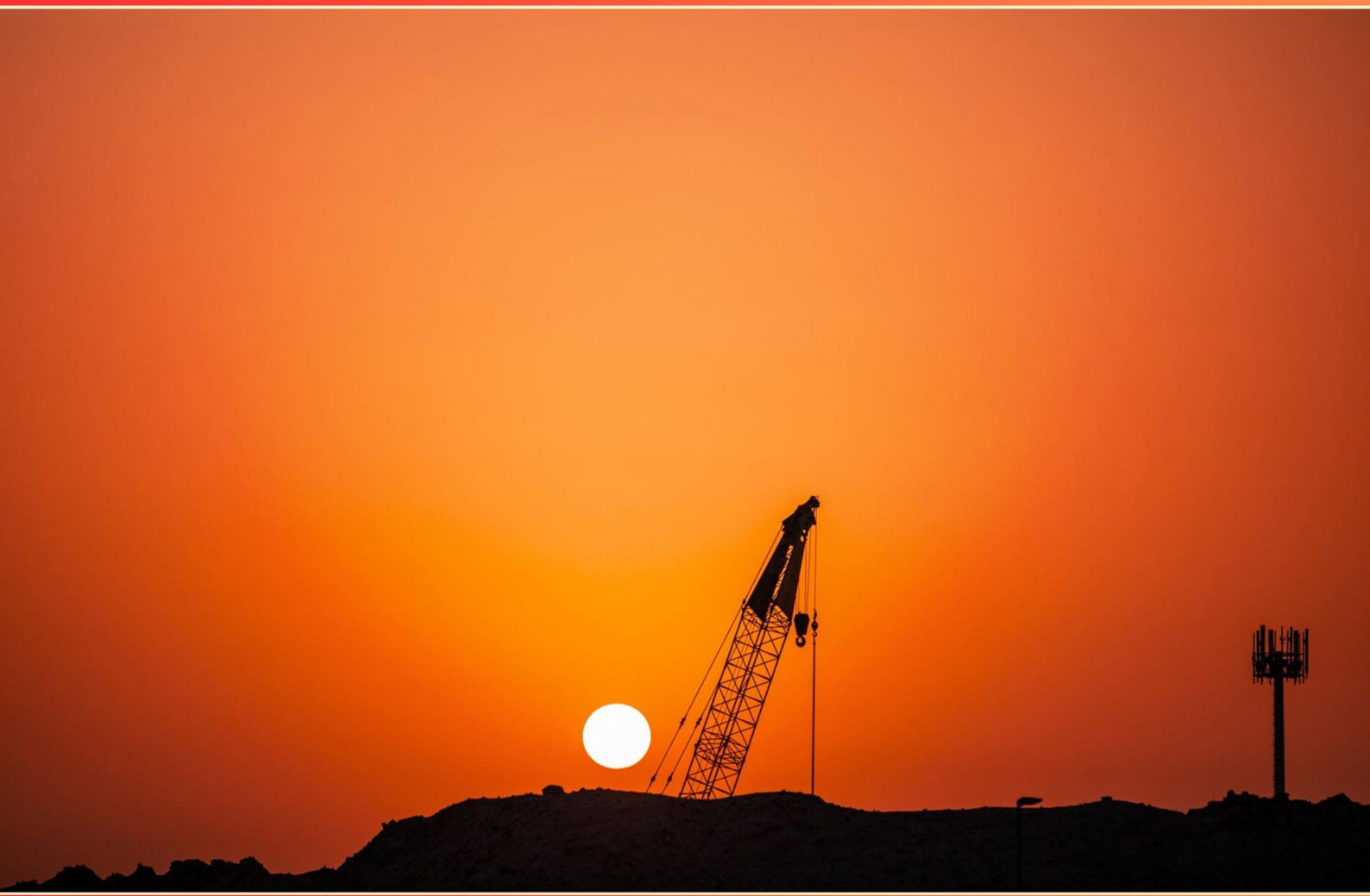
CERTIFIED ASSOCIATE CONSTRUCTOR (CAC) LEVEL 1 PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

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 does "earned value management" (EVM) measure?

