CALIFORNIA LATHING AND PLASTERING CONTRACTOR (C-35 LICENSE) 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. What is the minimum width for strip reinforcement for continuous joints of gypsum lath?

A. 2 inches

B. 3 inches

C. 4 inches

D. 6 inches

2. Conerite lath should be installed after weather protection is in place; which statement is correct?

A. This condition must be met before installation

B. It can be installed during weather protection

C. It is unrelated to weather protection

D. It should be installed only after final plaster set

3. Which of the following describes prefabricated studs?

A. They are always galvanized or rust inhibiting coated

B. They must be bare steel

C. They must be wood

D. They must be aluminum

4. What is the purpose of wire lath on exterior walls?

A. Provides an anchor base for plaster and reinforcement

B. Provides insulation

C. Supports electrical wiring

D. Reduces mass

5. If no external corner reinforcement is used, the lath must be furred out and carried around corners for at least how many supports on frame constructions?

A. At least one support on frame constructions

B. At least two supports on frame constructions

C. At least three supports on frame constructions

D. No supports are required

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6. What are the three coats of a traditional cement plaster system?

A. Scratch coat, brown coat, and finish coat

B. Base coat, scratch coat, and finish coat

C. Scratch coat, finish coat, and primer

D. Brown coat, finish coat, and top coat

7. In insulating gypsum lath, the foil side should be installed facing toward:

A. framing members

B. room interior

C. exterior sheathing

D. finished surface

8. Lead-backed is a listed type of gypsum lath. Which option correctly identifies this fact?

A. Perforated

B. Lead-backed

C. Type X

D. All of the above

9. Types of gypsum lath include which of the following?

A. Perforated

B. Lead-backed

C. Type X

D. All of the above

10. Ventilating expansion screeds used for ventilation of air spaces under horizontal or protected vertical surfaces must be made of No. 26 galvanized steel for which areas?

A. Eaves

B. Corridors

C. Canopies

D. All of the above

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the minimum width for strip reinforcement for continuous joints of gypsum lath?

A. 2 inches

B. 3 inches

C. 4 inches

D. 6 inches

Continuous joints in gypsum lath need strip reinforcement to prevent cracking and keep the plaster bonded across the joint. The strip must be three inches wide because that width provides enough surface area for the plaster to grab and for the reinforcement to transfer stresses across the joint. A narrower strip would not offer sufficient adhesion or strength, increasing the chance of cracking, while wider strips are not necessary for typical gypsum lath joints and add extra cost without added benefit.

2. Conerite lath should be installed after weather protection is in place; which statement is correct?

A. This condition must be met before installation

B. It can be installed during weather protection

C. It is unrelated to weather protection

D. It should be installed only after final plaster set

Weather protection is needed to keep the lath and the plaster bedding dry and stable as the system is being installed and cured. Conerite lath acts as the key for the plaster, so it must be set on a dry, protected surface. If the lath is installed before weather protection is in place, moisture from rain or damp conditions can reach the lath and substrate, leading to rust, warping, reduced keying, and poor plaster adhesion. By having weather protection in place first, you create a consistent, dry environment that helps ensure proper bonding and curing of the plaster. Installing during weather exposure or after the plaster has set would expose the work to conditions that can compromise the finished system, and treating weather protection as unrelated isn't accurate for plastering practice.

3. Which of the following describes prefabricated studs?

A. They are always galvanized or rust inhibiting coated

B. They must be bare steel

C. They must be wood

D. They must be aluminum

The main idea is that metal studs used with plaster systems are built to resist moisture and corrosion. Prefabricated studs are typically galvanized or have a rust-inhibiting coating so they won't rust in damp conditions, moisture from plaster work, or potential leaks. Bare steel would deteriorate quickly and compromise the wall. Wood isn't used for these metal-framed prefabricated studs in this context, and aluminum isn't the standard material described here. So the best description is that prefabricated studs are always galvanized or rust-inhibiting coated to protect them in a moist environment.

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4. What is the purpose of wire lath on exterior walls?

A. Provides an anchor base for plaster and reinforcement

B. Provides insulation

C. Supports electrical wiring

D. Reduces mass

Wire lath on exterior walls acts as a mechanical anchor and reinforcement for plaster. The mesh provides a rough, keying surface that plaster can grip onto, creating a bond that holds the coats in place and distributes movement and stresses across the wall. This helps prevent cracking and detachment from wind or settling, giving the stucco system durability. It's installed as a base for the plaster coats (scratch, brown, finish), rather than for insulation, electrical wiring support, or reducing wall mass.

