DESIGN-BUILD INSTITUTE OF AMERICA (DBIA) EXAM 2 PRACTICE (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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Table of Contents

Copyright 1

Table of Contents 2

Introduction 3

How to Use This Guide 4

Questions 5

Answers 8

Explanations 10

Next Steps 15

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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. A Best Practice is the belief that there is a _____ , _____ or _____ that is more effective at delivering a particular outcome than any other.

A. Technique

B. Method

C. Process

D. All of the above

2. What are the 4 DB Team Integration roles?

A. Integrated Project Leader (DB - PM). Designer of Record (A/E). Design Manager. Estimator (A/E)

B. Integrated Project Leader; Designer of Record; Design Manager; Estimator

C. Integrated Project Leader (DB - PM); Design Manager; Estimator; Designer of Record (A/E)

D. Designer of Record (A/E); Design Manager; Estimator; Integrated Project Leader

3. The most successful projects engage core team members in the design process, before advancing beyond which design stage?

A. Schematic Design

B. Design Development

C. Construction Documents

D. Pre-design

4. Formal periodic _____ _____ are an alternative dispute resolutions.

A. Partnership Meetings

B. Partnering Workshops

C. Mediation Sessions

D. Arbitration Panels

5. Guarantee of performance through warranty period improves _____.

A. Value

B. Cost

C. Risk

D. Schedule

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6. In IDWP, what should be included for periodic design reviews per contract?

A. Checkpoints

B. Milestones

C. Deliverables

D. Reviews

7. Quality _____ is usually done by another design professional.

A. Control

B. Assurance

C. Commitment

D. Substantiation

8. In determining incentives, use _____ as a guide.

A. Risk

B. Schedule

C. Cost

D. Time

9. Encourage frequent 'over-the-shoulder' _____ _____ process (not the typical DBB 30%; 60%; 90% and 100% CD's linear process.)

A. constructability review

B. risk assessment

C. value engineering

D. design review

10. Notice-To-Proceed is also sometimes known as the _____ meeting.

A. Start-up

B. Kickoff

C. Initiation

D. Launch

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. A Best Practice is the belief that there is a _____ , _____ or _____ that is more effective at delivering a particular outcome than any other.

A. Technique

B. Method

C. Process

D. All of the above

Best practice is the belief that there is a technique, a method, or a process that delivers a particular outcome more effectively than any other. A technique is a specific way of doing something, a method is a systematic approach, and a process is a sequence of steps. Any of these forms can embody a best practice depending on the context and the outcome sought, so the statement naturally includes all three. That's why the most complete answer is "All of the above."

2. What are the 4 DB Team Integration roles?

A. Integrated Project Leader (DB - PM). Designer of Record (A/E). Design Manager. Estimator (A/E)

B. Integrated Project Leader; Designer of Record; Design Manager; Estimator

C. Integrated Project Leader (DB - PM); Design Manager; Estimator; Designer of Record (A/E)

D. Designer of Record (A/E); Design Manager; Estimator; Integrated Project Leader

In DBIA practice, a design-build project is guided by four integrated roles that ensure leadership, design quality, coordination, and cost awareness. The Integrated Project Leader (DB-PM) acts as the single point of leadership across both design and construction, driving decisions and keeping objectives aligned with the project goals. The Designer of Record is the architectural or engineering professional responsible for the actual design and the drawings, owning the design content and ensuring it meets requirements. The Design Manager coordinates the design process across all disciplines, resolving interfaces, maintaining schedule, and overseeing constructability and quality throughout design development. The Estimator (often from the A/E side) provides early cost information, supports budget planning, and helps identify value opportunities to keep the project financially on track. These four together cover who leads, who designs, who coordinates, and who estimates—the essential mix for integrated design-build delivery. Other options either omit one of these roles or place them in a way that breaks the integrated flow, so they don't reflect the standard four DB Team Integration roles.

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3. The most successful projects engage core team members in the design process, before advancing beyond which design stage?

A. Schematic Design

B. Design Development

C. Construction Documents

D. Pre-design

Engaging the core team early in the process is crucial for aligning goals, constraints, and the overall approach to the project. The schematic design phase is when the big-picture concept, scope, and rough cost and schedule targets are established, and decisions are still flexible. Involving design, construction, and owner representatives at this stage allows feedback on constructability, sequencing, safety, and cost to be incorporated before things become fixed. This early collaboration helps set a feasible path for the design development and construction documents phases, reducing costly changes later and improving overall project integration. If input is delayed until later stages, changes are more expensive and disruptive, so the most successful projects ensure core team involvement before moving beyond schematic design.

