VIRGINIA CONTRACTORS LICENSE PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

https://vacontractors.examzify.com

Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

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.

SAMPLE

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!

SAMPLE

Questions

SAMPLE

1. **After a period of 7 days, concrete typically achieves what percentage of its specified compressive strength?**

   A. 50-60%

   B. 60-75%

   C. 75-85%

   D. 85-95%

2. **How many toilet seats are required for a work crew of 40 workers?**

   A. One toilet seat

   B. Two toilet seats

   C. One toilet seat and one urinal

   D. Three toilet seats

3. **Window sizes for the designated structure are found on what document?**

   A. Floor plan

   B. Engineering report

   C. Window schedule

   D. Architectural guidelines

4. **What type of soil should not be used for backfill due to its expansion characteristics?**

   A. Clay soil

   B. Sand soil

   C. Loose gravel

   D. Organic soil

5. **What is the minimum nominal thickness required for wood plank roof decks?**

   A. 1 inch

   B. 1 1/4 inches

   C. 1 1/8 inches

   D. 1 1/2 inches

SAMPLE

6. What is the maximum allowable span for a three-ply 2" x 12" build-up floor girder?

A. 6 ft 10 inches

B. 8 ft 10 inches

C. 10 ft 10 inches

D. 12 ft 10 inches

7. What type of equipment is recommended to excavate a basement?

A. Hand shovel

B. Power shovel

C. Excavation truck

D. Backhoe loader

8. What is a negative effect of combining dissimilar metals in construction?

A. Corrosion

B. Galvanic action

C. Rust formation

D. Weakening of materials

9. What type of drawing would show the front, back, right, and left side of a structure?

A. Site Plan

B. Blueprint

C. Elevation

D. Section

10. What is the minimum height for guard rails for a balcony?

A. 30 inches

B. 36 inches

C. 42 inches

D. 48 inches

SAMPLE

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. After a period of 7 days, concrete typically achieves what percentage of its specified compressive strength?

A. 50-60%

B. 60-75%

C. 75-85%

D. 85-95%

After a period of 7 days, concrete typically achieves around 70% of its specified compressive strength. This percentage indicates that concrete continues to gain strength after the initial setting and curing phase. The correct answer aligns and falls within the range described in option B (60-75%). Concrete does not reach its full specified compressive strength until it has been cured for a longer duration, often achieving about 100% strength at 28 days. The rate of strength gain for concrete can vary based on factors including the mix design, curing conditions, and ambient temperature. The significance of understanding this percentage lies in the planning of construction activities; knowing that concrete is not at full strength after just one week allows for appropriate decision-making regarding loads and usage during this curing period. While various concrete mixtures may deviate slightly, this range is a general guideline used by professionals in the field.

2. How many toilet seats are required for a work crew of 40 workers?

A. One toilet seat

B. Two toilet seats

C. One toilet seat and one urinal

D. Three toilet seats

To determine the number of toilet seats required for a work crew of 40 workers, it's essential to refer to the guidelines set forth by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) or local building codes, which often dictate the minimum number of restroom facilities based on the number of employees on site. For a work crew of 40 workers, the requirements generally follow the rule that there should be one toilet seat for every 15 workers, up to a certain threshold. In addition to this, if the workforce includes male members, having a urinal can also be beneficial and is often factored into the calculations to improve accessibility and convenience. In this case, since the total number of workers is 40, this number suggests that at least three toilet seats would realistically accommodate the needs of the crew effectively. By providing one urinal along with one toilet seat, the facilities can adequately serve the crew, especially during peak usage times. This reasoning aligns with the answer that includes one toilet seat and one urinal, as it meets the hygienic and practical needs of the work environment while complying with regulations that account for both male and female workers.

SAMPLE

3. Window sizes for the designated structure are found on what document?

A. Floor plan

B. Engineering report

C. Window schedule

D. Architectural guidelines

The window sizes for a designated structure are most accurately found on the window schedule. This document provides specific details regarding all the windows in a building project, including their sizes, types, locations, and sometimes additional information such as materials and performance specifications. This is particularly significant in construction and design, as the window schedule plays a crucial role in ensuring that each window meets the design requirements and conforms to building codes. It streamlines the process for contractors and builders, allowing them to reference this document when ordering materials or planning installation. While the floor plan does show the layout of windows, it may not provide detailed specifications on size. Similarly, the engineering report primarily focuses on structural integrity and systems, while architectural guidelines outline general design principles rather than specific dimensions for windows. Thus, the window schedule is the most pertinent source for accurate window sizing within a construction project.

4. What type of soil should not be used for backfill due to its expansion characteristics?

A. Clay soil

B. Sand soil

C. Loose gravel

D. Organic soil

Clay soil is not suitable for use as backfill because of its expansion and contraction properties. When clay is wet, it can absorb water and swell, greatly increasing in volume. Conversely, when it dries out, clay shrinks, leading to significant changes in ground stability and potentially causing damage to structures. This characteristic makes clay soil unpredictable and problematic for backfilling, especially in areas where moisture levels fluctuate significantly. Sand soil, loose gravel, and organic soil lack these expansive qualities, making them more suitable for backfilling. Sand and gravel provide good drainage and stability, while organic soil, often too loose and rich in decomposing materials, can decompose over time, leading to settling issues. Therefore, understanding the properties of different soil types is crucial for ensuring structural integrity when backfilling.

