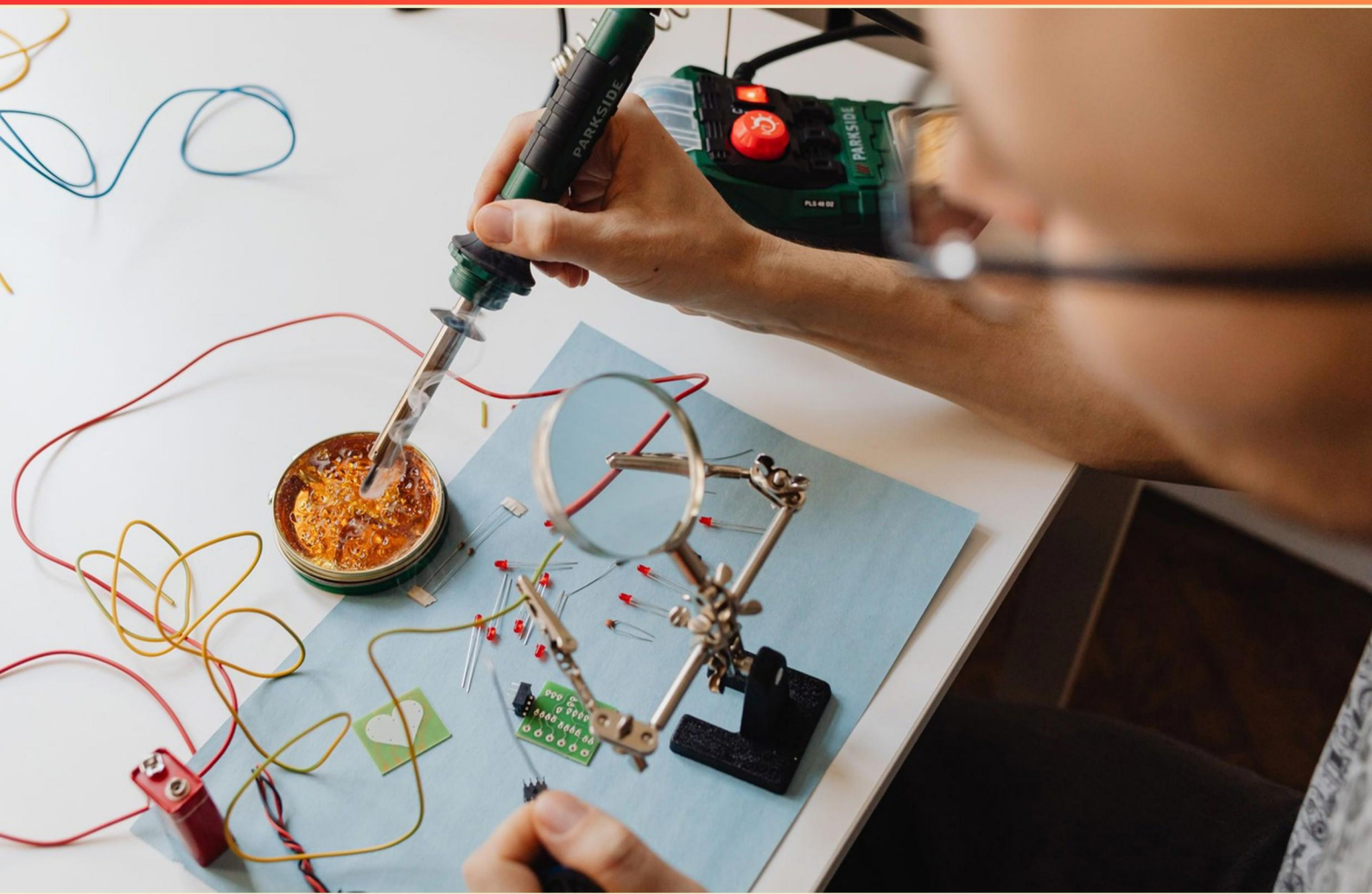


NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE (NEC) ARTICLE 314 PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

