CSLB C-39 Roofing 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/c39-roofing-contractor

Scan to take it online

Exam topic areas and approximate weights

Planning and Estimating	22%
Job Site Preparation for Roof Projects	13%
Low-Slope Roof Projects	17%
Steep-Slope Roof Projects	26%
Safety	22%

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 SAFETY

Under Cal/OSHA, what is the largest capacity allowed for a bucket used to carry hot asphalt or hot pitch?

(A) 3 gallons
(B) 5 gallons
(C) 9-1/2 gallons
(D) 6 gallons

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2 SAFETY

What is the largest number of employees an employer may have and still communicate its emergency action plan orally under Cal/OSHA?

(A) 14 employees
(B) 12 employees
(C) 10 employees
(D) 8 employees

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3 SAFETY

Under Cal/OSHA construction rules, what is the greatest quantity of flammable liquids that may be stored in a room outside an approved storage cabinet?

(A) 25 gallons
(B) 5 gallons
(C) 10 gallons
(D) 60 gallons

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4 SAFETY

Under Cal/OSHA, how often are portable fire extinguishers visually inspected and given a maintenance check, respectively?

(A) Weekly; monthly
(B) Monthly; semiannually
(C) Quarterly; annually
(D) Monthly; annually

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5 STEEP-SLOPE ROOF PROJECTS

An otherwise serviceable asphalt-shingle roof has one shingle worn through to its reinforcement scrim. What is the appropriate permanent repair for that shingle?

(A) Coat the exposed scrim with roof cement and reinforcing fabric
(B) Remove and replace the damaged shingle
(C) Cover the scrim with roof cement and loose granules
(D) Apply a clear protective coating over the scrim

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6 STEEP-SLOPE ROOF PROJECTS

What is the minimum roof slope on which the California codes allow wood shingles?

(A) 3:12
(B) 2:12
(C) 4:12
(D) 1/4:12

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7 STEEP-SLOPE ROOF PROJECTS

A designer wants clay tile on a low-pitched roof. What is the lowest slope at which the code permits clay or concrete roof tile?

(A) 2-1/2:12
(B) 2:12
(C) 3:12
(D) 4:12

8 STEEP-SLOPE ROOF PROJECTS

Which attachment method secures standing-seam copper roof pans while accommodating thermal expansion and contraction?

(A) Fully adhering each pan to the deck
(B) Locking concealed cleats into the seams
(C) Screwing through each pan into the deck
(D) Nailing through each pan into the deck

9 STEEP-SLOPE ROOF PROJECTS

Which batten arrangement forms a counter-batten system beneath clay or concrete roof tile?

(A) Vertical battens fastened over horizontal battens
(B) Horizontal battens fastened directly to the deck without vertical battens
(C) Two layers of horizontal battens without vertical battens
(D) Horizontal battens fastened over vertical battens

10 LOW-SLOPE ROOF PROJECTS

How should the corners of a rectangular TPO repair patch be shaped before it is heat-welded to the roof membrane?

(A) Leave square corners at 90 degrees
(B) Clip each corner into a V-notch
(C) Round each corner smoothly
(D) Fold each corner underneath the patch

11 LOW-SLOPE ROOF PROJECTS

Where the membrane manufacturer permits a three-stage hand weld for a thermoplastic roof patch, what is the correct sequence?

(A) Prime, pre-weld, final weld
(B) Pre-weld, final weld, tack weld
(C) Preheat, final weld, tack weld
(D) Tack weld, pre-weld, final weld

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12 LOW-SLOPE ROOF PROJECTS

Which built-up roof membrane condition found during an inspection calls for prompt remedial repair?

(A) Displaced surface aggregate
(B) Unbroken blisters
(C) Broken blisters
(D) Alligatoring of the flood coat

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13 JOB SITE PREPARATION FOR ROOF PROJECTS

Which tear-off method is generally the most efficient for removing an old wood-shake roof with felt interlayment?

(A) Roll the loosened shakes up together with the felt interlayment
(B) Tie the loosened shakes into bundles on the roof
(C) Strip the shakes first, then remove the felt in a separate pass
(D) Saw the roofing into squares before lifting it

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14 JOB SITE PREPARATION FOR ROOF PROJECTS

A reroofing crew plans to place a debris box in the public street beside a commercial building. Which municipal permit typically authorizes this use of the public right-of-way?

(A) Encroachment permit
(B) Grading permit
(C) Building permit
(D) Demolition permit

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15 JOB SITE PREPARATION FOR ROOF PROJECTS

Within the roof's load limits, where should heavy bundles of roofing be staged on a plywood deck to limit sheathing deflection?

(A) Directly over rafters or trusses, spread across several members
(B) Halfway between adjacent rafters
(C) On the eave overhang beyond the exterior wall
(D) Anywhere on the deck, because the plywood spreads the load evenly

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16 PLANNING AND ESTIMATING

A roof rises 8 ft 4 in over a horizontal run of 20 ft. What is its slope, expressed as rise per 12 inches of run?

