

Virginia Contractor General Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of 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. Don't worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.

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.

7. Use Other Tools

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!

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Questions

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- 1. Is it permitted for a contractor to operate with an expired license?**
 - A. Yes, under certain conditions**
 - B. No, it is illegal**
 - C. Only for emergency repairs**
 - D. Yes, if renewal is in process**

- 2. Which document is necessary before starting work on a permitted construction project?**
 - A. Cost Estimate**
 - B. Project Schedule**
 - C. Certificate of Occupancy**
 - D. Building Permit**

- 3. What is the value of the Max Bond based on Working Capital?**
 - A. Working Capital x 5**
 - B. Working Capital x 10**
 - C. Working Capital x 15**
 - D. Working Capital x 20**

- 4. When is a Class A license required for a contract?**
 - A. When a single contract is worth more than \$50,000**
 - B. When a single contract is worth more than \$100,000**
 - C. When a single contract is worth more than \$120,000**
 - D. When a single contract is worth more than \$150,000**

- 5. What must contractors do when they subcontract work?**
 - A. Ensure that subcontractors are also licensed and qualified to perform the work**
 - B. Negotiate lower rates to maximize profit**
 - C. Schedule all work without regard to subcontractors' availability**
 - D. Limit communication with subcontractors to avoid confusion**

6. An erosion control conservation specification needs to be approved within how many days?

- A. 30 Days**
- B. 60 Days**
- C. 90 Days**
- D. 120 Days**

7. If a licensee does not pay the additional fee for the contractor recovery fund at renewal, how much additional time is granted?

- A. 15 days**
- B. 30 days**
- C. 45 days**
- D. 60 days**

8. What does "federal employment tax" liability refer to for contractors?

- A. Taxes for contractor's personal income**
- B. Taxes withheld from employees' wages that must be remitted to the IRS**
- C. Insurance costs for worker's compensation**
- D. Fees associated with occupational licenses**

9. What should contractors do to comply with safety regulations?

- A. Ignore complaints from employees**
- B. Conduct periodic safety training sessions**
- C. Limit safety equipment usage**
- D. Postpone safety reviews**

10. How can a contractor mitigate the risk of liability claims?

- A. By hiring more subcontractors**
- B. By maintaining comprehensive insurance policies**
- C. By reducing project timelines**
- D. By minimizing safety standards**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Is it permitted for a contractor to operate with an expired license?

- A. Yes, under certain conditions**
- B. No, it is illegal**
- C. Only for emergency repairs**
- D. Yes, if renewal is in process**

A contractor operating with an expired license is not permitted to do so, as it is illegal. Licensing laws are in place to ensure that all contractors meet specific standards of competency, adhere to safety regulations, and comply with legal requirements. Operating without a valid license can result in penalties, including fines or legal action against the contractor. It also exposes clients to risks since the contractor may not be insured or bonded, which can lead to liabilities for the homeowner if there are issues with the work performed. While certain scenarios might involve temporary allowances, such as emergency repairs or ongoing renewal processes, these provisions do not apply broadly to the operation of an expired license. Each state, including Virginia, has clear regulations that govern licensing, and contractors must ensure their licenses are current to protect themselves and their clients legally and professionally.

2. Which document is necessary before starting work on a permitted construction project?

- A. Cost Estimate**
- B. Project Schedule**
- C. Certificate of Occupancy**
- D. Building Permit**

Before initiating any work on a permitted construction project, obtaining a building permit is essential. A building permit serves as official authorization from the local government that ensures the proposed construction complies with zoning laws, building codes, and safety regulations. It facilitates inspections during construction and confirms that the work meets the approved standards. The issuance of a building permit also demonstrates that the project has been reviewed for safety, structural integrity, and compliance with local regulations, which is crucial to protect both the property and the public. Without this document, a contractor risks legal repercussions, fines, and potentially being forced to halt work until the necessary permits are secured. Therefore, a building permit is a fundamental precondition before any construction activities commence.

3. What is the value of the Max Bond based on Working Capital?

- A. Working Capital x 5**
- B. Working Capital x 10**
- C. Working Capital x 15**
- D. Working Capital x 20**

The value of the Max Bond based on Working Capital is determined by the industry standard for how much bonding capacity a contractor can secure based on their working capital. Typically, bonding companies assess a contractor's financial health, and for working capital, a common multiplier used is 10. This means that if a contractor has a certain amount of working capital, they may be eligible for a bond that is up to ten times that amount. This multiplier takes into account the contractor's ability to manage operational costs and complete projects without financial strain, providing a safeguard for the bonding company in case of claims. Therefore, using the working capital and multiplying it by 10 reflects a standard bonding capacity, making this choice the right answer. The other multipliers suggested in the options represent less common valuations and are not typically utilized in the bonding process.

4. When is a Class A license required for a contract?

- A. When a single contract is worth more than \$50,000**
- B. When a single contract is worth more than \$100,000**
- C. When a single contract is worth more than \$120,000**
- D. When a single contract is worth more than \$150,000**

A Class A contractor license is required when the value of a single contract exceeds \$120,000. In Virginia, contractor licensing is governed by specific thresholds that differentiate between Class A, B, and C licenses based on the monetary limits of construction contracts. The Class A license is intended for those who take on larger projects, reflecting the complexity and financial risk associated with contracts of this value. By setting the threshold at \$120,000, the licensing requirements ensure that contractors who engage in significant construction projects have the necessary experience, skill, and financial responsibility to complete such work safely and effectively. This helps protect consumers and maintain industry standards. Understanding these licensing requirements is important for contractors to operate legally and effectively within Virginia, ensuring they comply with state regulations and serve the needs of their clients appropriately.

