

NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE (NEC) ARTICLE 230 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. What is required for an accessible service disconnect according to NEC Article 230?**
 - A. It can be installed in a basement
 - B. It must be within sight of the service entrance
 - C. It should be locked for safety
 - D. It can be located anywhere within the building
- 2. What is the purpose of Article 230 in the NEC?**
 - A. To define wiring methods for residential applications
 - B. To provide requirements for the supply of electric service to buildings and other structures
 - C. To establish safety protocols for electrical installations
 - D. To regulate the installation of renewable energy systems
- 3. What is the rule for conducting service drop clearances over residential driveways?**
 - A. Minimum clearance of 10 feet
 - B. Minimum clearance of 12 feet
 - C. Minimum clearance of 15 feet
 - D. Minimum clearance of 20 feet
- 4. What must be done if there are alterations or additions to a service?**
 - A. A visual inspection is sufficient
 - B. A reevaluation of the load and service capacity must be completed according to NEC rules
 - C. Only cosmetic upgrades are necessary
 - D. No changes are needed
- 5. What must all metal housings and service enclosures be according to the connection requirements on the supply side of the service disconnecting means?**
 - A. Double-insulated
 - B. Grounded and bonded
 - C. Insulated with PVC
 - D. Water-resistant

- 6. What is a main bonding jumper?**
- A. A disconnect switch for main service equipment
 - B. A conductor that connects the grounded (neutral) conductor to the ground at the service equipment
 - C. A type of circuit breaker found in service panels
 - D. An electrode system for grounding
- 7. When a set of 120/240V overhead service conductors terminates at an approved support, what is the minimum clearance required above the roof for these conductors?**
- A. 12 in
 - B. 18 in
 - C. 24 in
 - D. 30 in
- 8. What is the requirement for the clearance of overhead service conductors?**
- A. At least 6 feet above ground
 - B. At least 8 feet above ground
 - C. Minimum clearances vary by location but generally must be at least 10 feet above ground
 - D. There is no specific clearance requirement
- 9. In addition to safety, what is another primary focus of Article 230?**
- A. Cost efficiency in electrical installations
 - B. Ease of installation for various systems
 - C. Reliability of the supply of electric service
 - D. Compatibility with renewable energy sources
- 10. What document gives authority for interpretations of the NEC?**
- A. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI).
 - B. The International Code Council (ICC).
 - C. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is responsible for code development.
 - D. The National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA).

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is required for an accessible service disconnect according to NEC Article 230?

- A. It can be installed in a basement
- B. It must be within sight of the service entrance**
- C. It should be locked for safety
- D. It can be located anywhere within the building

An accessible service disconnect must be within sight of the service entrance to comply with NEC requirements. This provision ensures that the disconnecting means can be easily located and accessed for emergency situations or maintenance activities. The requirement promotes safety by allowing individuals to quickly disconnect the service without having to search for the disconnecting means, which could delay responding to emergencies, especially if there is a risk of electric shock or fire. While other options suggest potential locations or conditions for the service disconnect, they do not meet the specific requirement set forth in the NEC. For example, while a disconnect in a basement might be accessible depending on layout, it does not typically allow for immediate visibility from the service entrance. Locking the disconnect may enhance safety in certain contexts, but it does not address the visibility aspect which is crucial for compliance. Lastly, stating that it can be located anywhere within the building fails to adhere to the necessity of proximity and visibility to the service entrance, which is critical for effective safety measures.

2. What is the purpose of Article 230 in the NEC?

- A. To define wiring methods for residential applications
- B. To provide requirements for the supply of electric service to buildings and other structures**
- C. To establish safety protocols for electrical installations
- D. To regulate the installation of renewable energy systems

The purpose of Article 230 in the National Electrical Code (NEC) is to provide requirements for the supply of electric service to buildings and other structures. Article 230 outlines the specifications for the electrical service entrance, including the service conductors, equipment, and connection methods that ensure the safe and reliable delivery of electricity into a facility. This includes details about service drop or lateral connections, service equipment, and the necessary protective measures to ensure that the service is provided safely and effectively. This article plays a crucial role in ensuring that structures are equipped to handle the electrical load safely while complying with established safety standards. It addresses various aspects of service installations required to prevent hazards and ensure operational efficiency in supplying power to homes and commercial buildings. Each requirement is designed to protect both the property and the individuals using the electrical systems.

