CSLB C-10 Electrical Contractor Practice Test

20 original practice questions for the California contractor license exam, with an answer key and explanations.

Format
Multiple choice, 4 options, one best answer

Topics
Grouped by the published CSLB topic areas

Question bank
Last updated: November 2026

How to use this test

1. Answer all 20 questions without notes — the CSLB exam is closed-book.
2. Check the answer key at the end and read the explanation for every miss.
3. Take the same test online for instant explanations and a result by topic: test2pro.com/free-practice-tests/c10-electrical-contractor

Scan to take it online

Exam topic areas and approximate weights

Planning and Estimating	28%
Rough Wiring	27%
Finish Wiring and Trim	11%
Startup, Troubleshooting, and Maintenance	16%
Safety	18%

Test2Pro provides online prep only; CSLB and PSI handle exam scheduling, testing, licensing, and results. These are original practice questions, not real CSLB exam questions.

Questions

1 ROUGH WIRING

How should a cable shield used for electromagnetic-interference control be terminated?

(A) Connected in series with a signal conductor
(B) Connected to an ungrounded supply conductor
(C) Left electrically isolated at both ends
(D) Grounded according to the equipment instructions

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2 ROUGH WIRING

Which solid insulation color may identify a grounded neutral conductor in branch-circuit wiring?

(A) Black
(B) Green
(C) Gray
(D) Red

3 ROUGH WIRING

What is the minimum permitted length of a rod electrode used for grounding?

(A) 6 ft
(B) 7 ft
(C) 8 ft
(D) 10 ft

4 ROUGH WIRING

Which conductor classification means that it has no covering or electrical insulation?

(A) Covered conductor
(B) Insulated conductor
(C) Bare conductor
(D) Shielded conductor

5 ROUGH WIRING

Which grounding electrode is commonly called an Ufer ground?

(A) A concrete-encased electrode
(B) A driven rod electrode
(C) A ground-ring electrode
(D) A metal underground water-pipe electrode

6 FINISH WIRING AND TRIM

On a general-use lighting snap switch, which pair of units expresses its main electrical ratings?

(A) Volts and amperes
(B) Volts and watts
(C) Amperes and watts
(D) Watts and volt-amperes

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7 FINISH WIRING AND TRIM

Which marking is required on a luminaire installed outdoors where it is directly exposed to rain?

- (A) Suitable for wet locations
- (B) Suitable for damp locations
- (C) Dry locations only
- (D) For indoor use only

8 STARTUP, TROUBLESHOOTING, AND MAINTENANCE

Which action checks a GFCI receptacle using its built-in trip test?

- (A) Measure insulation resistance with a megohmmeter
- (B) Press RESET and leave the receptacle energized
- (C) Measure the line voltage with a voltmeter
- (D) Press TEST and confirm that the receptacle loses power

9 STARTUP, TROUBLESHOOTING, AND MAINTENANCE

What electrical quantity is a voltmeter designed to measure?

- (A) Current
- (B) Voltage
- (C) Power
- (D) Resistance

10 STARTUP, TROUBLESHOOTING, AND MAINTENANCE

What energy conversion occurs in an electric motor while it drives a load?

- (A) Electrical energy to mechanical energy
- (B) Mechanical energy to electrical energy
- (C) Electrical energy to chemical energy
- (D) Chemical energy to mechanical energy

11 PLANNING AND ESTIMATING

What is 2.5 MW expressed in watts?

- (A) 2,500,000 W
- (B) 2,500 W
- (C) 250,000 W
- (D) 25,000,000 W

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12 PLANNING AND ESTIMATING

Whose meter-location requirements should an electrical contractor confirm before installing a new electric service?

(A) The local building department
(B) The property owner
(C) The Contractors State License Board
(D) The serving electric utility

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13 PLANNING AND ESTIMATING

For a load to meet the code definition of continuous, how long must its maximum current be expected to continue?

(A) 4 hours or more
(B) 3 hours or more
(C) 1 hour or more
(D) 2 hours or more

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14 PLANNING AND ESTIMATING

Which PV-module nameplate symbol identifies its rated maximum output power?

(A) Voc
(B) Pmax
(C) Isc
(D) Vmp

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15 PLANNING AND ESTIMATING

Which environmental resource is essential when estimating the energy a photovoltaic system can produce at a site?

(A) Annual snowfall
(B) Annual rainfall
(C) Available sunlight
(D) Prevailing wind

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16 PLANNING AND ESTIMATING

A specification calls for ADA-compliant electrical controls. Which kind of requirement does that refer to?