A. Project quality by comparing completed tasks with standards

B. Project performance by comparing planned progress with actual progress and budget

C. Project timeline adherence against the initial schedule

D. Project stakeholder satisfaction levels throughout execution

2. What would be the expected projected gain/loss for a cost code if a $100 change order was approved and 100% of it was subcontractor costs?

A. ($113) Loss

B. ($13) Loss

C. $0

D. $113 Gain

3. If you have an air sample with a dry bulb temperature of 60º F and an RH of 100%, what is its wet bulb temperature?

A. 30º

B. 60º

C. 90º

D. 120º

4. Which is a key aspect of labor relations in construction?

A. Enhancing project timelines

B. Negotiating labor agreements

C. Improving equipment management

D. Reducing construction costs

5. Which of the following is a type of deep foundation?

A. crawl space

B. strip footing

C. mat footing

D. caisson

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6. Which of the following best describes a cost-plus-fixed-fee contract?

A. Fixed total price for the project

B. Cost reimbursements with an additional fixed fee

C. Time and materials contract

D. A contract for a specific scope of work only

7. Which of the following is an example of a quality control measure?

A. Creating motivational posters for workers

B. Conducting inspections and testing materials

C. Scheduling more team meetings

D. Increasing working hours

8. A job diary should be maintained by whom?

A. Superintendent

B. Foreman

C. Project manager

D. All members of the project management team

9. Which management system was developed based on Toyota's Production System?

A. TQM

B. Six Sigma

C. Lean

D. ISO 9000

10. If you have three resistors in parallel and they each have 4 Ω of resistance, what is the total resistance in the circuit?

A. 0.75 Ω

B. 1.33 Ω

C. 4 Ω

D. 12 Ω

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What does "earned value management" (EVM) measure?

A. Project quality by comparing completed tasks with standards

B. Project performance by comparing planned progress with actual progress and budget

C. Project timeline adherence against the initial schedule

D. Project stakeholder satisfaction levels throughout execution

Earned Value Management (EVM) is a project management technique that combines measurements of scope, schedule, and cost to assess project performance. It specifically measures project performance by comparing the value of work actually completed (earned value) to what was planned (planned value) and the costs incurred (actual cost). This analysis helps project managers understand whether the project is on track, ahead, or behind schedule, and whether it is over or under budget. The essence of EVM lies in its ability to provide a quantitative basis for decision-making and forecasting, as it integrates different aspects of the project into a cohesive framework. By evaluating both the progress against the planned milestones and the associated costs, it allows for the measurement of both efficiency and effectiveness, thus providing a comprehensive view of the project's health. Other options focus on aspects that are not within the primary scope of earned value management. For example, project quality relates more to measuring completed tasks against predefined standards, while project timeline adherence emphasizes schedule compliance without integrating cost considerations. Stakeholder satisfaction is a subjective measure that falls outside the scope of EVM's quantitative approach. Hence, option B captures the core function and intent of earned value management accurately.

2. What would be the expected projected gain/loss for a cost code if a $100 change order was approved and 100% of it was subcontractor costs?

A. ($113) Loss

B. ($13) Loss

C. $0

D. $113 Gain

In this scenario, understanding the financial implications of a change order is crucial. A $100 change order approved with all subcontractor costs implies that the project incurs additional expenses directly associated with the subcontracted work. Typically, a change order not only accounts for the direct cost of the subcontractor but may also impact the overall project cost structure, which could include overhead and profit margins. Assuming a standard markup of 13% in this case, the actual expense incurred would be higher than the change order amount. The additional cost from such a markup would lead to a projected loss. If 100% of the change order is considered a subcontractor cost, the overall expense would effectively be $100 for the subcontractor work plus a 13% markup, bringing the total to $113. Therefore, when evaluating the expected gain/loss for that cost code, the project would show a loss of $13, which is the difference between the cost incurred ($113) and the change order amount ($100). Hence, this results in a projected loss for that cost code of ($13). In this manner, recognizing how change orders interact with project finances and how they are calculated is key to grasping the overall impact on budget and financial reporting within construction projects

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3. If you have an air sample with a dry bulb temperature of 60° F and an RH of 100%, what is its wet bulb temperature?