3. What is the rule for conducting service drop clearances over residential driveways?

- A. Minimum clearance of 10 feet
- B. Minimum clearance of 12 feet
- C. Minimum clearance of 15 feet**
- D. Minimum clearance of 20 feet

The rule stipulating a minimum clearance of 15 feet for service drops over residential driveways is rooted in safety considerations. This specific height requirement helps to ensure that vehicles, including taller ones such as trucks or vans, can pass underneath without risking contact with the overhead conductors. A clearance of 15 feet is sufficient to prevent accidental contact that could lead to electrical hazards, ensuring both the safety of vehicle occupants and the integrity of the service drop. In settings like residential areas, where various types of vehicles frequent driveways, maintaining this clearance helps minimize the risk of electrocution or power outages caused by physical interference with the electrical lines. This regulation supports safe practices in residential areas and is consistent with the guidelines set forth in the National Electrical Code (NEC) to promote public safety.

4. What must be done if there are alterations or additions to a service?

- A. A visual inspection is sufficient
- B. A reevaluation of the load and service capacity must be completed according to NEC rules**
- C. Only cosmetic upgrades are necessary
- D. No changes are needed

When alterations or additions are made to an electrical service, a reevaluation of the load and service capacity is essential. This process ensures that the electrical system can safely handle the new demands placed on it after the modifications. The National Electrical Code (NEC) stipulates this requirement to promote safety and performance in electrical installations. Evaluating the load involves assessing the total electrical load that will be served by the service and confirming that the service can handle it without exceeding the capacity. This prevents potential hazards such as overload, overheating, or electrical fires due to inadequate service sizing. Simply conducting a visual inspection would not be sufficient, as it could overlook critical factors such as the changes in load demand and protective measures. Cosmetic upgrades, while they may enhance the aesthetic aspects of the service, do not address the fundamental requirements involving safety and compliance with electrical code standards. Lastly, stating that no changes are needed disregards the principle that any alterations can significantly impact the functionality and safety of an electrical service system. Thus, proper evaluation is necessary to ensure continued compliance and safety.

5. What must all metal housings and service enclosures be according to the connection requirements on the supply side of the service disconnecting means?

- A. Double-insulated
- B. Grounded and bonded**
- C. Insulated with PVC
- D. Water-resistant

All metal housings and service enclosures must be grounded and bonded according to the connection requirements on the supply side of the service disconnecting means. This requirement ensures that any fault current has a clear, low-resistance path to the ground, which helps to prevent electric shock and other hazards. Grounding provides a safe path for excess electricity to dissipate, reducing the risk of electrical fires and equipment damage. Bonding ensures that all conductive parts are connected together, minimizing potential differences in voltage that could be dangerous to individuals or equipment. These practices are critical for ensuring the safety and reliability of electrical installations as outlined in the National Electrical Code (NEC). The other options, while potentially relevant in certain contexts, do not meet the specific requirements for service enclosures and housings on the supply side of the service disconnecting means as detailed in the NEC. For example, double insulation may enhance safety in certain situations, but it does not replace the need for effective grounding and bonding in metallic structures. Similarly, while water-resistance can be important for certain installations, it does not address the fundamental safety mechanisms necessary for electrical systems, nor does the use of PVC insulation provide the required protection against faults in metal enclosures.

6. What is a main bonding jumper?

- A. A disconnect switch for main service equipment
- B. A conductor that connects the grounded (neutral) conductor to the ground at the service equipment**
- C. A type of circuit breaker found in service panels
- D. An electrode system for grounding

A main bonding jumper serves a critical role in ensuring electrical safety by connecting the grounded (neutral) conductor to ground at the service equipment. This connection is vital for establishing a common reference point for the grounded and grounding conductors, which helps to reduce the risk of electric shock and provides a clear path for fault currents back to the source. By effectively bonding the neutral and ground at the service equipment, the main bonding jumper helps to ensure that under fault conditions, the overcurrent protection devices (like circuit breakers) can operate correctly. This operation is essential for disconnecting the power and preventing potential fire hazards or electrical shock to users. The proper installation and sizing of the main bonding jumper are specified in the National Electrical Code (NEC), as they must meet specific requirements to ensure the safety and reliability of the electrical system. Additionally, maintaining this bond helps minimize voltage differences that could occur between the grounded and grounding conductors, which can be hazardous in various conditions. Understanding the function and importance of the main bonding jumper is essential for anyone working with electrical systems, as it is a foundational component of safe electrical service installations.

7. When a set of 120/240V overhead service conductors terminates at an approved support, what is the minimum clearance required above the roof for these conductors?

