



CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSE BOARD LICENSE EXAMINATION STUDY GUIDE



PAINTING AND DECORATING (C-33)

Content of the Examination

The Painting and Decorating (C-33) Examination is divided into four major sections:

1. Planning and Estimation (35%)

- Evaluating job sites
- Selecting tools, equipment, and materials
- Selecting paint and stain colors
- Reading blueprints and specifications
- Calculating job costs

2. Substrate Repair and Surface Preparation (25%)

- Identifying problems
- Scraping, sanding, and wallpaper removal
- Patching, caulking, and repairing
- Masking and protecting job sites
- Removing paint and cleaning surfaces
- Applying primer

3. Application of Paint and Finishes (18%)

- Painting surfaces
- Applying waterproofing or sealant
- Staining, sealing, and finishing wood surfaces

4. Safety (22%)

- Tool and equipment safety
- Personnel safety
- Environmental safety
- Handling hazardous materials

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. What is the square footage of a gable 12 ft. wide by 6 ft. high?
 - a. 24 sq. ft.
 - b. 36 sq. ft.
 - c. 42 sq. ft.
 - d. 72 sq. ft.
2. Which tool should be used to apply chemical strippers?
 - a. A sponge roller
 - b. A damp rag
 - c. A wire brush
 - d. A bristle brush
3. What effect will cold, damp days have on primers?
 - a. The surface will become brittle.
 - b. The drying time will increase.
 - c. The top coat will discolor.
 - d. Fish eye will occur.

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

2016 Building Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings.

(Title 24 “cool roofs”) California Energy Commission.

PHONE: (916) 654-5200

INTERNET: www.energy.ca.gov/title24

2016 California Building Code. California Code of Regulations, Title 24. International Code Council.
PHONE: (800) 786-4452
INTERNET: www.iccsafe.org

CalDAG 2013: California Disabled Accessibility Guidebook, An Interpretive Manual and Checklist. Michael P. Gibbens.
PHONE: (805) 870-0900
INTERNET: www.theaccessguy.com

The Painter’s Handbook. Mark David Gottsegen. Watson-Guptill Publications.
PHONE: (978) 750-8400
INTERNET: www.wgpub.com

PDCA Painting and Decorating Craftsman’s Manual & Textbook. Painting and Decorating Contractors of America.
PHONE: (800) 332-7322
INTERNET: www.tilerroofing.org

State of California General Industry & Electrical Safety Orders (Cal/OSHA) and State of California Construction & Electrical Safety Orders (Cal/OSHA). 2015. California Code of Regulations, Title 8. Mancomm.
PHONE: (877) 626-2666
INTERNET: www.mancomm.com
VIEW ONLINE:
www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/LawsAndRegulations.htm

Steps to Lead Safe Renovation, Repair, and Painting. US Environmental Protection Agency.
PHONE: (800) 424-LEAD
INTERNET: www.epa.gov/lead

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