

# NASCLA General Contractor Practice Exam (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

- 1. In a partnership dissolution, what is primarily affected?**
  - A. The remaining partners**
  - B. The partnership agreement**
  - C. The business's assets**
  - D. The partnership structure**
- 2. What factor can significantly increase foundation costs?**
  - A. Overburden load**
  - B. Groundwater**
  - C. Soil composition**
  - D. Access to site**
- 3. What should be considered when planning the slope of a parking lot near a building?**
  - A. Drainage**
  - B. Space for landscaping**
  - C. Aesthetics**
  - D. Longevity of the pavement**
- 4. What is the required diameter for a turnaround space for a wheelchair?**
  - A. 48 inches**
  - B. 60 inches**
  - C. 72 inches**
  - D. 54 inches**
- 5. What does a balance sheet represent in financial terms?**
  - A. A detailed account of all transactions**
  - B. A snapshot of financial status**
  - C. A summary of annual revenue**
  - D. A prediction of future profits**

- 6. What is the required distance for a back wall grab bar from the center of the washer door?**
- A. 18 inches**
  - B. 20 inches**
  - C. 24 inches**
  - D. 30 inches**
- 7. When is a retention pond required?**
- A. If 5 acres are cleared**
  - B. If 10 acres are cleared**
  - C. If 15 acres are cleared**
  - D. If 20 acres are cleared**
- 8. Which step comes first in the sequence to finish a concrete slab?**
- A. Final finish**
  - B. Bullfloat**
  - C. Screed**
  - D. Powertrial**
- 9. What does effective cost control help achieve in comparable projects?**
- A. Faster project delivery**
  - B. Reduced labor costs**
  - C. More accurate estimating**
  - D. Improved customer satisfaction**
- 10. What does a bid bond secure?**
- A. Payment for materials**
  - B. Contract compliance**
  - C. Securing the bid amount if the contract is not taken**
  - D. Payment to subcontractors**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

**1. In a partnership dissolution, what is primarily affected?**

- A. The remaining partners**
- B. The partnership agreement**
- C. The business's assets**
- D. The partnership structure**

In the context of a partnership dissolution, the partnership structure is primarily affected because it represents the legal framework that defines how the partnership operates, how decisions are made, and the roles and responsibilities of each partner. When a partnership dissolves, this structure comes to an end, and the business must either cease operations or transform into a different legal entity, such as a sole proprietorship or limited liability company. The dissolution process involves settling accounts, distributing assets among partners, and addressing any liabilities, which ultimately leads to the reformation of how the business is organized moving forward. This change in structure is significant as it affects not only the operational dynamics but also the legal implications for all parties involved. The remaining partners may find themselves needing to adapt to this new reality, but the structural change is the core impact of dissolution. While the partnership agreement may outline the terms and procedures for dissolution, and the business's assets will be involved in the settlement process, the dissolution fundamentally alters how the partnership is organized and functions, making the partnership structure the most directly affected aspect.

**2. What factor can significantly increase foundation costs?**

- A. Overburden load**
- B. Groundwater**
- C. Soil composition**
- D. Access to site**

Groundwater can significantly impact foundation costs primarily due to the additional considerations and adjustments required to manage water during construction. When groundwater is present at or near the foundation level, it can complicate the excavation process and may necessitate dewatering operations. This involves removing water from the construction site to ensure that the work can proceed safely and effectively. If the excavation site is flooded or has a high water table, contractors may need to rent or purchase expensive equipment, implement drainage systems, or modify their construction schedule to work around these conditions. Additionally, these efforts can lead to increased labor costs and extended project timelines, all of which contribute to higher foundation costs. Understanding the implications of groundwater on construction is essential for general contractors, as they must factor this into their bidding and planning processes to ensure that they adequately account for potential additional expenses.

**3. What should be considered when planning the slope of a parking lot near a building?**

- A. Drainage**
- B. Space for landscaping**
- C. Aesthetics**
- D. Longevity of the pavement**

When planning the slope of a parking lot near a building, drainage is the most critical factor to consider because it directly affects water runoff, erosion, and potential flooding issues. Properly sloping the parking lot ensures that rainwater is directed away from the building's foundation, which can help prevent water accumulation that could lead to structural damage or water infiltration into the building. An effective drainage design also minimizes standing water on the pavement, reducing the risk of hazards such as ice formation in colder months and promoting safety for vehicles and pedestrians. Additionally, while factors such as landscaping, aesthetics, and the longevity of the pavement are important in overall site planning, they do not have the same immediate impact on water management and structural integrity as drainage considerations do. Effective drainage planning is foundational in creating a safe, functional, and durable parking lot adjacent to any building.

**4. What is the required diameter for a turnaround space for a wheelchair?**

- A. 48 inches**
- B. 60 inches**
- C. 72 inches**
- D. 54 inches**

The required diameter for a turnaround space for a wheelchair is essential for ensuring that individuals using wheelchairs can maneuver comfortably and safely. The correct requirement is 60 inches in diameter, as this space allows for a wheelchair to make a complete turn without obstruction. This standard is outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines, which emphasize accessibility in public spaces. The 60-inch diameter provides not only the necessary room for the wheelchair but also accommodates for variations in wheelchair design and maneuvering techniques that users may employ. When considering accessibility design, it is crucial to adhere to these measurements to foster inclusion and independence for individuals with mobility challenges. Understanding this standard is fundamental for any contractor working within the realm of public and commercial construction, as compliance with ADA guidelines is often legally mandated.

