



CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSE BOARD LICENSE EXAMINATION STUDY GUIDE



WARM-AIR HEATING, VENTILATING, AND AIR-CONDITIONING (C-20)

Content of the Examination

The Warm-Air Heating, Ventilating and Air-Conditioning (C-20) Examination is divided into four major sections:

1. Evaluation, Design, and Estimation (26%)

- HVAC system design and evaluation
- Load and psychrometric calculations
- Duct system design and layout
- Job cost estimation

2. Fabrication, Installation, and Startup (27%)

- Duct system fabrication
- Equipment installation
- Electrical and mechanical components
- Plumbing and refrigeration components
- Air distribution and duct systems
- HVAC system startup

3. Troubleshooting, Repair, and Maintenance (22%)

- HVAC system diagnostic tests and evaluation
- HVAC system maintenance or repair

4. Safety (25%)

- Personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Job site safety requirements (Cal/OSHA)
- 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 marked with an asterisk (*).

1. A chiller refrigerates which of the following?
 - a. Circulating air
 - b. Carbon dioxide
 - c. Circulating water*
 - d. Nitrogen
2. What is the function of a thermocouple in a gas furnace?
 - a. It is a safety control for the fan.
 - b. It is a safety device that confirms the existence of a pilot flame.*
 - c. It is a safety device for electronic ignition systems.
 - d. It is a safety device that controls the thermostat.

3. A packaged water source heat pump eliminates which of the following components?

- a. Capacitor
- b. Evaporator
- c. Reversing valve
- d. Air-cooled condenser*

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

2019 Building Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings.

California Energy Commission.

PHONE: (800) 772-3300

INTERNET: www.energy.ca.gov

2019 California Building Code. California Code of Regulations, Title 24. International Code Council.

PHONE: (800) 786-4452

INTERNET: www.iccsafe.org

2019 California Electrical Code. California Code of Regulations, Title 24. BNI Publications, Inc.

PHONE: (888) 264-2665

INTERNET: www.bnibooks.com

2019 California Energy Code. California Code of Regulations, Title 24. International Code Council.

PHONE: (800) 786-4452

INTERNET: www.iccsafe.org

2019 California Mechanical Code. California Code of Regulations, Title 24. International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO).

PHONE: (909) 472-4100

INTERNET: www.iapmo.org

2019 California Plumbing Code. California Code of Regulations, Title 24. International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO).

PHONE: (909) 472-4100

INTERNET: www.iapmo.org

ASHRAE Handbooks (Fundamentals; HVAC Applications; HVAC Systems & Equipment; and Pocket Guide). American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers.
PHONE: (800) 527-4723
INTERNET: www.ashrae.org

Doolin's Trouble Shooters Bible. James Doolin.
PHONE: (800) 275-2665
INTERNET: www.buildersbook.com

HVAC Duct Construction Standards – Metal and Flexible. Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association.

PHONE: (703) 803-2980

INTERNET: www.smacna.org

Manual CS – Commercial Application, Systems, and Equipment

Manual D – Residential Duct Systems

Manual H – Heat Pump Systems

Manual J – Residential Load Calculation

Manual N – Commercial Load Calculation

Manual P – Psychrometrics

Manual Q – Commercial Duct Design

Manual RS – Comfort, Air Quality, & Efficiency by Design

Manual S – Residential Equipment Selection.

Air Conditioning Contractors of America.

PHONE: (703) 575-4477

INTERNET: www.acca.org

Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Technology.

Johnson, B., Silberstein, E., Tomczyk, J.

Whitman, B. Cengage Learning.

PHONE: (800) 354-9706

INTERNET: www.cengage.com

State of California General Industry & Electrical Safety Orders (Cal/OSHA) and State of California Construction & Electrical Safety Orders (Cal/OSHA). 2020.

California Code of Regulations, Title 8. Mancomm.

PHONE: (877) 626-2666

INTERNET: www.mancomm.com

VIEW ONLINE:

www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/LawsAndRegulations.htm

Publisher information is current as of 6/20