



CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSE BOARD LICENSE EXAMINATION STUDY GUIDE



WARM-AIR HEATING, VENTILATING AND AIR-CONDITIONING (C-20)

Content of the Examination

The Warm-Air Heating, Ventilating and Air-Conditioning (C-20) Examination is divided into four major sections:

- 1. Planning and Estimating (22%)**
 - HVAC system design and evaluation
 - Load and psychrometric calculations
 - Duct system design and layout
 - Job cost estimation
- 2. Fabrication, Installation, and Startup (38%)**
 - Duct system fabrication
 - Equipment installation
 - Electrical and mechanical components
 - Plumbing and refrigeration components
 - Air distribution and duct systems
 - HVAC system startup
- 3. Troubleshooting, Repair, and Maintenance (20%)**
 - HVAC system diagnostic tests and evaluation
 - HVAC system maintenance and repair
- 4. Safety (20%)**
 - Personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - Job site safety requirements (Cal/OSHA)
 - Handling hazardous materials

Percentages are approximate

Test Policy

This is a closed-book examination. No reference materials may be used during the examination.

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 answer the question than to leave the question blank.

Plenty of time is provided to answer all examination questions. Read each question and its four choices completely and carefully before selecting the BEST possible answer.

Sample Questions

Below are three typical examination questions.
The correct answer is marked with an asterisk (*).

1. A storage garage needs four air changes per hour for proper ventilation. How many ventilators are needed to exhaust the garage if it has a total volume of 180,000 cubic feet and a ventilator will exhaust 1,000 cubic feet per minute?
 - a. 6
 - b. 12*
 - c. 18
 - d. 180

2. What is the function of a thermocouple in a gas furnace?
 - a. It is a safety control for the fan.
 - b. It is a safety device that confirms the existence of a pilot flame.*
 - c. It is a safety device for electronic ignition systems.
 - d. It is a safety device that controls the thermostat.

3. A packaged water source heat pump eliminates which of the following components?
 - a. Capacitor
 - b. Evaporator
 - c. Reversing valve
 - d. Air-cooled condenser*

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.dgs.ca.gov/bsc

2025 Building Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings. California Energy Commission.
PHONE: (800) 772-3300
INTERNET: www.energy.ca.gov

2025 California Building Code. California Code of Regulations, Title 24. International Code Council.
PHONE: (800) 786-4452
INTERNET: www.iccsafe.org

2025 California Electrical Code. California Code of Regulations, Title 24. BNI Publications, Inc.
PHONE: (888) 264-2665
INTERNET: www.bnibooks.com

2025 California Energy Code. California Code of Regulations, Title 24. International Code Council.
PHONE: (800) 786-4452
INTERNET: www.iccsafe.org

2025 California Mechanical Code. California Code of Regulations, Title 24. International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO).
PHONE: (909) 472-4100
INTERNET: iapmo.org

2025 California Plumbing Code. California Code of Regulations, Title 24. International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO).
PHONE: (909) 472-4100
INTERNET: iapmo.org

ASHRAE Handbooks (Fundamentals; HVAC Applications; HVAC Systems & Equipment; and Pocket Guide). American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers.
PHONE: (800) 527-4723
INTERNET: www.ashrae.org

Fundamentals of HVACR. Stanfield, C., Skaves, D. Pearson.
PHONE: (800) 624-0023
INTERNET: www.pearson.com

HVAC Duct Construction Standards – Metal and Flexible. Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association.
PHONE: (703) 803-2980
INTERNET: www.smacna.org

Manual CS – Commercial Application, Systems, and Equipment; Manual D – Residential Duct Systems; Manual H – Heat Pump Systems; Manual J – Residential Load Calculation; Manual N – Commercial Load Calculation; Manual P – Psychrometrics; Manual Q – Low Pressure, Low Velocity Duct System Design; Manual RS – Comfort, Air Quality, & Efficiency by Design; Manual S – Residential Equipment Selection. Air Conditioning Contractors of America.
PHONE: (703) 575-4477
INTERNET: www.acca.org

Modern Refrigeration and Air Conditioning. Althouse et al. Goodheart-Willcox.
PHONE: (800) 323-0440
INTERNET: www.g-w.com

Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Technology. Johnson, B., Silberstein, E., Tomczyk, J., Whitman, B. Cengage Learning.
PHONE: (800) 354-9706
INTERNET: www.cengage.com

State of California General Industry & Electrical Safety Orders (Cal/OSHA) and State of California Construction & Electrical Safety Orders (Cal/OSHA). 2026. California Code of Regulations, Title 8. Mancomm.
PHONE: (877) 626-2666
INTERNET: www.mancomm.com
VIEW ONLINE:
www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/LawsAndRegulations.htm

Publisher information is current as of 3/26