

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL CONTRACTORS 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. How should hazardous conditions be addressed by contractors on a job site?**
 - A. By ignoring them until completion
 - B. By following safety protocols and providing safety gear
 - C. By notifying only the project owner
 - D. By assuming workers will manage themselves
- 2. How do delay claims typically affect a construction contract?**
 - A. They can lead to contract termination only
 - B. They result in additional costs, extended timelines, and potential penalties
 - C. They automatically grant additional time without penalties
 - D. They have no impact on the contract terms
- 3. How can air content be reduced in concrete?**
 - A. By using finer aggregates
 - B. By increasing the water-to-cement ratio
 - C. By using higher temperatures and coarser sand
 - D. By applying chemical additives
- 4. Which type of joint is used to control random cracking in concrete?**
 - A. Isolation joints
 - B. Control joints
 - C. Construction joints
 - D. Expansion joints
- 5. To increase the strength of a wall, which bond type is generally recommended?**
 - A. Stack Bond
 - B. Running Bond
 - C. Common Bond
 - D. Flemish Bond

- 6. Which bond pattern alternates rows of headers and stretchers in a 3:1 ratio?**
- A. English Bond
 - B. Common Bond
 - C. American Bond
 - D. Flemish Bond
- 7. Which of the following is true for all classes of general contractor licenses in North Carolina?**
- A. All require the same experience level
 - B. All allow unlimited project value
 - C. All require some documentation of experience and examination
 - D. All are valid for 10 years without renewal
- 8. What is filled in CMU control joints and to what depth?**
- A. Mortar at 1/2" thick
 - B. Caulking compound at 1" thick
 - C. Caulking compound at 3/4" thick
 - D. Concrete at 3/8" thick
- 9. What is one consequence of failing to obtain proper permits during construction?**
- A. A potential increase in project costs
 - B. Immediate completion of the project
 - C. Exemption from local building codes
 - D. Legal repercussions and fines
- 10. What does proper record-keeping help contractors with in the event of disputes?**
- A. Creating future project presentations
 - B. Providing clear documentation of project details
 - C. Organizing social events
 - D. Marketing their services effectively

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. How should hazardous conditions be addressed by contractors on a job site?

- A. By ignoring them until completion
- B. By following safety protocols and providing safety gear**
- C. By notifying only the project owner
- D. By assuming workers will manage themselves

Addressing hazardous conditions on a job site is critical for ensuring the safety and well-being of all workers involved in a construction project. The correct course of action is to follow established safety protocols and provide safety gear. This approach embodies a proactive stance in managing workplace safety, which is essential for minimizing risks and preventing accidents. When contractors adhere to safety protocols, they are implementing strategies that have been developed to identify potential hazards, assess risks, and establish appropriate measures to mitigate those risks. This includes conducting regular safety inspections, using proper signage to alert workers of dangers, and ensuring that equipment and materials are handled safely. Providing safety gear, such as helmets, gloves, goggles, and safety harnesses, further protects workers from potential injuries. This not only helps to create a safe working environment but also demonstrates the contractor's commitment to worker safety, which can lead to increased morale and productivity on the job site. Adopting a safety-first mindset helps comply with legal regulations and standards, which are designed to protect not only the workers but also the overall integrity of the project. By taking these precautions, contractors not only fulfill their responsibilities but also foster a culture of safety that benefits everyone involved.

2. How do delay claims typically affect a construction contract?

- A. They can lead to contract termination only
- B. They result in additional costs, extended timelines, and potential penalties**
- C. They automatically grant additional time without penalties
- D. They have no impact on the contract terms

Delay claims in construction contracts are significant because they address the disruptions in the project timeline that can arise from various unforeseen circumstances. When a delay occurs, it often leads to additional costs due to increased labor, equipment rentals, and possibly material expenses arising from the extended timeline. Furthermore, these delays can push back the completion date, which affects project scheduling and can trigger penalties if contractual deadlines are not met. In many cases, contracts will specify penalties for delays that are not justified or properly communicated, adding a layer of financial risk for the contractor. Delays often necessitate extended timelines, triggering extensions and changes to completion dates. Therefore, understanding the implications of delay claims is crucial for both contractors and clients to appropriately manage expectations, timelines, and budgets throughout the construction process. The complexity of managing these factors makes option B the most accurate portrayal of the impact of delay claims within a construction contract.

