

NORTH CAROLINA HOME INSPECTOR PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

**VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

<https://northcarolina-homeinspector.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. What should be done if an inspector discovers termites during a home inspection?**
 - A. Ignore the findings
 - B. Report it for further evaluation
 - C. Suggest treatment plans
 - D. Advise immediate evacuation of the house
- 2. What is the average life of a clay tile roof?**
 - A. 50 years
 - B. 60 years
 - C. 75 years
 - D. 100 years
- 3. In a house with two layers of shingles, where is leakage most likely to occur?**
 - A. On the roof slope
 - B. Around the chimney
 - C. In the valley
 - D. At the eaves
- 4. What should you do if a homeowner requests you not to inspect a certain area due to a sick child?**
 - A. Leave and reschedule the inspection
 - B. Agree and only inspect the areas you are allowed
 - C. Perform the inspection secretly
 - D. Note this on your report and inspect the remaining areas
- 5. How many vents are allowed in one flue pipe?**
 - A. One
 - B. Two
 - C. Three
 - D. Four

- 6. What is the maximum length for a flex type gas supply pipe for a clothes dryer?**
- A. 3 feet
 - B. 8 feet
 - C. 6 feet
 - D. 10 feet
- 7. What type of fasteners are used to install slate shingles?**
- A. Aluminum nails
 - B. Steel screws
 - C. Copper nails
 - D. Plastic rivets
- 8. If a sidewalk is 14 inches above grade, what kind of railing is required?**
- A. A standard railing
 - B. No railing is required
 - C. A guardrail
 - D. A decorative railing
- 9. How should a factory-built fireplace be installed in a two-story residential dwelling?**
- A. By following local building codes
 - B. According to manufacturer instructions
 - C. Using only non-combustible materials
 - D. By a licensed contractor only
- 10. What are the two types of water circulating pumps used in hot water heating systems?**
- A. Manual and automatic
 - B. Intermittently and continuous
 - C. Intermittently and constant operating
 - D. Electric and gas

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What should be done if an inspector discovers termites during a home inspection?

- A. Ignore the findings
- B. Report it for further evaluation**
- C. Suggest treatment plans
- D. Advise immediate evacuation of the house

When an inspector discovers termites during a home inspection, it is crucial that the findings are reported for further evaluation. This is because termites can cause significant structural damage to a home if left untreated. A home inspector's role is to identify any issues that could affect the integrity and safety of the property, and termites fall squarely into this category. By reporting the presence of termites, the inspector ensures that the homeowner or potential buyer is aware of the issue and can take the necessary steps to have a professional pest control service evaluate the situation further. This course of action promotes safety and addresses the problem effectively, as trained pest control professionals can assess the extent of the infestation and recommend appropriate treatment. The other options do not provide a suitable response to the discovery of termites. Ignoring the findings could lead to significant damage over time, while suggesting treatment plans or advising immediate evacuation goes beyond the inspector's role, which is primarily to report observations and recommend further evaluations by qualified professionals.

2. What is the average life of a clay tile roof?

- A. 50 years
- B. 60 years
- C. 75 years**
- D. 100 years

Clay tile roofs are renowned for their durability and longevity, often lasting significantly longer than many other roofing materials. The average lifespan of a clay tile roof is typically cited as being around 75 years, although some installations can even exceed this depending on environmental factors, maintenance, and installation quality. Clay tiles are not only resistant to rot and insect damage, but they also maintain their integrity under harsh weather conditions. The material is naturally resistant to UV rays, and because it is non-combustible, it can withstand high temperatures without deterioration. Thus, it's realistic to expect a well-installed clay tile roof to last up to or beyond the average lifespan mentioned. This makes 75 years a reasonable average life expectancy for clay tile roofs.

3. In a house with two layers of shingles, where is leakage most likely to occur?

- A. On the roof slope
- B. Around the chimney
- C. In the valley**
- D. At the eaves

In a house with two layers of shingles, the likelihood of leakage is heightened in the valley due to the unique way that water flows and accumulates in these areas. Valleys are the places where two slopes meet and channel water down towards the eaves. If there are defects or weaknesses in the shingle layers, such as improper installation, wear, or degradation, this can lead to water infiltration. The design of valleys can often trap debris and prevent proper drainage, exacerbating the potential for leaks, especially when heavy rain occurs. While water can leak from other parts of the roof, such as the roof slope, areas around the chimney, or at the eaves, these tend to be more straightforward drainage points compared to valleys. The complex geometry and water accumulation in valleys make them particularly susceptible to leakage when there are underlying issues with the roofing materials.

4. What should you do if a homeowner requests you not to inspect a certain area due to a sick child?

- A. Leave and reschedule the inspection
- B. Agree and only inspect the areas you are allowed
- C. Perform the inspection secretly
- D. Note this on your report and inspect the remaining areas**

In situations where a homeowner requests that specific areas of a property not be inspected, it is essential to maintain professionalism and adhere to ethical practices. Noting the homeowner's request in your report serves multiple important purposes. Primarily, it ensures that there is a record of the limitations placed on the inspection and that the homeowner's concerns were acknowledged and respected. By inspecting the remaining areas of the property, you fulfill your role as a home inspector, providing a thorough evaluation of those sections that are accessible and permissible. This approach also allows you to complete the inspection while adhering to professional standards. Ultimately, documenting limitations adds transparency and can protect both the inspector and the homeowner in case any issues arise later that relate to the uninspected area. It highlights your diligence and serves as a clear communication tool regarding the scope of the inspection conducted.

