



## CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSE BOARD LICENSE EXAMINATION STUDY GUIDE



### **PAINING AND DECORATING (C-33)**

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

The Painting and Decorating (C-33) Examination is divided into four major sections:

#### **1. Planning and Estimating (28%)**

- Evaluating job sites
- Selecting tools, equipment, and materials
- Selecting paint, stain, and finish colors and products
- Reading blueprints and specifications
- Estimating job costs for materials, supplies, equipment, and labor

#### **2. Substrate Repair and Surface Preparation (30%)**

- Identifying problems
- Scraping, sanding, and wallpaper removal
- Patching, caulking, and repairing
- Masking and protecting job sites
- Removing paint and cleaning surfaces
- Applying primer

#### **3. Application of Paint, Wallcoverings, and Finishes (21%)**

- Applying paint and wallcoverings to surfaces
- Applying waterproofing or sealant
- Staining, sealing, and finishing wood surfaces
- Applying touch-ups and cleaning work areas

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

- Tool and equipment safety
- Personnel and job site safety
- Environmental safety
- Handling hazardous materials
- Cal/OSHA safety requirements

*\*Percentages are approximate\**

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#### **Test Policy**

This is a closed-book examination. No reference materials may be used during the examination.

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#### **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. What is the square footage of a gable 12 ft. wide by 6 ft. high?
  - a. 24 sq. ft.
  - b. 36 sq. ft.\*
  - c. 42 sq. ft.
  - d. 72 sq. ft.
2. Which tool should be used to apply chemical strippers?
  - a. A sponge roller
  - b. A damp rag
  - c. A wire brush
  - d. A bristle brush\*
3. What effect will cold, damp days have on primers?
  - a. The surface will become brittle.
  - b. The drying time will increase.\*
  - c. The top coat will discolor.
  - d. Fish eye will occur.

*\*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)**

**Painter's Handbook.** Mark David Gottsegen.  
Watson-Guptill.  
INTERNET: [www.penguinrandomhouse.com](http://www.penguinrandomhouse.com)

**PCA Industry Standards.** Painting Contractors Association.

PHONE: (800) 332-7322

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

**PCA Craftsman Manual and Textbook.** Painting Contractors Association.

PHONE: (800) 332-7322

INTERNET: [www.pcapainted.org](http://www.pcapainted.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](http://www.mancomm.com)

VIEW ONLINE:

[www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/LawsAndRegulations.htm](http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/LawsAndRegulations.htm)

**Steps to Lead Safe Renovation, Repair and Painting.** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

PHONE: (800) 424-5323

INTERNET: [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead)

*\*Publisher information is current as of 03/26\**