**5. What does a balance sheet represent in financial terms?**

- A. A detailed account of all transactions**
- B. A snapshot of financial status**
- C. A summary of annual revenue**
- D. A prediction of future profits**

A balance sheet serves as a snapshot of an organization's financial status at a specific point in time. It summarizes the assets, liabilities, and equity of a company, providing critical information about what the company owns and owes. This visual representation allows stakeholders to evaluate the company's capital structure, liquidity, and overall financial health quickly. The balance sheet differs from other financial documents by focusing on the present financial position rather than historical performance or future projections. It does not detail past transactions or provide income data, which are found in other financial statements like the income statement. By presenting the relationship between assets and liabilities, the balance sheet helps assess the company's ability to meet its short-term obligations and its overall leverage, making it a vital tool for investors, creditors, and management.

**6. What is the required distance for a back wall grab bar from the center of the washer door?**

- A. 18 inches**
- B. 20 inches**
- C. 24 inches**
- D. 30 inches**

The correct distance for a back wall grab bar from the center of the washer door is 24 inches. This requirement is based on accessibility standards outlined in building guidelines and regulations, which aim to ensure safety and ease of use for individuals with disabilities. Placing the grab bar 24 inches from the center of the washer door provides enough space for the user to access the washer comfortably while maintaining support to assist with stability. This distance minimizes the risk of injury by ensuring that the grab bar can be used effectively without being too close to the potential obstruction of the washer door opening. Understanding these guidelines is essential for compliance with accessibility standards, ensuring that installations are safe and functional for all users.

## 7. When is a retention pond required?

- A. If 5 acres are cleared
- B. If 10 acres are cleared**
- C. If 15 acres are cleared
- D. If 20 acres are cleared

A retention pond is typically required when a specified amount of land is disturbed, particularly in relation to development projects, to manage stormwater runoff and protect the environment from erosion and pollution. In many jurisdictions, the threshold for requiring a retention pond is often set at 10 acres of cleared land. This requirement helps ensure that the increased flow of stormwater resulting from land development is effectively managed. By having retention ponds in place, developers can capture and slow down stormwater runoff, allowing sedimentation and filtration to occur, which reduces the risk of flooding and sediment transport to nearby water bodies. The answer reflects regulatory standards that recognize the environmental impact of land clearing and indicate that at 10 acres, the responsibility for managing such impacts becomes significant enough to necessitate the construction of retention ponds. This practice is crucial for sustainable development and environmental protection, making the correct answer aligned with commonly applicable regulations in many areas.

## 8. Which step comes first in the sequence to finish a concrete slab?

- A. Final finish
- B. Bullfloat
- C. Screed**
- D. Powertrial

The first step in finishing a concrete slab is the screeding process. During screeding, workers use a tool, often a long board or a screed bar, to level the surface of the freshly poured concrete and remove excess material. This step ensures that the concrete is uniformly distributed and at the correct height according to the desired specifications. Screeding is crucial because it establishes a flat and even surface, which allows for proper finishing in subsequent steps. Achieving a level base is essential for the overall integrity of the slab, as it affects drainage, aesthetics, and the final quality of the concrete. After the screeding is complete, other finishing processes like bullfloating, the final finish, and power troweling can occur, but they all rely on having a properly prepared base from the screeding stage.

**9. What does effective cost control help achieve in comparable projects?**

- A. Faster project delivery**
- B. Reduced labor costs**
- C. More accurate estimating**
- D. Improved customer satisfaction**

Effective cost control plays a crucial role in achieving more accurate estimating in comparable projects. By closely monitoring and managing costs throughout the project lifecycle, project managers can gather valuable data on actual expenditures versus budgeted amounts. This data helps in refining the estimating process for future projects by enabling the identification of cost trends, potential overruns, and the accuracy of resource allocations. Accurate estimating is essential for project success, allowing contractors to create precise budgets that reflect realistic labor, materials, and overhead costs. When historical data from past projects is utilized to inform future estimates, it leads to better planning and resource allocation, which can help prevent issues such as budget overruns and project delays. In addition, by fostering a disciplined approach to cost management, project teams can also implement strategies to improve efficiency and productivity, which further enhances the accuracy of future estimates. All of these elements combined ensure that projects remain financially viable and that stakeholders have a clearer understanding of the financial implications of their decisions.

**10. What does a bid bond secure?**

- A. Payment for materials**
- B. Contract compliance**
- C. Securing the bid amount if the contract is not taken**
- D. Payment to subcontractors**

A bid bond is a type of surety bond provided by a bidder during the bidding process of a construction contract. It serves as a guarantee that the bidder, if awarded the contract, will enter into the contract at the bid price and will also provide the required performance bond and insurance. Specifically, the bid bond secures the bid amount in the event that the bidder does not proceed with the contract after being awarded it. This means that if a contractor fails to sign the contract or refuses to fulfill their obligations after winning the bid, the surety company that issued the bond will compensate the project owner for the difference between the winning bid and the bid of the next lowest bidder, up to the amount of the bond. Thus, it essentially protects the owner from any financial loss due to a potential default by the contractor on the bid. In this context, the option about securing the bid amount if the contract is not taken accurately describes the primary function of a bid bond, highlighting its importance in the construction bidding process.

## 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://nasclegeneralcontractor.examzify.com>**

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