5. What must contractors do when they subcontract work?

- A. Ensure that subcontractors are also licensed and qualified to perform the work**
- B. Negotiate lower rates to maximize profit**
- C. Schedule all work without regard to subcontractors' availability**
- D. Limit communication with subcontractors to avoid confusion**

When contractors subcontract work, it is essential that they ensure that the subcontractors are also licensed and qualified to perform the specific tasks required. This is vital because licensing requirements help guarantee that the subcontractors have met the necessary educational and practical knowledge standards set by regulatory bodies. Hiring unlicensed or unqualified subcontractors can lead to legal repercussions for the contractor, compromised quality of work, safety issues, and potential liability if anything goes wrong. Additionally, using qualified subcontractors helps maintain the overall integrity and reputation of the contracting business, ensuring that projects are completed to code and in a professional manner. The other options are less important or detrimental to the contracting process. Negotiating lower rates could impact the quality of work or the subcontractor's ability to perform tasks effectively. Scheduling without considering subcontractors' availability can lead to project delays and inefficiencies. Limiting communication with subcontractors can lead to misunderstandings, further complicating the management of the project. Thus, ensuring subcontractors are licensed and qualified is the most critical step in the subcontracting process.

6. An erosion control conservation specification needs to be approved within how many days?

- A. 30 Days**
- B. 60 Days**
- C. 90 Days**
- D. 120 Days**

The correct time frame for approval of an erosion control conservation specification is 60 days. This timeframe is important because it ensures that proper measures are taken to manage and mitigate erosion-related issues in construction and land disturbance activities. The 60-day period allows ample time for a thorough review by the relevant authorities to ensure compliance with environmental regulations and best practices. This is crucial to protect water quality and promote sustainable land use, as erosion can have significant negative impacts on both local ecosystems and public infrastructure. Meanwhile, shorter or longer periods might not provide adequate time for either comprehensive assessment or ongoing project management processes.

7. If a licensee does not pay the additional fee for the contractor recovery fund at renewal, how much additional time is granted?

A. 15 days

B. 30 days

C. 45 days

D. 60 days

When a contractor licensee in Virginia does not pay the additional fee for the contractor recovery fund upon renewal, they are granted a grace period of 30 days to make the payment without facing penalties or lapses in their licensure. This is an important provision because it gives licensees a chance to rectify their payment status in a timely manner. If they fail to pay the additional fee within this correction period, their license could be affected, potentially leading to more severe consequences. The 30-day period is specifically outlined in Virginia's regulations to ensure that licensees remain informed and compliant with the necessary fee structures associated with the contractor recovery fund.

8. What does "federal employment tax" liability refer to for contractors?

A. Taxes for contractor's personal income

B. Taxes withheld from employees' wages that must be remitted to the IRS

C. Insurance costs for worker's compensation

D. Fees associated with occupational licenses

Federal employment tax liability pertains specifically to the responsibility of contractors to withhold and remit certain taxes deducted from their employees' wages. This includes federal income tax, Social Security taxes, and Medicare taxes. As an employer, contractors must accurately calculate these amounts, withhold them from employees' paychecks, and ensure that the total withheld is sent to the IRS within the required deadlines. This liability is a legal obligation and an essential part of payroll management, reflecting the contractor's role in supporting federal revenue systems. The other options touch on different aspects of financial responsibility related to a contractor's operations but do not accurately define federal employment tax liability. For instance, personal income taxes are related to the contractor's individual financial obligations rather than employee-related taxes. Worker's compensation insurance is crucial for protecting employees in the event of job-related injuries but is not categorized under federal employment taxes. Finally, fees for occupational licenses pertain to regulatory compliance for operating within specific trades or professions and are separate from tax obligations. Understanding these distinctions is vital for contractors to maintain compliance and manage their financial responsibilities effectively.

9. What should contractors do to comply with safety regulations?

- A. Ignore complaints from employees
- B. Conduct periodic safety training sessions**
- C. Limit safety equipment usage
- D. Postpone safety reviews

Conducting periodic safety training sessions is essential for contractors to comply with safety regulations. These training sessions ensure that all employees are informed about the latest safety practices, hazard recognition, and emergency procedures. Regular training helps to reinforce a culture of safety within the organization, making employees more aware of potential risks and the importance of using safety equipment correctly. By committing to ongoing safety training, contractors demonstrate adherence to regulatory requirements and foster a safer work environment. This proactive approach can ultimately reduce the number of accidents and injuries on job sites, which is beneficial for both employees and the business as a whole. Proper safety training equips workers with the knowledge to protect themselves and their coworkers, contributing to overall compliance with safety regulations.

10. How can a contractor mitigate the risk of liability claims?

- A. By hiring more subcontractors
- B. By maintaining comprehensive insurance policies**
- C. By reducing project timelines
- D. By minimizing safety standards

Maintaining comprehensive insurance policies is a crucial strategy for contractors to mitigate the risk of liability claims. Insurance acts as a financial safety net that can cover various potential liabilities, including worker injuries, property damage, and legal defense costs. By having robust coverage, contractors can protect their business assets and ensure that they can respond effectively to claims or lawsuits that may arise from their projects. This not only reduces the financial impact of such claims but also enhances the contractor's credibility and trustworthiness in the eyes of clients and partners. In contrast, hiring more subcontractors can introduce additional complexity to a project and doesn't inherently reduce liability risks. Reducing project timelines might lead to rushed work, increasing the likelihood of oversight and accidents. Minimizing safety standards exposes workers and the public to greater risks, which can lead to more incidents and claims, ultimately increasing liability rather than mitigating it.

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://virginiacontractor.examzify.com>

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

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