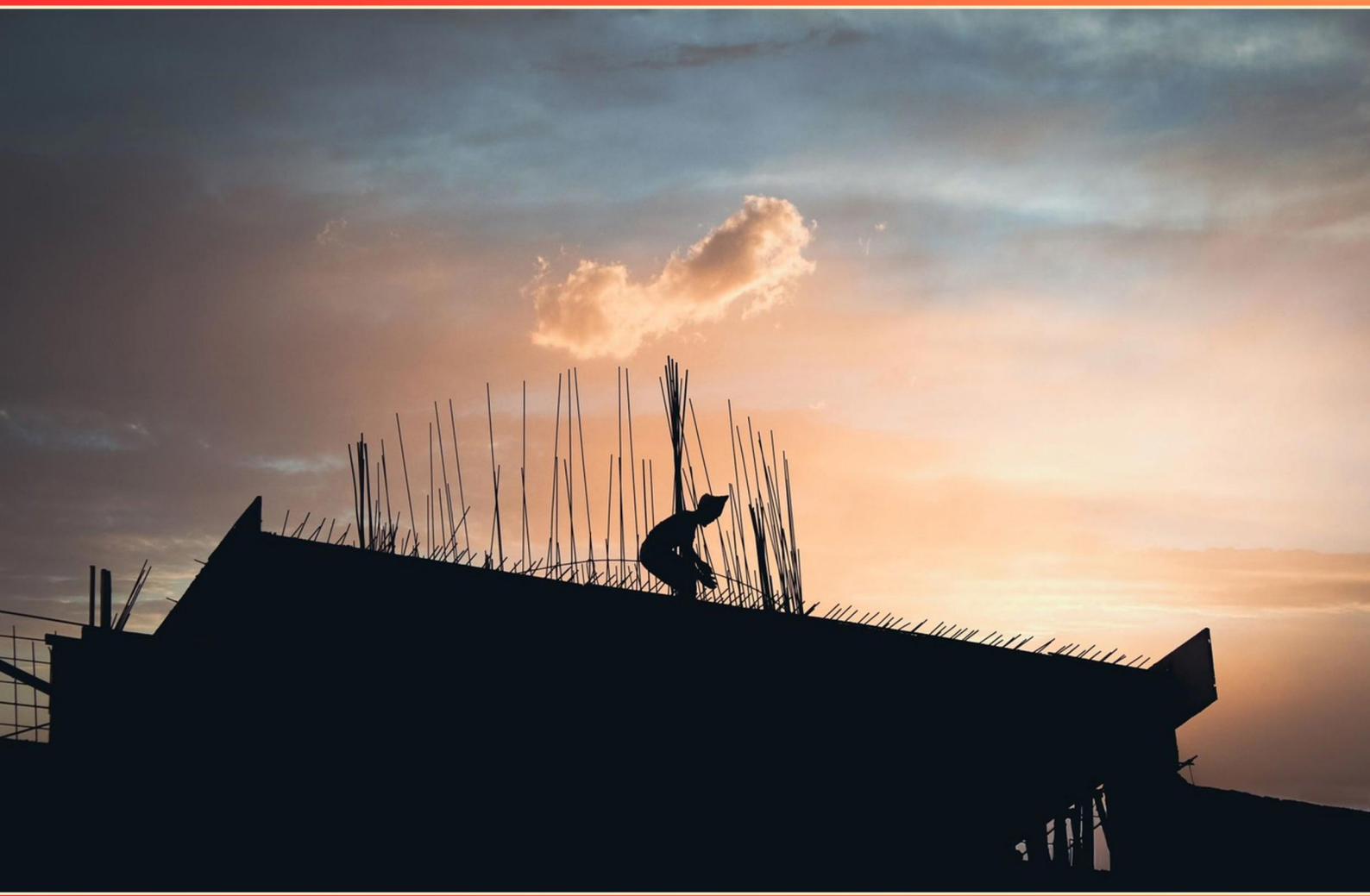
CALIFORNIA ROOFING CONTRACTOR EXAM (C-39 LICENSE) PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

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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 a chimney cricket and its purpose?

