AIC CERTIFIED ASSOCIATE CONSTRUCTOR (CAC) PRACTICE EXAM (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.

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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!

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Questions

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1. How many 7-cy dump truck loads are needed to remove 350 bank cubic yards (Bcy) of soil with a swell factor of 15%?

A. 58

B. 53

C. 59

D. 412

2. If an activity has an early start of 4 days and a duration of 3 days, what is its early finish?

A. 4

B. 3

C. 1

D. 7

3. What is the week labor unit cost in dollars per unit for the concrete footings?

A. 0.70

B. 1.43

C. 3.14

D. 14.60

4. Which item is not typically considered a bid document?

A. Instructions to bidders

B. Alternate

C. Addendum

D. General conditions

5. What are the leadership skills needed to conduct a productive meeting?

A. Planning, Probing Questions, Responding Critically, and Decision Making

B. Planning, Timing, Coordinating, Probing, Responding Critically, and Following Up

C. Listening Attentively, Responding Constructively, Soliciting All Ideas, and Matching Decision Making to the Situation

D. Coordinating, Listening Selectively, Responding Critically, Soliciting Supportive Ideas, and Adjusting Decision Making to the Situation

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6. What is the purpose of a visual field soil analysis?

A. Develop an excavation plan

B. See how much work has been completed

C. Establish general soil classifications

D. Check for presence of worms

7. Meeting minutes should be distributed when?

A. about one day prior to the meeting

B. at the beginning of the meeting

C. about one day after the meeting

D. any time during the project

8. What is an acceptable height for the top rail of a guardrail system?

A. 21 in.

B. 38 in.

C. 45 in.

D. 52 in.

9. Using typical soil weight data, what is the swell percentage of loam soil?

A. 8.3%

B. 23.8%

C. 31.9%

D. 81.0%

10. Which document starts the contractor's schedule to complete the project?

A. notice of award

B. letter of intent

C. notice to proceed

D. start work order

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. How many 7-cy dump truck loads are needed to remove 350 bank cubic yards (Bcy) of soil with a swell factor of 15%?

A. 58

B. 53

C. 59

D. 412

The concept here is converting bank cubic yards to the loosened volume using the swell factor, then dividing by truck capacity to find how many loads are needed. A swell factor of 15% means the excavated, loose volume is 1.15 times the in-situ bank volume. So the total volume to haul is 350 × 1.15 = 402.5 cubic yards. Each dump truck carries 7 cubic yards, so the number of loads is 402.5 / 7 ≈ 57.5. Since you can't make half a trip, you round up to 58 loads.

2. If an activity has an early start of 4 days and a duration of 3 days, what is its early finish?

A. 4

B. 3

C. 1

D. 7

Early finish equals early start plus duration. If you can begin as early as day 4 and it takes 3 days to complete, you finish on day 7. So the early finish is 7. This matches the rule that EF = ES + duration, and the other numbers would not align with the given start and duration.

3. What is the week labor unit cost in dollars per unit for the concrete footings?

A. 0.70

B. 1.43

C. 3.14

D. 14.60

The week labor unit cost is found by dividing the total labor cost for the week by the number of units produced in that week. In practice, you sum all wages and payroll burdens for the crew for the week (the total labor cost) and count how many concrete footings were completed during that same week. The result is cost per footing: weekly labor cost divided by weekly production. In this problem, the given wage rates, crew size, and production rate yield a weekly cost per footing of 14.60 dollars. This demonstrates how productivity and wage costs combine to set the unit cost: more units produced with the same wages lowers the cost per unit, while fewer units raise it.

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4. Which item is not typically considered a bid document?

A. Instructions to bidders

B. Alternate

C. Addendum

D. General conditions

Bid documents are the materials issued to bidders to guide how bids are prepared and submitted. They include instructions to bidders (how to format bids, deadlines, etc.), alternates (priced options that modify scope), and addenda (updates or clarifications issued before the bid deadline). The General Conditions, however, lay out the legal terms, responsibilities, and contract obligations that come into play after the contract is awarded and form part of the contract documents. Since they define the binding agreement rather than the bidding process itself, they are not typically considered bid documents.

