances, the specific value of 50 psf has been confirmed for the Twin Cities and is essential for compliance with local building codes.

3. What action may the Commissioner take if someone is fraudulently using another builder's license number?

- A. The builder can be issued a Stop Work Order
- B. The builder can be issued a Cease and Desist Order, the license holder may have the license revoked, and both parties may be fined**
- C. The builder can issue a Cease and Desist Order
- D. The builder can be issued a ticket and charged with a misdemeanor

The Commissioner has the authority to address fraudulent activities seriously, especially when a builder's license number is being misused. When someone is fraudulently using another builder's license number, the Commissioner can issue a Cease and Desist Order, which immediately halts any ongoing work associated with that fraudulent activity. Moreover, the actual license holder is at risk of having their license revoked since their license has been compromised through the fraudulent use. Additionally, both parties involved can be subject to fines as a legal repercussion for their actions. This approach ensures that the integrity of licensure in the building industry is upheld and acts as a deterrent against further fraudulent activities. The other potential actions, while they may apply in different contexts, do not encompass the full range of consequences that the Commissioner can enforce as outlined in the correct answer. Therefore, the comprehensive approach of option B highlights the severity of the situation and reflects the regulatory framework in place to maintain ethical practices within the construction industry.

4. Which of the following is TRUE of a contractor who operates without a valid license?

- A. The contractor may file a lien at any time without providing a pre-lien notice.
- B. Any contractor's lien is automatically valid and they may obtain judgment.
- C. The contractor holds a valid "hold" on the mortgage for a period of 90 days.
- D. The contractor has no legal right to claim a lien.**

A contractor who operates without a valid license does not have the legal right to claim a lien. This is because, under Minnesota law, contracting without the appropriate licensing voids any claims to enforce a lien. A lien is a legal right or interest that a lender has in the borrower's property, granted until the debt obligation is satisfied. The requirement for a valid license ensures that contractors meet certain standards and regulations, promoting professionalism and protecting consumers. Without the proper licensing, a contractor's work may be considered unauthorized, thus nullifying their ability to secure a lien for unpaid work or materials. The other options suggest scenarios that misrepresent the rights of an unlicensed contractor. For example, filing a lien without a valid license does require specific legal procedures to be followed, which are not available to someone lacking a valid license. Overall, the absence of proper licensure fundamentally undermines the contractor's ability to leverage legal protections like filing a lien.

5. Base material under a below grade concrete floor, if required, shall consist of?

- A. a 6 inch base mixture of sand and gravel
- B. clay soil, if there is adequate drainage
- C. a 4 inch base of sand, gravel, crushed stone, or crushed slag smaller than 2 inches in diameter**
- D. a 9 inch base of gravel

The specified choice correctly highlights that the base material under a below-grade concrete floor should be a 4-inch base composed of sand, gravel, crushed stone, or crushed slag that is smaller than 2 inches in diameter. This option is appropriate because it aligns with industry standards for creating a stable foundation for concrete floors, which is crucial for preventing cracking and settling. Using a mixture of these materials ensures proper drainage and support beneath the concrete slab. The specified dimensions of 4 inches are typically sufficient to provide the necessary support while also accommodating drainage needs, which is essential in below-grade applications where moisture can accumulate. Other options suggest alternatives that don't meet standard construction practices for below-grade settings. For instance, a 6-inch mixture of sand and gravel may not provide the same level of stability and regulatory compliance as the specified 4-inch option. Similarly, using clay soil, although it may seem like a cost-effective solution, is not appropriate due to its tendency to retain moisture and not provide adequate drainage. Lastly, a 9-inch base of gravel exceeds what's generally necessary, which may unnecessarily increase costs and be impractical for the design of the structure.

6. What is the typical size of rebar used in residential construction?

- A. #2 rebar
- B. #3 rebar
- C. #4 rebar**
- D. #5 rebar

The typical size of rebar used in residential construction is #4 rebar. This size is preferred because it strikes a balance between strength and ease of handling, making it suitable for various applications in foundations, slabs, and walls. #4 rebar, which has a diameter of ½ inch, provides sufficient tensile strength to reinforce concrete and withstand structural loads without excessive weight, making it manageable for residential projects. In the context of residential construction, it is important to use rebar that is both effective for structural integrity and practical for installation. Larger sizes, such as #5 rebar, may be utilized in specific areas that require additional reinforcement, but they tend to be less common in everyday residential applications. Smaller sizes, like #2 and #3 rebar, do not provide enough strength for most residential structural needs. Therefore, #4 rebar is a widely accepted standard, making it the best choice among the options provided.

