

SKILLSUSA CARPENTRY PRACTICE TEST (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. **Laminated strand lumber (LSL) is commonly known by its brand name ____.**
 - A. TimberStrand
 - B. StrandCo
 - C. Laminex
 - D. WoodStrand
2. **The process of restacking lumber on small cross-sticks that allow air to circulate between the pieces is called what?**
 - A. Stacking
 - B. Drying
 - C. Kiln-drying
 - D. Sticking
3. **____ strength is the quality of being resistant to breaking under a pulling force.**
 - A. Tensile
 - B. Compressive
 - C. Shear
 - D. Bond
4. **Most concrete masonry units are called ____, which have the familiar shape of a CMU.**
 - A. Jambs
 - B. Headers
 - C. Columns
 - D. Stretchers
5. **____ drills can deliver as much as 50,000 hammer blows per minute on the drill point.**
 - A. Hammer
 - B. Rotary
 - C. Impact
 - D. Pistol

6. In the context of a construction drawing set, what word completes the phrase 'Finish schedule'?
- A. Finish
 - B. Schedule
 - C. Material
 - D. Rooms
7. Which layer is placed over the joists to provide a base for finished flooring?
- A. Joists
 - B. Drywall
 - C. Subflooring
 - D. Sheathing
8. Which lumber term refers to a product that can be used for structural purposes and is made by laminating layers with adhesive?
- A. Glue-laminated
 - B. Engineered wood
 - C. Plywood
 - D. Solid lumber
9. In site layout, plumbing down from better board strings is used to locate what item?
- A. Building stakes
 - B. Footing
 - C. Frost line
 - D. Studs
10. What tool is used to drill holes with high precision and uniformity in a workpiece?
- A. Drill press
 - B. Hand drill
 - C. Milling machine
 - D. Router

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Laminated strand lumber (LSL) is commonly known by its brand name ____.

A. TimberStrand

B. StrandCo

C. Laminex

D. WoodStrand

LSL is an engineered wood product formed by bonding wood strands with adhesive and pressing them into a solid form, which gives it uniform strength and stability for structural use. This product is commonly marketed under recognizable brand names, with TimberStrand being the most familiar for laminated strand lumber. Recognizing the TimberStrand brand helps you identify the correct type of lumber on plans, catalogs, and job sites, ensuring you're getting LSL rather than another material. The other names aren't standard LSL brands you'd typically see in construction materials—Laminex is known for surface laminates, and WoodStrand or StrandCo aren't recognized as the main LSL brands.

2. The process of restacking lumber on small cross-sticks that allow air to circulate between the pieces is called what?

A. Stacking

B. Drying

C. Kiln-drying

D. Sticking

Resting lumber on small cross-sticks to create air spaces is about seasoning wood through air-drying. By placing thin stickers between layers, air can move through the stack, pulling moisture from the wood evenly and reducing the risk of warp or checking. This specific method is called sticking (often also called stickering). It's different from simply stacking, which is just piling boards without deliberate air gaps, and from kiln-drying, which uses a heated chamber for drying, or from the general idea of drying itself, which is the end result rather than the method.

3. ____ strength is the quality of being resistant to breaking under a pulling force.

A. Tensile

B. Compressive

C. Shear

D. Bond

Tensile strength describes how much pulling a material can withstand before it breaks. When a component is pulled from opposite ends, it experiences tension, and the material's tensile strength is the maximum stress it can endure under that pulling before fracturing. This concept is key for things like cables, ropes, and wood fibers loaded in tension, where resisting breakage under pull is essential. Compressive strength, by contrast, is about resisting being squeezed or crushed, not pulled. Shear strength concerns resistance to sliding between joined surfaces or layers under a shearing load. Bond strength relates to how well surfaces or materials stick together, i.e., adhesion, rather than the material's resistance to breaking under a pulling force.

4. Most concrete masonry units are called ____, which have the familiar shape of a CMU.

- A. Jambs
- B. Headers
- C. Columns
- D. Stretchers**

Stretchers describe the blocks used most often in CMU walls. They are laid so the long, rectangular face is visible on the wall, which gives you the familiar CMU shape. If a block is turned so the short end faces outward, that is a header, used to tie wythes. Jambs are blocks used around openings like doors and windows, and columns refer to vertical structural members, not the typical wall surface. So the common CMU units you see forming most walls are stretchers.

5. ____ drills can deliver as much as 50,000 hammer blows per minute on the drill point.

