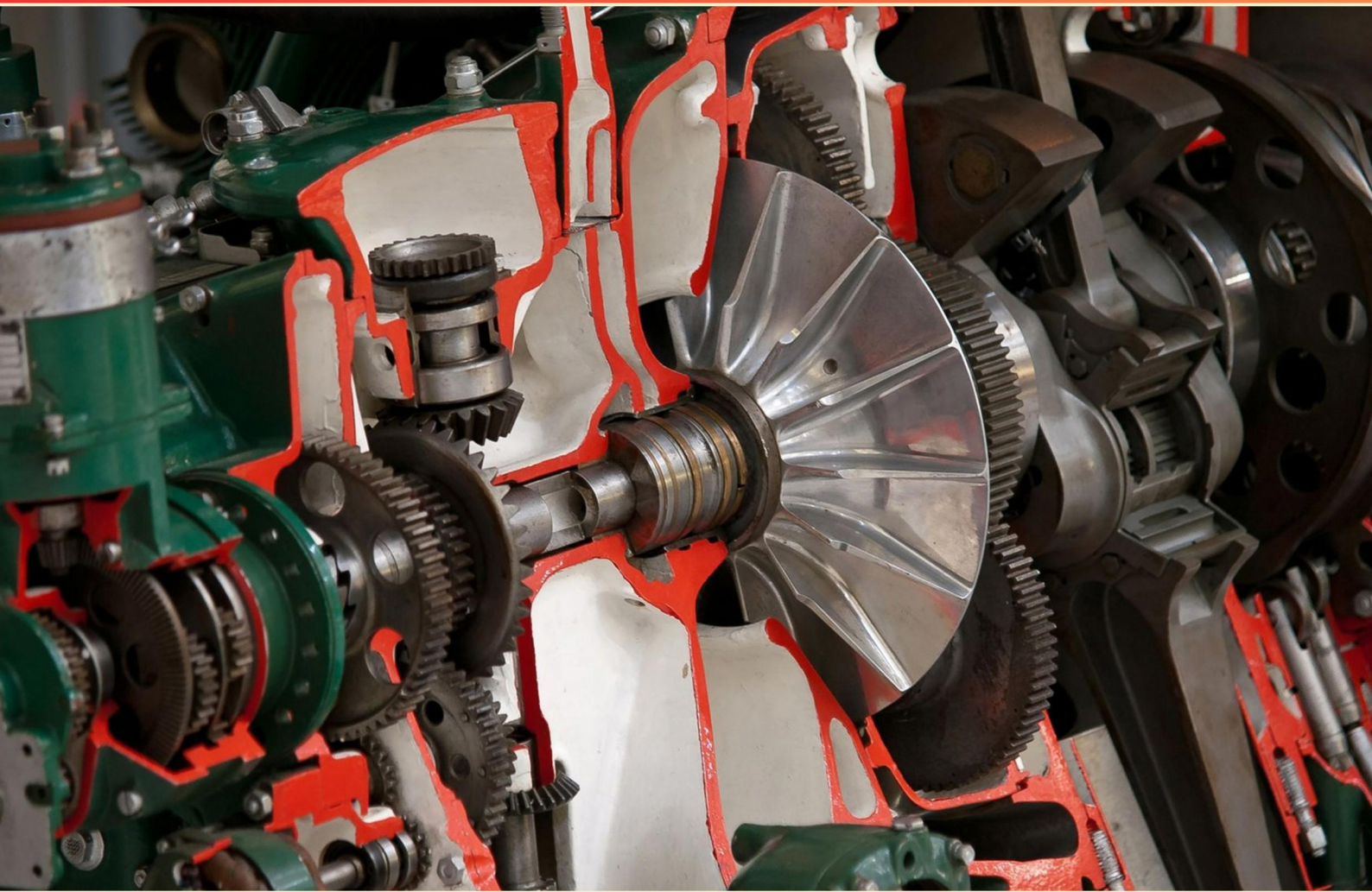


NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EXAMINERS FOR ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING (NCEES) FUNDAMENTALS OF ENGINEERING (FE) ETHICS PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

**VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

<https://ncees-fe-ethics.examzify.com>



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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. In what situation is it unethical for a professional engineer to cut consortium members from a project?**
 - A. When the owner is fully informed before the decision
 - B. When the consortium is not fully qualified to perform all tasks
 - C. When it impacts the project scheduling
 - D. When the change could raise costs
- 2. What should project managers ensure regarding team roles for an ethical work environment?**
 - A. Roles are flexible, and any team member can lead
 - B. Each role should be clearly defined and responsible leaders should oversee their design segments
 - C. Design teams should operate independently without supervision
 - D. Project managers should take on all oversight responsibilities
- 3. Which payment method works best when the scope of services cannot be determined accurately?**
 - A. Fixed price
 - B. Cost plus fixed fee
 - C. Lump-sum fee
 - D. Unit price
- 4. What is a fundamental duty of engineers regarding communicating risks to clients?**
 - A. To provide a complete detailed report only during project completion
 - B. To avoid mentioning risks to ensure client confidence
 - C. To thoroughly explain the risks involved in decisions
 - D. To assume clients are aware of the potential risks
- 5. What occurs when one of the parties fails to satisfy all of its obligations under a contract?**
 - A. Breach of contract
 - B. Material breach
 - C. Negligence
 - D. Tort

- 6. If an engineer is pressured to hire a government official's relative to secure a contract, what is the most ethical action to take?**
- A. Inform the official that their request is unacceptable
 - B. Agree to the arrangement to secure the contract
 - C. Report the official's request to the authorities
 - D. Wait to see if the company is awarded the contract without hiring the relative
- 7. Why is it essential for engineers to address public concerns constructively?**
- A. To divert attention from their work
 - B. Because public perception impacts the profession's reputation
 - C. To avoid criticism
 - D. Because it is required by law
- 8. What is required for a newly licensed professional engineer to accept a consulting project in a new area?**
- A. They must have a license that has never lapsed
 - B. They should attend annual meetings regularly
 - C. They must be competent in the new area
 - D. They should request mentorship from an experienced engineer
- 9. Which clause affects the recoverability of attorney's fees and court costs in a lawsuit?**
- A. Cost plus fixed fee
 - B. Prevailing party clause
 - C. Force majeure clause
 - D. Notice of claim clause
- 10. How can engineers demonstrate their commitment to integrity?**
- A. By often bending the rules for better outcomes
 - B. By being transparent in their decision-making process
 - C. By competing aggressively with peers
 - D. By accumulating various certifications

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. In what situation is it unethical for a professional engineer to cut consortium members from a project?

- A. When the owner is fully informed before the decision
- B. When the consortium is not fully qualified to perform all tasks**
- C. When it impacts the project scheduling
- D. When the change could raise costs

The correct choice highlights the ethical considerations surrounding the qualifications and capabilities of consortium members in a project. A professional engineer has a responsibility to ensure that all parties involved in a project are competent and able to fulfill their roles effectively. If a consortium is not fully qualified to perform all tasks required by the project, it raises serious ethical concerns about the quality and safety of the work being done. Cutting members who lack the necessary skills or qualifications could jeopardize the project's integrity, as the remaining members may be unable to compensate for the shortcomings of those removed. This situation can lead to inadequate project performance, increased risks, and potentially unsafe conditions, which are contradictory to the ethical obligations of engineers to protect public health, safety, and welfare. While factors like informing the owner or schedule impacts may have practical implications, they do not address the fundamental ethical obligation to ensure that all consortium members are adequately qualified. Similarly, while changes that could raise costs are important to consider, they do not directly relate to the competence of the members involved in the consortium. Hence, the ethical foundation rests on the qualifications of the team members rather than on organizational or financial issues.

2. What should project managers ensure regarding team roles for an ethical work environment?

- A. Roles are flexible, and any team member can lead
- B. Each role should be clearly defined and responsible leaders should oversee their design segments**
- C. Design teams should operate independently without supervision
- D. Project managers should take on all oversight responsibilities

In fostering an ethical work environment, it is crucial for project managers to ensure that each role within the team is clearly defined and that responsible leaders oversee their designated segments. This clarity in roles promotes accountability, as team members understand their specific responsibilities and expectations. When individuals have designated roles, it minimizes confusion and helps to establish a structure that can lead to better collaboration and communication. Clearly defined roles also facilitate ethical decision-making, as leaders are equipped with the authority and responsibility to make informed choices that align with the project's objectives and ethical standards. Accountability becomes embedded in the team's operations, which is fundamental in an ethical workplace where integrity and responsibility are prioritized. Having a well-structured team with defined roles helps in addressing conflicts, resolving issues efficiently, and supporting team members in adhering to ethical standards. It allows for transparency in the decision-making process and ensures that all team members are aware of how their work contributes to the overall goals of the project.