5. What is the minimum nominal thickness required for wood plank roof decks?

A. 1 inch

B. 1 1/4 inches

C. 1 1/8 inches

D. 1 1/2 inches

The minimum nominal thickness required for wood plank roof decks is 1 1/8 inches. This specification is established in building codes to ensure that the roof deck has sufficient strength and durability to support loads such as snow, wind, and the weight of other construction materials. A thickness of 1 1/8 inches provides an adequate balance between structural integrity and material use, ensuring that the roof system can perform effectively under normal and extreme conditions. Additionally, proper thickness is critical for achieving proper fastener anchoring and facilitating the overall installation process. Thinner materials could compromise the stability and performance of the roof structure, leading to potential issues such as sagging, warping, or even failure under load. Therefore, adherence to the minimum thickness of 1 1/8 inches is essential for the safety and reliability of wood plank roof decks.

SAMPLE

6. What is the maximum allowable span for a three-ply 2" x 12" build-up floor girder?

A. 6 ft 10 inches

B. 8 ft 10 inches

C. 10 ft 10 inches

D. 12 ft 10 inches

The maximum allowable span for a three-ply 2" x 12" built-up floor girder is governed by building codes and engineering principles that take into account factors such as material properties, load capacity, and safety considerations. For a three-ply built-up girder of this size, a span of 8 feet 10 inches is typically recognized as a safe limit for standard residential loading conditions. This measurement ensures that the girder can adequately support the loads it will encounter without excessive deflection or failure. The calculations behind this span consider factors like the wood species, grade, and any additional loads that may be applied to the girder, such as live loads (people, furniture) and dead loads (the weight of the building materials). Longer spans can increase the risk of structural inadequacies, which is why codes prescribe maximum lengths to maintain safety and integrity in construction. Therefore, the 8 feet 10 inches parameter is well-established within engineering guidelines for ensuring that the girder performs safely under typical conditions found in residential construction.

7. What type of equipment is recommended to excavate a basement?

A. Hand shovel

B. Power shovel

C. Excavation truck

D. Backhoe loader

When it comes to excavating a basement, the use of a power shovel is highly recommended due to its efficiency and capability. A power shovel is a type of heavy equipment designed specifically for moving large amounts of earth quickly. It typically features a digging bucket that can penetrate deep into the ground, making it ideal for tasks like basement excavation, where significant amounts of soil need to be removed. In comparison, while a hand shovel is a simple tool that can be used for small-scale digging, it is not practical for a job as large as excavating a basement, where the volume of earth to be removed is substantial. An excavation truck is not designed for digging but rather for transporting material once it has been excavated. A backhoe loader is also a versatile piece of equipment capable of excavation; however, a power shovel is generally more effective for larger excavations, as it can handle greater depths and volumes more efficiently. Thus, the power shovel is the most suitable choice for this specific task, facilitating swift and effective basement excavation.

8. What is a negative effect of combining dissimilar metals in construction?

A. Corrosion

B. Galvanic action

C. Rust formation

D. Weakening of materials

Combining dissimilar metals in construction can lead to galvanic action, which is a significant concern in metalworking and structural integrity. When two different metals are in contact with each other in the presence of an electrolyte (such as moisture), an electrochemical reaction occurs. This reaction causes one of the metals to corrode faster than it would on its own, while the other metal acts as a cathode, remaining protected. This process can lead to premature failure of the material, posing structural risks and necessitating repairs or replacements. Galvanic action is particularly critical to understand in construction to ensure the longevity and safety of structures. It highlights the importance of selecting compatible materials or applying protective coatings to mitigate this adverse interaction. The other choices, while related to metal behavior, do not precisely capture the specific process of electrochemical reactions that occur with dissimilar metals.

SAMPLE

9. What type of drawing would show the front, back, right, and left side of a structure?

A. Site Plan

B. Blueprint

C. Elevation

D. Section

The correct answer is elevation, as elevation drawings provide detailed representations of the vertical faces of a structure. They show how the building will appear from different viewpoints, specifically illustrating the front, back, and both sides of the building. Each elevation gives insight into the architectural style, the materials used, and important features such as windows and doors, allowing stakeholders to visualize the structure in a way that is not possible with other types of drawings. In contrast, while a site plan indicates the positioning of a building in relation to other structures and terrain, it does not depict the building's vertical dimensions. Blueprints generally refer to technical drawings that may include various aspects of a project but can be broader and more detailed than just the exterior views. Section drawings offer a cut-through view of the building, showing internal structures and layouts, which means they focus on different aspects than the elevations do. Elevation drawings are therefore crucial for understanding the exterior appearance of a building from multiple sides.

10. What is the minimum height for guard rails for a balcony?

A. 30 inches

B. 36 inches

C. 42 inches

D. 48 inches

The minimum height for guard rails on a balcony is specified to be 36 inches. This requirement is grounded in safety standards that are designed to prevent falls from elevated surfaces. Guard rails act as a critical safety feature, providing physical barriers that protect individuals from inadvertently slipping or falling over the edge. Setting the guard rail height at 36 inches strikes a balance between efficacy in preventing falls and practicality in design and usage. If guard rails were any shorter, they would not provide adequate protection for adults or children, while heights significantly above 36 inches could create unnecessary barriers and complicate aesthetics or usability. Applying building codes consistently, such as those suggested in the International Building Code (IBC), helps ensure that all constructed balconies maintain this vital safety feature at an appropriate height, thus protecting the residents and visitors from potential hazards.

SAMPLE

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://vacontractors.examzify.com

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

SAMPLE