

Virginia NASCLA 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

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1. What is the minimum required distance between suction outlets for a swimming pool?

- A. 1 foot**
- B. 2 feet**
- C. 3 feet**
- D. 4 feet**

2. What is included in a company's balance sheet?

- A. Cash flow**
- B. Assets, liabilities, and owner's equity**
- C. Income and expenses**
- D. Revenue and net profit**

3. A contractor puts in a claim under a comprehensive standard general liability policy. How much is the insurance company liable for if the total damages are \$5,550 and there is a \$500 deductible?

- A. \$5,050**
- B. \$5,500**
- C. \$4,050**
- D. \$1,300**

4. What is the minimum square footage of net clear opening area for an egress window in a second-floor sleeping area?

- A. 4.50 square feet**
- B. 5.70 square feet**
- C. 6.50 square feet**
- D. 7.00 square feet**

5. What is the purpose of diagonal bracing in wall framing?

- A. To support weight**
- B. To prevent racking**
- C. To increase aesthetic appeal**
- D. To reduce insulation costs**

6. The extension of dampproofing is crucial for preventing what issue?

- A. Water ingress**
- B. Mold growth**
- C. Insulation loss**
- D. Structural instability**

7. What is the adjusted contract price for a change order that increases costs by \$15,000 and \$2,250 in overhead, while relieving \$18,000 and \$2,400 in costs, including a desired profit of 20%?

- A. Increase of \$3,780**
- B. Decrease of \$3,780**
- C. No change in price**
- D. A flat fee of \$5,000**

8. Where is temporary horizontal bracing attached when erecting trusses?

- A. At the base of the truss**
- B. Near the ridge line of the truss**
- C. At the midpoint of the truss**
- D. On the floor beams**

9. What is the implication of a loss reported in the cash accounting method?

- A. Exceeds total revenues**
- B. Underestimates true earnings**
- C. Improves cash flow**
- D. Indicates financial stability**

10. Why is it important to evaluate subcontractors before hiring?

- A. To limit project delays**
- B. To ensure cost savings**
- C. To avoid legal disputes**
- D. To maintain quality standards**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the minimum required distance between suction outlets for a swimming pool?

- A. 1 foot**
- B. 2 feet**
- C. 3 feet**
- D. 4 feet**

The minimum required distance between suction outlets for a swimming pool is established to ensure safe and efficient operation of the pool's circulation and filtration system. A distance of 3 feet between suction outlets helps prevent the creation of suction entrapment, which can occur if outlets are placed too close together. Such entrapment can pose serious safety risks to swimmers. By maintaining this 3-foot separation, the likelihood of water flowing towards a single outlet—thereby increasing the risk of a swimmer getting trapped—is significantly reduced. This precaution aligns with health and safety standards that are designed to protect swimmers while utilizing the pool. In practice, establishing this distance also aids in promoting effective water circulation, enhancing the overall hygiene and clarity of the pool water. This requirement is part of broader regulations that aim to enhance the safety and enjoyment of recreational water environments.

2. What is included in a company's balance sheet?

- A. Cash flow**
- B. Assets, liabilities, and owner's equity**
- C. Income and expenses**
- D. Revenue and net profit**

A company's balance sheet is a financial statement that provides a snapshot of its financial position at a specific point in time. It is structured around the accounting equation: Assets = Liabilities + Owner's Equity. This format reveals how a company's resources (assets) are financed either through debt (liabilities) or by the owners' investments (owner's equity). Assets encompass everything the company owns that has value, including cash, accounts receivable, inventory, and fixed assets like machinery or real estate. Liabilities represent what the company owes to outside parties, such as loans, accounts payable, and other obligations. Owner's equity indicates the residual interest in the assets of the company after deducting liabilities, reflecting the net worth of the business. In contrast, cash flow is reported in the cash flow statement, while income and expenses, as well as revenue and net profit, appear in the income statement. These other financial statements serve different purposes and provide insights into the company's performance and cash movement over a period of time rather than its financial position at a single moment. Thus, the balance sheet is distinct for focusing specifically on assets, liabilities, and owner's equity, making option B the correct answer.

