

# Virginia Contractor General Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

# Table of Contents

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Copyright .....             | 1  |
| Table of Contents .....     | 2  |
| Introduction .....          | 3  |
| How to Use This Guide ..... | 4  |
| Questions .....             | 5  |
| Answers .....               | 8  |
| Explanations .....          | 10 |
| Next Steps .....            | 16 |

SAMPLE

# 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

SAMPLE

1. If a contractor earns more than what amount per year, they are required to obtain a Class A license?
  - A. \$250,000.00
  - B. \$500,000.00
  - C. \$750,000.00
  - D. \$1,000,000.00
  
2. A designated employee is required to work a minimum of how many hours for a licensed contracting business?
  - A. 20 Hours
  - B. 30 Hours
  - C. 40 Hours
  - D. 50 Hours
  
3. What is the role of a general contractor in construction projects?
  - A. To handle financial transactions for the project
  - B. To oversee and manage the entire construction process and subcontractors
  - C. To solely focus on the procurement of materials
  - D. To provide legal advice during construction
  
4. What does “scope of work” define in a construction contract?
  - A. The overall budget for the project
  - B. The specific tasks, responsibilities, and deliverables expected from the contractor
  - C. The timeline for project completion
  - D. The materials to be used in construction
  
5. After notification by the code official, an application for a permit shall be considered abandoned after how many months?
  - A. 3 Months
  - B. 4 Months
  - C. 6 Months
  - D. 12 Months

6. 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
  
7. What is the guideline set by Virginia laws for the retention period of contractor records?
  - A. One year after completion of the project
  - B. Two years after completion of the project
  - C. Three years after completion of the project
  - D. Five years after completion of the project
  
8. What is the significance of obtaining a Surety Bond?
  - A. It guarantees the contractor will pay their taxes
  - B. It provides a financial guarantee that the work will be completed
  - C. It protects homeowners from damages
  - D. It covers labor costs exceeding estimates
  
9. Which type of insurance is most critical for contractors to have to protect against liability?
  - A. Commercial Property Insurance
  - B. General Liability Insurance
  - C. Workers' Compensation Insurance
  - D. Auto Insurance
  
10. What does the term "subcontractor" refer to in the construction industry?
  - A. A contractor who has a license
  - B. A contractor hired by the client directly
  - C. A contractor hired by the general contractor to perform a specific portion of the work
  - D. A contractor who only manages finances

## Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

## Explanations

SAMPLE

1. If a contractor earns more than what amount per year, they are required to obtain a Class A license?

- A. \$250,000.00
- B. \$500,000.00
- C. \$750,000.00
- D. \$1,000,000.00

A contractor is required to obtain a Class A license in Virginia if they earn over \$750,000 per year. This threshold signifies a level of financial capacity and responsibility in the construction industry. A Class A license allows contractors to undertake larger projects and manage more complex contracts, which aligns with the higher earning potential reflected in this requirement. The rationale for this amount is to ensure that only qualified and adequately funded contractors operate at this level, thereby protecting consumer interests and maintaining high industry standards. This licensing structure is designed to ensure that contractors possess the necessary experience, financial stability, and insurance coverage to handle projects that exceed this revenue threshold. Choosing a lower amount would not sufficiently reflect the scale and complexity of projects suitable for Class A contractors. The regulation helps maintain a balance between consumer protection and contractor capability.

2. A designated employee is required to work a minimum of how many hours for a licensed contracting business?

- A. 20 Hours
- B. 30 Hours
- C. 40 Hours
- D. 50 Hours

In Virginia, a designated employee is required to work a minimum of 30 hours per week for a licensed contracting business. This requirement ensures that there is a responsible and knowledgeable individual present in the business to oversee operations and ensure compliance with state regulations. By establishing this minimum hour requirement, the state aims to promote accountability and consistent oversight within contracting businesses, fostering a professional work environment and ensuring that contractors maintain a high standard of practice. This minimum also allows the designated employee to engage sufficiently with the day-to-day activities of the business, which is essential for effective management and adherence to licensing laws.

### 3. What is the role of a general contractor in construction projects?

- A. To handle financial transactions for the project
- B. To oversee and manage the entire construction process and subcontractors**
- C. To solely focus on the procurement of materials
- D. To provide legal advice during construction

The role of a general contractor is primarily to oversee and manage the entire construction process, which includes coordinating the work of subcontractors and ensuring that the project runs smoothly from start to finish. This position requires comprehensive oversight of daily operations, scheduling, budgeting, and compliance with building codes and safety regulations. A general contractor is responsible for obtaining the necessary permits, hiring subcontractors for specialized tasks, and acting as the primary point of contact between the client, subcontractors, and suppliers. This central role ensures that all parts of the project are synchronized, deadlines are met, and the quality of work is maintained. Effective communication and project management skills are crucial, as the general contractor must adjust plans as challenges arise throughout the construction phase. The other options focus on aspects that do not encompass the full scope of responsibilities expected from a general contractor. While financial transactions, material procurement, and legal advice may be related to construction projects, they do not define the core responsibilities or the overarching management role that a general contractor fulfills in ensuring project completion.

