

NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE (NEC) ARTICLE 100 PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



Prepare with structure. Pass with confidence



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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 term describes equipment that has been evaluated and marked by an organization with periodic inspections?**
 - A. Listed
 - B. Approved
 - C. Certified
 - D. Registered
- 2. What is the term for an electrical circuit that controls another circuit through a relay or similar device?**
 - A. Remote-control circuit
 - B. Service circuit
 - C. Control circuit
 - D. Relay circuit
- 3. What term describes a structure that prevents accidental contact with energized parts?**
 - A. Container
 - B. Barrier
 - C. Enclosure
 - D. Shielding
- 4. What does 'enclosed' imply in relation to electrical installations?**
 - A. It is secured within a protective casing
 - B. It is hidden from plain sight
 - C. It is left accessible for maintenance
 - D. It is subjected to elements
- 5. What type of switch allows safe operation of electrical equipment by isolating the power source?**
 - A. General-use switch
 - B. Isolating switch
 - C. Transfer switch
 - D. Motor circuit switch

- 6. What does 'raintight' mean in relation to electrical equipment?**
- A. Protected against humidity
 - B. Protected against heavy rain
 - C. Protected from dust ingress
 - D. Protected from electrical surges
- 7. Which of the following describes a "feeder" in electrical distribution?**
- A. A circuit that connects the service equipment to the branch circuits
 - B. A circuit that is primarily for lighting
 - C. A protective device for switching
 - D. A load management system
- 8. What is the term for the permanent joining of metallic parts to form an electrically conductive path?**
- A. Grounding
 - B. Bonding
 - C. Wiring
 - D. Conductivity
- 9. Which is a key characteristic of a branch circuit?**
- A. It always contains dedicated circuits
 - B. It is designed to prevent overloads
 - C. It includes supply from the electrical service panel
 - D. It must supply only residential outlets
- 10. What does it mean if parts are described as 'exposed' in an electrical context?**
- A. They are accessible for maintenance
 - B. They are insulated for safety
 - C. They can be inadvertently touched
 - D. They are sealed from environmental factors

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What term describes equipment that has been evaluated and marked by an organization with periodic inspections?

- A. Listed**
- B. Approved
- C. Certified
- D. Registered

The term "Listed" specifically refers to equipment that has been evaluated by a recognized testing laboratory and marked accordingly, indicating that it meets established safety standards. This marking indicates that the equipment has undergone thorough testing and inspection, confirming it complies with the relevant regulations. The process not only includes an initial evaluation but also necessitates ongoing inspections to ensure continued compliance with safety standards throughout its lifecycle. In comparison to the other terms, "Approved" generally implies endorsement or acceptance but does not inherently include the rigorous evaluation and periodic inspection that are characteristic of being "Listed." "Certified" often suggests that a product meets specific standards or qualifications but may not carry the same connotation of periodic inspection by a recognized authority. "Registered" typically denotes that a product has been officially recorded or documented but does not imply evaluation or compliance testing in the way that being "Listed" does. Thus, "Listed" is the most accurate term that encompasses the thorough evaluation and ongoing inspections of equipment by a reputable organization.

2. What is the term for an electrical circuit that controls another circuit through a relay or similar device?

- A. Remote-control circuit**
- B. Service circuit
- C. Control circuit
- D. Relay circuit

The correct term for an electrical circuit that controls another circuit through a relay or similar device is known as a control circuit. This type of circuit is specifically designed to manage the operation of another circuit, often utilizing devices like relays, contactors, or timers to turn the controlled circuit on or off as needed. Control circuits are integral in various applications, allowing for automation and remote operation of equipment. They work by sending signals to a relay, which then activates the main circuit. This arrangement helps in safely managing higher voltage or higher power loads by keeping the control aspect separate and often at lower voltage. While a remote-control circuit refers to circuits that are manipulated from a distance, it doesn't specifically imply the presence of a relay or similar device. A service circuit typically refers to circuits that supply power to various electrical items within a premise, which doesn't capture the essence of controlling another circuit. A relay circuit may indicate a circuit where a relay is used, but it doesn't encompass all types of devices that perform the control function. Consequently, understanding the function of a control circuit is crucial for effectively utilizing and implementing electrical systems, particularly when automation or control functions are required.

