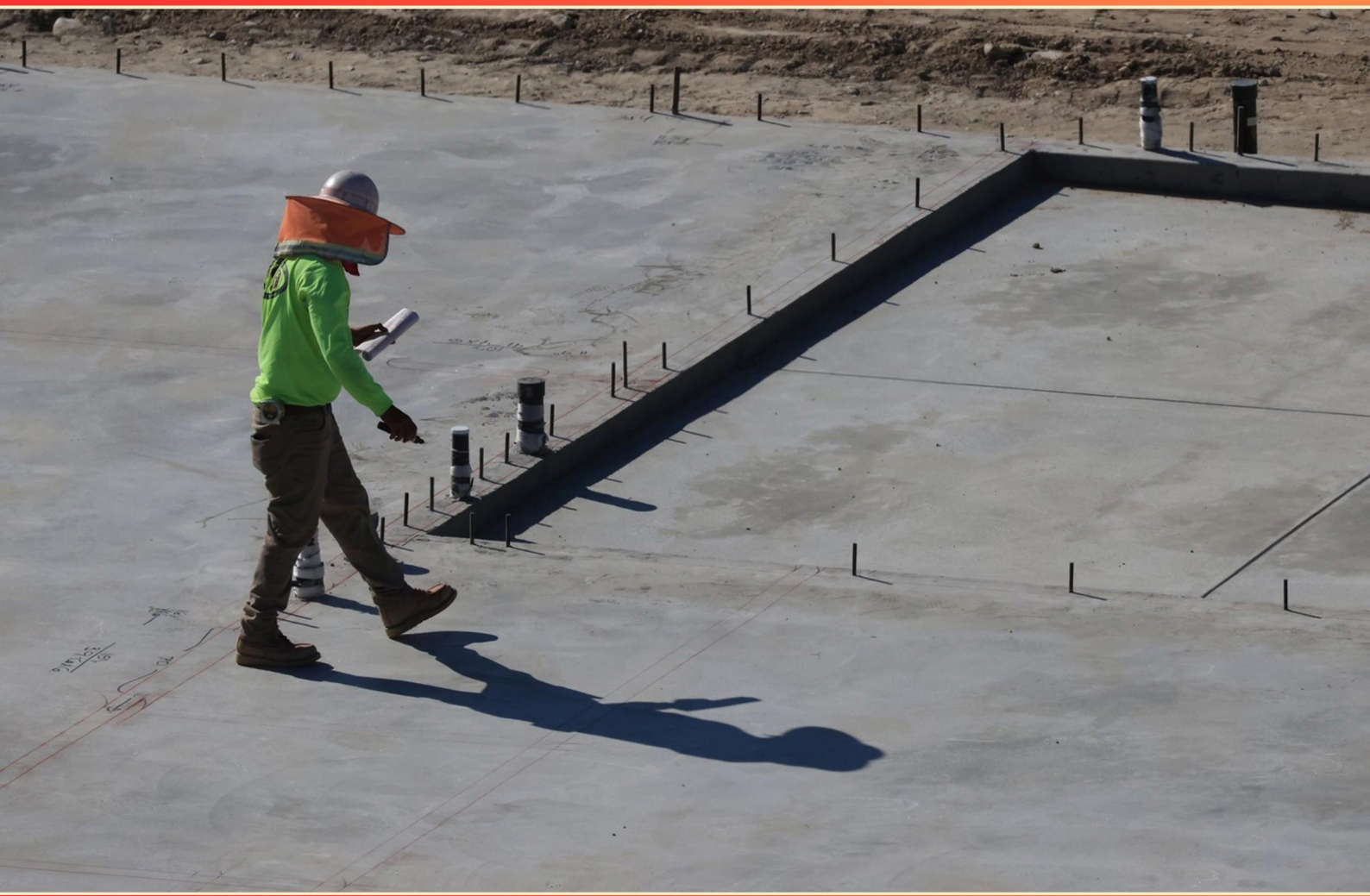
GENERAL CONTRACTOR PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

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 the absolute minimum slope away from a building that can be approved by an inspector?

A. 1%

B. 2%

C. 3%

D. 5%

2. What is the minimum required distance between untreated wood and masonry surfaces?

A. 1/4 inch

B. 1/2 inch

C. 3/4 inch

D. 1 inch

3. For a two-story building, how far must an anchor bolt be embedded?

A. 5 inches

B. 7 inches

C. 10 inches

D. 12 inches

4. Which type of saw is recommended for cutting tendons?

A. Circular saw

B. Table saw

C. Push saw

D. Band saw

5. What chemical is commonly used to create high-heat concrete?

A. Accelerator

B. Retarder

C. Plasticizer

D. Superplasticizer

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6. What is the minimum allowable thickness of exposed plywood over 16 inches on center studs?

