NORTH CAROLINA BUILDING CONTRACTOR LICENSE 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. A 45-degree slope is equal to what percentage slope?

A. 50%

B. 60%

C. 70%

D. 100%

2. What is camber in a K-series joist defined as?

A. A downward arc

B. A slight upward adjustment

C. A complete straight line

D. A measurement of strength

3. What is the maximum weight of a bundle of joist bridging?

A. 5 pounds

B. 15 pounds

C. 50 pounds

D. 8 pounds

4. For plywood used as sheathing, spacing should be how many inches between each sheet?

A. 1 inch

B. 1/4 inch

C. 1/2 inch

D. 3/8 inch

5. For roof slopes of 4 units in 12 units horizontal, what type of underlayment is required?

A. 1 layer of felt

B. Ice barrier for roofing underlayment

C. Granular roofing paper

D. Modified bitumen sheet

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6. What type of locations are considered hazardous?

A. Living rooms

B. Plaster (stucco)

C. Utility rooms

D. Garages

7. What is the typical exposure while using roll roofing products?

A. 12 inches

B. 36 inches

C. 20 inches

D. 24 inches

8. What is the minimum thickness of a masonry bearing wall for structures with more than one story?

A. 8 inches

B. 6 inches

C. 4.5 inches

D. 10 inches

9. The ideal minimum rise for stair steps is?

A. 3 inches

B. 4 inches

C. 5 inches

D. 6 inches

10. What is the required minimum clearance for ramps when designed for egress?

A. 4 feet

B. 6 feet

C. 7 feet

D. 5 feet

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. A 45-degree slope is equal to what percentage slope?

A. 50%

B. 60%

C. 70%

D. 100%

To determine the percentage slope corresponding to a 45-degree angle, it's important to understand how to calculate slope percentage from an angle. The formula to convert degrees into a percentage is derived from the tangent of the angle. The tangent of a 45-degree angle is 1, which means that for every 1 unit of vertical rise, there is an equal horizontal run of 1 unit. To express this as a percentage, you multiply the tangent value by 100. Therefore: 1 (tangent of 45 degrees) x 100 = 100% However, because a percentage slope is typically expressed as the ratio of the rise to the run, the calculation can also be approached through a shift in perspective: for a 45-degree slope, if we consider the sides of a right triangle where both the rise and the run are equal, the slope can be considered as a 1:1 ratio (which translates back to the tangent). When you express this ratio as a percentage, you again arrive at the conclusion that a 45-degree slope translates into a 100% slope. Therefore, a 45-degree slope directly corresponds to a percentage slope of 100%.

2. What is camber in a K-series joist defined as?

A. A downward arc

B. A slight upward adjustment

C. A complete straight line

D. A measurement of strength

Camber in a K-series joist is specifically defined as a slight upward adjustment. This upward curvature is intentionally incorporated into the design of the joist to counteract deflection that can occur under load. By having this slight upward arc, when weight is applied to the joist, it will settle into a more level position, helping to ensure that the floor or roof systems remain level over time. This design strategy is crucial in maintaining structural integrity and performance. While other choices present concepts associated with structural elements, they do not accurately represent the definition of camber in this context. A downward arc would imply a different type of deflection that would not serve the structural purpose intended by camber. A complete straight line lacks the intentional curvature that characterizes camber, and a measurement of strength does not reflect camber's role in addressing load and support within a flooring system. Understanding camber is essential for predicting and managing the performance of the structural system.

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3. What is the maximum weight of a bundle of joist bridging?

A. 5 pounds

B. 15 pounds

C. 50 pounds

D. 8 pounds

The maximum weight of a bundle of joist bridging is established to ensure safe handling and to facilitate efficient installation on construction sites. Joist bridging helps to stabilize floor joists, and the specified maximum weight of 8 pounds is particularly significant because it allows workers to easily maneuver the bundles without excessive strain or risk of injury. This weight limit aligns with best practices in the construction industry, where safety and efficiency are paramount. By keeping the weight manageable, workers can maintain proper lifting techniques and reduce the likelihood of accidents. The focus on lighter bundles also reflects an understanding of ergonomic principles, allowing for smoother workflow and minimizing downtime that could occur due to handling difficulties. In contrast, weights higher than 8 pounds could create cumbersome handling scenarios, potentially leading to safety violations, inefficiencies in the work process, and an increase in the risk of accidents on-site. Hence, specifying 8 pounds as the maximum weight of a bundle of joist bridging is crucial for maintaining worksite safety and operational effectiveness.

4. For plywood used as sheathing, spacing should be how many inches between each sheet?

A. 1 inch

B. 1/4 inch

C. 1/2 inch

D. 3/8 inch

For plywood used as sheathing, the correct spacing between each sheet is 1/2 inch. This spacing is essential to accommodate the natural expansion and contraction of wood as it responds to moisture and temperature changes. When plywood panels are installed, they must not be tightly butt together; instead, the gap allows for movement without causing buckling or warping, which can ultimately affect the integrity of the sheathing and the building's overall construction. If the sheets were placed closer together, such as at 1/4 inch or not provided with any spacing, it could lead to issues when the material expands. Conversely, larger spacings could also weaken the structure by creating potential points of vulnerability where leakage or air infiltration may occur. Therefore, the 1/2 inch spacing is a standard recommendation in building codes and practices to ensure that the plywood sheathing performs effectively and maintains structural integrity over time.