A. A small pitched saddle installed to divert water around a chimney and prevent leaks.

B. A type of chimney used for ventilating attics.

C. A security device to prevent intrusions.

D. A special tape for sealing flashing.

2. What is a retention in a construction contract?

A. Funds held back by the owner to ensure completion and quality, released after finalization.

B. A bonus paid to the contractor for early completion.

C. A penalty charged for delays.

D. A discount offered for paying early.

3. What is a parapet and why is it significant to roofing?

A. A vertical wall that increases wind uplift

B. A low protective wall around the edge of a roof; requires proper flashing to prevent leaks

C. A drainage gutter on flat roofs

D. A type of roof covering

4. Which characteristic describes variegated tile?

A. Uniform color

B. Multiple red tones

C. Only blue tones

D. Matte finish

5. The starter course for asphalt shingles should have an overhang of:

A. 1/4"

B. 3/4"

C. 1"

D. 1 1/2"

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6. Which of the following is a dead load on a roof?

A. Structural membranes and other fixed loads

B. Roofers and other personnel

C. Snow

D. Wind

7. On a siphon hose in a kettle, what causes the check valve to jam open?

A. Excess carbon buildup around the pump

B. Low fuel level

C. Damaged hose

D. Overheating

8. The type of roof to be installed is determined by:

A. Roof slope or pitch

B. Building height

C. Material cost

D. Climate

9. What is the minimum underlayment for wood shingles?

A. 15 lb

B. None required

C. 30 lb

D. 60 lb

10. The rules described pertain to which roofing material?

A. Asphalt shingles

B. Wood shingles

C. Clay tiles

D. Metal roofing

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is a chimney cricket and its purpose?

A. A small pitched saddle installed to divert water around a chimney and prevent leaks.

B. A type of chimney used for ventilating attics.

C. A security device to prevent intrusions.

D. A special tape for sealing flashing.

A chimney cricket is a small pitched roof feature mounted on the uphill side of a chimney. Its purpose is to shed water, snow, and debris away from the junction of the chimney and the roof, directing runoff to the high side and down the slope. By creating a dedicated path for moisture to drain, it helps prevent water from pooling around the chimney flashing and shingles, which reduces the risk of leaks and roof damage over time. It's not related to attic ventilation, security devices, or sealing tape—those functions belong to other roof components.

2. What is a retention in a construction contract?

A. Funds held back by the owner to ensure completion and quality, released after finalization.

B. A bonus paid to the contractor for early completion.

C. A penalty charged for delays.

D. A discount offered for paying early.

Retention is the portion of money the owner withholds from the contractor's payments to act as security that the work will be completed properly and any deficiencies will be corrected. It serves as a financial incentive for the contractor to finish all tasks to spec and to address any issues that come up during the defect-liability period. The withheld funds are typically released later, after final acceptance and once the project passes the required warranty or defect correction period. This isn't a bonus for finishing early, a penalty for delays, or a discount for paying early. Those options are incentives or penalties, not holdbacks tied to ensuring quality and completion.

3. What is a parapet and why is it significant to roofing?

A. A vertical wall that increases wind uplift

B. A low protective wall around the edge of a roof; requires proper flashing to prevent leaks

C. A drainage gutter on flat roofs

D. A type of roof covering

A parapet is a low protective wall that runs along the edge of a roof. Its significance in roofing comes from how water behaves at that edge: the joint where the parapet meets the roof deck is a prime entry point for leaks. That's why proper flashing is essential—base flashing at the parapet-roof interface and counterflashing behind the coping must be installed correctly to seal the joint and keep water from migrating behind the wall. The top coping protects the wall itself, but without well-executed flashing, moisture can seep in and cause damage inside the building.

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4. Which characteristic describes variegated tile?

A. Uniform color

B. Multiple red tones

C. Only blue tones

D. Matte finish

Variegated tile shows color variation across the surface. Seeing multiple red tones demonstrates that the tile has several shades rather than a single solid color, which is exactly what variegation means. The other options don't capture that color mix: a uniform color has no variation, a matte finish refers to surface texture, not color, and while blue tones could vary, saying "only blue tones" doesn't clearly convey the mix of hues that defines variegation.