3. How can air content be reduced in concrete?

- A. By using finer aggregates
- B. By increasing the water-to-cement ratio
- C. By using higher temperatures and coarser sand**
- D. By applying chemical additives

Reducing air content in concrete is often achieved through a combination of material selection and environmental conditions. The option highlighting the use of higher temperatures and coarser sand is particularly effective for this purpose. When coarser aggregates are used, they occupy more space in the mix and create fewer voids compared to finer aggregates. This can lead to a denser concrete with less air retained in the mix. Higher temperatures during the mixing and pouring process can also help reduce the viscosity of the concrete, which allows for better compaction, pushing out trapped air and leading to a reduction in overall air content. This combination of coarser sand and elevated temperatures facilitates the movement of air bubbles to the surface, allowing them to escape, thus successfully reducing the entrapped air in the final concrete product. Therefore, enhancing both aggregate properties and temperature is a strategic approach in concrete mixing to control air content effectively.

4. Which type of joint is used to control random cracking in concrete?

- A. Isolation joints
- B. Control joints**
- C. Construction joints
- D. Expansion joints

Control joints are specifically designed to manage cracking in concrete by allowing for the natural expansion and contraction that occurs due to temperature changes, moisture loss, and other environmental factors. By creating a predetermined weak point in the concrete slab, these joints direct the cracks to form in specific locations rather than randomly throughout the surface. This is crucial in maintaining the integrity and aesthetics of concrete structures, as it minimizes the potential for unsightly or structural damage. Isolation joints, on the other hand, separate the concrete from adjacent structures, allowing for independent movement. Construction joints are used to connect different sections of concrete poured at different times, ensuring a bond between them. Expansion joints accommodate movement caused by thermal expansion and contraction, but they are generally used in larger structures where significant movement is expected. Thus, while all these joints serve important purposes, control joints are uniquely designed to prevent random cracking, making them the best choice for this specific function.

5. To increase the strength of a wall, which bond type is generally recommended?

- A. Stack Bond
- B. Running Bond
- C. Common Bond
- D. Flemish Bond

Common Bond is generally recommended to increase the strength of a wall because it alternates layers of stretchers (the long face of the brick) and headers (the end face of the brick) in a systematic pattern. This configuration enhances the overall structure's stability and bond strength between the bricks. By incorporating headers in every several courses, the wall achieves greater interlocking, distributing loads more efficiently and reinforcing the structure against lateral pressures and potential weaknesses. In construction, the choice of bond type significantly impacts the wall's performance characteristics. For example, while Flemish Bond provides aesthetic appeal and is strong, it can be more complex to construct and may not provide the same degree of interlock as Common Bond. Running Bond is straightforward and provides decent strength, but it lacks the additional reinforcement that comes from the headers in Common Bond. Stack Bond, although simple, tends to be the weakest due to its reliance on vertical alignment alone, which does not adequately distribute loads across the wall. Thus, due to its mix of both stretching and header bricks that enhances interlock and strength, Common Bond is the preferred choice for increased wall strength.

6. Which bond pattern alternates rows of headers and stretchers in a 3:1 ratio?

- A. English Bond
- B. Common Bond
- C. American Bond
- D. Flemish Bond

The pattern that alternates rows of headers and stretchers in a 3:1 ratio is known as the English Bond. This masonry bond consists of alternating rows, where three stretcher bricks are followed by one header brick. This creates a strong, visually distinct pattern that is useful for structural integrity and aesthetic appeal. In contrast, other bonding patterns such as Common Bond typically use a 5:1 ratio of stretchers to headers, alternating coursing, while Flemish Bond features headers and stretchers in each course, but with each header alternating with a stretcher. American Bond combines elements of both, also primarily focusing on stretchers but usually reserving headers for specific courses. Understanding these patterns is vital for construction practices, as they influence the strength and stability of brick walls.