4. Formal periodic _____ _____ are an alternative dispute resolutions.

A. Partnership Meetings

B. Partnering Workshops

C. Mediation Sessions

D. Arbitration Panels

Formal periodic partnering workshops function as an alternative dispute resolution approach in DBIA practices. They are structured, facilitated sessions that bring together owners, designers, builders, and major stakeholders at regular intervals to align goals, clarify roles and responsibilities, agree on how risk is shared, and establish a clear process for identifying and addressing issues before they become disputes. By fostering open communication, joint decision-making, and a written action plan, these workshops help manage expectations and maintain collaboration, reducing the need for formal legal dispute resolution. Mediation sessions, by contrast, are typically used after a dispute has arisen to negotiate a settlement, and arbitration panels provide a formal, binding dispute resolution. General coordination meetings exist too, but they don't provide the formal, proactive framework that partnering workshops offer.

5. Guarantee of performance through warranty period improves _____.

A. Value

B. Cost

C. Risk

D. Schedule

Guaranteeing performance for a defined period adds value by giving the owner certainty that the system will perform as specified, reducing uncertainty and the potential costs of failures. In a design-build setup, the contractor stands behind the finished product, which signals quality and reliability and ties the project's performance to the contract. This clarity and accountability boost the asset's lifecycle value: lower risk of unexpected downtime, fewer post-construction surprises, and more predictable operation and maintenance costs. Upfront costs or schedules aren't the primary benefit here; the value comes from the trusted performance over the warranty period and the resulting confidence and long-term cost predictability for the owner.

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6. In IDWP, what should be included for periodic design reviews per contract?

A. Checkpoints

B. Milestones

C. Deliverables

D. Reviews

Periodic design reviews in an IDWP are anchored to milestones—the contract-defined decision points that mark the completion of major design phases and authorize the project to proceed. Using milestones ensures reviews occur at concrete, agreed-upon points that align design progress with schedule, budget, and performance requirements. Deliverables are the items produced to support those reviews, and reviews describe the activity of evaluating the design, but the schedule and gating points come from milestones. Checkpoints are general progress checks, not the formal contract-defined gates for design reviews.

7. Quality _____ is usually done by another design professional.

A. Control

B. Assurance

C. Commitment

D. Substantiation

Independent verification of design decisions is often done through substantiation by a separate design professional. Substantiation means providing documented evidence that the design solution satisfies project requirements, codes, standards, and the client's objectives. Having another design professional carry out this substantiation adds an objective check beyond the designer of record, helping to catch issues early and demonstrate to the owner that the design decisions are well-supported. This contrasts with terms like quality assurance or quality control, which refer more to processes or construction-phase checks rather than the formal, evidence-based validation of the design itself.

8. In determining incentives, use _____ as a guide.

A. Risk

B. Schedule

C. Cost

D. Time

In design-build, incentives are most effective when they push the project toward reducing the uncertainties that could derail cost, schedule, and quality. Using risk as a guide means crafting rewards and penalties around actions that mitigate or eliminate the major risks to the project. For example, incentivizing early coordination between design and construction teams, proactive risk mitigation planning, or securing long-lead items early directly targets areas where unknowns could cause delays or cost overruns. When the incentive structure focuses on risk reduction, the contractor is encouraged to address the uncertainties up front, which improves predictability and overall project value for both owner and builder. Relying solely on schedule or cost targets can lead to behaviors that ignore underlying risks (like rushing work to hit a milestone or cutting corners to save money), whereas tying incentives to risk encourages decisions that stabilize the entire project.

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9. Encourage frequent 'over-the-shoulder' _____ _____ process (not the typical DBB 30%; 60%; 90% and 100% CD's linear process.)

A. constructability review

B. risk assessment

C. value engineering

D. design review

Frequent on-site evaluation of how the design is being realized is the idea here. An on-the-shoulder design review means designers and builders continuously look at the work as it's happening, checking that the design intent still matches field conditions, available methods, and the project schedule. This ongoing collaboration helps catch issues early, resolve ambiguities, and refine details quickly, which is especially valuable in a design-build approach that emphasizes integration and speed over a strict, linear handoff. This phrasing aligns best with the concept of keeping design decisions ongoing and responsive during construction. It goes beyond checking constructability as a separate step, which is more about ensuring the design can be built at all and is typically addressed earlier. It's not primarily about risk identification or cost-reduction exercises (risk assessment or value engineering), but about continuous design validation in concert with construction activities.

10. Notice-To-Proceed is also sometimes known as the _____ meeting.

A. Start-up

B. Kickoff

C. Initiation

D. Launch

Notice to Proceed marks the point when the owner formally authorizes the team to begin work, and the meeting that typically follows is the kickoff meeting. The kickoff brings everyone together to align on project goals, roles, responsibilities, schedule, interfaces, and logistics, signaling the official start of execution. That's why kickoff is the best fit. Start-up, initiation, and launch are used in different contexts—start-up can refer to starting operations, initiation to an early phase or process, and launch to product or marketing releases—so they don't capture the same project-starting meeting sense as kickoff.

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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://dbia2.examzify.com

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

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