# 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

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

4 PLANNING AND ESTIMATING

**Which CCR title contains California's building standards?**

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

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

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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