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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 smaller fixture wires, less than 14 AWG, are permitted to be omitted from calculations in a box?**
 - A. Two
 - B. Three
 - C. Four
 - D. Five
- 2. Can a box serve as a support for other equipment?**
 - A. No, it must not support other equipment
 - B. Yes, if it is listed for such use and meets load requirements
 - C. Yes, but only for lightweight devices
 - D. Only if it's mounted on a wall
- 3. What is required for a conduit body that contains splices or taps?**
 - A. It must be painted
 - B. It must be plastic
 - C. It must be marked by the manufacturer
 - D. It must be removable
- 4. According to the regulations, metal braces used for box support must be protected against what?**
 - A. moisture
 - B. corrosion
 - C. impact
 - D. rust
- 5. What is a potential consequence of not providing enough space in an electrical box?**
 - A. Improved airflow.
 - B. Increased risk of electrical shorts.
 - C. Enhanced device performance.
 - D. Reduced maintenance needs.

- 6. When should handholes be installed in a cable system?**
- A. Only in wet areas.
 - B. To facilitate maintenance access.
 - C. When circuits exceed 120 volts.
 - D. During initial construction only.
- 7. What type of boxes are required for wet locations according to Article 314?**
- A. Standard plastic boxes
 - B. Metal boxes with a special coating
 - C. Weatherproof boxes or enclosures rated for wet locations
 - D. Wooden boxes treated for moisture resistance
- 8. What is the main purpose of using insulating bushings in conduit installations?**
- A. To enhance aesthetics
 - B. To prevent damage to conductors
 - C. To provide additional support
 - D. To indicate circuit types
- 9. What is meant by flush installation of boxes in walls?**
- A. Boxes must be recessed for interior design
 - B. Boxes must be on the surface of the wall for easy access
 - C. Boxes must be even with the wall surface or covered by wall material
 - D. Boxes can be slightly protruded for accessibility
- 10. How should boxes be installed in relation to structural members?**
- A. They should be loosely attached to allow movement
 - B. They must be securely fastened to building structures
 - C. They can rest on the ground without fastening
 - D. They should be suspended from the ceiling

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. How many smaller fixture wires, less than 14 AWG, are permitted to be omitted from calculations in a box?

- A. Two
- B. Three
- C. Four**
- D. Five

The correct answer reflects the guidelines provided by the National Electrical Code regarding the calculation of conductor fill in electrical boxes. According to NEC guidelines, when calculating the fill for a box, smaller fixture wires that are less than 14 AWG may be omitted from the fill calculations. Specifically, the code allows for the omission of up to four such smaller wires from the box fill calculations. This rule helps streamline the approach to box fill, particularly for low-current applications where smaller conductors are utilized. By allowing these lighter gauge wires to be omitted from calculations, the NEC simplifies the process of determining proper box sizes and helps ensure safety without compromising the integrity of the electrical system. Ensuring that the box is not overly crowded with conductors reduces the risk of heat buildup and facilitates easier access for maintenance and troubleshooting. Understanding this key aspect of NEC Article 314 is vital for those involved in electrical design and installation, ensuring compliance with safety standards while effectively managing space within electrical boxes.

2. Can a box serve as a support for other equipment?

- A. No, it must not support other equipment
- B. Yes, if it is listed for such use and meets load requirements**
- C. Yes, but only for lightweight devices
- D. Only if it's mounted on a wall

A box can indeed serve as a support for other equipment, provided it is specifically listed for that use and meets the necessary load requirements. This is vital in ensuring that the box and the equipment it supports remain safe and functional under operational conditions. When a box is listed for supporting equipment, it means that it has been tested and certified to handle the stress and load imposed by the devices attached to it. This certification helps in ensuring that the box will not fail under weight, thus preventing potential hazards such as electrical fires or equipment damage. The load requirements refer to specific engineering standards that dictate how much weight the box can safely handle. Compliance with these standards ensures that the installation will be reliable and secure. Other options present inaccuracies regarding the potential for boxes to support equipment. Some suggest limitations that do not align with the NEC's guidelines about support and safety, making them less applicable in a real-world context. Therefore, understanding that a box can support equipment when appropriate conditions are met is crucial for adhering to safe electrical practices.