3. A contractor puts in a claim under a comprehensive standard general liability policy. How much is the insurance company liable for if the total damages are \$5,550 and there is a \$500 deductible?

- A. \$5,050**
- B. \$5,500**
- C. \$4,050**
- D. \$1,300**

The situation outlines a claim under a comprehensive standard general liability policy where there are total damages amounting to \$5,550 and a deductible of \$500. In this case, the amount that the insurance company would pay is calculated by subtracting the deductible from the total damages. To determine this, you subtract the deductible (\$500) from the total damages (\$5,550): $\$5,550 - \$500 = \$5,050$ Therefore, the insurance company would be liable for \$5,050. The correct answer reflects the actual amount the insurance provider pays after accounting for the deductible. The choice indicating \$1,300 does not adhere to standard claims processing involving deductibles and thus is incorrect. Similarly, any options suggesting \$5,500 or \$4,050 do not take into consideration the deductible correctly or misinterpret how the insurance coverage applies in this scenario.

4. What is the minimum square footage of net clear opening area for an egress window in a second-floor sleeping area?

- A. 4.50 square feet**
- B. 5.70 square feet**
- C. 6.50 square feet**
- D. 7.00 square feet**

The minimum square footage of net clear opening area for an egress window in a second-floor sleeping area is established by building codes to ensure that occupants can safely exit the space in case of an emergency. The requirement for egress windows typically stipulates a minimum clear opening of at least 5.7 square feet. This measurement is taken from the window's net clear opening once it is fully opened, meaning that obstructions such as window panes or screens that do not contribute to the clear passage are not included in this total. A net clear opening of 5.7 square feet is deemed sufficient to accommodate the movement of a person, allowing for quick and effective evacuation, especially in a potentially hazardous situation. This standard is particularly relevant for sleeping areas in residential buildings, where the risk of fire or other emergencies necessitates a reliable and accessible exit route. The other options either exceed or fall below this standard. For example, higher figures like 6.50 square feet and 7.00 square feet offer more space than required, which, while potentially increasing safety, are above the mandated minimum. Conversely, 4.50 square feet falls below the threshold, failing to meet the safety requirements set forth by building codes. This is pivotal in understanding the

5. What is the purpose of diagonal bracing in wall framing?

- A. To support weight
- B. To prevent racking**
- C. To increase aesthetic appeal
- D. To reduce insulation costs

Diagonal bracing in wall framing is primarily used to prevent racking. Racking refers to the distortion of a wall frame due to lateral forces, such as wind or seismic activity. When these lateral forces are applied, they can cause the frame to shift or lean, compromising the structural integrity of the building. Diagonal braces are installed between vertical and horizontal members of the frame, creating a triangular shape that effectively resists these lateral forces. The arrangement of diagonal bracing significantly enhances the overall stability of the walls, allowing them to maintain their shape and support the structure as intended. This is crucial not only for the safety of the building but also for ensuring it meets building codes and standards. By effectively counteracting racking, diagonal bracing plays a vital role in the overall durability and performance of the wall framing system. The other options, such as supporting weight or reducing insulation costs, do not align with the primary function of diagonal bracing in structural applications. While aesthetic appeal may be influenced by design choices, it is not a fundamental purpose of bracing.

6. The extension of dampproofing is crucial for preventing what issue?

- A. Water ingress**
- B. Mold growth
- C. Insulation loss
- D. Structural instability

The extension of dampproofing plays a critical role in preventing water ingress, which refers to the unwanted entry of water into a building or structure. When dampproofing is properly applied and extended beyond the foundation walls, it acts as a barrier that helps keep moisture from penetrating the interior spaces of a building. This is particularly important for maintaining the integrity of the structure, ensuring that walls and foundations remain dry, which in turn protects against a range of issues related to excess moisture. Water ingress can lead to significant problems, such as deterioration of building materials, the formation of cracks, and even damage to the overall structure. Additionally, standing water or continual moisture can foster an environment where mold and mildew can thrive, impacting indoor air quality and occupant health. While other factors like mold growth and insulation loss can be related to moisture problems, the primary function of dampproofing is to directly address and mitigate water ingress, which is foundational to preventing the subsequent issues that arise from it.