5. How many vents are allowed in one flue pipe?

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

In the context of flue pipes, the code and safety standards specify that a single vent is allowed per flue to ensure proper drawing of combustion gases and to maintain safe operation of the appliance connected to it. When multiple appliances share a flue, it can create complications such as backdrafts and carbon monoxide buildup, which pose significant safety hazards. Therefore, having only one vent in a flue pipe contributes to the effective and safe venting of exhaust gases from heating appliances, leading to optimal performance and reduced risk of dangerous situations. This requirement helps maintain compliance with local building codes and safety regulations.

6. What is the maximum length for a flex type gas supply pipe for a clothes dryer?

- A. 3 feet
- B. 8 feet
- C. 6 feet**
- D. 10 feet

The maximum length for a flex type gas supply pipe for a clothes dryer is established to ensure safe operation and minimize the risk of leaks or malfunctions. A length of up to 6 feet is deemed acceptable as it allows for flexibility in the installation while maintaining reliability and compliance with safety standards. Going beyond this length may complicate the connection and could increase the risk of wear and tear or movement that might lead to gas leaks. Regulations and guidelines are put in place to ensure that installations are both safe and effective in providing adequate gas supply to appliances like clothes dryers. This understanding emphasizes the importance of adhering to the specified limits in both installation practices and inspections.

7. What type of fasteners are used to install slate shingles?

- A. Aluminum nails
- B. Steel screws
- C. Copper nails**
- D. Plastic rivets

Copper nails are the preferred type of fasteners for installing slate shingles due to their durability and resistance to corrosion. Slate is a natural stone that can last for decades, and copper nails complement its longevity. Unlike other materials, copper does not rust or weaken over time, which is crucial in maintaining the integrity of the roof against harsh weather conditions. Additionally, copper nails have excellent holding power, ensuring that the slate remains securely attached. This characteristic is especially important for slate roofing, which is often installed in areas prone to heavy winds and precipitation. The other fasteners, while they may be used in various applications, do not provide the same level of performance for slate roofs. For instance, aluminum nails can corrode over time when in contact with slate, leading to potential leaks. Steel screws, although strong, are not ideal for slate installation because they can rust and weaken. Plastic rivets lack the strength and durability required for roof installations, making them unsuitable for heavy materials like slate. Hence, copper nails stand out as the optimal choice for this specific roofing application.

8. If a sidewalk is 14 inches above grade, what kind of railing is required?

- A. A standard railing
- B. No railing is required**
- C. A guardrail
- D. A decorative railing

The requirement for railings on walkways, including sidewalks, is typically determined by local building codes and safety regulations. When a sidewalk is elevated above the surrounding grade, there are often specific height thresholds that dictate whether a railing is necessary. In many jurisdictions, railings are required when a walking surface is elevated more than a certain height, commonly 30 inches above grade. In this case, with the sidewalk being 14 inches above grade, it does not reach the typical height threshold that would necessitate a guardrail or any other type of railing for safety purposes. Consequently, based on common building codes, no railing is required for a sidewalk at this elevation. The absence of a requirement emphasizes the importance of understanding height regulations for safety barriers, ensuring that inspectors are aware of specific local codes that may vary.

9. How should a factory-built fireplace be installed in a two-story residential dwelling?

- A. By following local building codes
- B. According to manufacturer instructions**
- C. Using only non-combustible materials
- D. By a licensed contractor only

The installation of a factory-built fireplace requires adherence to the manufacturer's specific instructions, as they provide detailed guidelines that are critical for ensuring safety and functionality. These instructions are tailored to the particular design and specifications of the fireplace unit and often include important information about clearances, venting requirements, and the types of materials to be used during installation. Following manufacturer instructions helps ensure compliance with safety standards and can also affect the warranty on the fireplace. While local building codes do play an essential role in construction and installation practices, they may not cover all the unique aspects of a specific factory-built fireplace. Compliance with these codes should occur in conjunction with, not instead of, following the manufacturer's recommendations. Using non-combustible materials may be part of the manufacturer's instructions and also aligns with code requirements, but it is not a standalone rule – it is integral to specific application scenarios as outlined by the manufacturer. The involvement of a licensed contractor could facilitate proper installation, but it is not inherently necessary unless mandated by local regulations. Following manufacturer guidelines remains the primary focus in guaranteeing that the fireplace is safely and effectively installed, making why that choice is the best option clear.

10. What are the two types of water circulating pumps used in hot water heating systems?

- A. Manual and automatic
- B. Intermittently and continuous
- C. Intermittently and constant operating**
- D. Electric and gas

In hot water heating systems, the two types of water circulating pumps are intermittently operating and constant operating pumps. Intermittently operating pumps are designed to turn on and off based on the heating demand. They will activate when there is a need for hot water, such as when a thermostat senses that the temperature has dropped below a certain level. This type of operation can be more energy-efficient, as the pump only runs when necessary, reducing overall electricity usage. Constant operating pumps, on the other hand, continually circulate water regardless of demand. This can ensure that hot water is readily available at all times, which might be particularly beneficial in larger systems where immediate access to hot water is desired. However, this can lead to higher energy consumption since the pump operates continuously, making it less efficient in terms of energy use. Thus, the distinction between these two types revolves around how they manage the flow of water in relation to heating demand, impacting both efficiency and availability of hot water.

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://northcarolina-homeinspector.examzify.com>

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

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