

NORTH CAROLINA RESIDENTIAL CODE PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

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

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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 purpose of vapor barriers in basements?**
 - A. To provide structural support
 - B. To prevent moisture penetration and damage to building materials
 - C. To insulate against temperature changes
 - D. To enhance aesthetic appeal
- 2. What is the height at which safety glazing is required?**
 - A. Only in bathrooms
 - B. At all hazardous locations
 - C. In living rooms only
 - D. In bedrooms only
- 3. What is the purpose of a "flood zone" designation?**
 - A. To classify areas based on soil compaction
 - B. To indicate areas requiring specific building standards to mitigate flood risk
 - C. To outline locations for potential wind damage
 - D. To provide guidelines for energy efficiency requirements
- 4. In residential construction, what is the requirement for securing cabinets and shelves?**
 - A. They must be painted for aesthetics
 - B. They must be adequately anchored to prevent tipping over
 - C. They may only be attached to drywall
 - D. They can be left unsecured
- 5. During a framing inspection, which type of verification is NOT typically included?**
 - A. Verification of framing techniques
 - B. Assessment of HVAC systems
 - C. Examination of load-bearing walls
 - D. Review of structural connections

- 6. What is the minimum amount of damp-proofing required for foundation walls?**
- A. 2 pounds per sq. yard
 - B. 3 pounds per sq. yard
 - C. 4 pounds per sq. yard
 - D. 5 pounds per sq. yard
- 7. What is the minimum slope for a bitumen roof?**
- A. 1/8:12
 - B. 1/4:12
 - C. 1/3:12
 - D. 1/2:12
- 8. Define the term "setback" in residential zoning laws in North Carolina.**
- A. The area designated for parking
 - B. The distance from a property line to a building
 - C. The maximum height of a building
 - D. The regulation of land use
- 9. Describe the scope of "energy-efficient" windows in residential code.**
- A. They must be designed exclusively for southern climates
 - B. They must meet specific U-factor and Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC) ratings for energy conservation
 - C. They can be any standard window type
 - D. They are defined solely by their color
- 10. Which of the following is considered in the inspection of structural integrity?**
- A. Type of roofing materials
 - B. Truss spacing and support
 - C. Size of windows installed
 - D. Location of electrical outlets

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the purpose of vapor barriers in basements?

- A. To provide structural support
- B. To prevent moisture penetration and damage to building materials**
- C. To insulate against temperature changes
- D. To enhance aesthetic appeal

Vapor barriers serve an essential function in maintaining the integrity of a building's structure, particularly in areas like basements that are prone to moisture problems. The primary purpose of a vapor barrier is to prevent moisture from penetrating into the living spaces from the ground or surrounding environment. When moisture seeps into basements, it can lead to various issues such as mold growth, wood rot, and deterioration of materials like drywall and insulation. By installing a vapor barrier, the risk of these moisture-related problems is significantly reduced, which helps to protect both the health of the occupants and the durability of the structure. Vapor barriers do not provide structural support, insulation, or aesthetic enhancement; their focus is specifically on moisture control, which is critical for ensuring that building materials remain intact and the living environment stays healthy.

2. What is the height at which safety glazing is required?

- A. Only in bathrooms
- B. At all hazardous locations**
- C. In living rooms only
- D. In bedrooms only

Safety glazing is required at all hazardous locations to minimize the risk of injury in the event of breakage. Hazardous locations include places where there is a higher likelihood of impact, such as doors, sidelights, and certain window placements, as well as areas where a person might be expected to come into contact with the glass. The implementation of safety glazing materials is essential to enhance safety in environments where glass is more likely to be subjected to force or where individuals are at risk of falling into glass surfaces. This regulation is part of building codes designed to protect occupants, regardless of the room's specific function, thereby making it necessary in various areas of a residence beyond just bathrooms or bedrooms. This comprehensive requirement helps ensure that all potentially risky zones are adequately safeguarded, contributing to overall residential safety standards.

3. What is the purpose of a "flood zone" designation?

- A. To classify areas based on soil compaction
- B. To indicate areas requiring specific building standards to mitigate flood risk**
- C. To outline locations for potential wind damage
- D. To provide guidelines for energy efficiency requirements

A "flood zone" designation serves the important role of indicating areas that are prone to flooding and, consequently, requiring specific building standards to mitigate flood risks. This designation is critical for ensuring that structures built in flood-prone areas can withstand potential inundation and minimize damage to property and loss of life. By establishing these standards, local authorities and planners can enforce construction practices that include elevated foundations, flood-resistant materials, and other engineering solutions tailored to reduce the impact of flood waters. This proactive approach helps communities prepare for and respond to flooding events, ultimately safeguarding both the inhabitants and the infrastructure. The other options relate to different aspects of building and construction. For example, soil compaction is relevant for structural stability, but not specifically linked to flood risks; wind damage pertains to hurricane-prone areas but does not address flooding; and energy efficiency guidelines apply to construction practices that reduce energy consumption rather than flood mitigation. Each of these topics is important in its own right, but they do not define the purpose of flood zone designations.

4. In residential construction, what is the requirement for securing cabinets and shelves?

- A. They must be painted for aesthetics
- B. They must be adequately anchored to prevent tipping over**
- C. They may only be attached to drywall
- D. They can be left unsecured

In residential construction, the requirement for securing cabinets and shelves is that they must be adequately anchored to prevent tipping over. This is crucial for safety, particularly in homes with small children or in multi-story environments where accidental tipping could lead to serious injuries. Proper anchoring ensures that the cabinets and shelves remain stable, even when weight is applied or during minor seismic events. The building codes emphasize this requirement to minimize risks associated with unsecured furniture, as falling objects can cause harm. Adequate anchoring involves using appropriate fasteners and techniques to attach cabinets and shelves to wall studs or other structural elements, rather than solely relying on lightweight materials like drywall, which cannot support substantial weight. This practice not only enhances the safety of the occupants but also contributes to the longevity and stability of the installations.

