Virginia Class A Contractor License Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide

Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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

1. A contract for which type of structures may be subject to recovery from the Transaction Recovery Fund?

A. Residential only

B. Commercial only

C. Industrial only

D. All structures

2. Convert 55 Feet 10 Inches to total inches.

A. 650 Inches

B. 660 Inches

C. 670 Inches

D. 680 Inches

3. For a roof slope of 3 in 12, the factor to convert plan area to actual area is

A. 1.014

B. 1.031

C. 1.054

D. 1.083

4. What is the maximum slope for a ramp?

A. 1 unit vertical in 6 units horizontal

B. 1 unit vertical in 8 units horizontal

C. 1 unit vertical in 10 units horizontal

D. 1 unit vertical in 12 units horizontal

5. In a rectangle, which statement about diagonals is true?

A. The diagonals are equal in length.

B. The diagonals are perpendicular.

C. The diagonals are parallel.

D. One diagonal is longer than the other.

6. A 140-foot wide paved area is to be sloped 1/8 inch per foot. If the highest elevation at the center is 87.2 feet, what is the elevation at the lowest point at the perimeter?

A. 85.70 feet

B. 86.50 feet

C. 87.00 feet

D. 88.10 feet

7. Based on the described arrangement, what is the carpenter's employment status and total gross pay for the project?

A. Independent contractor; $8,000

B. Employee; $10,560

C. Employee; $7,680

D. Independent contractor; $12,000

8. AT LEAST how often should employees watch for possible hazards at the jobsite?

A. Constantly.

B. Daily.

C. Weekly.

D. Monthly.

9. A third stairway stringer is recommended when the stair width exceeds how many inches?

A. 30 inches

B. 28 inches

C. 32 inches

D. 34 inches

10. What is the minimum grade fall away from foundation walls?

A. 2 inches within 5 feet

B. 4 inches within 10 feet

C. 6 inches within 10 feet

D. 8 inches within 15 feet

Answers

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

Explanations

1. A contract for which type of structures may be subject to recovery from the Transaction Recovery Fund?

A. Residential only

B. Commercial only

C. Industrial only

D. All structures

The Transaction Recovery Fund is designed to protect homeowners in residential construction. It applies when a licensed contractor fails to complete or properly perform on a contract that affects a private residence or other residential property. Because its purpose is to safeguard individuals in residential projects, it does not extend to commercial, industrial, or other non-residential structures. Therefore, contracts for residential structures may be subject to recovery from the fund.

2. Convert 55 Feet 10 Inches to total inches.

A. 650 Inches

B. 660 Inches

C. 670 Inches

D. 680 Inches

Converting feet and inches to total inches uses 12 inches per foot. Multiply the feet by 12: 55 × 12 = 660 inches. Then add the remaining inches: 660 + 10 = 670 inches. So the total length in inches is 670.

3. For a roof slope of 3 in 12, the factor to convert plan area to actual area is

A. 1.014

B. 1.031

C. 1.054

D. 1.083

Converting plan area to actual roof area uses the secant of the roof angle, since the sloped surface is longer than its horizontal projection. For a 3 in 12 in pitch, rise/run = 3/12 = 0.25, so the angle θ from horizontal has tan(θ) = 0.25. The area factor is 1/cos(θ) = sqrt(1 + tan²(θ)) = sqrt(1 + 0.25²) = sqrt(1.0625) ≈ 1.0308. Rounding gives 1.031. So you multiply the plan area by about 1.031 to get the actual roof area.

4. What is the maximum slope for a ramp?

A. 1 unit vertical in 6 units horizontal

B. 1 unit vertical in 8 units horizontal

C. 1 unit vertical in 10 units horizontal

D. 1 unit vertical in 12 units horizontal

Ramp slope is the rise over the run, so the steeper the ramp, the larger the rise per given horizontal distance. The maximum slope is the steepest ratio allowed by code or standard in this context. Among the options, 1 vertical in 8 horizontal is the steepest that still meets the limit, making it the maximum allowed slope. A ramp of 1 vertical in 6 horizontal would be too steep to comply, while 1 vertical in 10 horizontal or 1 vertical in 12 horizontal are gentler and, though safe, are not the maximum. Therefore, the maximum slope is 1 vertical for every 8 horizontal units.

