CSLB CONCRETE C-8 LICENSE 2 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. Which of the following are considered special types of cement?

A. All of these

B. High Alumina Cement

C. Expanding cement

D. Acid-resistance cement

2. The minimum cementitious material that is required for concrete bridging deck is _____lbs/cu yd.

A. 675

B. 700

C. 650

D. 600

3. Specific performance admixtures are the admixtures that can provide a desired performance characteristics other than:

A. Reducing water content

B. All of these

C. Changing the setting time

D. Changing the functionality

4. Water content during placement is assessed using ball penetration and slump tests depending on workability. Which option best reflects this?

A. Both tests are used depending on workability

B. Only penetration test is used

C. Only slump test is used

D. Neither test is used

5. Blended cement is a combination of Type II or Type V cement with any of the SCM. Which of the following best reflects this statement?

A. Type II cement with SCM

B. Type I cement with SCM

C. Type II cement with water

D. Type III cement with SCM

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6. The property of concrete by which it can be mixed, transported and placed in position with ease is referred to as _____.

A. Durability

B. Elasticity

C. Workability

D. Toughness

7. The key difference between binary and ternary mixes is which factor?

A. Type of aggregate

B. Curing temperature

C. Number of SCM used

D. Water content

8. Which non-destructive testing method(s) are used for concrete?

A. Rebound Hammer test method

B. Pulse velocity method

C. Both of these

D. None of these

9. What is the purpose of form release agents?

A. To harden forms

B. To prevent adhesion between fresh concrete and the forms and to ease form removal

C. To color the concrete

D. To seal the forms

10. Which of the following is NOT an example of blended cement?

A. Combination of silica fume and chlorine fluoride

B. Combination of fly ash and cement

C. Cement with slag

D. Cement with silica fume

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which of the following are considered special types of cement?

A. All of these

B. High Alumina Cement

C. Expanding cement

D. Acid-resistance cement

Special types of cement are formulations designed for performance beyond ordinary Portland cement. High Alumina Cement is a calcium aluminate cement that provides high early strength and good heat resistance, useful where rapid setting and high-temperature service are needed. Expanding cement is designed to undergo a controlled amount of expansion during hydration to counteract shrinkage and improve joint integrity. Acid-resistance cement is formulated with additives to resist degradation from acids, making it suitable for chemically aggressive environments. Because each of these meets a distinct performance goal, they all fall under the category of special cement types, so all of these are considered special types of cement.

2. The minimum cementitious material that is required for concrete bridging deck is _____lbs/cu yd.

A. 675

B. 700

C. 650

D. 600

Bridge deck mixes are required to have a minimum amount of cementitious material to ensure durability, proper paste content, and resistance to freeze–thaw and deicing salts. Cementitious material includes cement plus any supplementary cementitious materials (such as fly ash, slag, or silica fume) counted toward the total. The standard minimum is 675 pounds per cubic yard. This level provides enough paste to coat aggregates, achieve the necessary density and bonding, and work well with air-entraining admixtures to improve durability under harsh conditions. Values lower than this would create a leaner mix with higher permeability and greater risk of cracking, scaling, and salt damage, while the total can be met by combining cement with SCMs as long as the overall content reaches 675 lb/yd^3.

3. Specific performance admixtures are the admixtures that can provide a desired performance characteristics other than:

A. Reducing water content

B. All of these

C. Changing the setting time

D. Changing the functionality

Specific performance admixtures are used to tailor concrete to achieve properties beyond the basic changes like lowering water content, altering the setting time, or changing general workability. In practice, these additives are chosen to deliver targeted durability and long term performance—things like improved freeze–thaw resistance, reduced permeability to guard against chloride intrusion, control of shrinkage cracking, enhanced surface finish, or increased abrasion resistance. The question asks for performance characteristics beyond the ones listed, and that broad capability is captured by selecting "All of these." It signals that there are multiple potential targets for specific performance admixtures, not just the three listed.

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4. Water content during placement is assessed using ball penetration and slump tests depending on workability. Which option best reflects this?

A. Both tests are used depending on workability

B. Only penetration test is used

C. Only slump test is used

D. Neither test is used

Water content directly affects how workable fresh concrete is, so field assessments use tests that reflect consistency. The slump test is the standard quick check of workability—more water means more slump—so it's great for typical, easily workable mixes. The ball penetration test offers a more direct read on paste consistency by seeing how far a calibrated ball can penetrate the mix; this is particularly useful when the mix is stiff or when slump readings are difficult or unreliable due to aggregate size or placement conditions. Because different mixes and placement scenarios call for different measurement approaches, practitioners choose the appropriate test—or use both—to verify water content during placement. This flexibility is why using both tests depending on workability best reflects how water content is assessed in practice.