(A) Fire-resistance rating of the device enclosures
(B) Energy-efficiency rating of the controlled loads
(C) Metering of the circuits the controls serve
(D) Accessibility for people with disabilities

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17 SAFETY

Which placement is appropriate for an equipment safety tag?

(A) In a clearly visible position
(B) Behind a removable equipment cover
(C) Inside a closed document pocket
(D) On the maintenance record only

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18 SAFETY

A worker on a spider or swing stage uses an independent lifeline for personal fall protection. When must the worker be tied off to it?

(A) When the platform is more than 30 ft above the lower level
(B) When the platform is more than 10 ft above the lower level
(C) At all times while working from the platform
(D) While the platform is being raised or lowered

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19 SAFETY

When is it acceptable to carry a power tool by its electrical cord or air hose?

(A) When the tool is disconnected
(B) For a short distance
(C) Never
(D) When the tool weighs less than 5 lb

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20 SAFETY

Which listed color is acceptable as the background material of required high-visibility apparel for roadway work?

(A) Fluorescent white
(B) Fluorescent blue
(C) Fluorescent orange-red
(D) Fluorescent pink

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Answer key and explanations

#	ANSWER	WHY
1	**D**	The shield needs the grounding or bonding connection specified for the system to control interference. The required connection at one or both ends depends on the cable system and equipment instructions.
2	**C**	White or gray insulation identifies a grounded conductor, including a neutral. Green identifies an equipment grounding conductor.
3	**C**	A rod grounding electrode must be at least 8 ft long. The installation must also provide at least 8 ft of electrode contact with the soil.
4	**C**	A bare conductor has neither a covering nor electrical insulation. A covered conductor has a covering that is not recognized as electrical insulation.
5	**A**	Ufer ground is the common trade name for a concrete-encased grounding electrode. It uses qualifying conductive material encased in concrete in contact with the earth.
6	**A**	A general-use snap switch is rated for operating voltage in volts and switched current in amperes.
7	**A**	Direct exposure to rain is a wet-location condition. The luminaire must be marked suitable for wet locations; a damp-location marking alone is insufficient.
8	**D**	Pressing TEST should trip the GFCI and interrupt power to its receptacle. Press RESET afterward to restore power if the device passes the test.
9	**B**	A voltmeter measures voltage, the electrical potential difference between two points. Current, power, and resistance are measured with other instrument functions.
10	**A**	An electric motor converts electrical input energy into mechanical output energy to drive a load.
11	**A**	The prefix mega means one million, so 2.5 MW = 2.5 × 1,000,000 W = 2,500,000 W.
12	**D**	Coordinate the proposed meter location with the serving utility before installing service equipment. The utility establishes its metering and access requirements; applicable building requirements also remain in force.
13	**B**	A continuous load is one whose maximum current is expected to continue for 3 hours or more. Merely leaving equipment energized for that long does not establish that its maximum current continues.
14	**B**	Pmax identifies rated maximum power. Voc is open-circuit voltage, Isc is short-circuit current, and Vmp is voltage at maximum power.
15	**C**	PV modules convert sunlight to electricity, so the available solar resource is fundamental to estimated energy production. Shading reduces the sunlight reaching the modules.
16	**D**	ADA stands for the Americans with Disabilities Act, so ADA-compliant controls meet its accessibility requirements, such as an accessible reach range and easy operation; in California the same requirements are carried by CBC Chapter 11B. Fire resistance, energy efficiency and metering are separate requirements.
17	**A**	A safety tag must be positioned where the affected workers can see its warning. Hiding it behind a cover or keeping it only with records defeats that purpose.

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#	ANSWER	WHY
18	C	Title 8 §1658(m) requires workers on single- and two-point suspended scaffolds to use personal fall protection attached to an independent lifeline during ordinary work on the platform, not only above a set height or while the platform moves. Cal/OSHA addresses special overhead-protection hazards and alternative measures separately.
19	C	Carry a power tool by its handle or an appropriate carrying point, never by its cord or hose. Using the cord or hose can damage the tool connection.
20	C	Title 8 §1598 and §1599 require high-visibility safety apparel meeting ANSI/ISEA 107, whose background colors are fluorescent yellow-green, fluorescent orange-red and fluorescent red. Other fluorescent colors, and ordinary orange or dark colors, do not meet the standard.

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