



CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSE BOARD LICENSE EXAMINATION STUDY GUIDE



SWIMMING POOL (C-53)

Content of the Examination

The Swimming Pool (C-53) Examination is divided into seven major sections:

- 1. Planning and Estimating (21%)**
 - Review plans and specifications
 - Evaluate job sites
 - Obtain permits
 - Estimate equipment and material costs
- 2. Swimming Pool/Spa Shell Construction (32%)**
 - Site preparation and excavation
 - Lay out and set forms
 - Steel placement and bonding
 - Rough plumbing and electrical
 - Guniting/shotcrete placement and curing
- 3. Pool/Spa Systems Installation (11%)**
 - Plumbing
 - Electrical
 - Equipment installation
 - Solar thermal/photovoltaic
 - Nonconcrete pools/spas
 - Pool covers and water features
- 4. Pool/Spa Deck and Shell Finish (9%)**
 - Decking
 - Interior finish and startup
 - Tile and coping
- 5. Commercial Swimming Pools/Spas (3%)**
 - Title 22 and other code requirements
 - Disabled access features
 - Access ramps and lifts

6. Pool/Spa Repair, Renovation, Removal, and Maintenance (6%)

- Water loss and discoloration
- Structural modifications
- Equipment and systems

7. Safety (18%)

- Swimming pool/spa 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. When establishing the elevation of a swimming pool bond beam on a residential pool, which of the following must be considered?
 - a. Bond beam width and coping thickness
 - b. Bond beam width and pool depth
 - c. Deck drainage and coping thickness*
 - d. Deck drainage and pool depth
2. What is the flow rate in gallons per minute for a 14,400-gallon pool to turn over in six hours?
 - a. 40 gpm*
 - b. 80 gpm
 - c. 144 gpm
 - d. 240 gpm
3. Which of the following pipes is approved for underground gas lines?
 - a. Schedule 40 CPVC pipe
 - b. Polyethylene pipe*
 - c. Black iron pipe
 - d. Galvanized pipe

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 Electrical Code. California Code of Regulations, Title 24. BNI Publications, Inc.
PHONE: (888) 264-2665
INTERNET: www.bnibooks.com

ANSI/PHTA(APSP)/ICC Books 1 through 16.

Pool & Hot Tub Alliance.
PHONE: (703) 838-0083
INTERNET: www.phta.org

Builders Manual, Fifth Edition. Pool & Hot Tub Alliance.

PHONE: (703) 838-0083
INTERNET: www.phta.org

Shotcrete for the Craftsman. American Concrete Institute.

PHONE: (248) 848-3700
INTERNET: www.concrete.org

State of California General Industry & Electrical Safety Orders (Cal/OSHA) and State of California Construction & Electrical Safety Orders (Cal/OSHA). 2025.

California Code of Regulations, Title 8. Mancomm.
PHONE: (877) 626-2666
INTERNET: www.mancomm.com
VIEW ONLINE:
www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/LawsAndRegulations.htm

Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa, and Hot Tub Code, and Uniform Solar Energy and Hydronics Code.

International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO).
PHONE: (909) 472-4100
INTERNET: www.iapmo.org

Publisher information is current as of 3/26