

NORTH CAROLINA BUILDING CONTRACTOR LICENSE PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

<https://northcarolinabuildingcontractor.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. Which of the following would be considered a company's asset?**
 - A. Liabilities
 - B. Cash holding of the company
 - C. Long-term debt
 - D. Equity
- 2. What is the minimum headroom required for stairs?**
 - A. 6 inches
 - B. 8 inches
 - C. 10 inches
 - D. 12 inches
- 3. 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
- 4. Which type of mortar is generally used for structures that are below grade?**
 - A. Type O
 - B. Type N
 - C. Type S
 - D. Type M
- 5. Which type of grass is commonly used for warm-season environments?**
 - A. Bermuda grass
 - B. Fescue grass
 - C. Rye grass
 - D. Clover
- 6. A strength test for concrete shall be the average of how many cylinders tested at 28 days?**
 - A. 3
 - B. 5
 - C. 10
 - D. 7

- 7. In what manner must roof covering be applied to combustible roof insulation for it to be permissible?**
- A. Directly over the insulation
 - B. With a vapor barrier
 - C. Indirectly via a base layer
 - D. Not applicable, must use non-combustible
- 8. The capacity of a heaped bucket is what percentage of the capacity of a struck bucket?**
- A. 25
 - B. 50
 - C. 75
 - D. 4
- 9. What indicates that a wood product is kiln-dried?**
- A. Lower moisture content
 - B. Higher density
 - C. Visual grain pattern
 - D. Color variation
- 10. What is the overall minimum thickness of stucco over concrete surfaces?**
- A. 1/2 inch
 - B. 3/4 inch
 - C. 1 inch
 - D. 12 inches

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which of the following would be considered a company's asset?

- A. Liabilities
- B. Cash holding of the company**
- C. Long-term debt
- D. Equity

A company's asset refers to resources owned by the company that have economic value and can provide future benefits. In this context, cash holdings of the company are categorized as an asset because cash is a liquid asset readily available for use in operations, investments, and obligations. It represents direct ownership and contributes positively to the company's overall financial health. Liabilities, on the other hand, are financial obligations or debts that the company owes to outsiders, which do not contribute to the asset side but rather indicate a claim against the company's resources. Long-term debt also falls under liabilities and reflects amounts borrowed that need to be repaid over an extended period, meaning it does not represent an asset. Equity refers to the ownership interest in the company, which derives from the assets and liabilities but does not represent a direct resource the company owns. Therefore, the presence of cash holdings in the list clearly identifies it as an asset.

2. What is the minimum headroom required for stairs?

- A. 6 inches
- B. 8 inches**
- C. 10 inches
- D. 12 inches

The minimum headroom required for stairs is specified to ensure that individuals using the stairs can do so safely and comfortably without the risk of hitting their heads on overhead structures. While many building codes may offer variations, a common requirement is a minimum headroom of 80 inches (6 feet 8 inches) from the nosing of the treads to the ceiling above. Selecting the option indicating 8 inches is a misinterpretation, as the correct requirement is significantly higher than that—it does not provide adequate clearance. The appropriate headroom measurement is essential in constructing safe and accessible stairways in residential or commercial buildings, as inadequate headroom could lead to accidents or injuries. Understanding these standards is crucial for compliance with local building codes and ensuring safety in the built environment.

3. 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.

4. Which type of mortar is generally used for structures that are below grade?

- A. Type O
- B. Type N
- C. Type S
- D. Type M**

Type M mortar is designed for use in structures that are below grade due to its high compressive strength and low water absorption characteristics. This type of mortar is particularly suitable for construction applications such as foundations, below-grade walls, and retaining walls, where the structural integrity and resistance to moisture are critical. The high compressive strength of Type M mortar (around 2,500 psi or greater) makes it ideal for load-bearing applications in environments where moisture can be a concern. It is made with a stronger cement-to-lime ratio compared to the other types, ensuring durability in harsh conditions often encountered in below-grade situations. Additionally, the low water absorption aligns well with the need to prevent water infiltration in structures that face direct contact with soil and groundwater. This quality helps in protecting the integrity of the building while minimizing the risk of deterioration caused by moisture-related issues.

5. Which type of grass is commonly used for warm-season environments?

- A. Bermuda grass**
- B. Fescue grass
- C. Rye grass
- D. Clover

Bermuda grass is a popular choice for warm-season environments due to its ability to thrive in hot temperatures and its tolerance for drought conditions. This grass type grows vigorously during the warm months, making it ideal for southern regions where the climate remains warm for much of the year. Bermuda grass establishes deep roots, allowing it to access moisture and nutrients more effectively than many cool-season grasses, which typically struggle to maintain green foliage in high heat. Its resilience and rapid growth contribute to its widespread use on lawns, golf courses, and athletic fields in warmer climates. In contrast, fescue grass and rye grass are more suited to cool-season environments, flourishing in the cooler months of spring and fall, but struggling in excessive heat. Clover is also not a grass but rather a leguminous plant, which may serve as a ground cover or for soil improvement rather than as a primary lawn grass in warm climates.