3. What term describes a structure that prevents accidental contact with energized parts?

- A. Container
- B. Barrier
- C. Enclosure**
- D. Shielding

The term that best describes a structure designed to prevent accidental contact with energized parts is "enclosure." An enclosure is specifically engineered to provide physical protection, ensuring that individuals cannot inadvertently touch live electrical components. This is crucial for safety in electrical installations, as it helps mitigate the risk of electric shock or other hazardous encounters with energized equipment. Enclosures are commonly used in a variety of settings, including electrical panels, junction boxes, and outdoor electrical equipment, to safeguard against environmental factors as well as human interaction. They are constructed from durable materials that not only shield the energized parts but also maintain proper performance under specific conditions. The other terms do not accurately capture the same meaning as "enclosure." For instance, while barriers can restrict access, they do not necessarily provide the level of protection needed against accidental contact with energized parts. Similarly, shielding refers more to reducing electromagnetic interference rather than preventing contact, and a container primarily holds items rather than providing protection from electric shock. Consequently, the term "enclosure" is most appropriate in the context of electrical safety and compliance with the National Electrical Code.

4. What does 'enclosed' imply in relation to electrical installations?

- A. It is secured within a protective casing**
- B. It is hidden from plain sight
- C. It is left accessible for maintenance
- D. It is subjected to elements

The term 'enclosed' in the context of electrical installations refers specifically to the concept of being secured within a protective casing. This means that electrical equipment or wiring is housed within a structure that provides physical barriers against dust, moisture, and accidental contact, which helps ensure both safety and longevity of the equipment. A protective casing serves the essential function of guarding electrical components, preventing unauthorized access, and minimizing the risk of electrical shock or short circuits. This is vital for maintaining safe operations, especially in environments where equipment may be exposed to external factors that could pose a hazard. The other interpretations, such as being hidden from plain sight, left accessible for maintenance, or subjected to elements, do not capture the core meaning of 'enclosed' as defined in electrical contexts. An enclosed installation does not imply that it must be out of view nor that it must be physically accessible; rather, its primary characteristic is its protective enclosure.

5. What type of switch allows safe operation of electrical equipment by isolating the power source?

- A. General-use switch
- B. Isolating switch**
- C. Transfer switch
- D. Motor circuit switch

The isolating switch is specifically designed to safely disconnect electrical equipment from its power source. This type of switch ensures that there is no electrical energy present, making it safe for maintenance or repair work. It provides a reliable means of isolating circuits to prevent accidental energization and is typically used in industrial and commercial applications where safety is paramount. Isolating switches are often used in conjunction with other safety devices to ensure that circuits can be safely de-energized and worked on. They must meet specific design and performance standards to ensure that they can reliably interrupt the supply of power without risking exposure to live parts. Other types of switches, like the general-use switch, are often intended for everyday applications, such as turning lights on and off, and may not meet the stringent safety requirements needed for isolating electrical equipment. Transfer switches are used to switch between different power sources, such as from utility power to generator power and are not primarily designed for isolation. Motor circuit switches are intended specifically for controlling motors and may not provide the same level of safety in terms of complete disconnection from the power source.

6. What does 'raintight' mean in relation to electrical equipment?

- A. Protected against humidity
- B. Protected against heavy rain**
- C. Protected from dust ingress
- D. Protected from electrical surges

The term 'raintight' specifically refers to electrical equipment that is designed to prevent the ingress of water in the form of rain. This means that the equipment is constructed in such a way that it can withstand direct exposure to heavy rain without allowing water to penetrate into its internal components. This feature is essential for outdoor installations or in environments where electrical equipment may be exposed to wet conditions. Ensuring that electrical equipment is raintight helps to prevent moisture-related issues such as short circuits, corrosion, and ultimately equipment failure, which could pose safety risks. While protection against humidity, dust ingress, and electrical surges are all important aspects of electrical safety and equipment longevity, they do not specifically align with the definition of 'raintight.' Thus, recognizing the precise meaning of 'raintight' as it pertains to heavy rain exposure clarifies why this is the correct interpretation of the term.

