



CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSE BOARD LICENSE EXAMINATION STUDY GUIDE



TREE AND PALM (C-49)

Content of the Examination

The Tree and Palm (C-49) Examination is divided into five major sections:

1. Planning and Estimating (22%)

- Reviewing project plans
- Evaluating job sites
- Identifying trees and palms
- Calculating project costs

2. Tree and Palm Installation (10%)

- Installing trees and palms
- Soil amendments
- Cabling, bracing, and guying

3. Pruning and Maintenance (25%)

- Defining pruning objectives
- Rigging branches
- Identifying maintenance needs
- Fertilizing trees and palms

4. Tree and Palm Removal (13%)

- Conducting risk assessments
- Felling and removing
- Removing tree stumps

5. Safety (30%)

- Personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Escape routes during removal
- Working in elevated areas
- Site protection 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. What would it cost to dig twenty-one 36" box tree holes with 2 employees if each employee can dig 3 holes in 8 hours and the labor rate is \$38 per hour?
 - a. \$532
 - b. \$1,064
 - c. \$2,128*
 - d. \$4,256
2. Where is the BEST place to plant a weeping willow tree?
 - a. In a xeriscape
 - b. Next to a parking lot
 - c. In a site with damp clay soil
 - d. In a location with well-drained soil*
3. What are the main characteristics of carabiners used in tree work?
 - a. Anodized color and non-self-locking
 - b. A non-locking and chrome-plated mechanism
 - c. Self-closing, self-double-locking, and able to withstand a 5,000 lb. load*
 - d. A single-locking mechanism able to withstand a 2,000 lb. load

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

ANSI A300 Standards. Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA).
PHONE: (603) 314-5380
INTERNET: tcia.org

ANSI Standard Z133 Arboricultural Safety Standards. Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA).
PHONE: (603) 314-5380
INTERNET: tcia.org

Arborists' Certification Study Guide. S.J. Lilly. International Society of Arboriculture (ISA).
PHONE: (678) 367-0981
INTERNET: www.isa-arbor.com

Best Management Practices — Pruning. S.J. Lilly, Edward F. Gilman, and E. Thomas Smiley. International Society of Arboriculture (ISA).
PHONE: (678) 367-0981
INTERNET: www.isa-arbor.com

The Biology and Management of Landscape Palms. Donald R. Hodel. International Society of Arboriculture (ISA).
PHONE: (678) 367-0981
INTERNET: www.isa-arbor.com

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

Tree Work Safety Guide. The Division of Occupational Safety and Health of California (Cal/OSHA).
PHONE: (877) 626-2666
INTERNET: www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/tree-work-safety.html
VIEW ONLINE:
www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/dosh_publications/Tree-Work-Safety-Guide.pdf

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