

North Carolina Building Contractor License 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

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- 1. What is the primary safety consideration when using ladders in construction work?**
 - A. The weight of the ladder**
 - B. The stability of the surface**
 - C. The height of the ladder**
 - D. The type of material**

- 2. Weld washers are recommended for metal thickness less than ____.**
 - A. 3000**
 - B. 4000**
 - C. 5000**
 - D. 6000**

- 3. At what point is a strength test for concrete done?**
 - A. 7 days**
 - B. 14 days**
 - C. 28 days**
 - D. 30 days**

- 4. What is the purpose of a constant pressure switch on handheld power tools?**
 - A. To increase power**
 - B. To control tool operation**
 - C. To regulate speed**
 - D. To maintain constant pressure**

- 5. What does a float (ship) scaffold consist of?**
 - A. A platform on solid ground**
 - B. A platform suspended from poles**
 - C. A platform hung from overhead supports**
 - D. A platform resting on water**

- 6. What should be the maximum amount of grass blade cut in a single mowing?**
- A. One-third**
 - B. One-half**
 - C. Two-thirds**
 - D. Three-fourths**
- 7. When is it adequate to use a controlled low-strength material?**
- A. For very short spans**
 - B. For depths below fill**
 - C. On shallow foundations**
 - D. For lightweight structures**
- 8. What is the term for the condition when wood's moisture content is equal to the inside of the building?**
- A. Acclimation**
 - B. Drying**
 - C. Warping**
 - D. Seasoning**
- 9. What type of note typically lasts for six months?**
- A. Promissory note**
 - B. Savings bond**
 - C. Securities note**
 - D. Six month note**
- 10. What is the primary purpose of a vapor barrier in construction?**
- A. Soundproofing**
 - B. Moisture control**
 - C. Fire protection**
 - D. Thermal insulation**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the primary safety consideration when using ladders in construction work?

- A. The weight of the ladder**
- B. The stability of the surface**
- C. The height of the ladder**
- D. The type of material**

The primary safety consideration when using ladders in construction work is the stability of the surface. Ensuring that a ladder is placed on a stable and level surface is critical to prevent accidents and falls. An unstable surface can lead to the ladder tipping over, which may result in serious injuries. When using a ladder, it is important to assess the ground conditions and ensure that the surface can safely support both the ladder and the worker. This includes checking for any debris, slope, or uneven areas that could compromise the ladder's stability. While factors such as the weight of the ladder, its height, and the type of material it is made from are important for overall safety and proper use, the immediate concern is often the ladder's stability. If the ladder is not stable, it doesn't matter how tall it is or how much weight it can hold; the risk of falling increases significantly if the ground is not secure. Thus, prioritizing the stability of the surface directly enhances safety during ladder use in construction work.

2. Weld washers are recommended for metal thickness less than ____.

- A. 3000**
- B. 4000**
- C. 5000**
- D. 6000**

Weld washers are essential components used in metal fabrication to create a larger bearing surface for welds and to help reduce the risk of warping or burn-through when working with thinner materials. When metal thickness is less than a certain threshold, the use of weld washers becomes particularly critical to ensure structural integrity and a strong bond. In this case, weld washers are specifically recommended for metal thicknesses under 4000. This is because as the thickness of the metal decreases, the potential for damage during the welding process increases. Utilizing weld washers helps distribute the heat generated during welding over a larger area, minimizing the risk of overheating the base material, which can lead to distortion or failure. By adhering to the recommendation of using weld washers for metal less than 4000, contractors and welders are encouraged to maintain the quality and reliability of their welds, ensuring that projects meet safety and performance standards. Choosing the correct metal thickness threshold for the use of weld washers is an important consideration in metalworking, as it ultimately supports effective and safe welding practices.

3. At what point is a strength test for concrete done?

- A. 7 days
- B. 14 days
- C. 28 days**
- D. 30 days

The strength test for concrete is typically conducted at 28 days because this timeframe is considered the standard period for concrete to reach its design strength. During the curing process, concrete undergoes hydration, which allows it to develop strength over time. While initial strength gains can be measured earlier (for instance, at 7 days or 14 days), the standard reference for assessing whether the concrete has achieved the intended compressive strength is at 28 days. This duration is established based on the average behavior of concrete mixtures, allowing for variability between different mixes, environmental conditions, and curing practices. Testing at this point ensures a reliable measure of strength for structural and safety assessments before the material is placed under significant loads.

4. What is the purpose of a constant pressure switch on handheld power tools?

- A. To increase power
- B. To control tool operation**
- C. To regulate speed
- D. To maintain constant pressure

The purpose of a constant pressure switch on handheld power tools is to control tool operation effectively. This type of switch requires the user to maintain a certain amount of pressure for the tool to operate. When the user applies pressure, the switch activates the tool, allowing it to function only while there is adequate pressure. This design helps in preventing accidental activation, ensuring that the tool is only on when intended, which enhances user safety and control. It provides a straightforward way to govern the operation of the tool, as the user must actively engage with it rather than relying solely on an on/off switch. While maintaining constant pressure is related to the switch's function, the primary role is to control operation rather than solely measuring or holding pressure. Functions like increasing power or regulating speed are typically managed through other mechanisms or settings within the tool.

