



## CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSE BOARD LICENSE EXAMINATION STUDY GUIDE



### CONCRETE (C-8)

#### Content of the Examination

The Concrete (C-8) Examination is divided into five major sections:

##### 1. Planning and Estimating (28%)

- Planning concrete projects
- Estimating concrete projects

##### 2. Pre-placement Preparation (28%)

- Demolition, grading, and excavating
- Layout and forming
- Installing drains and moisture barriers
- Installing reinforcement and embedded items

##### 3. Placing and Finishing (19%)

- Placing concrete
- Applying finishes
- Curing and testing

##### 4. Post-placement Tasks (8%)

- Applying stains and sealers
- Stripping forms; repairing, grouting, and caulking concrete

##### 5. Safety (17%)

- Employee safety
- Job site 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. How many cubic yards of concrete should a contractor order for a 20 ft. wide x 40 ft. long x 4 in. thick slab?
  - a. 8
  - b. 10\*
  - c. 12
  - d. 30
  
2. What is the primary reason for adding polypropylene fiber to concrete?
  - a. To improve the concrete's appearance
  - b. To increase the curing time
  - c. To improve the workability of the concrete
  - d. To minimize plastic shrinkage cracking\*
  
3. If a contractor works added or bleed water into the surface during floating or troweling, what effect can this action have on the finished product?
  - a. The surface can have map cracks or crazing.\*
  - b. There can be a puddle or depressed area in the slab.
  - c. The affected area can have a different texture from the rest of the slab.
  - d. The porosity differential can be magnified to such a degree that it will limit the permeability of the slab.

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

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## 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](http://www.dgs.ca.gov/bsc)**

**2022 California Building Code.** California Code of Regulations, Title 24. International Code Council.  
PHONE: (800) 786-4452  
INTERNET: [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org)

**2022 California Residential Code.** California Code of Regulations, Title 24. International Code Council.  
PHONE: (800) 786-4452  
INTERNET: [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org)

**Concrete in Practice.** National Ready Mixed Concrete Association.  
PHONE: (703) 706-4800  
INTERNET: [www.nrmca.org](http://www.nrmca.org)

**Concrete Repair and Maintenance Illustrated.** Emmons, Peter H. RS Means.  
PHONE: (888) 766-0196  
INTERNET: [www.rsmeans.com](http://www.rsmeans.com)

**Construction Best Management Practices Handbook.** California Stormwater Quality Association.  
PHONE: (424) 241-2249  
INTERNET: [www.casqa.org/resources/bmp-handbooks/construction](http://www.casqa.org/resources/bmp-handbooks/construction)

**The Contractor's Guide to Quality Concrete Construction.** American Society of Concrete Contractors.  
PHONE: (314) 962-0210  
INTERNET: [asconline.org](http://asconline.org)

**Design and Control of Concrete Mixtures, 17<sup>th</sup> edition.** Portland Cement Association.  
PHONE: (847) 966-6200  
INTERNET: [www.cement.org](http://www.cement.org)

**State of California General Industry & Electrical Safety Orders (Cal/OSHA) and State of California Construction & Electrical Safety Orders (Cal/OSHA). 2023.** California Code of Regulations, Title 8. Mancomm.  
PHONE: (877) 626-2666  
INTERNET: [www.mancomm.com](http://www.mancomm.com)  
VIEW ONLINE:  
[www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/LawsAndRegulations.htm](http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/LawsAndRegulations.htm)

**Underground Service Alert Guidelines.** California Government Code 4216 and California Business & Professions Code 7110.  
PHONE: (800) 642-2444 OR (800) 422-4133 OR 811  
INTERNET: [www.usanorth811.org](http://www.usanorth811.org) OR [www.digalert.org](http://www.digalert.org)

*\*Publisher information is current as of 1/23\**