



CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSE BOARD LICENSE EXAMINATION STUDY GUIDE



FRAMING AND ROUGH CARPENTRY (C-5)

Content of the Examination

The Framing and Rough Carpentry (C-5) Examination is divided into four major sections:

1. Planning and Estimating (17%)

- Project planning
- Blueprints, specifications, and shop/field drawings
- Estimating
- Calculations

2. Structural Framing (38%)

- Formwork
- Load and span
- Bracing
- Shear and diaphragm
- Structural hardware
- Wood and metal framing

3. General Framing (21%)

- Flashing and weatherproofing
- Siding, roofing, and flooring
- Doors, windows, and stairs
- Decks, porches, and gazebos
- Squaring and leveling
- Access and ventilation

4. Safety (24%)

- Cal/OSHA requirements
- EPA and AQMD regulations
- Asbestos and environmental hazards
- Transportation and traffic control

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. A C-5 contractor estimates the material cost for a 2,000-square-foot house at \$150,000. If labor is 42% in addition to that and he plans to make a 20% profit on the total amount, how much would the bid be?
 - a. \$255,600*
 - b. \$243,000
 - c. \$213,000
 - d. \$180,000
2. How is metal framing different from wood framing?
 - a. Metal framing can support more weight.
 - b. Wood framing cannot have corner backing.
 - c. Metal framing has no requirement for horizontal fireblocking.*
 - d. Wood framing has a requirement for horizontal fireblocking every 5 feet.
3. When installing horizontal lap siding, where should the contractor begin?
 - a. At the bottom*
 - b. At the top
 - c. At the side
 - d. At the corner

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 Residential Code. California Code of Regulations, Title 24. International Code Council.

PHONE: (800) 786-4452

INTERNET: www.iccsafe.org

Complete Book of Framing: An Illustrated Guide for Residential Construction. Wiley.

PHONE: (877) 762-2974

INTERNET: www.wiley.com

Modern Carpentry. Goodheart-Willcox.

PHONE: (800) 323-0440

INTERNET: www.g-w.com

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

Publisher information is current as of 3/26