



**CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSE BOARD  
LICENSE EXAMINATION STUDY GUIDE**



**CONCRETE (C-8)**

**Content of the Examination**

The Concrete (C-8) Examination is divided into five major sections:

- 1. Estimation and Planning (30%)**
  - Estimating concrete projects
  - Planning concrete projects
  
- 2. Pre-placement Preparation (28%)**
  - Demolition, grading, and excavating
  - Layout and forming
  - Installing drains and moisture barriers
  - Installing reinforcement and embedded items
  
- 3. Placing and Finishing (19%)**
  - Placing concrete
  - Applying finishes
  - Curing and testing
  
- 4. Post-placement Tasks (5%)**
  - Applying stains and sealers
  - Stripping forms; repairing, grouting, and caulking concrete
  
- 5. Safety (18%)**
  - Employee safety
  - Job site safety

*\*Percentages are approximate\**

**Test Site Policy**

This is a closed-book examination. No reference materials may be used during the examination. All materials brought to the examination site must be left in an unmonitored area at your own risk.

**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 “➡.”

1. How many cubic yards of concrete should a contractor order for a 20 ft. wide x 40 ft. long x 4 in. thick slab?
  - a. 8
  - ➡ b. 10
  - c. 12
  - d. 30
2. Where are spiral rebar ties used?
  - a. In curved walls
  - b. In grade beams
  - ➡ c. In round columns
  - d. In spiral staircases
3. If a contractor works added or bleed water into the surface during floating or troweling, what effect can this action have on the finished product?
  - ➡ a. The surface can have map cracks or crazing.
  - b. There can be a puddle or depressed area in the slab.
  - c. The affected area can have a different texture from the rest of the slab.
  - d. The porosity differential can be magnified to such a degree that it will limit the permeability of the slab.

*\*All questions are written and reviewed by licensed contractors who are actively working in the field\**

## 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.bsc.ca.gov](http://www.bsc.ca.gov)***

**2013 California Building Code.** California Code of Regulations, Title 24. International Code Council.  
PHONE: (800) 786-4452  
INTERNET: [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org)

**360R-10 Guide to Design of Slabs-on-Ground.** American Concrete Institute.  
PHONE: (248) 848-3700  
INTERNET: [www.concrete.org](http://www.concrete.org)

**ACI 318-14: Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete and Commentary.** American Concrete Institute.

PHONE: (248) 848-3700  
INTERNET: [www.concrete.org](http://www.concrete.org)

**ACI Manual of Concrete Practice, Parts 2 and 3.** American Concrete Institute.

PHONE: (248) 848-3700  
INTERNET: [www.concrete.org](http://www.concrete.org)

**Concrete in Practice.** National Ready Mixed Concrete Association.

PHONE: (888) 846-7622  
INTERNET: [www.nrmca.org](http://www.nrmca.org)

**Concrete Repair and Maintenance Illustrated.**

Emmons, Peter H. RS Means.  
PHONE: (800) 334-3509  
INTERNET: [www.rsmeans.com](http://www.rsmeans.com)

**The Contractor's Guide to Quality Concrete Construction.** Kennedy, Lindsay K. American Society of Concrete Contractors.

PHONE: (314) 962-0210  
INTERNET: [www.asconline.org](http://www.asconline.org)

**Design and Control of Concrete Mixtures, 15th edition.** Portland Cement Association.

PHONE: (800) 868-6733  
INTERNET: [www.cement.org](http://www.cement.org)

**Field Reference Manual: Specifications for Structural Concrete ACI 301-10.** American Concrete Institute.

PHONE: (248) 848-3700  
INTERNET: [www.concrete.org](http://www.concrete.org)

**State of California General Industry & Electrical Safety Orders (Cal/OSHA) and State of California Construction & Electrical Safety Orders (Cal/OSHA). 2015.** California Code of Regulations, Title 8. Mancomm.

PHONE: (877) 626-2666  
INTERNET: [www.mancomm.com](http://www.mancomm.com)

**Stormwater Best Management Practice Handbook: Construction.**

California Stormwater Quality Association.  
PHONE: (650) 366-1042  
INTERNET: <https://www.casqa.org/resources/bmp-handbooks/construction>

*\*Publisher information is current as of 2/16\**