GENERAL BUILDING (B)

Content of the Examination

The General Building (B) Examination is divided into five major sections:

1. Planning and Estimating (17%)
   - Scope of work and code compliance
   - Design and construction error identification
   - Shop drawings, plans, and specifications
   - Field inspection performance
   - Coordination of project
   - Cost estimation for materials, equipment, and labor

2. Framing and Structural Components (22%)
   - Subfloor and wall framing
   - Roof framing
   - Seismic and load requirements
   - Siding and stucco
   - Decks

3. Core Trades (30%)
   - Plumbing
   - Electrical
   - HVAC
   - Concrete
   - Earthwork and surveying
   - Insulation, acoustical, and weatherproofing
   - Roofing

4. Finish Trades (19%)
   - Painting, staining, coating, and interior wall covering
   - Tile and stone
   - Floor covering
   - Cabinetry and millwork
   - Plaster, drywall, and ceilings
   - Windows, skylights, and doors
   - Landscaping

5. Safety (12%)
   - Personnel safety
   - Transportation and traffic control
   - Environmental safety

*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. According to the California Residential Code, what is the MINIMUM allowable width of a residential hallway?
   - a. 44 inches
   - b. 40 inches
   - c. 36 inches
   - d. 32 inches
2. What is the volume of a cylinder if the diameter equals 3 feet and the length equals 12 feet?
   a. 36.00 cubic feet
   b. 84.78 cubic feet
   c. 226.08 cubic feet
   d. 339.12 cubic feet

3. In which direction should the face grain of plywood subfloor sheathing be installed?
   a. In any direction
   b. Parallel to the joists
   c. Diagonal to the joists
   d. Perpendicular to the joists

*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)

**2014 Architectural Woodwork Standards.** Woodwork Institute, Architectural Woodwork Institute, and Architectural Woodwork Manufacturers Association of Canada. 
PHONE: (916) 372-9943
INTERNET: [www.woodworkinstitute.com](http://www.woodworkinstitute.com)

PHONE: (800) 786-4452
INTERNET: [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org)

PHONE: (888) 264-2665
INTERNET: [www.bnibooks.com](http://www.bnibooks.com)

PHONE: (800) 786-4452
INTERNET: [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org)

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INTERNET: [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org)

PHONE: (800) 786-4452
INTERNET: [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org)

PHONE: (909) 472-4100
INTERNET: [www.iapmo.org](http://www.iapmo.org)

PHONE: (909) 472-4100
INTERNET: [www.iapmo.org](http://www.iapmo.org)

PHONE: (800) 786-4452
INTERNET: [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org)

PHONE: (916) 654-2852
INTERNET: [www.dot.ca.gov/manuals](http://www.dot.ca.gov/manuals)

**California Vehicle Code.** State of California Department of Motor Vehicles. 
INTERNET: [leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes.xhtml](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes.xhtml)

**Fundamentals of Building Construction: Materials and Methods.** Wiley. 
PHONE: (877) 762-2974
INTERNET: [www.wiley.com](http://www.wiley.com)

**Modern Carpentry.** Goodheart-Willcox. 
PHONE: (800) 323-0440
INTERNET: [www.g-w.com](http://www.g-w.com)

**Olin’s Construction Principles, Materials, and Methods.** Wiley. 
PHONE: (877) 762-2974
INTERNET: [www.wiley.com](http://www.wiley.com)

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)

*Publisher information is current as of 1/20*