CSLB Class B General Building 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/class-b-general-building-contractor

Scan to take it online

Exam topic areas and approximate weights

Planning and Estimating	15%
Framing and Structural Components	20%
Core Trades	30%
Finish Trades	20%
Safety	15%

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 FRAMING AND STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS

Which tools check wall plumb directly against its face?

(A) Level and straightedge
(B) Builder’s level and grade rod
(C) Framing square and bevel gauge
(D) Water level and tape measure

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2 FRAMING AND STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS

Where does a framed wall typically have a jack stud beside a full-height king stud?

(A) At a wall corner
(B) At a partition intersection
(C) At the end of a stub wall
(D) At a door opening

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3 PLANNING AND ESTIMATING

Which drawings record the work as actually installed, including field changes?

(A) Permit drawings
(B) As-built plans
(C) Shop drawings
(D) Preliminary plans

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4 PLANNING AND ESTIMATING

Which CCR title contains California's building standards?

(A) Title 8
(B) Title 16
(C) Title 22
(D) Title 24

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5 PLANNING AND ESTIMATING

What is 1,800 ft² of roof area expressed in roofing squares?

(A) 180 squares
(B) 1.8 squares
(C) 36 squares
(D) 18 squares

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6 CORE TRADES

Before solvent cementing PVC pipe, what does primer do?

(A) Fills gaps at the joint
(B) Lubricates the joint
(C) Cleans and softens the surfaces
(D) Seals the finished joint

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7 CORE TRADES

For the same concrete mix without water-reducing admixtures, a higher slump generally indicates what?

(A) Less mixing water
(B) More coarse aggregate
(C) Higher concrete strength
(D) More mixing water

8 CORE TRADES

What is the standard name for hollow concrete wall blocks?

(A) Clay bricks
(B) Concrete masonry units
(C) Concrete pavers
(D) Precast wall panels

9 CORE TRADES

Which plumbing fixture is called a water closet?

(A) Toilet
(B) Urinal
(C) Bidet
(D) Utility sink

10 CORE TRADES

Which direction usually gives fixed solar panels in California the greatest annual output?

(A) East
(B) West
(C) South
(D) North

11 CORE TRADES

Type AC (BX) cable is permitted in which location?

(A) A damp basement
(B) A dry indoor room
(C) An outdoor wet location
(D) A buried raceway

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12 CORE TRADES

What is the nominal diameter of #4 rebar?

A 3/8 in
B 5/8 in
C 1/2 in
D 7/8 in

13 CORE TRADES

What should be applied to steel concrete forms before placement?

A Form-release agent
B Curing compound
C Bonding adhesive
D Surface hardener

14 FINISH TRADES

When practical on residential walls, how are drywall panels generally oriented?

A Long edges vertical
B Long edges diagonal
C Alternating vertical and horizontal
D Long edges horizontal

15 FINISH TRADES

Where is ordinary paper-faced greenboard suitable?

A Exterior soffits
B Bathroom walls outside wet areas
C Shower walls as a tile backer
D Roof decks

16 FINISH TRADES

After asbestos is ruled out, how should unpainted popcorn texture be removed?

A Sand while dry
B Apply solvent and scrape
C Heat and scrape
D Mist with water and scrape

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17 FINISH TRADES

What grips stretch-in carpet along the room perimeter?

(A) Tackless strips
(B) Seam tape
(C) Carpet cushion
(D) Transition strips

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18 SAFETY

Under Cal/OSHA, which condition requires employees to wear appropriate foot protection?

(A) Walking on uneven ground
(B) Exposure to falling objects
(C) Long periods of standing
(D) Working on a roof

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19 SAFETY

Which is an accepted means of shock protection for temporary 120 V, 20 A construction receptacles?

(A) A dedicated circuit
(B) GFCI protection
(C) A surge protector
(D) A locking receptacle

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20 SAFETY

Which asbestos condition allows fibers to become airborne most readily?

(A) Encapsulated
(B) Non-friable
(C) Friable
(D) Enclosed

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Answer key and explanations

#	ANSWER	WHY
1	**A**	A level provides the vertical reference, and a straightedge extends the check along the wall. The other pairs are used for elevations, dimensions or angles rather than this direct-contact plumb check.
2	**D**	At a typical wood-framed door opening, a full-height king stud sits beside a jack (trimmer) stud supporting the header. Corners and intersections use different framing details.
3	**B**	As-built plans record the completed installation and field changes. Permit drawings show the approved design, while shop drawings detail fabrication.
4	**D**	The California Building Standards Code is Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations. Title 8 covers industrial relations, including Cal/OSHA safety orders.
5	**D**	A roofing square equals 100 ft². Divide 1,800 by 100 to obtain 18 squares.
6	**C**	Primer cleans and softens the mating PVC surfaces before solvent cement is applied. It does not replace the cement or serve as joint lubricant.
7	**D**	With other mix variables held constant, more mixing water generally increases slump. A high slump alone does not prove high strength or excessive water when admixtures are involved.
8	**B**	Concrete wall blocks are concrete masonry units, or CMUs. Their standard name describes the material and construction unit rather than its color.
9	**A**	A water closet is a toilet fixture. A urinal, bidet and utility sink are different plumbing fixtures.
10	**C**	In California, fixed panels generally face south for the greatest annual solar exposure. Shading and site constraints can change the best design for a particular installation.
11	**B**	Type AC cable is intended for dry locations. It is not permitted in damp or wet locations, including underground raceways.
12	**C**	For bar sizes #3 through #8, the number gives the nominal diameter in eighths of an inch. A #4 bar is 4/8 in, or 1/2 in.
13	**A**	A form-release agent prevents concrete from bonding to the steel and helps the forms strip cleanly. Curing compounds and bonding adhesives serve different purposes.
14	**D**	Horizontal installation generally reduces joint footage on residential walls. Vertical installation may also be permitted, depending on the wall and specified assembly.
15	**B**	Ordinary moisture-resistant greenboard is suitable for limited-moisture interior walls outside wet areas. It is not waterproof and is not a standard shower tile backer.
16	**D**	Lightly misting unpainted texture with water softens it for scraping and reduces dust. Suspect asbestos-containing texture must be assessed before it is disturbed.
17	**A**	Pins on tackless strips grip the carpet backing and hold the stretched carpet at the perimeter. Seam tape joins carpet edges; cushion supports the carpet underneath.
18	**B**	Cal/OSHA requires appropriate foot protection where falling objects may injure the feet. Uneven ground, prolonged standing and roof work alone do not establish that hazard.

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#	ANSWER	WHY
19	**B**	GFCI protection is an accepted way to protect personnel at these temporary receptacles. Cal/OSHA also permits a compliant assured equipment grounding conductor program; a dedicated circuit or surge protector does not replace either method.
20	**C**	Friable asbestos-containing material can be crumbled, pulverized or reduced to powder by hand pressure when dry, so fibers are released readily. Intact non-friable material resists crumbling, and encapsulation or enclosure helps contain fibers.

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