3. Which payment method works best when the scope of services cannot be determined accurately?

- A. Fixed price
- B. Cost plus fixed fee**
- C. Lump-sum fee
- D. Unit price

The choice of a cost plus fixed fee payment method is particularly effective when the scope of services cannot be accurately determined. This method involves paying the contractor for actual costs incurred plus a fixed fee for their services, which provides flexibility in situations where project requirements may change or aren't fully defined at the outset. When the project scope is uncertain, fixed price agreements can lead to disputes and claims, as the contractor may either underbid to secure the project or encounter unforeseen expenses, necessitating renegotiation. A lump-sum fee similarly locks the contractor into a specific amount regardless of the actual costs incurred, which can be problematic when the scope is not clearly defined. Unit price contracts, while useful in specifying rates for quantifiable work, may not adequately address unpredictable aspects where the total quantities are unknown. In contrast, the cost plus fixed fee structure allows for adaptability in managing unforeseen changes and expenditures while ensuring that the contractor is compensated fairly for their actual costs and an agreed-upon service fee, which provides security for both parties involved.

4. What is a fundamental duty of engineers regarding communicating risks to clients?

- A. To provide a complete detailed report only during project completion
- B. To avoid mentioning risks to ensure client confidence
- C. To thoroughly explain the risks involved in decisions**
- D. To assume clients are aware of the potential risks

Thoroughly explaining the risks involved in decisions is a fundamental duty of engineers because it aligns with the ethical responsibility to ensure that clients are fully informed about the potential consequences of their choices. Effective communication of risks enables clients to make educated decisions and take appropriate actions concerning safety, costs, and project outcomes. This practice not only enhances transparency but also fosters trust between engineers and clients, which is critical for maintaining professional integrity and accountability in engineering practice. Engineers are obligated to prioritize public safety, welfare, and health, and failing to adequately communicate risks could result in misguided decision-making that may affect people and the environment negatively. Therefore, it is essential for engineers to provide clear and comprehensive explanations of all relevant risks as part of their professional duties, supporting informed decision-making and promoting ethical standards within the profession.

5. What occurs when one of the parties fails to satisfy all of its obligations under a contract?

A. Breach of contract

B. Material breach

C. Negligence

D. Tort

When one of the parties fails to satisfy all of its obligations under a contract, this situation is defined as a breach of contract. A breach of contract occurs when either party does not fulfill their contractual duties, which can include failure to perform as promised, not delivering goods or services, or not paying as agreed. Breach of contract is a fundamental concept in contract law, and it signifies that the agreed terms have not been met, which can lead to legal ramifications and possible remedies for the non-breaching party. Understanding this term is crucial because it provides insight into the legal implications and potential consequences of failing to follow through on a contractual agreement. This can include damage claims or specific performance requirements. While terms like material breach, negligence, and tort are relevant in legal contexts, they have different meanings. A material breach refers specifically to a significant failure that undermines the contract's purpose, while negligence relates to a failure to exercise reasonable care, and torts refer to wrongful acts leading to civil legal liability. Each of these terms has its own implications and contexts where they apply, but the general breach of contract encompasses any failure to meet contractual obligations.

6. If an engineer is pressured to hire a government official's relative to secure a contract, what is the most ethical action to take?

A. Inform the official that their request is unacceptable

B. Agree to the arrangement to secure the contract

C. Report the official's request to the authorities

D. Wait to see if the company is awarded the contract without hiring the relative

The most ethical action in this situation is to inform the official that their request is unacceptable. This choice aligns with the principles of integrity and professionalism that are fundamental to the engineering profession. Hiring a relative of a government official as a means to secure a contract can be viewed as a form of unethical conduct, potentially involving nepotism or bribery. By addressing the request directly, the engineer demonstrates a commitment to ethical standards and transparency, upholding the integrity of both their practice and the engineering profession as a whole. This approach not only reinforces the ethical obligations that engineers have to maintain fairness in procurement processes but also helps to safeguard the engineer's reputation and that of their employer. Additionally, confronting the official about the request serves as a proactive step toward discouraging unethical practices in contracting, reinforcing the value of ethical decision-making in professional environments.