5. If no external corner reinforcement is used, the lath must be furred out and carried around corners for at least how many supports on frame constructions?

A. At least one support on frame constructions

B. At least two supports on frame constructions

C. At least three supports on frame constructions

D. No supports are required

When no external corner reinforcement is used, the lath around the corner needs solid backing to resist movement and cracking. By furred-out lath and carrying it around the corner, you create a physical path for the plaster to grip and transfer stresses into the framing. The minimum requirement in frame construction is one support on the framing, which provides a secure attachment point to anchor the lath at the corner. This single support helps keep the corner stable and reduces the risk of cracking or loosening, even though more supports could be added for extra stiffness.

6. What are the three coats of a traditional cement plaster system?

A. Scratch coat, brown coat, and finish coat

B. Base coat, scratch coat, and finish coat

C. Scratch coat, finish coat, and primer

D. Brown coat, finish coat, and top coat

In a traditional cement plaster system, the wall is built up in three coats with specific roles. The first coat, the scratch coat, is applied to the lath and then scratched to create a rough key for the next layer. The second coat, the brown coat, adds bulk and levels the surface to the desired thickness. The final layer, the finish coat, is a thin top coat that delivers the smooth, decorative surface ready for painting or other finishes. This sequencing matches the standard terminology and practice. A primer is not part of the plaster layering itself, and a base coat or top coat are not the conventional terms used for the three-layer cement plaster system—the recognized trio is scratch coat, brown coat, and finish coat.

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7. In insulating gypsum lath, the foil side should be installed facing toward:

A. framing members

B. room interior

C. exterior sheathing

D. finished surface

The main idea here is how the foil layer in insulating gypsum lath functions within the wall assembly. The foil acts as a radiant barrier and vapor retarder, so its orientation matters for performance and for how the plaster bonds. Installing the foil side toward the framing members places the reflective surface in the wall cavity itself, between the lath and the studs. This keeps the barrier in the air space where it can effectively reduce heat transfer and limit moisture diffusion into the insulation, while also keeping the foil out of the plaster's bond area so finish work isn't compromised. If the foil faced the room interior or the exterior sheathing, the reflective layer wouldn't be positioned in the cavity where it would most effectively influence heat flow and moisture movement, and it could interfere with plaster bonding or become more easily damaged during finishing.

8. Lead-backed is a listed type of gypsum lath. Which option correctly identifies this fact?

A. Perforated

B. Lead-backed

C. Type X

D. All of the above

When evaluating gypsum lath, the term listed means the product has been tested and approved for use in plaster systems by the appropriate standards or code bodies. Lead-backed describes a gypsum lath that includes a lead backing as part of its listed specification. This makes it the correct way to identify the listed type you're being asked about. Lead backing serves as part of the listed product, giving it a specific purpose and certification in plaster systems. The other terms describe different features or products: perforated refers to holes in the lath to help key the plaster, and Type X is a fire-rated gypsum board used in walls, not a plaster lath listing. Saying all of the above would imply that every item is a listed gypsum lath type, which isn't what the listing refers to in this context.

9. Types of gypsum lath include which of the following?

A. Perforated

B. Lead-backed

C. Type X

D. All of the above

Gypsum lath is a gypsum-based backing used under plaster to provide a stable surface and to help the plaster key into place. There are several forms to meet different needs: perforated gypsum lath provides openings for the plaster to grab and anchor itself as it sets; lead-backed gypsum lath involves a sheet of lead behind the gypsum in some assemblies to enhance fire resistance or moisture control in specific historic or specialized applications; Type X gypsum lath is formulated to contribute to fire resistance and is used where fire ratings are required. Because each of these serves a distinct purpose in plastering assemblies, all of the above are considered types of gypsum lath.

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10. Ventilating expansion screeds used for ventilation of air spaces under horizontal or protected vertical surfaces must be made of No. 26 galvanized steel for which areas?

A. Eaves

B. Corridors

C. Canopies

D. All of the above

Ventilating expansion screeds vent air spaces under horizontal or protected surfaces, so the metal chosen must resist moisture and weather exposure. No. 26 galvanized steel provides the necessary corrosion resistance and enough strength for the vented design. Eaves, corridors, and canopies all fall into areas where ventilation is needed under surfaces that are exposed or semi-exposed, so the same material specification applies to all of them. Therefore, the requirement covers all of the listed areas.

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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://lathingplasteringc35.examzify.com

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

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