5. In a rectangle, which statement about diagonals is true?

A. The diagonals are equal in length.

B. The diagonals are perpendicular.

C. The diagonals are parallel.

D. One diagonal is longer than the other.

The key idea is that opposite corners of a rectangle are connected by diagonals that have the same length. If the rectangle has side lengths a and b, each diagonal spans those same two dimensions, so its length is sqrt(a^2 + b^2) by the Pythagorean theorem. Since both diagonals connect opposite corners, they share this same distance and are equal in length. They aren't perpendicular in a rectangle (that special property occurs only in a square or certain rhombi), and they aren't parallel because they cross each other at the rectangle's center. Also, one diagonal isn't longer than the other—their lengths are identical.

6. A 140-foot wide paved area is to be sloped 1/8 inch per foot. If the highest elevation at the center is 87.2 feet, what is the elevation at the lowest point at the perimeter?

A. 85.70 feet

B. 86.50 feet

C. 87.00 feet

D. 88.10 feet

The drop from the center to the edge follows the slope, so use half the width to find how far the center is from the lowest point. Half of 140 feet is 70 feet. At 1/8 inch per foot, the vertical drop over 70 feet is 70 × 1/8 = 8.75 inches. Convert that to feet: 8.75 inches is 0.729 ft. Subtract this from the center elevation: 87.2 ft − 0.729 ft ≈ 86.471 ft, about 86.47 ft. The closest option is 86.50 feet, so the lowest perimeter elevation is approximately 86.50 feet.

7. Based on the described arrangement, what is the carpenter's employment status and total gross pay for the project?

A. Independent contractor; $8,000

B. Employee; $10,560

C. Employee; $7,680

D. Independent contractor; $12,000

When deciding if someone is an employee or an independent contractor, the key signal is who controls how the work is done. If the employer directs the schedule, assigns the site, provides tools and materials, and pays through payroll with tax withholdings, the worker is an employee. In the described arrangement, the carpenter works on the project under supervision, uses the employer's equipment, follows the employer's instructions, and is paid as wages rather than invoicing for services. That pattern points to employee status rather than independent contractor. The total gross pay is the wage earned for the hours worked, before withholdings. If the project runs 12 weeks at 40 hours per week at a rate of $22 per hour, the calculation is 12 × 40 × 22 = 10,560. So the carpenter is an employee, and the total gross pay for the project is 10,560.

8. AT LEAST how often should employees watch for possible hazards at the jobsite?

A. Constantly.

B. Daily.

C. Weekly.

D. Monthly.

Constant awareness of hazards is essential because jobsite conditions change every moment. On a construction site, new hazards can appear with each task, weather change, equipment move, or by the actions of other workers. If safety is treated as a routine once-a-day or weekly check, a dangerous condition could develop and go unnoticed until an accident happens. By watching for hazards constantly, workers and supervisors can spot unsafe acts or conditions as soon as they arise and take immediate corrective action, preventing injuries and protecting everyone on site. Daily checks are valuable, but they don't catch issues that emerge between those checks; weekly or monthly scans are far too infrequent for a dynamic work environment.

9. A third stairway stringer is recommended when the stair width exceeds how many inches?

A. 30 inches

B. 28 inches

C. 32 inches

D. 34 inches

When a stair run gets wider, you need additional support to keep the treads from sagging and to maintain solid handrail and riser alignment. A third stringer adds a central support, distributing the load more evenly across the treads and reducing deflection. That extra support makes the wide run safer and more durable, because the two-stringer setup can't share the load as effectively once the width crosses the threshold where stiffness becomes a concern. In narrower stairs, two stringers typically suffice, but as the width grows beyond that point, adding a third stringer is the recommended practice.

10. What is the minimum grade fall away from foundation walls?

A. 2 inches within 5 feet

B. 4 inches within 10 feet

C. 6 inches within 10 feet

D. 8 inches within 15 feet

Water around a foundation must slope away from the wall to shed water and protect the foundation. The required grading is a drop of six inches within the first ten feet from the foundation. That means at ten feet out, the soil should be six inches lower than right at the wall, creating a gravity-driven path for water away from the foundation. This helps prevent water intrusion, basement moisture, and related damage. The other options don't meet this standard. A small drop over a shorter distance isn't enough, and a larger drop over a longer distance isn't the specified minimum within the first ten feet. The rule specifies six inches within ten feet as the minimum.

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://vaclassacontractor.examzify.com

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