7. When may an individual be a qualifying person for two corporations?

- A. When both corporations have the same ownership
- B. When at least 25% of each corporation has common ownership and the individual is a managing employee**
- C. When at least 50% of each corporation has common ownership
- D. Never; a person cannot be a qualifying person for two corporations

The correct answer is that an individual may serve as a qualifying person for two corporations when at least 25% of each corporation has common ownership and the individual is a managing employee. This provision facilitates individuals who are deeply involved in the management of multiple businesses, enabling them to leverage their expertise across these entities. The requirement for at least 25% common ownership ensures that there is a sufficient level of interconnection between the corporations for the individual's management role to be relevant. By stipulating that the individual must also be a managing employee, the regulation ensures that the person is actively overseeing operations, thereby affirming that they are capable of representing both corporations in matters requiring a qualifying person. In scenarios where the ownership is less interconnected or where the individual lacks a management role, they would not be eligible to act as a qualifying person for both corporations, emphasizing the importance of ownership percentage and active participation in management.

8. What is the minimum diameter anchor bolt that may be used without a noncorrosive coating?

- A. 1/8 inch
- B. 1/4 inch
- C. 3/8 inch
- D. 1/2 inch**

The minimum diameter anchor bolt that may be used without a noncorrosive coating is 1/2 inch. This size is established based on standards that account for the bolt's ability to withstand environmental factors, including exposure to moisture and other corrosive elements. When anchor bolts are smaller in diameter, they are typically more vulnerable to corrosion and structural weaknesses over time. Using a 1/2 inch diameter bolt minimizes these risks, as larger bolts generally provide greater structural integrity and resistance to corrosion-related failures. This requirement helps ensure that fixtures and structures remain secure over long periods, especially in environments where they may be exposed to the elements. Smaller diameter bolts, on the other hand, are considered less reliable in these conditions, which is why they require special coatings to enhance their durability against corrosion.

9. In what instance is a contractor's emergency repair permissible without a permit?

- A. For cosmetic damages
- B. For repairs that can wait until next week
- C. For immediate structural threats**
- D. For minor electrical issues

A contractor's emergency repair is permissible without a permit specifically in situations involving immediate structural threats. This is because such threats pose significant risks to health and safety and require urgent attention to prevent further damage or accidents. Immediate structural threats may include issues like compromised foundations, collapsing roofs, or situations where a structure is in danger of failing. In these cases, the need for swift action is paramount, and delaying repairs to obtain a permit could exacerbate the hazard. In contrast, cosmetic damages typically do not present an imminent risk and can be postponed until proper permits are acquired. Repairs that can wait until next week also do not qualify as emergencies, as they do not require immediate action. Minor electrical issues, while they may need addressing, usually do not rise to the level of an emergency without further context indicating they create a significant safety hazard. This distinction ensures that urgent situations can be handled promptly, safeguarding both the property and the individuals relying on its structural integrity.

10. Chimney requirements state that the chimney must extend at least 2 feet above any portion of the building within how many feet of the chimney?

- A. 2 feet
- B. 5 feet
- C. 8 feet
- D. 10 feet**

The correct answer indicates that the chimney must extend at least 2 feet above any portion of the building within 10 feet of the chimney. This requirement is set to ensure proper ventilation and prevent the risk of smoke and harmful gases re-entering the building. By having the chimney rise higher than structures within that distance, it helps maintain efficient draft and reduces the likelihood of downdrafts that could occur if the chimney is not sufficiently elevated. The rationale behind the 10-foot measurement is primarily to mitigate the potential impact that nearby structures can have on airflow and chimney performance. Additionally, it addresses safety concerns, ensuring that the flue gases are adequately cleared away from the eaves, roofs, and adjacent buildings. This guideline promotes effective combustion and increases safety for occupants, making it an essential aspect of chimney installation and compliance with building codes.

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://minnesotacontractors.examzify.com>

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

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