5. During a framing inspection, which type of verification is NOT typically included?

- A. Verification of framing techniques
- B. Assessment of HVAC systems**
- C. Examination of load-bearing walls
- D. Review of structural connections

During a framing inspection, the primary focus is on the structural integrity and proper assembly of the framing components of a building. This includes assessing various aspects such as framing techniques, load-bearing walls, and structural connections. Verification of framing techniques ensures that the construction meets the code requirements and that builders are following approved methods. Examining load-bearing walls is crucial because they support the weight of the structure and can affect overall stability if not constructed properly. Additionally, reviewing structural connections is vital to confirm that different framing members are securely fastened to each other and to the foundation of the building, contributing to the overall durability and safety of the structure. In contrast, while HVAC systems are essential for a home's comfort and functionality, their assessment typically falls outside the scope of a framing inspection. Such evaluations are generally performed during separate inspections focused specifically on mechanical systems. Building codes tend to divide responsibilities among various inspections to ensure each aspect of construction is adequately addressed at the appropriate time in the building process.

6. What is the minimum amount of damp-proofing required for foundation walls?

- A. 2 pounds per sq. yard
- B. 3 pounds per sq. yard**
- C. 4 pounds per sq. yard
- D. 5 pounds per sq. yard

The minimum amount of damp-proofing required for foundation walls is set at 3 pounds per square yard. This standard is based on the need to protect foundation walls from moisture penetration, which can lead to structural issues and mold growth. The specified amount ensures that the damp-proofing material is applied adequately to provide an effective barrier against moisture from the soil. This requirement helps maintain the integrity of the foundation over time by preventing water infiltration, which can cause damage to the building structure. Ensuring compliance with this standard is crucial for the long-term durability and safety of residential construction in North Carolina.

7. What is the minimum slope for a bitumen roof?

- A. 1/8:12
- B. 1/4:12**
- C. 1/3:12
- D. 1/2:12

The minimum slope for a bitumen roof is indeed 1/4:12. This specific slope is crucial for ensuring proper drainage and preventing water accumulation, which can lead to leaks and damage over time. A slope of 1/4:12 indicates that for every 12 horizontal inches, the roof rises 1/4 of an inch, providing adequate drainage while maintaining performance standards for bitumen materials. A flatter slope, such as 1/8:12, may not provide sufficient run-off, potentially causing ponding water issues, which can compromise the integrity of the roofing materials and lead to premature failure. Conversely, steeper slopes like 1/3:12 and 1/2:12 exceed the requirements, which can influence the installation methods and drainage patterns but are not necessary for the basic performance of a bitumen roof. Thus, 1/4:12 is the optimal minimum slope considered adequate in the North Carolina Residential Code.

8. Define the term "setback" in residential zoning laws in North Carolina.

- A. The area designated for parking
- B. The distance from a property line to a building**
- C. The maximum height of a building
- D. The regulation of land use

The term "setback" in residential zoning laws refers specifically to the distance required between a property line and a building. This regulation is crucial as it ensures that structures are built at a safe and appropriate distance from property boundaries. It helps maintain privacy, allows for light and air circulation, and ensures that buildings do not infringe upon neighboring properties. Setbacks can also play a role in fire safety by providing space for emergency access as well as conforming to community aesthetics and cohesiveness in design. Understanding this concept is vital for compliance with local zoning regulations, which are typically established to promote orderly development and protect the character of neighborhoods. The other options address different aspects of zoning and land use, such as parking areas, building height restrictions, and regulations governing land use, but they do not define the specific term "setback."

9. Describe the scope of "energy-efficient" windows in residential code.

- A. They must be designed exclusively for southern climates
- B. They must meet specific U-factor and Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC) ratings for energy conservation**
- C. They can be any standard window type
- D. They are defined solely by their color

The scope of "energy-efficient" windows within the residential code emphasizes their performance characteristics, particularly in terms of energy conservation. These windows are required to meet defined standards regarding U-factor and Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC) ratings. The U-factor measures the rate of heat transfer, indicating how well windows retain heat; a lower U-factor signifies better insulating properties. The SHGC quantifies how much solar radiation passes through the window, with lower values indicating reduced solar heat gain, helping to keep homes cooler in warm climates. The inclusion of specific ratings ensures that the windows contribute positively to the overall energy efficiency of residential buildings, aiding in minimizing energy consumption for heating and cooling. This focus on performance standards is what distinguishes energy-efficient windows from standard options, which may not adhere to the same energy-saving measures.

10. Which of the following is considered in the inspection of structural integrity?

- A. Type of roofing materials
- B. Truss spacing and support**
- C. Size of windows installed
- D. Location of electrical outlets

The inspection of structural integrity primarily focuses on elements that affect the strength and stability of a building's framework. Truss spacing and support play a critical role in maintaining the structural integrity of roofs and floors. Properly spaced and adequately supported trusses help distribute loads evenly and ensure the structure can withstand various stressors, such as snow loads, wind forces, and weight from the building itself. Evaluating truss systems is essential for ensuring that they meet the design criteria set forth in building codes, which dictate matters such as load-bearing capacity and material quality. Any deficiencies in truss spacing or support can lead to structural failure, making it a key consideration during inspections aimed at safeguarding occupants' lives and property. On the other hand, the type of roofing materials, size of windows installed, and the location of electrical outlets, while important for overall building function, aesthetic appeal, and safety, do not directly impact the structural integrity of the building in the same manner as truss spacing and support do. These factors pertain more to building systems and functional design rather than the foundational strength and stability that inspectors focus on when evaluating structural integrity.

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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