- A. Hammer**
- B. Rotary
- C. Impact
- D. Pistol

Understanding why hammer action matters in drilling helps explain this. A hammer drill is built to combine rotation with rapid hammering at the drill point. The hammer mechanism delivers a high number of blows per minute, up to around 50,000, which creates a percussive force that chunks away masonry like concrete or brick. That steady hammering is what makes drilling into hard materials much faster than a plain rotary drill, which simply spins the bit without any pounding action. Rotary drills rotate only, so they don't deliver those hammer blows at the drill point. Impact drills do add percussive action, but they're designed for different tasks (often high-torque driving or lighter percussion) and don't match the specific high-frequency hammering used for masonry drilling. The term related to grip style, pistol, describes how the tool is held rather than how it operates. So, the reason this describes hammer drills is precisely that they provide that high-speed hammering action at the drill point to efficiently bore into masonry.

6. In the context of a construction drawing set, what word completes the phrase 'Finish schedule'?

- A. Finish**
- B. Schedule
- C. Material
- D. Rooms

In construction drawings, a Finish schedule is a standard title used to list the surface finishes for walls, floors, ceilings, and trim by location. The word that completes the phrase to form this common label is "Finish," because the schedule specifically communicates what finish each surface receives. Saying "Finish schedule" tells the team exactly which finishes to apply where, such as wall paint, floor coverings, and ceiling textures. Other options would create different or less typical titles (like "Material schedule" or "Rooms schedule") and aren't the conventional label for this kind of document. The Finish schedule is the go-to reference for surface treatments in the project.

7. Which layer is placed over the joists to provide a base for finished flooring?

- A. Joists
- B. Drywall
- C. Subflooring**
- D. Sheathing

The layer placed over the joists to provide a base for finished flooring is subflooring. It sits directly on the joists, giving you a flat, continuous surface that finish flooring can be securely attached to. Subflooring is usually plywood or OSB and is fastened to the joists to distribute loads, reduce movement, and provide a solid nailer or adhesion surface for the final floor. Drywall is used on walls, not floors, and sheathing is the structural exterior or floor panels used to stiffen the building, not to serve as the base for finished interior floors. With subflooring in place, the finished floor has a stable foundation that helps prevent movement, squeaks, and damage.

8. Which lumber term refers to a product that can be used for structural purposes and is made by laminating layers with adhesive?

- A. Glue-laminated**
- B. Engineered wood
- C. Plywood
- D. Solid lumber

Laminate layers bonded with adhesive to make a single structural member. Glue-laminated timber, often called glulam, is built by stacking and gluing layers of wood to form a strong beam or column that can span long distances or be curved. The key idea is using multiple wood layers bonded together to create a product that acts as one solid structural piece, which is why this term is the right fit for a structural lumber product made by laminating layers with adhesive. Plywood also uses laminated layers, but it's typically used as panels or sheathing rather than primarily as a structural beam. Engineered wood is the broad category that includes glulam and plywood, among others, and solid lumber is just a single piece of wood with no lamination.

9. In site layout, plumbing down from batter board strings is used to locate what item?

- A. Building stakes**
- B. Footing
- C. Frost line
- D. Studs

Using batter boards and strings creates a reference frame for the building's footprint. By plumbing down from those strings, you transfer that reference vertically to the ground to mark the exact locations of the stakes that define the building corners. These building stakes then anchor the layout and guide where footings and walls will go. Footings and frost line are important parts of the foundation, but they follow from the corner locations once stakes are set. Studs are framing members and aren't determined by this layout transfer.

10. What tool is used to drill holes with high precision and uniformity in a workpiece?

A. Drill press

B. Hand drill

C. Milling machine

D. Router

When you need holes that are truly aligned and the same depth across a piece, you rely on a drill press. Its fixed, vertical spindle guides the drill bit straight into the work, and the flat, square table supports the part so it sits true. The drill press keeps the hole perpendicular to the surface, and a depth stop lets you drill to the exact same depth every time. Controlled feeding and adjustable speeds further help produce clean, uniform holes and reduce drift or wandering, which is hard to achieve with handheld tools. A handheld hand drill depends on the operator's steadiness, so holes can drift and depths may vary. A milling machine can drill holes but is generally used for broader material removal and complex features, making it less efficient for simple, repeated hole drilling. A router is designed for shaping edges and grooves rather than drilling precise holes in the middle of a workpiece.

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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://skillsusacarpentry.examzify.com>

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

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