7. Which of the following is true for all classes of general contractor licenses in North Carolina?

- A. All require the same experience level
- B. All allow unlimited project value
- C. All require some documentation of experience and examination**
- D. All are valid for 10 years without renewal

The correct choice states that all classes of general contractor licenses in North Carolina require some documentation of experience and examination. This is a fundamental requirement because the state mandates that prospective general contractors demonstrate a certain level of expertise and knowledge to ensure that they are competent to manage construction projects safely and effectively. All general contractors must complete a licensing process that includes providing evidence of relevant experience, ranging from specific years in the field to previous project management roles, and passing required examinations that test their understanding of industry standards, laws, and safety regulations. This ensures a baseline proficiency across all classes of licenses and helps protect the public by ensuring that only qualified individuals are operating in the construction industry. In contrast, requirements such as experience levels, project value limits, or licensing duration can differ based on the specific class of license. Therefore, not all classes require the same experience level, nor do they all permit unlimited project values or remain valid without renewal for ten years. Understanding these distinctions is crucial for navigating the requirements for licensure in North Carolina successfully.

8. What is filled in CMU control joints and to what depth?

- A. Mortar at 1/2" thick
- B. Caulking compound at 1" thick
- C. Caulking compound at 3/4" thick**
- D. Concrete at 3/8" thick

When constructing with Concrete Masonry Units (CMU), control joints play a crucial role in managing cracking due to thermal expansion and contraction. The correct material to fill these control joints is caulking compound, which is designed to accommodate movement while providing a weather-tight seal. The depth of 3/4" allows for sufficient flexibility and movement within the joint, which is important to prevent damage to the masonry structure. This choice ensures that the joint can effectively absorb stresses caused by temperature fluctuations, moisture expansion, and other environmental factors. Additionally, a depth of 3/4" balances between providing enough material to perform its function and not being overly thick, which could lead to adhesion issues or unnecessary stress on the surrounding masonry. Understanding the specifications for control joint filling is essential for maintaining the integrity and longevity of CMU structures.

9. What is one consequence of failing to obtain proper permits during construction?

- A. A potential increase in project costs
- B. Immediate completion of the project
- C. Exemption from local building codes
- D. Legal repercussions and fines**

Failing to obtain proper permits during construction can lead to legal repercussions and fines. This is a serious consequence because construction permits are established to ensure that projects comply with safety standards, building codes, and zoning laws. When a contractor bypasses this requirement, they risk facing legal actions from local authorities, which can include fines, penalties, or even the requirement to halt the project until permits are secured. In some cases, not having the necessary permits can result in the required removal or demolition of work that was performed without authorization, leading to significant financial and logistical challenges. Other options such as the potential increase in project costs may occur as a result of legal issues, but they do not capture the immediate and direct consequences faced by contractors who neglect to secure permits. Immediate completion of the project could be misleading because unpermitted work could be halted if legal issues arise. Lastly, the assertion of exemption from local building codes is inaccurate, as all construction must adhere to these regulations, with failure to obtain permits typically leading to more stringent scrutiny, not exemption.

10. What does proper record-keeping help contractors with in the event of disputes?

- A. Creating future project presentations
- B. Providing clear documentation of project details**
- C. Organizing social events
- D. Marketing their services effectively

Proper record-keeping is essential for contractors, particularly during disputes, as it provides a clear and detailed documentation of project details. This documentation can include contracts, change orders, correspondence, financial records, and project timelines. In the event of a dispute, having accurate and organized records allows contractors to present evidence supporting their claims or positions effectively. This evidence can clarify misunderstandings or discrepancies that may arise between parties regarding project scope, performance, or payment terms. In construction projects where multiple stakeholders are involved, records can help preserve the history of decisions made, changes implemented, and agreements reached. The strength of this documentation helps avoid or settle conflicts more amicably and can serve as critical proof during legal proceedings or mediations. The importance of maintaining these records cannot be overstated, as they are foundational to maintaining both accountability and transparency throughout the construction process.

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://ncgeneralcontractor.examzify.com>

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

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