7. Why is it essential for engineers to address public concerns constructively?

- A. To divert attention from their work
- B. Because public perception impacts the profession's reputation**
- C. To avoid criticism
- D. Because it is required by law

Engineers play a critical role in society, as their work can significantly impact public safety, health, and welfare. Addressing public concerns constructively is essential because public perception has a direct influence on the reputation of the engineering profession as a whole. Positive engagement with the public helps build trust, fosters a greater understanding of engineering work, and can lead to improved collaborations between engineers and the communities they serve. This proactive approach not only enhances the credibility of individual engineers but also strengthens the overall integrity and public image of the engineering field. While other choices may highlight aspects of public interaction, they do not capture the broader implications of how constructive engagement can enhance the social license to operate for engineers and the profession at large.

8. What is required for a newly licensed professional engineer to accept a consulting project in a new area?

- A. They must have a license that has never lapsed
- B. They should attend annual meetings regularly
- C. They must be competent in the new area**
- D. They should request mentorship from an experienced engineer

For a newly licensed professional engineer to accept a consulting project in a new area, it is essential that they must be competent in that new area. Competence implies having the necessary knowledge, skills, and experience to ensure that the work is performed in a safe, effective, and ethical manner. This is a fundamental principle in engineering ethics, which emphasizes the responsibility of engineers to uphold standards of practice and to only engage in work for which they are qualified. Accepting a project without the requisite competence can lead to inadequate solutions, safety hazards, and potential liability issues. Therefore, engineers have an ethical obligation to assess their capabilities and ensure they have the proper understanding and expertise before engaging in new areas of work. This competence is vital not just for protecting the engineer's professional integrity, but also for safeguarding public welfare and trust in the engineering profession.

9. Which clause affects the recoverability of attorney's fees and court costs in a lawsuit?

- A. Cost plus fixed fee
- B. Prevailing party clause**
- C. Force majeure clause
- D. Notice of claim clause

The prevailing party clause is significant in determining whether a party in a lawsuit can recover attorney's fees and court costs. This clause typically stipulates that the party who wins the case (the prevailing party) is entitled to be reimbursed for the legal expenses incurred during the litigation. This incentivizes parties to pursue or defend claims with the knowledge that they may not bear the full financial burden of legal proceedings if they prevail. The presence of a prevailing party clause can influence the behavior of parties engaged in legal disputes, potentially encouraging settlement negotiations and discouraging frivolous lawsuits. Without such a clause, each party might have to absorb their own legal fees regardless of the outcome, which could lead to inequities in cases where one party is clearly in the right. The other options, while relevant to various aspects of contracts and legal situations, do not address the specific recoverability of attorney's fees and court costs. For example, a cost plus fixed fee arrangement pertains to compensation structures in contracts but does not inherently allow for fee recovery in lawsuits. The force majeure clause deals with unforeseeable circumstances impacting contract performance, and the notice of claim clause typically requires a party to notify others of a potential claim, which is procedural rather than directly tied to the recovery of legal fees

10. How can engineers demonstrate their commitment to integrity?

- A. By often bending the rules for better outcomes
- B. By being transparent in their decision-making process**
- C. By competing aggressively with peers
- D. By accumulating various certifications

Demonstrating a commitment to integrity is essential for engineers as it establishes trust and credibility in their professional practice. Being transparent in decision-making means openly sharing the rationale behind choices, methodologies, and expected outcomes with all relevant stakeholders. This transparency fosters an environment of accountability, where others can understand the basis for decisions and trust that they are made ethically and with the public's best interest in mind. When engineers communicate openly, they not only uphold ethical standards but also encourage positive collaboration and cooperation among colleagues, clients, and the community. Transparency allows for scrutiny and feedback, which can lead to improved practices and ultimately better engineering solutions. The other options do not align with the principles of integrity. Bending the rules might lead to short-term gains but undermines ethical standards. Competing aggressively could foster a cutthroat environment rather than a collaborative one, and merely accumulating certifications does not guarantee ethical behavior or demonstrate an engineer's commitment to integrity. Thus, being transparent is the strongest way to show dedication to ethical practices in engineering.

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://ncees-fe-ethics.examzify.com>

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

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