5. What does a float (ship) scaffold consist of?

- A. A platform on solid ground**
- B. A platform suspended from poles**
- C. A platform hung from overhead supports**
- D. A platform resting on water**

A float (ship) scaffold is specifically designed for use in maritime environments, typically found on boats or ships. It consists of a platform that is hung from overhead supports, allowing it to be positioned at various heights over the side of the vessel. This design is crucial for tasks that need to be performed over water, as it provides access to areas that may be difficult to reach using traditional scaffolding methods. The configuration of a float scaffold, with its overhead supports, helps to ensure stability while working over water, allowing workers to engage in activities such as maintenance, painting, or repairs safely. This distinctive set-up is what sets it apart from other types of scaffolding, providing the necessary support and flexibility for use in specific environments, particularly in shipbuilding or repair contexts. Understanding the unique design and intended use of different types of scaffolds, like the float scaffold, is essential for anyone pursuing a career in construction or contracting, as it directly relates to workplace safety and efficient project execution.

6. What should be the maximum amount of grass blade cut in a single mowing?

- A. One-third**
- B. One-half**
- C. Two-thirds**
- D. Three-fourths**

The maximum amount of grass blade that should be cut in a single mowing is ideally limited to one-third of the total height of the grass. This practice is crucial for maintaining healthy grass because cutting too much blade at once can stress the plant and hinder its ability to photosynthesize effectively. When more than one-third of the grass blade is removed, it can lead to a number of issues such as scalping, which exposes the soil and roots to excessive sunlight and can trigger weed growth. By adhering to the one-third rule, you promote a healthier lawn that can recover more efficiently after mowing, maintain better moisture levels, and reduce the risk of disease. This approach also encourages deeper root growth and overall resiliency in the grass. Following this guideline is especially beneficial during warmer times of the year, when grass may be more vulnerable to stress.

7. When is it adequate to use a controlled low-strength material?

- A. For very short spans**
- B. For depths below fill**
- C. On shallow foundations**
- D. For lightweight structures**

Controlled low-strength material (CLSM) is typically used in situations where traditional concrete might not be ideal due to constraints such as weight, stiffness, or the need for easy excavation. The use of CLSM is particularly suited for shallow foundations because it provides adequate support while also being lighter than traditional concrete, which reduces settlement issues. Shallow foundations often require materials that can fill voids without adding excessive weight, making CLSM an ideal choice. Furthermore, shallow foundations might be used where there is limited depth for soil bearing or where there is concern about the additional load from the material itself. CLSM can achieve the necessary strength while also allowing for easy placement and subsequent adjustments or excavation if needed. The adaptability of controlled low-strength material makes it particularly advantageous in these applications, ensuring structural integrity and compliance with building practices. In contrast, using it for very short spans, depths below fill, or lightweight structures might not utilize the unique properties of CLSM to their fullest extent, as these scenarios can often accommodate standard materials without the specific benefits that CLSM provides.

8. What is the term for the condition when wood's moisture content is equal to the inside of the building?

- A. Acclimation**
- B. Drying**
- C. Warping**
- D. Seasoning**

The condition when wood's moisture content is equal to the moisture content of the air inside a building is referred to as acclimation. This process is crucial for ensuring that the wood behaves predictably once installed in a new environment. When wood is acclimated, it minimizes issues such as warping, cracking, or shrinking after installation. This is particularly important in construction and carpentry, as wood is a natural material that expands and contracts based on humidity and temperature changes. While drying refers to the process of reducing the moisture content of wood, it does not specifically address the balance with the surrounding environment. Warping describes the deformation that occurs when wood dries unevenly or is subjected to various moisture levels but does not pertain to reaching equilibrium with the environment. Seasoning, on the other hand, generally denotes the process of drying wood to a specific moisture content for its intended use, but it does not specifically encompass the concept of reaching a balance with indoor humidity. Therefore, acclimation properly encapsulates the idea of achieving an equilibrium moisture content with the building environment.

9. What type of note typically lasts for six months?

- A. Promissory note
- B. Savings bond
- C. Securities note
- D. Six month note**

A six-month note is specifically designed with a duration of six months, making it the most direct and accurate answer to this question. The term outlines its maturity time frame clearly, indicating that it is a short-term financial instrument. In financial contexts, such as loans or bonds, a six-month note is utilized mainly for short-term borrowing or investment. Its purpose is to allow businesses or individuals to obtain capital or liquidity quickly, which can be paid back or matured after the specified period. In contrast, while a promissory note can have various terms, including six months, it is not confined to that duration and can be set for different lengths depending on the agreement between parties. A savings bond typically has a longer maturity period and is more suited for long-term investment, while a securities note, like other notes, may not adhere to a six-month term specifically. Thus, the defining characteristic of a six-month note is its duration, making it the correct answer in this scenario.

10. What is the primary purpose of a vapor barrier in construction?

- A. Soundproofing
- B. Moisture control**
- C. Fire protection
- D. Thermal insulation

The primary purpose of a vapor barrier in construction is moisture control. Vapor barriers are materials used to prevent the passage of moisture through walls, ceilings, and floors in structures. Moisture can lead to various issues, such as mold growth, wood rot, and damage to insulation, which can ultimately compromise building integrity and indoor air quality. By effectively blocking water vapor from migrating through building assemblies, a vapor barrier helps maintain a dry environment within walls and other areas of the structure. This moisture control function is essential in both residential and commercial construction, particularly in climates where humidity levels are high or where there are significant temperature differences between the interior and exterior. Proper installation of vapor barriers is crucial to ensuring their effectiveness, typically positioned on the warm side of thermal insulation to keep moisture away from cooler surfaces where condensation can occur.

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://northcarolinabuildingcontractor.examzify.com>

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

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