5. Blended cement is a combination of Type II or Type V cement with any of the SCM. Which of the following best reflects this statement?

A. Type II cement with SCM

B. Type I cement with SCM

C. Type II cement with water

D. Type III cement with SCM

Blended cement combines cement with one or more supplementary cementitious materials (SCMs) to modify properties like durability and heat of hydration. The description specifies that the base cement must be Type II or Type V, with an SCM added. The option that pairs Type II cement with an SCM fits this definition exactly, making it the best representation. Using Type I or Type III cement with an SCM uses a different base cement than described, and using water isn't an SCM at all, so it doesn't constitute blended cement.

6. The property of concrete by which it can be mixed, transported and placed in position with ease is referred to as _____.

A. Durability

B. Elasticity

C. Workability

D. Toughness

Workability describes how easily concrete can be mixed, transported, placed, and finished. It captures the ease with which the mix flows, consolidates, and can be worked into forms and around reinforcement, without excessive vibration or segregation. Factors like the water-cement ratio, aggregate size and grading, temperature, and the use of admixtures influence workability. Too much workability usually means more water or plasticizers, which can reduce strength or cause segregation, while too little makes placement laborious and prone to voids. Durability is about long-term resistance to deterioration, elasticity is about deformation under load, and toughness is about resisting crack propagation. Therefore, the term that fits "mixed, transported and placed in position with ease" is workability.

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7. The key difference between binary and ternary mixes is which factor?

A. Type of aggregate

B. Curing temperature

C. Number of SCM used

D. Water content

The main idea is how many cementitious materials are blended in the mix. A binary mix uses two cementitious components, such as Portland cement plus one supplementary cementitious material (SCM). A ternary mix includes three cementitious materials, meaning two SCMs in addition to cement. Because of this, the defining difference between binary and ternary is the number of SCMs used. For example, binary could be Portland cement with fly ash, while ternary could be Portland cement with fly ash and silica fume. The other factors—type of aggregate, curing temperature, and water content—affect performance but don't define whether a mix is binary or ternary.

8. Which non-destructive testing method(s) are used for concrete?

A. Rebound Hammer test method

B. Pulse velocity method

C. Both of these

D. None of these

Non-destructive testing methods used on concrete include surface hardness tests and ultrasonic pulse tests. The rebound hammer (Schmidt hammer) measures how much the spring-loaded mass rebounds after striking the concrete surface. That rebound value correlates with compressive strength when properly calibrated for the mix and age. It's quick, portable, and good for on-site screening, but its accuracy depends on surface condition, moisture, and representative calibration. The pulse velocity method sends an ultrasonic wave through the concrete and measures how fast it travels from sender to receiver. Faster travel times (higher velocities) generally indicate denser, more uniform material with fewer flaws, while slower speeds can reveal voids, cracks, or highly porous zones. This method provides information about the interior quality of the member and can help locate defects, though results depend on access, geometry, moisture, and material properties. Because both tests offer non-destructive insight into concrete's strength and integrity, they are both used in practice.

9. What is the purpose of form release agents?

A. To harden forms

B. To prevent adhesion between fresh concrete and the forms and to ease form removal

C. To color the concrete

D. To seal the forms

Form release agents are used to prevent adhesion between fresh concrete and the forms and to ease form removal. They lay down a lubricating film on the form surface so the concrete doesn't bond to it, making stripping easier and reducing the chance of surface damage or form tearing. This also helps protect the formwork and can improve the finish of the concrete by avoiding sticking marks. They aren't meant to harden or seal the forms or to color the concrete; those aren't their primary purposes.

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10. Which of the following is NOT an example of blended cement?

A. Combination of silica fume and chlorine fluoride

B. Combination of fly ash and cement

C. Cement with slag

D. Cement with silica fume

Blended cement is Portland cement mixed with supplementary cementitious materials to improve concrete performance. Materials like fly ash, slag, and silica fume are classic additives that participate in chemical reactions to enhance strength, durability, and reduced permeability. The combinations with fly ash, slag, or silica fume are typical examples of blended cement because they involve legitimate cementitious or pozzolanic additions that contribute to the binder. The pairing of silica fume with chlorine fluoride isn't a recognized cement blend; chlorine fluoride is not a cementitious material and isn't used to form a usable concrete binder. Therefore, that option is not an example of blended cement.

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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://cslbconcretec82.examzify.com

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

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