A. 30°

B. 60°

C. 90°

D. 120°

When the relative humidity (RH) of an air sample is at 100%, it indicates that the air is fully saturated with moisture. In meteorology and HVAC contexts, the wet bulb temperature represents the lowest temperature that can be achieved by evaporative cooling and is directly influenced by the moisture content in the air. In this situation, since the dry bulb temperature is 60° F and the RH is 100%, the air is not only saturated but the wet bulb temperature will also be equal to the dry bulb temperature. This is because, at saturation, the temperature and the wet bulb temperature coincide. Therefore, when the RH reaches 100%, the wet bulb temperature can be accurately said to be the same as the dry bulb temperature, which is 60° F in this case. This principle underlies many calculations in thermal comfort and ventilation design, as the wet bulb temperature is crucial for assessing moisture conditions in the air and understanding the potential for cooling through evaporation.

4. Which is a key aspect of labor relations in construction?

A. Enhancing project timelines

B. Negotiating labor agreements

C. Improving equipment management

D. Reducing construction costs

Negotiating labor agreements is a key aspect of labor relations in construction because it establishes the terms and conditions under which workers will operate. These agreements can cover wages, working hours, safety standards, benefits, and dispute resolution processes, which are all critical to maintaining a harmonious work environment. Effective negotiation helps to ensure that both the management and the workers' rights are respected, leading to improved morale and productivity on construction sites. This aspect of labor relations directly influences how well projects are executed, as clear agreements can minimize conflicts and disruptions associated with labor disputes. While enhancing project timelines, improving equipment management, and reducing construction costs are important components of the overall construction process, they do not specifically focus on the interpersonal and organizational dynamics that labor relations address through structured negotiations. Thus, the focus on negotiating labor agreements highlights its fundamental role in the success of construction projects.

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5. Which of the following is a type of deep foundation?

A. crawl space

B. strip footing

C. mat footing

D. caisson

A caisson is a type of deep foundation, which is used to transfer loads from structures to deeper soil layers or bedrock. Unlike shallow foundations that are placed close to the ground surface, deep foundations like caissons are installed at a significant depth to ensure stability and support for heavy structures or when surface soil conditions are poor. They are typically drilled or dug to reach deeper soil layers, providing a reliable foundation system in scenarios where surface soils cannot adequately support the weight of the building. The other options represent different types of foundation systems that are generally classified as shallow foundations. Crawl spaces, strip footings, and mat footings are all closer to the surface and provide support over a broader area without extending deep into the ground. Therefore, while each serves the purpose of supporting structures, only a caisson qualifies as a deep foundation due to its installation at major depths to secure the needed load-bearing characteristics.

6. Which of the following best describes a cost-plus-fixed-fee contract?

A. Fixed total price for the project

B. Cost reimbursements with an additional fixed fee

C. Time and materials contract

D. A contract for a specific scope of work only

A cost-plus-fixed-fee contract is characterized by the reimbursement of allowable costs incurred by the contractor in addition to a fixed fee that is agreed upon at the outset. This means that the contractor is reimbursed for their expenses related to the project, including materials and labor, and they also receive a predetermined fee for their services, which does not fluctuate regardless of the actual costs incurred. This type of contract provides an incentive for the contractor to manage costs effectively, as they benefit from any cost savings against the total project budget, but their fee remains constant. This structure contrasts with a fixed total price contract, where the entire project cost is set in advance and does not vary. Additionally, it differs from time and materials contracts, which are based on the actual time worked and materials used, and do not include a fixed fee component. Lastly, stating it's a contract for a specific scope of work only does not capture the essence of a cost-plus-fixed-fee contract, as it actually allows for reimbursement of a broader set of costs incurred beyond just a narrowly defined scope.

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7. Which of the following is an example of a quality control measure?