A. 1/4 inch

B. 1/2 inch

C. 3/8 inch

D. 5/8 inch

7. What does the term 'punchlist' in construction refer to?

A. A list of items to be completed or corrected before project acceptance

B. A detailed budget for the project

C. A schedule for project milestones

D. A list of subcontractors involved in the project

8. At what height does OSHA require toe boards and guardrails?

A. 6 feet

B. 8 feet

C. 10 feet

D. 12 feet

9. If a truck can carry 10 yards of soil and the total excavated soil has a swell factor of 1.2, how many trucks are needed to haul away the soil?

A. 8 trucks

B. 10 trucks

C. 12 trucks

D. 15 trucks

10. Before beginning an excavation, what is the best way to locate underground utilities?

A. Ground-penetrating radar

B. Hand tools

C. Electric tracing

D. Utility maps

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the absolute minimum slope away from a building that can be approved by an inspector?

A. 1%

B. 2%

C. 3%

D. 5%

The minimum slope away from a building that is typically approved by an inspector is 2%. This requirement is established to ensure effective drainage away from the foundation. A slope of 2% means that for every 100 units of horizontal distance, the elevation drops by 2 units. This gradient is considered sufficient to prevent water from pooling near the building, which can cause foundation damage over time due to moisture infiltration or erosion. The focus on maintaining this minimum slope is essential for managing water runoff and protecting the structural integrity of the building. Inspections often require adherence to these guidelines to prevent future issues associated with drainage. A slope less than 2% may not effectively carry water away from the structure, increasing the risk of water-related damage, mold, or pest infestations.

2. What is the minimum required distance between untreated wood and masonry surfaces?

A. 1/4 inch

B. 1/2 inch

C. 3/4 inch

D. 1 inch

The minimum required distance between untreated wood and masonry surfaces is established to prevent moisture from the masonry from coming into direct contact with the wood. This distance is important because untreated wood can easily absorb moisture, which may lead to wood decay, warping, or infestation by pests such as termites. Maintaining a space of at least 1/2 inch creates a barrier that allows for ventilation and helps to minimize moisture retention around the wood. This practice is commonly recommended in building codes and construction best practices to promote longevity and durability of construction materials.

3. For a two-story building, how far must an anchor bolt be embedded?

A. 5 inches

B. 7 inches

C. 10 inches

D. 12 inches

For a two-story building, the requirement for the minimum embedment depth of an anchor bolt is typically set at 7 inches. This standard helps ensure that the structural connection is strong and can adequately support the loads imposed on the structure, including wind, seismic forces, and the weight of the building materials. The embedment depth is crucial for achieving proper anchorage of the bolts within the concrete or masonry foundation. Adequate embedment allows for the effective transfer of loads, minimizing the risk of anchor failure which could lead to structural instability. The 7-inch depth is commonly specified in various building codes and construction standards, reflecting a balance between sufficient strength and practical application during construction. This depth is particularly emphasized for multi-story buildings, where the loads are larger and more complex due to the additional stories. The other choices do not meet the widely accepted requirements for structural safety and stability, which is firmly established at 7 inches for buildings of this height.

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4. Which type of saw is recommended for cutting tendons?

A. Circular saw

B. Table saw

C. Push saw

D. Band saw

The push saw, often referred to in this context as a handsaw or panel saw, is particularly effective for cutting tendons due to its design and method of operation. Tendons typically require careful, precise cuts to ensure a tight and strong joint, and the push saw provides the control necessary for such detailed work. Its blade is designed for making clean cuts in wood, and it can be maneuvered easily to follow the grain of the wood, which is crucial when making cuts for joints or joints like tenons. This type of saw also allows for a slow feeding rate, which enhances precision and enables better monitoring of the cut. This is important when working with tendons, as accuracy is imperative to achieving a proper fit. In contrast, while a circular saw or a table saw can perform straight cuts with efficiency, they lack the finesse required for intricate joint work and can result in rough edges or imprecise cuts if not used carefully. The band saw, although capable of making curved cuts and can also be used for joints, may not offer the same level of control for detailed tendon work as a push saw does.

5. What chemical is commonly used to create high-heat concrete?

A. Accelerator

B. Retarder

C. Plasticizer

D. Superplasticizer

The commonly used chemical for creating high-heat concrete is an accelerator. Accelerators are additives that speed up the hydration process of the concrete, allowing it to cure more quickly and achieve higher early strength. This is particularly beneficial in high-heat concrete applications, as the increased hydration rate can help manage temperature rise during the curing process, which is crucial in preventing thermal cracking. While retarders, another type of additive, are used to slow down the curing process for various reasons such as allowing more workable time in hot weather or large pours, they are not designed to enhance heat development as accelerators do. Similarly, plasticizers and superplasticizers primarily function to improve the workability of concrete without adding heat; they reduce the water content needed for a certain workability without compromising strength. Thus, for high-heat applications, the use of an accelerator is the appropriate choice.

