# NORTH CAROLINA HOME INSPECTOR PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

## STUDY GUIDE



## SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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https://northcarolina-homeinspector.examzify.com

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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. Where is a fiberglass shingle roof most likely to experience leaks?**

A. At the edges

B. In the valley

C. Near the vents

D. Underneath the tiles

**2. What is the clearance requirement for a wood stove and a non-combustible wall?**

A. 36 inches

B. 24 inches

C. 14 inches

D. 18 inches

**3. Dryer vents are recommended to be vented to which location?**

A. Inside the home

B. To the attic

C. Outside

D. To the basement

**4. If you encounter open duct work in a garage, what conclusion should you draw for the report?**

A. This is inconsequential

B. This is a serious issue that can introduce CO2 from vehicles

C. This is typically acceptable

D. There is no significant risk involved

**5. What should be noted if a house is built over an old gas station during an inspection?**

A. It is a common issue and not concerning

B. Inform the client and write it in the report

C. It's irrelevant to the current structure

D. No action is necessary

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**6. Should you comment on the life expectancy of any components in your report?**

A. Yes, it is important for homeowners to know

B. No, this is not recommended

C. Only if they ask about it

D. Yes, it can help with planning

**7. In a house with two layers of shingles, where is leakage most likely to occur?**

A. On the roof slope

B. Around the chimney

C. In the valley

D. At the eaves

**8. What is the most common type of plumbing trap used in a house today?**

A. S-trap

B. P-trap

C. Z-trap

D. Q-trap

**9. Most horizontal cracking in basement walls is typically caused by which of the following?**

A. Improper drainage

B. External forces like soil pressure

C. Foundation settling

D. Temperature change

**10. What size ground wire must be used in a 200-amp service?**

A. No. 4

B. No. 6

C. No. 8

D. No. 10

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# Answers

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

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# Explanations

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## 1. Where is a fiberglass shingle roof most likely to experience leaks?

A. At the edges

B. In the valley

C. Near the vents

D. Underneath the tiles

*A fiberglass shingle roof is most likely to experience leaks in the valley. Valleys are areas where two sloped sections of a roof meet, creating a channel for water runoff. Because of this design, the valley collects a significant amount of rainwater, which can increase the likelihood of leaks if not properly sealed or maintained. Proper installation is crucial in these areas; flashing must be correctly positioned to guide water toward the gutter system and prevent it from seeping underneath the shingles. Over time, factors such as wear and tear, accumulation of debris, or improper installation can compromise the integrity of the valley, leading to leaks. Other areas, such as the edges or around vents, can also be susceptible to leaks, but the specific design of the valley makes it particularly vulnerable to water intrusion, especially during heavy rainfall. Proper maintenance of these roofing structures involves regular inspection and upkeep to ensure that valleys are clear and functioning as intended to direct water flow safely away from the roof.*

## 2. What is the clearance requirement for a wood stove and a non-combustible wall?

A. 36 inches

B. 24 inches

C. 14 inches

D. 18 inches

*The clearance requirement for a wood stove installed near a non-combustible wall is typically 18 inches. This distance is essential to prevent overheating and ensure safe operation, as it allows for adequate airflow around the stove, reducing the risk of fire hazards. Non-combustible materials can withstand high temperatures without igniting, but maintaining a safe clearance is crucial for the stove's efficiency and to achieve safe temperatures at the wall. Building codes often specify this clearance to protect property and lives from the potential dangers associated with stove use.*

## 3. Dryer vents are recommended to be vented to which location?

A. Inside the home

B. To the attic

C. Outside

D. To the basement

*Venting dryer vents to the outside is crucial for maintaining a safe and efficient home environment. When a dryer is in operation, it produces hot, moist air along with lint and other particles. If the vent is directed inside the home or into areas like the attic or basement, it can lead to significant issues including increased humidity, mold growth, and lint buildup. These conditions can create fire hazards and cause damage to the structure of the home. By venting to the outside, the warm, moist air is expelled directly to the exterior, preventing condensation and moisture accumulation within the home. This practice promotes better air quality, enhances dryer efficiency, and reduces fire risks associated with lint buildup. Hence, the recommendation is clear: dryer vents should always be vented to the outside.*

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**4. If you encounter open duct work in a garage, what conclusion should you draw for the report?**

A. This is inconsequential

B. This is a serious issue that can introduce CO2 from vehicles

C. This is typically acceptable

D. There is no significant risk involved

*When encountering open duct work in a garage, it's important to recognize the potential for serious issues that can arise from this situation. Open ducts can facilitate the transfer of harmful gases, including carbon monoxide (CO), from vehicles into the home's ventilation system. Vehicles often emit CO and other pollutants, especially when idling, and if duct work is left open, it can lead to these dangerous gases infiltrating the living areas of a home, thereby posing health risks to the occupants. Carbon monoxide is colorless, odorless, and can be lethal in high concentrations. Home inspectors are trained to identify such risks and recommend appropriate measures to mitigate exposure, such as sealing ducts or ensuring that any vehicle exhaust is properly vented away from living spaces. Understanding the implications of open duct work in a garage helps ensure the safety and health of occupants, making it essential to classify this observation as a serious issue rather than inconsequential or acceptable. Recognizing and reporting this risk accurately supports responsible home inspection practices and aids homeowners in maintaining a safe living environment.*