7. Which of the following describes a "feeder" in electrical distribution?

A. A circuit that connects the service equipment to the branch circuits

B. A circuit that is primarily for lighting

C. A protective device for switching

D. A load management system

A "feeder" in electrical distribution refers to a circuit that connects the service equipment, such as a main panel or switchgear, to the branch circuits that supply power to individual outlets, lighting fixtures, and appliances. This definition emphasizes the feeder's role as an intermediary that carries electrical power from the service equipment to various branch circuits throughout a building or facility. The feeder is essential in ensuring that electrical distribution is organized and that power is effectively managed as it reaches the end users. It typically handles a higher load than branch circuits because it serves multiple circuits downstream. The distinction of the feeder is that it does not directly supply power to end-use devices; instead, it acts as a distribution backbone within the electrical system. Other options describe different components or systems that do not align with the specific definition of a feeder. For instance, a circuit that is primarily for lighting refers to branch circuits rather than feeders, while a protective device for switching does not relate to feeders but rather to circuit protection and control. A load management system involves techniques and tools to monitor and adjust electrical loads, which is also outside the scope of what a feeder is.

8. What is the term for the permanent joining of metallic parts to form an electrically conductive path?

A. Grounding

B. Bonding

C. Wiring

D. Conductivity

The term that describes the permanent joining of metallic parts to create an electrically conductive path is bonding. Bonding is essential in electrical systems as it ensures that different conductive parts are interconnected to maintain a low-resistance path, which helps in preventing shock hazards and minimizing the risk of potential differences that could lead to equipment failure or malfunction. In electrical installations, bonding helps to equalize the electrical potential between conductive components, reducing the risk of electric shock to individuals and ensuring safe operation of electrical equipment. This practice is critical in enhancing the overall safety of electrical installations and ensuring compliance with the National Electrical Code (NEC) standards. Grounding, for instance, involves connecting electrical systems to the earth for safety and protection against lightning and other surges. Wiring refers to the actual installation of electrical cables and conductors in a system, while conductivity pertains to the ability of a material to conduct electric current. While these terms are related to electrical work, they each define different concepts and practices.

9. Which is a key characteristic of a branch circuit?

- A. It always contains dedicated circuits
- B. It is designed to prevent overloads
- C. It includes supply from the electrical service panel**
- D. It must supply only residential outlets

A branch circuit is defined as the portion of an electrical distribution system that extends from the final overcurrent device (like a circuit breaker or fuse) to the electrical outlets or devices. The supply of electricity from the electrical service panel is a fundamental characteristic of a branch circuit; it indicates where the circuit receives its power. This relationship underscores that branch circuits are the final components of the overall electrical system that deliver power to devices or outlets, making the supply connection to the electrical service panel essential for their operation. Other characteristics may apply to branch circuits, but the connection to the service panel is foundational, as without it, the branch circuit would not function.

10. What does it mean if parts are described as 'exposed' in an electrical context?

- A. They are accessible for maintenance
- B. They are insulated for safety
- C. They can be inadvertently touched**
- D. They are sealed from environmental factors

In the context of electrical installations, when parts are described as "exposed," it refers specifically to their ability to be inadvertently touched. This means that these components are not covered or shielded in a way that would prevent accidental contact, which can pose safety hazards. Exposed parts are typically those that are unshielded conductors, terminals, or other conductive materials that can come into direct contact with people or conductive objects. Understanding the implication of exposed parts is crucial for ensuring electrical safety and compliance with the National Electrical Code (NEC). It emphasizes the need for adequate encasements, barriers, or safety measures to minimize the risk of electric shock or injury. This awareness promotes safer design practices and informs maintenance procedures where such parts are present. Other options provided in the question do not align with the specific definition of "exposed" in the electrical context. For instance, parts that are accessible for maintenance generally do not imply safety concerns regarding touch, while insulated parts are designed specifically to prevent contact with conductive materials. Sealed parts, on the other hand, are protected from environmental factors but are not inherently related to touchability.

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://necarticle100.examzify.com>

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

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