North Carolina Locksmith Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide

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Questions

1. What does the term "Code Key" signify?

A. A key cut to a specific code without any reference

B. A key that conforms to the lock manufacturer's specifications

C. A reference system for key combinations

D. A designation assigned to unsafe locks

2. What is the primary function of a broach in locksmithing?

A. A tool used to cut the keyway into the cylinder plug

B. A type of lock component

C. A method of key duplication

D. A device for locking mechanisms

3. What term describes a key blank supplied by the lock manufacturer to fit that manufacturer's specific product?

A. Original Key Blank

B. Universal Key Blank

C. Generic Key Blank

D. Custom Key Blank

4. In a standard key coding system, what does a keying symbol denote?

A. A designation for a lock combination

B. A type of security level

C. A profile of the locking mechanisms

D. A reference to historical locks

5. Which document details the hardware types, manufacturers, and keying schedules for a specific job?

A. Hardware Schedule

B. Keying Schedule

C. Lock Installation Guide

D. Master Key Document

6. Which term defines a master key for all combinations obtained by progressing two bitting positions?

A. Three Pin Master Key

B. Two Pin Master Key

C. Top Master Key

D. Two Column Progression

7. In marine applications, what does a "Dog" refer to?

A. A type of safety lock

B. A latch for a hatch

C. A nautical fastening mechanism

D. A ship's exit device

8. What is the process of removing stock material from a door to create a recess for hardware called?

A. Mortising

B. Finishing

C. Hub Adjustment

D. Recessing

9. Which component is integral to the Vehicle Anti-Theft System in General Motors vehicles?

A. A combination lock

B. A resistor pellet imbedded in the key

C. A convertible dial

D. A daylock mechanism

10. What term is used for a bitting list of keys that includes master and change keys?

A. Master Key Registry

B. Key Progression List

C. Change Key List

D. Key Layout

Answers

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

Explanations

1. What does the term "Code Key" signify?

A. A key cut to a specific code without any reference

B. A key that conforms to the lock manufacturer's specifications

C. A reference system for key combinations

D. A designation assigned to unsafe locks

The term "Code Key" signifies a key that conforms to the lock manufacturer's specifications. This definition emphasizes that a Code Key is not just any key; it is specifically designed and cut based on the manufacturer's provided codes or configurations tailored to work with a particular lock model. When a lock is manufactured, its design involves distinct specifications for key cuts, allowing for unique interactions between the key and the lock mechanism. This ensures that only keys made according to those specifications will operate the lock correctly, providing security and proper function. The other options, while they may relate to keys or locks, do not accurately capture the essence of what a Code Key represents in terms of manufacturer standards and conformity.

2. What is the primary function of a broach in locksmithing?

A. A tool used to cut the keyway into the cylinder plug

B. A type of lock component

C. A method of key duplication

D. A device for locking mechanisms

In locksmithing, a broach serves a very specific and crucial role. Its primary function is to cut the keyway into the cylinder plug. This process involves removing material from the cylinder to create a precise pathway that ensures the corresponding key can properly align with the pin tumblers of the lock. A keyway must be accurately shaped in order for the lock to function effectively, allowing for smooth insertion and turning of the key. The construction and design of a broach allow it to create these intricate cuts, often featuring multiple cutting edges that can produce the desired profile in a single pass. This is essential for maintaining the security and integrity of the locking mechanism, as a poorly cut keyway can lead to malfunction or compromise the lock's effectiveness. Other options refer to different aspects of locksmithing that don't align with the primary function of a broach. For instance, a method of key duplication involves other tools and processes, while a type of lock component or a device for locking mechanisms do not specifically relate to the precise cutting action performed by a broach.