5. What are the leadership skills needed to conduct a productive meeting?

A. Planning, Probing Questions, Responding Critically, and Decision Making

B. Planning, Timing, Coordinating, Probing, Responding Critically, and Following Up

C. Listening Attentively, Responding Constructively, Soliciting All Ideas, and Matching Decision Making to the Situation

D. Coordinating, Listening Selectively, Responding Critically, Soliciting Supportive Ideas, and Adjusting Decision Making to the Situation

Leading a productive meeting hinges on guiding the session from a clear plan through to concrete results. Planning sets the goals and agenda so the discussion stays focused and aligned with the desired outcomes. Timing ensures the meeting starts on time, keeps each topic within a reasonable window, and respects participants' schedules. Coordinating brings people and tasks together: it clarifies roles, allocates responsibilities, and ensures the right people are present to contribute and decide. Probing involves asking thoughtful questions to uncover needs, test assumptions, and draw out meaningful input rather than surface-level comments. Responding critically means weighing ideas constructively—supporting sound points while gently challenging anything that doesn't hold up—so the group arrives at well-reasoned conclusions. Following up closes the loop by capturing decisions, assigning owners, setting deadlines, and outlining next steps to ensure actions are carried out after the meeting. Other options miss one or more of these essential elements. For example, without explicit timing, coordination, and follow-up, a meeting can run over, lose direction, and fail to produce accountable outcomes. Lists that focus mainly on listening or idea solicitation may neglect the need for a deliberate plan, organized flow, and post-meeting action.

6. What is the purpose of a visual field soil analysis?

A. Develop an excavation plan

B. See how much work has been completed

C. Establish general soil classifications

D. Check for presence of worms

Visual field soil analysis is a quick, in-the-field assessment used to identify and categorize soils from observable features and simple tests. The purpose is to establish general soil classifications—such as sand, silt, clay, gravel, loam—and to gauge how the soil is likely to behave, including drainage, workability, bearing potential, and responses to excavation and compaction. This classification provides a basis for planning and deciding on methods, sequencing, and whether deeper investigations are needed. It's not about measuring progress or checking for worms, and it isn't a precise lab test; it's a screening step that guides subsequent, more detailed testing if required.

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7. Meeting minutes should be distributed when?

A. about one day prior to the meeting

B. at the beginning of the meeting

C. about one day after the meeting

D. any time during the project

The main idea here is keeping a timely, accurate record of what happened in the meeting. Meeting minutes are most useful when they are shared soon after the discussion so the details are still fresh, decisions are clear, and action items can be assigned with owners and due dates while everyone's memory is fresh. Distributing minutes about one day after the meeting strikes a good balance: there's enough time to finalize notes, confirm any ambiguities with attendees, and format the document, yet it's early enough that people can reference it to guide their next steps. If minutes were shared before the meeting or at its start, they wouldn't capture what was actually decided or discussed. If they're delayed far beyond the meeting, the information can become stale, actions can be forgotten, and accountability suffers. A good minutes document typically includes key decisions, responsible individuals, and due dates for follow-up, and should be circulated to all participants and relevant stakeholders to ensure alignment and a clear record for the project.

8. What is an acceptable height for the top rail of a guardrail system?

A. 21 in.

B. 38 in.

C. 45 in.

D. 52 in.

Guardrail heights are set to provide fall protection while still allowing workers to move and work safely. The standard requires the top edge of the guardrail to be at least 42 inches above the walking surface, but not taller than 45 inches. Among the given options, 45 inches falls within that permissible range, making it acceptable as the top-rail height. A height of 38 inches is below the minimum, 21 inches is far too low, and 52 inches exceeds the maximum, so they wouldn't meet typical requirements. This is why 45 inches is the correct choice.

9. Using typical soil weight data, what is the swell percentage of loam soil?

A. 8.3%

B. 23.8%

C. 31.9%

D. 81.0%

Swelling percentage is the amount a soil's volume increases when it goes from dry to saturated. Loam sits in the middle: it has enough clay to expand noticeably, but not so much that the expansion is extreme. Using typical soil weight data, loam's swell is about 23.8%, which is a moderate level between sands (lower swelling) and highly expansive clays (much higher swelling). The other values represent soils with textures that cause less or far more expansion than loam.

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10. Which document starts the contractor's schedule to complete the project?

A. notice of award

B. letter of intent

C. notice to proceed

D. start work order

The official go-ahead to begin the work is what starts the contractor's schedule, and that is provided by the notice to proceed. This document establishes the official start date for performance, triggers the contract timeline, and sets the baseline for mobilization and all subsequent activities. It is issued after the contract is signed and any required prerequisites (like bonds, insurance, and permits) are in place, and it often specifies how soon work should begin and what activities are allowed at the start. The other documents have different purposes. The notice of award simply informs the bidder that their bid was accepted and does not authorize performance. A letter of intent shows an intent to proceed or to negotiate final contract details but does not normally authorize full construction activities yet. A start work order isn't a standard contractual document that marks the formal commencement of the project schedule in typical construction practice.

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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://aiccac.examzify.com

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

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