



CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSE BOARD LICENSE EXAMINATION STUDY GUIDE



LANDSCAPING (C-27)

Content of the Examination

The Landscaping (C-27) Examination is divided into six major sections:

1. Planning and Estimating (18%)

- Project planning
- Hardscape, drainage, and irrigation design
- Project estimating

2. Construction Preparation (12%)

- Site planning
- Erosion control
- Trenching and grading

3. Hardscape Installation (21%)

- Flatwork
- Masonry
- Posts, fences, and retaining walls
- Water features

4. Drainage, Irrigation, Lighting, and Plant Installation (21%)

- Drainage systems and bioswales
- Irrigation valves and controllers
- Lighting controllers and transformers
- Plant, tree, and mulch installation

5. Maintenance and Repair (11%)

- Pruning and tree removal
- Troubleshooting irrigation systems
- Repairing hardscapes

6. Safety (17%)

- Employee and job site safety
- Tree work safety

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 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 marked with an asterisk (*).

1. If the maximum flow for a $\frac{3}{4}$ " valve is 10 gpm on a level area, what is the MAXIMUM flow if there is a 25' elevation drop in the same system?

- a. 16 gpm
- b. 14 gpm
- c. 12 gpm
- d. 10 gpm*

2. If a plant requires good drainage, what type of backfill material should be used?
- a. Shale
 - b. Loam*
 - c. Clay
 - d. Silt
3. What is the MAXIMUM distance between joints in a concrete patio?
- a. 8'
 - b. 10'*
 - c. 12'
 - d. 14'

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

Arborists' Certification Study Guide. S.J. Lilly. International Society of Arboriculture (ISA).
PHONE: (678) 367-0981
INTERNET: www.isa-arbor.com

Landscape Construction. David Sauter. Cengage Learning.
PHONE: (800) 354-9706
INTERNET: www.cengage.com

The Landscape Lighting Book. Janet Lennox Moyer. Wiley.
PHONE: (877) 762-2974
INTERNET: www.wiley.com

Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance. California Department of Water Resources.
PHONE: (916) 651-9676
INTERNET:
water.ca.gov/Programs/Water-Use-And-Efficiency

The New Sunset Western Garden Book. Sunset Publishing.
PHONE: (510) 858-3400
INTERNET: sunset.com/garden/new-sunset-western-garden-book

Principles of Irrigation. Irrigation Association.
PHONE: (703) 536-7080
INTERNET: www.irrigation.org

State of California General Industry & Electrical Safety Orders (Cal/OSHA) and State of California Construction & Electrical Safety Orders (Cal/OSHA). 2025. California Code of Regulations, Title 8. Mancomm.
PHONE: (877) 626-2666
INTERNET: www.mancomm.com
VIEW ONLINE:
www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/LawsAndRegulations.htm

Trouble Shooting Irrigation Control Systems. Bill Derryberry.
PHONE: (480) 423-0542
EMAIL: billderryberry@cox.net

Publisher information is current as of 3/26