3. What term describes a key blank supplied by the lock manufacturer to fit that manufacturer's specific product?

A. Original Key Blank

B. Universal Key Blank

C. Generic Key Blank

D. Custom Key Blank

The term "Original Key Blank" refers to a specific key blank that is provided by the lock manufacturer to correspond precisely with their locking mechanism. This type of key blank is designed to ensure compatibility with the unique specifications and tolerances of the manufacturer's locks. When a locksmith uses an Original Key Blank, it guarantees that the key will fit properly, allowing for smooth operation of the lock while maintaining the security features intended by the manufacturer. Using the correct key blank is crucial, as each manufacturer may have unique shapes, cuts, and security features that are not replicated by other types of blanks. This is why Original Key Blanks are essential for maintaining the integrity of the locking system and ensuring optimal performance.

4. In a standard key coding system, what does a keying symbol denote?

A. A designation for a lock combination

B. A type of security level

C. A profile of the locking mechanisms

D. A reference to historical locks

In a standard key coding system, a keying symbol functions as a designation for a lock combination. This system allows locksmiths and security professionals to communicate specific key and lock configurations effectively. The keying symbol indicates the particular series or arrangement of cuts and spaces on the key that correspond to the internal components of the lock it operates. This coding is essential in managing multiple locks and keys, ensuring that the appropriate key is used for the correct lock. This designation helps in producing duplicate keys and enhances organization within key management systems. Understanding this aspect of key coding is fundamental for locksmiths, as it enables them to maintain accurate records and streamline their services. Other options may involve different aspects of locks and security but do not pertain directly to the purpose of a keying symbol within a key coding system.

5. Which document details the hardware types, manufacturers, and keying schedules for a specific job?

A. Hardware Schedule

B. Keying Schedule

C. Lock Installation Guide

D. Master Key Document

The Hardware Schedule serves as a comprehensive document that outlines various types of hardware used in a locking system, including the manufacturers of those products and the specific keying arrangements employed for the project. It ensures that all components are correctly specified and provides critical information required for installation, maintenance, and future reference. Understanding the Hardware Schedule is essential for locksmiths, as it helps them coordinate with suppliers, guarantee compatibility between different hardware pieces, and maintain consistent quality across the installed security systems. The Hardware Schedule acts as a roadmap, allowing locksmiths to efficiently plan out their work with clarity on what hardware needs to be procured and how it will function together within the overall security scheme. While other documents like the Keying Schedule or Lock Installation Guide may provide relevant information, those documents focus more narrowly on aspects such as key management or installation processes rather than on the detailed specifications of all hardware involved. The Master Key Document primarily outlines the master keying system and hierarchy, which is not as comprehensive as the information contained in a Hardware Schedule. This distinction solidifies the Hardware Schedule's significance in the context of a specific job and its overall planning and execution.

6. Which term defines a master key for all combinations obtained by progressing two bitting positions?

A. Three Pin Master Key

B. Two Pin Master Key

C. Top Master Key

D. Two Column Progression

The term that defines a master key for all combinations obtained by progressing two bitting positions is known as a Two Pin Master Key. This concept is particularly relevant in locksmithing, where different pin combinations can be used to create a variety of locks, allowing a single key to operate multiple locks with specific configurations. In the context of a Two Pin Master Key, the idea is that by changing or "progressing" the positions of two pins, the locksmith can generate a range of combinations that the master key can unlock. This method provides enhanced flexibility in key design and lock security, allowing for effective access management in various settings, such as commercial or residential properties. The other choices pertain to different keying systems or configurations. For example, a Three Pin Master Key typically involves more complexity and additional pins, expanding the combination set further, while a Top Master Key is generally a key used in a hierarchy of locks but doesn't specifically relate to the combination of two bitting positions. Two Column Progression refers more to the structural arrangement of key bittings rather than a specific master key configuration. Thus, in the context of the question, the Two Pin Master Key accurately describes the relationship between a master key and combinations derived from two bitting positions.

