



CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSE BOARD LICENSE EXAMINATION STUDY GUIDE



MASONRY (C-29)

Content of the Examination

The Masonry (C-29) Examination is divided into seven major sections:

1. Planning and Estimating (15%)

- Plan projects and scope of work
- Read plans and specifications
- Identify and calculate material needs
- Identify and calculate labor and equipment needs

2. Job Site Preparation (16%)

- Pre-construction activities
- Water management
- Reinforcement and bracing
- Job site preparation

3. Masonry Wall and Building Installation and Repair (14%)

- Build CMU walls and buildings
- Repair and reconstruct historical masonry structures
- Build and repair retaining walls
- Clean masonry walls and buildings

4. Decorative Masonry Installation and Repair (11%)

- Install flatwork and staircases
- Install precast masonry
- Install glass block
- Repair and clean decorative masonry

5. Masonry Veneer and Stone Installation and Repair (14%)

- Install adhered veneers
- Install anchored veneers
- Install dimensional stone veneers
- Repair and clean veneer installations

6. Fireplace, Chimney, and Outdoor Cooking Area Installation and Repair (10%)

- Fireplace construction requirements
- Barbeque and fire pit construction requirements

7. Personnel and Job Site Safety (20%)

- Cal/OSHA safety requirements
- Elevated work
- Handling and fabrication of stone slabs
- Disposal of contaminated materials

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. While planning to pour a footing requiring six yards of concrete, a contractor overestimated the job by one yard. How should the excess material be handled?
 - a. Place it in a ditch deeper than 4'.
 - b. Send it back in the delivery truck.*
 - c. Ask the general contractor for direction.
 - d. Wash the excess into a local street drain.
2. What area does 550 blocks of 8" x 8" x 16" CMU cover?
 - a. 440 sq. ft.
 - b. 490 sq. ft.*
 - c. 550 sq. ft.
 - d. 605 sq. ft.
3. According to the California Residential Code, what is the required thickness of head joints on an open-end 12" block?
 - a. Just enough so that the block does not fall out
 - b. Half the thickness of the block shell
 - c. The full thickness of the block shell*
 - d. The full thickness of the mortar from side to side

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

2025 California Building Code. California Code of Regulations, Title 24. International Code Council.
PHONE: (800) 786-4452
INTERNET: www.iccsafe.org

2025 California Historical Building Code. California Code of Regulations, Title 24. International Code Council.
PHONE: (800) 786-4452
INTERNET: www.iccsafe.org

2025 California Residential Code.

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

Building Code Requirements and Specification for Masonry Structures. 2022.

The Masonry Society.
PHONE: (303) 939-9700
INTERNET: masonrysociety.org

Dimension Stone Design Manual. Natural Stone Institute.

PHONE: (440) 250-9222
INTERNET: www.naturalstoneinstitute.org

Informational Guide to Grouting Masonry, 3rd Edition. Masonry Institute of America.

PHONE: (310) 257-9000
INTERNET: www.masonryinstitute.org

Masonry Design Manual. Masonry Institute of America.

PHONE: (310) 257-9000
INTERNET: www.masonryinstitute.org

Masonry Fireplace and Chimney Handbook. Masonry Institute of America.

PHONE: (310) 257-9000
INTERNET: www.masonryinstitute.org

Masonry Veneer. Masonry Institute of America.

PHONE: (310) 257-9000
INTERNET: www.masonryinstitute.org

State of California General Industry & Electrical Safety Orders (Cal/OSHA) and State of California Construction & Electrical Safety Orders (Cal/OSHA). 2026. California Code of Regulations, Title 8. Mancomm.

PHONE: (877) 626-2666
INTERNET: www.mancomm.com
VIEW ONLINE:
www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/LawsAndRegulations.htm

Vocational Skills Training for Segmental Paver Installation. Pave Tech, Inc.

PHONE: (800) 728-3832
INTERNET: https://pavetech.com/en_us/

Publisher information is current as of 6/26