3. What is required for a conduit body that contains splices or taps?

- A. It must be painted
- B. It must be plastic
- C. It must be marked by the manufacturer**
- D. It must be removable

For a conduit body that contains splices or taps, it is essential that the conduit body be marked by the manufacturer to indicate that it is suitable for such use. This marking ensures that electricians and installers are aware that the conduit body meets the necessary standards and requirements for maintaining safety and functionality when managing electrical connections. The marking indicates compliance with safety standards and helps in identifying the conduit body for proper application, facilitating inspections and ensuring adherence to the National Electrical Code (NEC). Such marking is vital for ensuring that the equipment is used correctly and that any splices or taps made within the conduit body are secure and compliant with regulations. The other options, while potentially relevant to different aspects of conduit bodies or electrical installations, do not address this specific requirement outlined by the NEC regarding splices or taps.

4. According to the regulations, metal braces used for box support must be protected against what?

- A. moisture
- B. corrosion**
- C. impact
- D. rust

Metal braces used for box support must be protected against corrosion to ensure their long-term integrity and functionality. Corrosion can occur due to various environmental factors, including exposure to moisture, chemicals, and other corrosive agents. When metal components are left unprotected, they can deteriorate over time, leading to weakened structural support that can compromise electrical boxes and associated wiring. The National Electrical Code (NEC) recognizes the importance of using corrosion-resistant materials or protective coatings in environments that are prone to corrosion. This provision helps maintain the safety and reliability of the electrical installation, preventing potential hazards that could arise from compromised equipment. In contrast, while moisture, impact, and rust are related to the overall protection of electrical installations, the specific emphasis on corrosion underscores the need to safeguard metallic components from degradation that could affect their strength and stability. Rusting, for example, is a form of corrosion that specifically refers to the oxidation of iron and steel, but the broader term "corrosion" encompasses various types of material degradation. Thus, focusing on corrosion protection is essential for ensuring the longevity and reliability of metal braces in electrical systems.

5. What is a potential consequence of not providing enough space in an electrical box?

- A. Improved airflow.
- B. Increased risk of electrical shorts.**
- C. Enhanced device performance.
- D. Reduced maintenance needs.

Not providing enough space in an electrical box can significantly increase the risk of electrical shorts. When wiring and devices are cramped together, it creates a higher likelihood of wires touching one another or making contact with conductive surfaces, which can lead to short circuits. A proper amount of space helps to ensure that each conductor can be routed safely without interference and that heat generated by the electrical components can dissipate properly. Overcrowding in an electrical box not only raises the possibility of shorts but also can lead to overheating, which poses further safety hazards. While improved airflow, enhanced device performance, and reduced maintenance needs might sound appealing, they do not directly relate to the critical concern of space in electrical boxes. Inadequate space primarily compromises safety and reliability in electrical installations, which is why understanding the importance of box sizing according to NEC guidelines is essential.

6. When should handholes be installed in a cable system?

- A. Only in wet areas.
- B. To facilitate maintenance access.**
- C. When circuits exceed 120 volts.
- D. During initial construction only.

Handholes should be installed in a cable system primarily to facilitate maintenance access. This is essential for various reasons, including the need for routine inspections, troubleshooting, and making repairs without having to excavate the entire cable run. By providing convenient access points, handholes enhance the overall reliability and safety of electrical installations by allowing technicians to address issues promptly and effectively. The practice of installing handholes is not limited to specific environmental conditions, such as wet areas, nor is it bound by the voltage of the circuits. While voltage considerations may influence other aspects of installation, they do not dictate the necessity of handholes specifically. Furthermore, handholes are not only installed during initial construction; they can be added during upgrades or repairs to existing systems to improve access and maintenance efficiency. Therefore, the primary purpose of handholes is clearly centered on the ease of maintenance access.