7. In marine applications, what does a "Dog" refer to?

A. A type of safety lock

B. A latch for a hatch

C. A nautical fastening mechanism

D. A ship's exit device

In marine applications, a "Dog" specifically refers to a latch used for securing hatches. Hatches are openings found on the deck of boats and ships, often leading to cargo holds or cabins. The purpose of the dog is to hold the hatch tightly closed, preventing water ingress and securing the area beneath. This is a critical component in marine environments, where maintaining the integrity of hatches is vital for the safety and functionality of the vessel. The term "dog" itself comes from the action of "dogging down" a hatch, where the latch or mechanism is engaged to secure the hatch firmly. This function is essential during rough weather or while the vessel is at sea, helping to ensure that hatches do not accidentally open and allow water to enter the ship. Other options do not align with the term "Dog" in the context of marine applications. While safety locks, fastening mechanisms, and exit devices are important in their own right, they serve different purposes that are not specifically related to securing hatches aboard a ship. Therefore, understanding the specific role of a dog in this context helps clarify its importance in maritime operations.

8. What is the process of removing stock material from a door to create a recess for hardware called?

A. Mortising

B. Finishing

C. Hub Adjustment

D. Recessing

The process of removing stock material from a door to create a recess for hardware is known as mortising. Mortising involves cutting a cavity or recess into the door in order to accommodate components such as locks, hinges, or other types of door hardware. This is an essential step in ensuring that these hardware elements fit properly and function as intended. Mortising is critical because it allows the door to close and lock seamlessly, providing both functionality and security. The accuracy of the mortise ensures that the hardware sits flush with the surface of the door, thus preventing any operational issues. The other terms, while they may suggest some form of modification or adjustment, do not specifically refer to the act of creating a recess in material for the purpose of fitting hardware. For instance, finishing refers to processes like sanding, staining, or applying a protective coat to enhance the door's appearance and durability, but it does not involve altering the structural material itself. Hub adjustment might pertain to making fine-tuning adjustments on mechanisms like door closers or lockset alignment, but again, it is not related to the act of removing material from the door. Recessing could be interpreted similarly to mortising, but it is not the standard term used in the locksmithing or

9. Which component is integral to the Vehicle Anti-Theft System in General Motors vehicles?

A. A combination lock

B. A resistor pellet imbedded in the key

C. A convertible dial

D. A daylock mechanism

The component that is integral to the Vehicle Anti-Theft System in General Motors vehicles is a resistor pellet imbedded in the key. This design is part of a passive anti-theft system known as a key-based immobilizer. When the ignition key is inserted into the ignition switch, the vehicle's onboard computer reads the resistance value from the pellet. If the resistance matches the programmed value stored in the vehicle's system, the engine will start; if it does not match, the system prevents the engine from starting. This technology helps deter theft by ensuring that only keys that have the correct resistor pellet can start the vehicle. The other options, while they might have applications in other security mechanisms, do not serve the same critical anti-theft function in GM vehicles. A combination lock is typically used in safes and secure entry points, a convertible dial generally refers to locking mechanisms on doors or safes, and a daylock mechanism is not a standard term in automotive security systems. These components do not provide the same level of protection against unauthorized vehicle use as the resistor pellet does.

10. What term is used for a bitting list of keys that includes master and change keys?

A. Master Key Registry

B. Key Progression List

C. Change Key List

D. Key Layout

The term that encompasses a bitting list of keys, including both master and change keys, is known as a Key Progression List. This list is essential in locksmithing as it outlines the various key combinations within a master keying system. It serves several important functions, such as helping locksmiths understand how different keys interact within the system, which keys override others, and how the master key can open multiple locks while individual change keys are restricted to specific locks. In the context of locksmithing, understanding the Key Progression List is crucial, as it plays a pivotal role in security and access control. Master key systems utilize a hierarchical access structure where the master key provides access to all locks, while change keys are tailored for specific locks. This means that when a locksmith is creating or maintaining such systems, the Key Progression List is the reference point they rely on to ensure correct functions and optimal security.