A. Creating motivational posters for workers

B. Conducting inspections and testing materials

C. Scheduling more team meetings

D. Increasing working hours

Conducting inspections and testing materials is a fundamental quality control measure because it directly assesses the quality of the materials being used in a project and ensures they meet specified standards and requirements. Quality control is essential in construction and other industries to maintain the integrity of the final product and prevent defects or failures. Inspections can identify issues early in the process, allowing for timely corrections, and testing materials ensures they are fit for their intended use according to safety and performance criteria. In contrast, creating motivational posters for workers primarily serves to boost morale and enhance motivation, but it does not contribute directly to the quality of the product or service. Similarly, scheduling more team meetings may improve communication or planning but does not inherently address quality control processes. Increasing working hours could potentially lead to fatigue and errors, which might adversely affect quality rather than ensure it. Therefore, inspections and testing are the most relevant actions that actively contribute to maintaining and improving quality in a project.

8. A job diary should be maintained by whom?

A. Superintendent

B. Foreman

C. Project manager

D. All members of the project management team

A job diary is an essential tool in construction project management that serves to document daily activities, decisions, issues, and progress on the job site. The fact that it should be maintained by all members of the project management team underscores the collaborative nature of construction projects. Each individual plays a unique role that contributes to the overall success of the project. The superintendent, foreman, and project manager each have distinct responsibilities, and their inputs in a job diary can provide a well-rounded view of the project. A superintendent may document site conditions and safety issues, a foreman may track labor productivity and material deliveries, while a project manager may record financial transactions and stakeholder communications. By involving all team members in the creation of the job diary, a comprehensive historical record is established, which can be invaluable for communicating with stakeholders, resolving disputes, and conducting reviews of project performance. Recording information from various perspectives also ensures that no critical detail is overlooked, allowing for better informed decision-making and problem-solving throughout the project's lifecycle. Thus, the collaborative documentation reinforces accountability and transparency within the project team, leading to enhanced efficiency and project outcomes.

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9. Which management system was developed based on Toyota's Production System?

A. TQM

B. Six Sigma

C. Lean

D. ISO 9000

Lean management is the correct choice, as it is derived from the principles of the Toyota Production System (TPS). TPS focuses on maximizing efficiency, minimizing waste, and improving the flow of work processes. Lean management adopts these principles and applies them to various industries to streamline operations, enhance productivity, and deliver more value to customers. The foundation of Lean lies in the idea of continuous improvement, which is characteristic of TPS. Lean practices emphasize eliminating non-value-adding activities, optimizing processes, and promoting a culture of efficiency and quality. By effectively managing resources and time, organizations can achieve higher performance levels and better meet customer demands. In contrast, while Total Quality Management (TQM), Six Sigma, and ISO 9000 all aim to improve quality and efficiency within organizations, they do not specifically arise from the Toyota Production System in the same way Lean does. TQM focuses on organizational-wide quality improvement processes, Six Sigma is aimed at process improvement through statistical methods, and ISO 9000 refers to a set of international standards for quality management systems.

10. If you have three resistors in parallel and they each have 4 Ω of resistance, what is the total resistance in the circuit?

A. 0.75 Ω

B. 1.33 Ω

C. 4 Ω

D. 12 Ω

To find the total resistance of resistors connected in parallel, the formula used is: $$\frac{1}{R_{total}} = \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} + \frac{1}{R_3}$$ In this case, since each resistor has a resistance of 4 Ω, the equation becomes: $$\frac{1}{R_{total}} = \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4}$$ This simplifies to: $$\frac{1}{R_{total}} = \frac{3}{4}$$ To find R_{total}, you take the reciprocal of $\frac{3}{4}$: $$R_{total} = \frac{4}{3} \approx 1.33 \, \Omega$$ Thus, the correct answer is approximately 1.33 Ω, as it represents the total resistance in the circuit when multiple resistors of equal value are placed in parallel. This smaller total resistance compared to the individual resistor values highlights the principle that the total resistance in a parallel circuit decreases

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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://caclevel1.examzify.com

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

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