Content of the Examination

The Earthwork and Paving (C-12) Examination is divided into four major sections:

1. Planning and Estimating (23%)
   - Plans and specifications
   - Job site conditions
   - Estimating
   - Project layout
   - Materials and equipment

2. Earthwork and Grade Control (35%)
   - Grade control
   - Soils and geology
   - Excavation and trenching
   - Fill and grading

3. Paving (22%)
   - Roadways, driveways, and parking lots
   - Specialty paving
   - Demolition and pavement repair
   - Related paving activities

4. Safety (20%)
   - Job site safety
   - Environmental impact
   - Traffic control

*Percentages are approximate*

Test Site Policy

This is a closed-book examination. No reference materials may be used during the examination. All materials brought to the examination site must be left in an unmonitored area at your own risk.

Test Strategy

This is a multiple-choice examination with four choices per question. Examination questions are written to provide only one BEST answer. Some questions require mathematical computation. A calculator will be provided.

There is no penalty for guessing. If you are unsure about a particular question, it is better to try to answer the question than to leave the question blank.

Plenty of time is provided to answer all examination questions, so be sure to read each question and its four choices completely and carefully before selecting the BEST possible answer to the question.
Sample Questions

Below are three typical examination questions. The correct answer is underlined.

1. An aggregate base weighing 1.5 tons per cubic yard will be laid 12” deep on a 1,000-foot road, 24 feet wide. How many tons of aggregate will be required?
   a. 889 tons
   b. 1,333 tons
   c. 1,999 tons
   d. 3,999 tons

2. How should a contractor proceed when a concrete load has arrived on a job site and the material comes out of the chute in lumps?
   a. Add water.
   b. Add retardant.
   c. Reject the load.
   d. Place it immediately.

3. What is the allowable lippage between pavers?
   a. 1/2”
   b. 3/8”
   c. 1/4”
   d. 1/8”

*All questions are written and reviewed by licensed contractors who are actively working in the trade*

Resources

Publisher information for reference books and code is provided below. Other sources for reference books may be found online. California code books can be viewed online: www.bsc.ca.gov

INTERNET: www.iccsafe.org

INTERNET: www.asphaltinstitute.org

INTERNET: www.theaccessguy.com

INTERNET: www.dot.ca.gov

Excavation and Grading Handbook, Revised. Craftsman Book Company. PHONE: (800) 829-8123
INTERNET: www.craftsman-book.com

Moving the Earth: The Workbook of Excavation. The McGraw-Hill Companies. PHONE: (877) 833-5524
INTERNET: www.mhprofessional.com

Permeable Interlocking Concrete Pavements. ICPI Tech Specs. Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute. PHONE: (703) 657-6900
INTERNET: www.icpi.org

Standard Plans and Standard Specifications, State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Caltrans Publications Unit. PHONE: (916) 263-0822
INTERNET: www.caltransopac.ca.gov/publicat.htm

INTERNET: www.mancomm.com
VIEW ONLINE: www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/LawsAndRegulations.htm

*Publisher information is current as of 04/2018*