6. A strength test for concrete shall be the average of how many cylinders tested at 28 days?

- A. 3
- B. 5**
- C. 10
- D. 7

The average strength test for concrete at 28 days is typically based on the results of five cylinders. This standard is established to ensure accuracy and reliability in measuring the compressive strength of concrete. Testing five cylinders allows for a better representation of the concrete batch's overall performance, as it helps to account for any variability in material properties, mixing, handling, and curing processes. Testing only three cylinders could yield results that do not adequately represent the concrete's strength due to the smaller sample size. Meanwhile, testing ten or more cylinders may be excessive for routine quality control, although it could be appropriate for large-scale projects or research purposes. Using five cylinders strikes a balance between practicality and statistical significance, ensuring that the average strength value reflects the true characteristics of the concrete being evaluated.

7. In what manner must roof covering be applied to combustible roof insulation for it to be permissible?

- A. Directly over the insulation**
- B. With a vapor barrier
- C. Indirectly via a base layer
- D. Not applicable, must use non-combustible

Roof coverings applied to combustible roof insulation must be installed directly over the insulation to be permissible. This approach is often required because it allows for the roof covering to act as a protective barrier, minimizing the risk of fire spreading through the insulation material. Direct application can also ensure that the roof covering adheres properly, providing effective waterproofing and structural integrity. In the context of building codes and fire safety regulations, this method helps to mitigate the potential hazards associated with combustible materials, ensuring that the roof system as a whole can withstand certain fire conditions without compromising the underlying insulation. The choice of direct application signifies adherence to safety standards that aim to reduce the risk of fire incidents in structures with combustible insulation. Alternative methods, such as using a vapor barrier or a base layer, may not provide the same level of direct protection or compliance with fire safety guidelines. Additionally, the option of using non-combustible materials is more restrictive, as it implies that combustible insulation cannot be utilized at all, which is not the case if the roof covering is applied correctly.

8. The capacity of a heaped bucket is what percentage of the capacity of a struck bucket?

- A. 25
- B. 50
- C. 75
- D. 4**

The correct understanding of the relationship between a heaped bucket and a struck bucket is important in construction and excavation tasks. A heaped bucket, which is filled above the rim, typically has a higher capacity than a struck bucket, which is filled to the brim, no excess material piled on top. In many cases, a heaped bucket can hold significantly more material than a struck bucket, often resulting in its capacity being viewed as a multiple of the struck bucket's capacity. The usual ratio is approximately 1.25 to 1.5 times the struck capacity for a heaped bucket. When considering the choices provided, while the percentage of capacity of a heaped bucket to a struck bucket being only 4% is implausible and not what is typically acknowledged, it's crucial to recognize that the more applicable percentages would range higher, highlighting a misunderstanding or miscalculation in deriving the percentages or interpreting the question. In practical terms, recognizing that a heaped bucket can considerably exceed a struck bucket in capacity reinforces the importance of using the correct measurements when planning and executing excavation tasks in construction work in North Carolina. This ensures accurate calculations for material quantities and project costs.

9. What indicates that a wood product is kiln-dried?

A. Lower moisture content

B. Higher density

C. Visual grain pattern

D. Color variation

A wood product that is kiln-dried will typically exhibit lower moisture content compared to its counterpart that has not undergone this drying process. Kiln drying involves using controlled heat and airflow to remove moisture from the wood, which is essential for reducing the risk of warping, cracking, and other forms of damage that can occur if wood retains too much moisture. Lower moisture content not only makes the wood more stable for construction and other uses but also enhances its overall durability. It is important to monitor moisture content in wood to ensure it is suitable for its intended application, especially in regions with varying humidity levels. Consequently, the presence of lower moisture content serves as a clear indicator that the wood product has been kiln-dried. While factors like higher density, visual grain pattern, and color variation may play roles in the quality or appearance of wood products, they are not definitive indicators of whether the wood has been kiln-dried. Higher density can exist in both kiln-dried and air-dried wood, depending on the type of wood. Visual grain patterns and color variations may stem from species characteristics or finishing techniques rather than moisture content.

10. What is the overall minimum thickness of stucco over concrete surfaces?

A. 1/2 inch

B. 3/4 inch

C. 1 inch

D. 12 inches

The correct answer pertains to the established building codes and industry standards for applying stucco over concrete surfaces. Typically, the overall minimum thickness of stucco, which is often referred to in construction as a cement plaster system, is designed to be at least 3/4 inch or thicker for proper performance and durability. When stucco is applied, it comprises multiple coats: a scratch coat, a brown coat, and a finish coat. Proper layering ensures adhesion, water resistance, and structural integrity. A minimum thickness of 1/2 inch is generally considered insufficient for a durable external finish, as thinner applications are more prone to cracking and other failures due to temperature changes and other environmental factors. The values of 1 inch or 12 inches are excessive for standard applications. A stucco thickness significantly over 1 inch may lead to additional weight and potential structural issues, while 12 inches would be impractical and unnecessarily thick for a typical finish. The common standard maintains that a 3/4 inch total thickness strikes an ideal balance between durability and functionality, which is why this minimum thickness is often enforced in building codes and recommended by construction professionals. This ensures that the stucco performs adequately throughout its lifespan while adhering to safety and aesthetic considerations.

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:

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

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