- A. 12 in
- B. 18 in**
- C. 24 in
- D. 30 in

The minimum clearance requirement for overhead service conductors, such as those carrying 120/240V, is critical to ensure safety and compliance with the National Electrical Code (NEC). When these conductors terminate at an approved support and pass over a roof, they must maintain a specific vertical clearance above the roof surface to prevent accidental contact and to accommodate the potential for material build-up or other obstructions. According to NEC Article 230, a minimum clearance of 18 inches is typically required above the roof surface where conductors pass. This clearance is designed to both protect the conductors from physical damage and reduce the risk of electrical hazards, especially due to the potential presence of people or equipment on the roof. This requirement helps ensure that the overhead conductors are sufficiently elevated to prevent any interaction with roof traffic, ventilation systems, or potential weather-related issues such as snow accumulation. Compliance with this clearance helps maintain a safe electrical environment while allowing for maintenance and inspection of overhead service conductors.

8. What is the requirement for the clearance of overhead service conductors?

- A. At least 6 feet above ground
- B. At least 8 feet above ground
- C. Minimum clearances vary by location but generally must be at least 10 feet above ground**
- D. There is no specific clearance requirement

The requirement for the clearance of overhead service conductors is essential for ensuring safety and preventing accidental contact. According to the National Electrical Code (NEC), the general provision mandates that overhead service conductors must maintain a specific minimum clearance above ground level to mitigate the risk of accidental electrocution or damage to the conductors. The correct choice, indicating that minimum clearances vary by location but generally must be at least 10 feet above ground, acknowledges the fact that different conditions and environments may impose varied clearance requirements. For instance, areas near roadways, public spaces, or where equipment is operated can have stricter regulations to enhance safety for pedestrians, vehicles, and service workers. This clearance requirement is not just a technical specification but a critical safety measure. Bumping or contacting overhead conductors can lead to severe accidents or power outages. Therefore, the NEC establishes these guidelines to promote safe practices regarding how low service conductors can hang above various surfaces. While the other options propose lower clearances or suggest a lack of specific requirements entirely, the chosen answer captures the intent of the NEC to provide clear, enforceable standards that prioritize safety in electrical installations. It's vital to consult local codes, as they can have additional stipulations based on regional characteristics and hazards.

9. In addition to safety, what is another primary focus of Article 230?

- A. Cost efficiency in electrical installations
- B. Ease of installation for various systems
- C. Reliability of the supply of electric service**
- D. Compatibility with renewable energy sources

The focus on reliability of the supply of electric service in Article 230 is essential because it ensures that electrical systems function properly under normal and abnormal conditions. This encompasses the ability of electrical conductors, service equipment, and distribution systems to maintain a continuous and effective flow of electricity to consumers. Reliability is critical not only for user satisfaction but also for the proper functioning of electrical devices and systems, as inconsistent or unreliable power can lead to failures or hazards. Article 230 outlines the requirements for services, including the proper sizing of conductors, protection of equipment from overcurrent, and safe grounding methods. These provisions are designed to ensure that the electric service provided to buildings and properties remains stable and dependable, reducing the likelihood of outages and equipment damage. By prioritizing reliability alongside safety, the NEC establishes a framework that supports effective energy distribution in both residential and commercial settings.

10. What document gives authority for interpretations of the NEC?

- A. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI).
- B. The International Code Council (ICC).
- C. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is responsible for code development.**
- D. The National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA).

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is indeed the organization responsible for the development of the National Electrical Code (NEC) and provides the authority for interpretations of its provisions. The NFPA develops codes and standards through a consensus process that involves various stakeholders, including industry professionals, manufacturers, and government representatives. This collaborative approach ensures that the NEC is regularly updated to reflect the latest technologies and practices in electrical safety. In addition to creation and maintenance, the NFPA also provides resources such as the NFPA 70, which encompasses the NEC, and offers guidance on its application through training, publications, and interpretations. These interpretations help clarify any ambiguities in the code and offer direction on compliance, ultimately promoting safety in electrical installations. The other organizations mentioned, while influential in their own rights, do not hold the same authority over the NEC. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) is involved in the standardization process but does not interpret codes. The International Code Council (ICC) develops building codes separate from the NEC and does not provide authority over electrical code interpretations. The National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) is an industry trade association that advocates for electrical contractors but does not have the same role in code development and interpretation as the NFPA.

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://necarticle230.examzify.com>

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

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