5. The starter course for asphalt shingles should have an overhang of:

A. 1/4"

B. 3/4"

C. 1"

D. 1 1/2"

The main idea here is controlling how water sheds from the eave and how the first row of shingles seats. For asphalt shingles, the starter course should overhang the eave enough to form a clean drip edge and to position the first row so the field shingles line up and shed water properly, without creating other issues at the edge. About three quarters of an inch is the standard overhang. This amount provides a reliable drip and helps the bottom edge of the starter row sit correctly so the next courses align. If the overhang is much smaller, water can creep back toward the deck, and the edge protection is reduced. If it's much larger, the edge becomes more exposed to wind uplift and misalignment with the drip edge, potentially causing seating and appearance problems.

6. Which of the following is a dead load on a roof?

A. Structural membranes and other fixed loads

B. Roofers and other personnel

C. Snow

D. Wind

Dead loads are the permanent, non-removable weights that stay with the structure. On a roof, this includes the weight of the roofing materials themselves, structural membranes, insulation, and other fixed components—the things that are part of the building and don't change with time. Snow and wind are not dead loads; they are environmental or live loads that vary with weather and occupancy. Roofers and other personnel on the roof are temporary loads (live loads) that only exist while people are present. So the fixed, permanent weight of the roof system—structural membranes and other fixed loads—is the dead load.

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7. On a siphon hose in a kettle, what causes the check valve to jam open?

A. Excess carbon buildup around the pump

B. Low fuel level

C. Damaged hose

D. Overheating

The key idea is that a check valve must seat tightly to stop backflow. Excess carbon buildup around the pump creates a sticky, abrasive film and roughness that prevents the valve disc or ball from seating fully against its seat. With the seating compromised, the valve remains open or cannot close properly, so fuel keeps flowing backward and the valve appears to be jammed in the open position. This deposit-driven sticking is a common cause because it directly interferes with the moving parts and seating surface, unlike a low fuel level (which mainly affects priming), a damaged hose (which usually leaks or loses pressure), or overheating (which could warp parts but doesn't specifically cause the valve to stay open due to carbon deposits). Regular cleaning and avoiding buildup help the valve seal reliably.

8. The type of roof to be installed is determined by:

A. Roof slope or pitch

B. Building height

C. Material cost

D. Climate

Roof slope or pitch determines the type of roof because how steep the surface is dictates which roofing assemblies, underlayment, and fastenings will perform properly and how water will drain. A low-slope or flat roof requires a membrane or built-up system with careful flashing to prevent leaks, while a steeper roof can shed water quickly with shingles or tiles and uses different attachment methods. The pitch also influences structural considerations, insulation details, and drainage design, all of which shape the appropriate roof assembly. Climate can influence material choice within the chosen roof type, and cost may affect which materials are selected, but the fundamental roof type is set by the roof's slope. Building height does not determine the roof type, though it can affect wind loads and code requirements.

9. What is the minimum underlayment for wood shingles?

A. 15 lb

B. None required

C. 30 lb

D. 60 lb

Wood shingles provide the primary weatherproofing when installed correctly, so a separate underlayment isn't required in the standard installation. The shingles' overlapping pattern sheds water, and a deck that's dry and properly prepared is typically sufficient without a secondary moisture barrier. Adding underlayment can even be unnecessary or problematic if it traps moisture between layers. Therefore, the minimum underlayment in this common scenario is none. Always follow manufacturer instructions and local codes if conditions call for additional protection, but in the typical wood-shingle installation, no underlayment is mandated.

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10. The rules described pertain to which roofing material?

A. Asphalt shingles

B. Wood shingles

C. Clay tiles

D. Metal roofing

Wood shingles have unique installation rules because wood is a natural material that moves with moisture and temperature, and it's more vulnerable to rot and insect damage. That means the guidelines focus on how the wood can expand and contract, how to fasten without splitting the wood, and how to protect the shingles from moisture. You'll see emphasis on proper spacing and exposure, specific nail placement to prevent splitting, and the need for appropriate underlayment and ventilation to keep the wood dry and durable. Those kinds of requirements are distinctive to wood shingles, rather than applicable to asphalt, clay tile, or metal roofing, which follow different installation practices and behavior. So the described rules align with wood shingles.

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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://roofingc39.examzify.com

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

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