7. What type of boxes are required for wet locations according to Article 314?

- A. Standard plastic boxes
- B. Metal boxes with a special coating
- C. Weatherproof boxes or enclosures rated for wet locations**
- D. Wooden boxes treated for moisture resistance

In wet locations, electrical boxes must meet specific requirements to ensure safety and compliance with the NEC. The correct choice highlights that weatherproof boxes or enclosures rated for wet locations are essential. These boxes are designed to prevent the ingress of water, which could create hazardous conditions such as short circuits or electrical shocks. Weatherproof boxes are specifically constructed using materials and seals that withstand exposure to moisture and harsh environmental conditions, making them suitable for outdoor installations or areas prone to wetness. They provide the necessary protection not only for the electrical components housed within but also for the safety of individuals using the electrical system. Other types of boxes, while potentially useful in dry or non-wet environments, do not offer the same level of protection against moisture. For example, standard plastic boxes might deteriorate or become liability in wet conditions, and metal boxes, even when coated, may not adequately protect against water ingress. Wooden boxes, although treated for moisture resistance, are not suitable for electrical installations in wet locations due to the potential for decay and electrical hazards. Thus, the requirement for weatherproof boxes or enclosures rated for wet locations is based on safety standards aimed at preventing electrical failures and ensuring user safety in environments where moisture is a factor.

8. What is the main purpose of using insulating bushings in conduit installations?

- A. To enhance aesthetics
- B. To prevent damage to conductors**
- C. To provide additional support
- D. To indicate circuit types

The main purpose of using insulating bushings in conduit installations is to prevent damage to conductors. Insulating bushings serve as protective devices installed at the ends of conduit runs where wires or cables enter or exit the conduit. They create a smooth transition for conductors, minimizing the risk of abrasion and other mechanical damage that can occur due to rough edges or metal projections at the conduit terminus. This added layer of protection helps to maintain the integrity of the conductors and prevent potential electrical failures or short circuits that could occur due to damaged insulation. While aesthetics, support, and circuit indication may be important considerations in various electrical installations, they do not represent the primary function of insulating bushings. The primary focus here remains on safeguarding the conductors as they traverse through the conduit system, thereby ensuring a safer and more reliable electrical installation.

9. What is meant by flush installation of boxes in walls?

- A. Boxes must be recessed for interior design
- B. Boxes must be on the surface of the wall for easy access
- C. Boxes must be even with the wall surface or covered by wall material**
- D. Boxes can be slightly protruded for accessibility

Flush installation of boxes in walls refers to the requirement that electrical boxes must be installed so that their front edges are even with the finished surface of the wall or, in some cases, covered by the wall material. This ensures a neat appearance and prevents any hazards that might arise from boxes that are not adequately recessed. When boxes are installed flush, they allow for the proper installation of wall coverings such as drywall or plaster, creating a smooth, continuous surface without any protrusions. This is particularly important for safety reasons, as exposed edges can pose risks for damage to wiring or to individuals who might come into contact with them. This approach also complies with the National Electrical Code, which emphasizes both safety and functionality in electrical installations. By ensuring that boxes are flush, it allows devices such as switches and outlets to be easily accessible and properly aligned with the wall, which facilitates more secure mounting of faceplates and maintains the aesthetics of the room. In contrast, options that suggest protruding the boxes or positioning them on the surface of the wall do not align with the flush installation requirement, which emphasizes an integrated and safe installation level with the surrounding wall.

10. How should boxes be installed in relation to structural members?

- A. They should be loosely attached to allow movement
- B. They must be securely fastened to building structures**
- C. They can rest on the ground without fastening
- D. They should be suspended from the ceiling

Boxes must be securely fastened to building structures to ensure safety and compliance with the National Electrical Code (NEC). Proper installation of electrical boxes is critical in maintaining the integrity of the electrical system and preventing hazards such as electrical shock or fire. According to the NEC, all electrical boxes must be installed in a way that prevents them from moving or being dislodged by physical forces, such as pulling on wires or cables, or from everyday wear and tear. This security ensures that the connections inside the boxes remain intact and that no unexpected gaps or conditions arise that could lead to shorts or other electrical failures. Furthermore, securely fastening boxes supports the overall system's durability, ensuring that they remain in their intended position throughout the life of the building. This can include securing them to studs, joists, or other structural members as appropriate, in accordance with the relevant portions of the NEC that guide the installation practices for electrical equipment.

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://necarticle314.examzify.com>

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

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