**5. What should be noted if a house is built over an old gas station during an inspection?**

A. It is a common issue and not concerning

B. Inform the client and write it in the report

C. It's irrelevant to the current structure

D. No action is necessary

*If a house is built over an old gas station, it is essential to inform the client and include this information in the inspection report. The presence of an old gas station raises significant concerns regarding potential environmental hazards, such as soil contamination or groundwater issues due to residual petroleum products and other hazardous materials. Documenting this information not only helps to keep the client informed about possible risks but also emphasizes the importance of conducting further investigations, such as environmental assessments or tests, to ensure the safety of the property. This proactive approach can help the client in making informed decisions regarding their investment and any necessary remediation efforts that might be required. In summary, noting the house's location over an old gas station in both verbal communication and written documentation is critical for the client's awareness and overall safety.*

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## 6. Should you comment on the life expectancy of any components in your report?

A. Yes, it is important for homeowners to know

B. No, this is not recommended

C. Only if they ask about it

D. Yes, it can help with planning

*In the context of home inspections, providing information on the life expectancy of components is generally not encouraged because it can lead to misunderstandings or misinterpretations. Home inspectors are responsible for identifying conditions and deficiencies in various components of a property, but estimating life expectancy can involve many variables, including maintenance, environmental factors, and specific circumstances that are unique to each home. Including life expectancy in reports may present the risk of legal liability if components do not perform as anticipated after the inspection. Furthermore, it may shift the focus of the inspection report from current condition to predictive assessments, which are outside the typical scope of a standard home inspection. In many cases, homeowners may find it more beneficial to receive a clear picture of the current state and necessary repairs, rather than speculative timelines that could create unrealistic expectations regarding their home's features and lifespan. Hence, avoiding comment on life expectancy helps maintain focus on the immediate needs and condition of the property.*

## 7. In a house with two layers of shingles, where is leakage most likely to occur?

A. On the roof slope

B. Around the chimney

C. In the valley

D. At the eaves

*In a house with two layers of shingles, the likelihood of leakage is heightened in the valley due to the unique way that water flows and accumulates in these areas. Valleys are the places where two slopes meet and channel water down towards the eaves. If there are defects or weaknesses in the shingle layers, such as improper installation, wear, or degradation, this can lead to water infiltration. The design of valleys can often trap debris and prevent proper drainage, exacerbating the potential for leaks, especially when heavy rain occurs. While water can leak from other parts of the roof, such as the roof slope, areas around the chimney, or at the eaves, these tend to be more straightforward drainage points compared to valleys. The complex geometry and water accumulation in valleys make them particularly susceptible to leakage when there are underlying issues with the roofing materials.*

## 8. What is the most common type of plumbing trap used in a house today?

A. S-trap

B. P-trap

C. Z-trap

D. Q-trap

*The most common type of plumbing trap used in residential settings today is the P-trap. This design is widely utilized because it effectively prevents sewer gases from entering the home while allowing wastewater to flow freely. The P-trap's shape, which resembles the letter "P," creates a water seal that retains a small amount of water, serving as a barrier against odors and harmful gases. This characteristic is crucial for maintaining indoor air quality. In comparison to other trap designs, the P-trap is favored for its practicality, ease of installation, and effectiveness in a variety of plumbing applications, such as under sinks and lavatories. Its design is also compliant with modern plumbing codes, which mandate the use of traps in drainage systems.*

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## 9. Most horizontal cracking in basement walls is typically caused by which of the following?

A. Improper drainage

B. External forces like soil pressure

C. Foundation settling

D. Temperature change

*Horizontal cracking in basement walls is typically caused by external forces such as soil pressure. Over time, as soil moisture content fluctuates, it can expand or contract, exerting lateral pressure on the foundation walls. This increased pressure can lead to horizontal cracks, especially if the walls are not sufficiently reinforced to withstand such forces. While improper drainage can contribute to hydrostatic pressure on the walls, it primarily leads to vertical cracking or bowing rather than horizontal cracking. Foundation settling may also cause issues, but this usually results in vertical displacement or diagonal cracks depending on the type of settlement. Temperature changes can lead to minor expansion and contraction impacts, but they do not typically create the significant pressure required to generate horizontal cracks in basement walls. Therefore, the primary cause of horizontal cracking is indeed the external forces acting on the structure from the surrounding soil.*

## 10. What size ground wire must be used in a 200-amp service?

A. No. 4

B. No. 6

C. No. 8

D. No. 10

*In a 200-amp service, the appropriate size for the ground wire, according to the National Electrical Code (NEC), is typically No. 6 copper or No. 4 aluminum. The establishment of this size is based on the ampacity requirements necessary to ensure that the ground wire can safely carry the fault current without risk of overheating or damage. Copper wire has better conductivity compared to aluminum, so it can be sized smaller for the same application. Thus, a No. 6 copper ground wire is a commonly accepted choice for a 200-amp service, as it can adequately handle the electrical load while providing the necessary safety and protection. The correct size for the ground is critical for preventing electrical hazards, such as shock or fire, which could occur if the ground wire is insufficient for the system's load. Other options, although they may be mentioned in various contexts, do not meet the NEC guidelines for this specific application. Selecting the appropriate ground wire size is particularly important for grounding systems in residential electrical installations.*

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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://northcarolina-homeinspector.examzify.com

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

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