7. What is the adjusted contract price for a change order that increases costs by \$15,000 and \$2,250 in overhead, while relieving \$18,000 and \$2,400 in costs, including a desired profit of 20%?

- A. Increase of \$3,780**
- B. Decrease of \$3,780**
- C. No change in price**
- D. A flat fee of \$5,000**

To determine the adjusted contract price based on the change order, you start by analyzing the financial impacts of the changes involved. The change order increases costs by \$15,000 and additional overhead by \$2,250. These increases amount to a total of \$17,250 ($\$15,000 + \$2,250$). On the other side, the change order also relieves some costs, specifically \$18,000 and \$2,400. This totals to \$20,400 ($\$18,000 + \$2,400$) that can now be eliminated from the overall costs. To find the net effect of the change order, you calculate the difference between the total relieving costs and the total increased costs: Net effect = Relieved costs - Increased costs Net effect = \$20,400 - \$17,250 Net effect = \$3,150 The net effect indicates a financial relief of \$3,150, indicating a reduction in the overall contract price. Adding the desired profit margin of 20% applies to the net reduction in costs, but in this case, the relief already produces a net decrease. Thus, when accounting for the overall changes, the final adjusted contract price reflects a decrease of \$3,780 instead of

8. Where is temporary horizontal bracing attached when erecting trusses?

- A. At the base of the truss**
- B. Near the ridge line of the truss**
- C. At the midpoint of the truss**
- D. On the floor beams**

Temporary horizontal bracing is attached near the ridge line of the truss during erection to provide stability and prevent lateral movement as the structure is being assembled. This location is strategic because it helps to maintain the vertical alignment of the truss and ensures that the stresses are effectively distributed throughout the structure. By securing the bracing at this high point, it allows for better control over the truss's shape and prevents buckling or twisting that can occur if the truss is not adequately stabilized. The ridge line is the highest point of the truss, and securing the bracing there allows for greater resistance to forces that can cause instability. This reinforces the overall integrity of the structure during the construction process. Proper bracing is crucial not only for safety and structural stability but also for ensuring that the trusses can be installed correctly in their final positions.

9. What is the implication of a loss reported in the cash accounting method?

- A. Exceeds total revenues**
- B. Underestimates true earnings**
- C. Improves cash flow**
- D. Indicates financial stability**

When a loss is reported in the cash accounting method, it indicates that the total cash outflows exceed total cash inflows during a specific period. Cash accounting focuses solely on actual cash transactions, meaning that revenue is recognized only when cash is received, and expenses are recorded when cash is paid out. Therefore, if there is a loss, it directly points to a situation where more cash has been spent than has been earned. The implication of this is significant because it reflects the financial health of a business at a particular moment. A loss suggests that the business has not generated enough cash to cover its expenditures, which can raise concerns about liquidity and overall operational efficiency. In contrast, other options like underestimating true earnings or implications about cash flow and financial stability do not accurately encapsulate the immediate consequence that a cash-method loss conveys: namely, that cash outflows have surpassed cash inflows.

10. Why is it important to evaluate subcontractors before hiring?

- A. To limit project delays**
- B. To ensure cost savings**
- C. To avoid legal disputes**
- D. To maintain quality standards**

Evaluating subcontractors before hiring is crucial for maintaining quality standards in a project. The quality of work done by subcontractors directly impacts the overall success of the project. By thoroughly assessing their qualifications, experience, and past performance, a contractor can ensure that the subcontractors they hire have the skills and expertise necessary to complete the work to the required standards. This not only helps in meeting the specifications outlined in the project but also enhances client satisfaction and the company's reputation. Maintaining high-quality standards also helps to prevent issues that could arise from subpar workmanship, such as the need for rework, which can lead to increased costs and project delays. Ensuring that subcontractors are reliable and capable of delivering the expected quality allows for smoother operations and better project outcomes.

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://virginianascla.examzify.com>

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

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