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5. For roof slopes of 4 units in 12 units horizontal, what type of underlayment is required?

A. 1 layer of felt

B. Ice barrier for roofing underlayment

C. Granular roofing paper

D. Modified bitumen sheet

In North Carolina, underlayment requirements for roofing systems depend on the slope of the roof and specific local building codes. For roofs with a slope of 4 units in 12 units horizontal, it is typically required to install an ice barrier as part of the roofing underlayment. An ice barrier is particularly crucial for areas that experience freeze-thaw cycles; it helps prevent water infiltration that can result from melting ice or snow. This barrier is installed at the eaves and in areas most susceptible to ice dams, which can cause significant damage if not properly managed. In the case of this roof slope, the installation of an ice barrier is a preventive measure to ensure water does not seep under the roofing materials and leads to leaks or structural damage. Thus, the inclusion of this specific type of underlayment caters to both building code requirements and the practical considerations of weather-resistant roofing systems.

6. What type of locations are considered hazardous?

A. Living rooms

B. Plaster (stucco)

C. Utility rooms

D. Garages

In the context of hazardous locations, the term generally refers to areas where there is an increased risk of fire or explosion due to the presence of flammable gases, vapors, combustible dust, or fibers. Plaster (stucco) itself is not a location, but if we consider it as part of a material application in construction, it may not accurately reflect the inherent dangers found in various environments. Utility rooms and garages, on the other hand, often contain equipment or materials (like cleaning chemicals, fuel, or other flammable substances) that can pose significant hazards. Utility rooms frequently house electrical panels and possibly areas for laundry, which may also present shock hazards if not maintained properly. Garages are common locations for storing gasoline, oil, and tools that can create unsafe conditions if not properly managed. Understanding where hazardous materials can accumulate or where hazardous operations take place is essential for ensuring safety measures are adequately implemented. Therefore, while plaster or stucco may contain chemicals in some contexts, the more critical focus in building safety is on the operational and environmental conditions of spaces like garages and utility rooms.

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7. What is the typical exposure while using roll roofing products?

A. 12 inches

B. 36 inches

C. 20 inches

D. 24 inches

The typical exposure for roll roofing products is 24 inches. This measurement refers to the amount of roll roofing that is exposed to the elements after installation. Roll roofing is often used for flat or low-slope roofs, and the 24-inch exposure is standard because it helps to ensure adequate water shedding while allowing for efficient installation. Using a 24-inch exposure helps to minimize the risk of leaks and enhances the overall performance of the roofing system. It strikes a balance between adequate coverage and material efficiency, ensuring that the roofing material will adequately protect the building from moisture and adverse weather conditions. This exposure size is also in line with industry practices, making it easier to implement and follow standardized installation procedures. Understanding this exposure is crucial for contractors and builders, as improper exposure could lead to potential water infiltration issues, which would undermine the longevity and effectiveness of the roof.

8. What is the minimum thickness of a masonry bearing wall for structures with more than one story?

A. 8 inches

B. 6 inches

C. 4.5 inches

D. 10 inches

The minimum thickness of a masonry bearing wall for structures with more than one story is set at 4.5 inches. This requirement is typically grounded in building codes that ensure structural integrity and safety, particularly in multi-story buildings where additional loads and stresses are present. The thickness specification considers various factors, such as the weight of the walls themselves, the weight of the floors they support, and the overall design load. A thickness of 4.5 inches is sufficient to provide the necessary strength and stability for bearing walls in these types of structures while also allowing for practical construction methods. Understanding this requirement is essential for anyone preparing for the North Carolina Building Contractor License because it reflects the standards that contractors must adhere to in ensuring the structural safety and compliance of their projects.

9. The ideal minimum rise for stair steps is?

A. 3 inches

B. 4 inches

C. 5 inches

D. 6 inches

The ideal minimum rise for stair steps is 4 inches, as this dimension is considered safe and comfortable for most users. A rise that meets this specification ensures that stairs are not too steep, reducing the risk of accidents and fall-related injuries. When stair rises are too high, they can become difficult to navigate, especially for children, the elderly, or individuals with mobility issues. Building codes and guidelines, including those in North Carolina, typically stipulate that the rise of the stairs should not be less than this minimum to promote safety and accessibility. A rise of 4 inches strikes a balance between being manageable and compliant with safety standards, providing users with a comfortable experience when using the stairs. Understanding this aspect of stair design is crucial for builders and contractors, as adhering to these specifications helps ensure that their work meets both legal codes and user needs.

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10. What is the required minimum clearance for ramps when designed for egress?

A. 4 feet

B. 6 feet

C. 7 feet

D. 5 feet

The required minimum clearance for ramps designed for egress is established to ensure that individuals can safely navigate the ramp without obstructions. A clearance of 7 feet is mandated, as it allows for appropriate headroom and accessibility, particularly for people using wheelchairs or other mobility devices. This height ensures that individuals do not risk hitting their heads or encountering any impediment while using the ramp in an emergency egress situation. This specification is crucial for compliance with safety codes and regulations, like those outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and various building codes, which aim to create accessible pathways for all users. In contrast, the other clearance options of 4 feet, 5 feet, and 6 feet do not meet the minimum standards required for safe egress, thus failing to provide adequate safety measures in emergency situations.

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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://northcarolinabuildingcontractor.examzify.com

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

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