(A) 5:12
(B) 4:12
(C) 6:12
(D) 8:12

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17 PLANNING AND ESTIMATING

Under the 2022 CRC's general rule, before applying any permitted reduction, what minimum net free vent area is required for each 150 ft² of vented attic space?

(A) 1/2 ft²
(B) 2 ft²
(C) 1 ft²
(D) 3 ft²

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18 PLANNING AND ESTIMATING

For a radiant barrier to reduce radiant heat transfer, what must its reflective surface face?

(A) The roof sheathing
(B) The attic floor insulation
(C) An open air space
(D) The ceiling drywall

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19 PLANNING AND ESTIMATING

A roof member spans 30 ft and has a specified deflection limit of L/240. What is the maximum permitted deflection in inches?

(A) 1 in
(B) 1-1/2 in
(C) 2-1/2 in
(D) 3 in

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20 PLANNING AND ESTIMATING

A rectangular low-slope roof is 80 ft by 55 ft. Each pallet supplies 3.5 roofing squares. Excluding waste, what is the minimum number of whole pallets needed?

(A) 14 pallets
(B) 11 pallets
(C) 12 pallets
(D) 13 pallets

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Answer key and explanations

#	ANSWER	WHY
1	**D**	Title 8 §1729(a)(4) sets a 6-gallon maximum for carrying buckets. The 9-1/2-gallon allowance applies to mop buckets, which may not be used as carrying buckets.
2	**C**	Title 8 §3220(e)(3) permits an oral emergency action plan for employers with 10 or fewer employees. Above that size, the plan must be written.
3	**A**	Title 8 §1930(a)(4)(B) allows no more than 25 gallons of flammable liquids in a room outside an approved storage cabinet.
4	**D**	Title 8 §6151(e) requires monthly visual inspections and annual maintenance checks.
5	**B**	Replace the damaged shingle to restore the complete shingle assembly. Exposed reinforcement indicates loss of protective material; applying cement or loose granules does not recreate that assembly.
6	**A**	The 2022 CBC (§1507.8.2) and CRC (R905.7.2) require wood shingles to be installed on slopes of 3:12 (25-percent slope) or greater. 2:12 is the asphalt shingle minimum, 4:12 is the slate minimum, and 1/4:12 is the minimum design slope for built-up roofs.
7	**A**	CBC Section 1507.3.2 and CRC Section R905.3.2 allow clay and concrete roof tile on slopes of 2-1/2:12 or greater. From 2-1/2:12 up to 4:12, a double layer of underlayment is required. The 2:12 minimum applies to asphalt shingles, 3:12 to wood shingles, and 4:12 is where single-layer underlayment becomes acceptable for tile.
8	**B**	Cleats fastened to the deck and folded into the seams hold copper pans in place while letting them move with temperature changes; long pans may need expansion cleats. Fasteners through the pan or full adhesion restrain movement and can cause buckling or tearing.
9	**D**	Vertical counter-battens run downslope over the underlayment. Horizontal tile battens are fastened above them, leaving drainage paths beneath the horizontal battens.
10	**C**	Round the patch corners before welding. Rounded corners avoid sharp projections that can catch and lift; patch size and weld width must follow the membrane manufacturer's repair instructions.
11	**D**	The three-stage method starts with tacks to hold position, continues with a back pre-weld, and finishes the outer seam with heat and roller pressure. Use this method only where the membrane manufacturer permits it.
12	**C**	Broken blisters open the plies to water entry and should be repaired promptly. Unbroken blisters are usually monitored rather than cut open, and displaced aggregate or flood-coat alligatoring are surface weathering conditions typically handled through planned maintenance.
13	**A**	Rolling the shakes up together with the felt interlayment removes both layers in one pass, pulls many nails at once, and keeps splinters and debris contained in manageable rolls. Bundling, separate passes, or sawing add handling time.
14	**A**	An encroachment permit authorizes approved temporary uses of the public right-of-way, including placing a debris box in a street. The local public works authority sets the conditions.
15	**A**	Stage bundles over rafters or trusses and distribute the load within the roof's approved limits. Midspan placement increases sheathing bending; heavy bundles should not be staged on eave overhangs. Plywood does not distribute a concentrated load uniformly.

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#	ANSWER	WHY
16	**A**	The rise is 100 in (8 ft 4 in) and the run is 240 in (20 ft). Slope is the rise per 12 in of run: dfrac100240 × 12 = 5 so the slope is 5:12.
17	**C**	CRC R806.2 sets the general minimum at 1/150 of the vented area: 1 ft² of net free vent area per 150 ft². The separate exception permits 1/300 only when its conditions are met.
18	**C**	A radiant barrier reduces heat transfer only across an air space, so its reflective face must face an open air space. A reflective face pressed against sheathing, insulation or drywall conducts heat instead of blocking radiation.
19	**B**	Convert the span to inches: 30 × 12 = 360 in. The specified limit is 360 ÷ 240 = 1-1/2 in.
20	**D**	The roof area is 80 × 55 = 4,400 ft², or 44 squares. Divide 44 by 3.5 to get about 12.57 pallets, then round up to 13 whole pallets.

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