



## CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSE BOARD LICENSE EXAMINATION STUDY GUIDE



### **EARTHWORK AND PAVING (C-12)**

#### **Content of the Examination**

The Earthwork and Paving (C-12) Examination is divided into four major sections:

#### **1. Planning and Estimating (20%)**

- Plans and specifications
- Job site conditions
- Estimating
- Project layout
- Materials and equipment

#### **2. Earthwork and Grade Control (29%)**

- Grade control
- Soils and geology
- Excavation and trenching
- Fill and grading

#### **3. Paving (30%)**

- Roadways, driveways, and parking lots
- ADA requirements
- Specialty paving
- Demolition and pavement repair
- Related paving activities

#### **4. Safety (21%)**

- Job site safety
- Environmental impact
- 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. An aggregate base weighing 1.5 tons per cubic yard will be laid 12" deep on a 1,000-foot road, 24' wide. How many tons of aggregate will be required?
  - a. 889 tons
  - b. 1,333 tons\*
  - c. 1,999 tons
  - d. 3,999 tons
2. How should a contractor proceed when a concrete load has arrived on a job site and the material comes out of the chute in lumps?
  - a. Add water.
  - b. Add retardant.
  - c. Reject the load.\*
  - d. Place it immediately.
3. What is the purpose of a leveling course?
  - a. To establish a base for the finish grade\*
  - b. To establish a starting point
  - c. To establish the subbase
  - d. To connect two areas

*\*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)**

**2025 California Building Code.** California Code of Regulations, Title 24. International Code Council.

PHONE: (800) 786-4452

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

**CalDAG 2017: California Disabled Accessibility Guidebook, An Interpretive Manual and Checklist.** Michael P. Gibbens.

PHONE: (805) 870-0900

INTERNET: [theaccessguy.com](http://theaccessguy.com)

**Excavation and Grading Handbook, Revised.**

Craftsman Book Company.

PHONE: (800) 829-8123

INTERNET: [craftsman-book.com](http://craftsman-book.com)

**Moving the Earth: The Workbook of Excavation.** McGraw-Hill Professional.

PHONE: (877) 833-5524

INTERNET: [www.mhprofessional.com](http://www.mhprofessional.com)

**Permeable Interlocking Concrete Pavements.**

The Concrete Masonry & Hardscapes Association.

PHONE: (703) 657-6900

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

**Caltrans Standard Plans.** State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

PHONE: (916) 654-2852

INTERNET: [dot.ca.gov](http://dot.ca.gov)

**Caltrans Standard Specifications.** State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

PHONE: (916) 654-2852

INTERNET: [dot.ca.gov](http://dot.ca.gov)

**State of California General Industry & Electrical Safety Orders (Cal/OSHA) and State of California Construction & Electrical Safety Orders (Cal/OSHA). 2023.** California Code of Regulations, Title 8. Mancomm.

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 3/26\**