### 4. What does “scope of work” define in a construction contract?

- A. The overall budget for the project
- B. The specific tasks, responsibilities, and deliverables expected from the contractor**
- C. The timeline for project completion
- D. The materials to be used in construction

The "scope of work" in a construction contract specifically defines the precise tasks, responsibilities, and deliverables expected from the contractor. This section outlines exactly what the contractor is required to accomplish, detailing the work to be performed and any expected outcomes. It provides clarity to both parties involved, ensuring that everyone understands the limitations and requirements of the project. By delineating specific work tasks, the scope helps prevent misunderstandings and disputes regarding what is included in the contractor's obligations. While budget, timeline, and materials are important components of a construction project, they are generally addressed separately in other sections of the contract. The budget pertains to the financial aspects of the project, the timeline relates to scheduling and deadlines, and materials focus on the physical components used in construction. Thus, these elements are distinct from the scope of work, which is fundamentally about the nature and extent of the work to be performed.

5. After notification by the code official, an application for a permit shall be considered abandoned after how many months?

- A. 3 Months
- B. 4 Months
- C. 6 Months
- D. 12 Months

In Virginia, the timeframe for an application for a permit to be considered abandoned after notification by the code official is established as six months. This time period is significant as it provides applicants with a reasonably ample opportunity to address any issues or requirements that may have caused a delay in the processing of their permit application. This policy ensures that applicants are motivated to respond and complete their applications in a timely manner, while also allowing the permitting authorities to manage their workload effectively and avoid backlogs caused by long-standing open applications. Thus, the six-month period strikes a balance between giving applicants enough time and maintaining the efficiency of the permitting process.

6. 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.

7. What is the guideline set by Virginia laws for the retention period of contractor records?

- A. One year after completion of the project
- B. Two years after completion of the project
- C. Three years after completion of the project
- D. Five years after completion of the project

Virginia laws mandate that contractors must retain records related to their projects for three years after the completion of the project. This requirement serves several important purposes. Firstly, retaining these records allows contractors to address any potential disputes or claims that may arise after project completion. This can include issues related to warranties, payments, or contract compliance, all of which may surface well after the project has concluded. Secondly, the three-year retention period aligns with various regulatory requirements and best practices in the construction industry, ensuring that contractors are prepared to provide necessary documentation if needed for audits or inspections. Lastly, having comprehensive records for this amount of time fosters transparency and accountability, which are crucial in maintaining trust with clients and regulatory agencies. It ensures that in the event of any legal inquiries or problems, contractors have sufficient documentation to verify their work and decisions. Understanding and adhering to this guideline is crucial for contractors working in Virginia to protect their interests and comply with state laws.

8. What is the significance of obtaining a Surety Bond?

- A. It guarantees the contractor will pay their taxes
- B. It provides a financial guarantee that the work will be completed
- C. It protects homeowners from damages
- D. It covers labor costs exceeding estimates

The significance of obtaining a Surety Bond lies primarily in the financial guarantee it provides regarding the completion of the work. When a contractor secures a Surety Bond, it assures the project owner that the contractor will fulfill their contractual obligations, including completing the project in accordance with the agreed-upon specifications and timeline. If the contractor fails to complete the project or does not adhere to the terms of the contract, the Surety Bond provides a mechanism for the project owner to recover losses, typically by compensating them for the costs incurred in hiring another contractor to finish the job. The bond is issued by a surety company, which assesses the contractor's credibility before underwriting the bond. This assessment includes reviewing the contractor's financial stability, experience, and ability to fulfill the contract, which offers an additional layer of security for project owners. While obtaining a Surety Bond can indirectly protect homeowners from damages and ensure compliance with various regulations, its primary function remains the assurance that the contractor will complete the work as stipulated in the contract. Therefore, the core importance of a Surety Bond revolves around its role in guaranteeing project completion, making option B the correct choice.

9. Which type of insurance is most critical for contractors to have to protect against liability?

- A. Commercial Property Insurance
- B. General Liability Insurance
- C. Workers' Compensation Insurance
- D. Auto Insurance

General Liability Insurance is the most critical type of insurance for contractors because it provides coverage for a wide range of risks that can arise during construction projects. This insurance protects contractors against claims resulting from bodily injury, property damage, and personal injury that may occur while conducting their business. For example, if a client or a third party is injured on the worksite or their property is damaged due to the contractor's operations, general liability insurance would cover the legal costs and any potential settlements or judgments. This is essential for safeguarding the contractor's financial stability and reputation, as lawsuits can be costly and time-consuming. While Commercial Property Insurance, Workers' Compensation Insurance, and Auto Insurance are also important, they serve more specific purposes. Property insurance protects the physical assets of the business, workers' compensation covers employee injuries, and auto insurance relates to accidents involving vehicles used for business purposes. However, general liability insurance addresses broader liabilities that are more likely to occur during the scope of contracting work, making it fundamental for every contractor.

10. What does the term "subcontractor" refer to in the construction industry?

- A. A contractor who has a license
- B. A contractor hired by the client directly
- C. A contractor hired by the general contractor to perform a specific portion of the work
- D. A contractor who only manages finances

The term "subcontractor" in the construction industry specifically refers to a contractor who is engaged by the general contractor to undertake a particular part of the project. This arrangement is crucial because it allows the general contractor to delegate specialized tasks to professionals who have the required expertise and resources. Subcontractors typically focus on specific trades, such as electrical, plumbing, or carpentry work, enabling a more efficient workflow on the construction site. The role of a subcontractor is essential for the smooth execution of larger projects where various skills and trades are needed. By utilizing subcontractors, the general contractor can ensure that each aspect of the construction is handled by someone who possesses the right skills and experience, ultimately contributing to the overall success of the project.

## 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](mailto: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!

SAMPLE