Content of the Examination

The Solar (C-46) Examination is divided into six major sections:

1. Planning and Estimating (21%)
   - Evaluate client needs and site feasibility
   - Design and engineer systems
   - Interpret plans
   - Estimate job costs

2. Solar Collector Installation (15%)
   - Install roof mount collectors
   - Install ground mount collectors
   - Make weatherproof penetrations

3. Solar Thermal Installation (9%)
   - Install hot water systems
   - Install pool heating systems

4. Photovoltaic (PV) System Installation and Commissioning (22%)
   - Install basic PV systems
   - Install energy storage systems (ESS)
   - Interface with the utility grid
   - Install stand-alone PV systems
   - Label PV components
   - System testing, configuration, and monitoring; educating the client

5. Service and Maintenance (18%)
   - Evaluate PV systems
   - Evaluate thermal systems
   - Repair and replace components

6. Safety (15%)
   - Protect the public from safety hazards
   - Identify and correct unsafe working conditions
   - Handle 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

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

1. What is the unit of measurement for solar system battery capacity?
   a. Phase-hours
   b. Ampere-hours
   c. Watt amps
   d. Volt amps

2. As the temperature of a PV module increases, what will happen to the voltage?
   a. The voltage will increase.
   b. The voltage will decrease.
   c. The voltage will be unaffected.
   d. It depends on the module design.
3. If a swimming pool is 20' by 30' and filled to a depth of 8', what is the volume of water to be solar heated?

a. 600 cubic yards  
b. 4,800 cubic yards  
c. 33,600 gallons  
d. 35,904 gallons

*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

PHONE: (800) 786-4452  
INTERNET: www.iccsafe.org

PHONE: (888) 264-2665  
INTERNET: www.bnibooks.com

PHONE: (800) 786-4452  
INTERNET: www.iccsafe.org

PHONE: (800) 786-4452  
INTERNET: www.iccsafe.org

PHONE: (800) 854-2766  
INTERNET: www.iapmo.org

PHONE: (800) 854-2766  
INTERNET: www.iapmo.org

INTERNET: www.gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov

PHONE: (800) 344-3555  

PHONE: (321) 213-6037  
INTERNET: www.solar-rating.org

PHONE: (800) 323-3471  
INTERNET: www.go2atp.com

PHONE: (518) 369-3208  
INTERNET: www.e2gsolar.com/page12.html

INTERNET: www.nrel.gov/solar

PHONE: (518) 369-3208  
INTERNET: www.e2gsolar.com/page12.html

PHONE: (877) 626-2666  
INTERNET: www.mancomm.com

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

PHONE: (800) 832-0034  
INTERNET: www.uglys.net

PHONE: (888) 632-2633  
INTERNET:  
www.mikeholt.com/productitem.php?id=1229

PHONE: (800) 854-2766  
INTERNET: www.iapmo.org

*Publisher information is current as of 4/2018*