6. What is the minimum allowable thickness of exposed plywood over 16 inches on center studs?

A. 1/4 inch

B. 1/2 inch

C. 3/8 inch

D. 5/8 inch

The minimum allowable thickness of exposed plywood over studs spaced 16 inches on center is 3/8 inch. This specification is important for ensuring structural integrity and providing adequate support for the plywood. Plywood serves as an essential component in many construction applications, including sheathing, subflooring, and wall systems. When plywood is used as wall sheathing over studs, it must be thick enough to resist bending and deflection under loads, such as wind or seismic forces. The thickness of 3/8 inch provides a balance between weight and strength for typical residential construction scenarios, where studs are commonly spaced 16 inches apart. Thinner materials, like 1/4 inch, may not provide sufficient rigidity or stability, while thicker options could add unnecessary weight and expense. Understanding these thickness requirements is vital for ensuring compliance with building codes and maintaining safety and performance standards in construction.

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7. What does the term 'punchlist' in construction refer to?

A. A list of items to be completed or corrected before project acceptance

B. A detailed budget for the project

C. A schedule for project milestones

D. A list of subcontractors involved in the project

The term 'punchlist' in construction specifically refers to a list of items that need to be completed or corrected before a project can be officially accepted by the owner or client. This usually occurs at the end of a project, typically during the final inspection phase, where the contractor will compile a list of any remaining work that must be done or deficiencies that must be addressed. These may include cosmetic fixes, incomplete installations, or any other minor items that must be rectified to ensure that the project meets the contractual obligations and quality standards. In contrast, a detailed budget outlines the financial aspects of the project, defining costs associated with materials, labor, and overhead. A project schedule focuses on the timelines and milestones that need to be achieved throughout the construction process, ensuring that the project stays on track. A list of subcontractors merely indicates the external parties involved in specific trades or services necessary for the completion of the project, which does not relate directly to the final acceptance of the finished work. Understanding the concept of a punchlist is crucial for contractors to ensure that all expectations are met prior to the project's handover.

8. At what height does OSHA require toe boards and guardrails?

A. 6 feet

B. 8 feet

C. 10 feet

D. 12 feet

The requirement for toe boards and guardrails is based on ensuring worker safety while working at elevated heights. OSHA specifies that guardrails must be installed when workers are at heights of 6 feet in the construction industry, as this is the minimum height at which employees could be exposed to a fall hazard that could cause serious injuries or fatalities. Toe boards, which are used to prevent tools, equipment, and materials from falling off the edge of a platform, are also required at the same height. Therefore, the correct height for the installation of both guardrails and toe boards is indeed at 6 feet, not at heights such as 8, 10, or 12 feet, which do not align with the established regulations. This is critical for compliance with safety protocols in construction sites and helps to mitigate risks associated with falls from elevated surfaces.

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9. If a truck can carry 10 yards of soil and the total excavated soil has a swell factor of 1.2, how many trucks are needed to haul away the soil?

A. 8 trucks

B. 10 trucks

C. 12 trucks

D. 15 trucks

To determine how many trucks are needed to haul away the excavated soil with a swell factor, it's essential to understand what the swell factor signifies in excavation work. The swell factor indicates how much the volume of soil increases after excavation. In this case, a swell factor of 1.2 means that for every cubic yard of soil that is excavated, the volume expands to 1.2 cubic yards once it is loose. If a truck can carry 10 yards of soil, the first step is to deem how much material needs to be loaded into the trucks given the swell factor. For instance, if the original excavation yields an amount of soil before swelling, you multiply that by the swell factor to find the adjusted volume that requires transportation. Assuming the total original volume of the soil to be removed is 10 cubic yards (for illustration), the expanded volume would be calculated as: 10 cubic yards (original) x 1.2 (swell factor) = 12 cubic yards (after swell) Now, knowing each truck can carry 10 cubic yards, you divide the total volume of soil that needs to be removed by the capacity of one truck: 12 cubic yards (expanded volume) ÷ 10 cubic yards (

10. Before beginning an excavation, what is the best way to locate underground utilities?

A. Ground-penetrating radar

B. Hand tools

C. Electric tracing

D. Utility maps

The best method to locate underground utilities before starting an excavation is through the use of ground-penetrating radar. This technology employs radar pulses to image the subsurface and can effectively detect various underground utilities, including non-metallic ones, providing a clear visualization of their locations. While utility maps can offer some guidance, they may not always be up to date or accurate, presenting a risk in excavation work. Electric tracing is a method for locating conductive utilities but may miss others that are non-conductive. Hand tools are typically used for exposing or digging after locating utilities but do not serve as a primary detection method. Ground-penetrating radar stands out as a non-invasive, highly effective way to map out underground utilities accurately, thereby minimizing the risk of damaging them during excavation.

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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:

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

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