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39	A	B	C	D	E

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

ARIZONA REGISTRAR OF CONTRACTORS

QXGUBZEE

AZ C-36 Plastering

EDITION

Demo

QUESTIONS

9

FORMAT

Limited Edition PDF

Before you begin

What this is

9 practice questions for ARIZONA REGISTRAR OF CONTRACTORS QXGUBZEE , each with its answer key and an explanation. Answer a question before you read its key — the explanation is worth more once you have committed.

If something looks wrong

Send us three things and we will check it:

- the exam code, QXGUBZEE
- the question number
- the email address on your order

Write to **support@mometrix.net**. We reply within one business day.

QUESTION 1

SINGLE CHOICE

A plastering contractor is preparing to apply a base coat over a solid masonry substrate in interior conditions. Which type of plaster is most commonly specified for this application?

- ☐ A Gypsum plaster applied over a gypsum lath base
- ☒ B Portland cement plaster (stucco) applied directly to the masonry
- ☐ C Acrylic polymer-modified plaster applied over metal lath
- ☐ D Clay plaster applied over a straw-reinforced substrate

ANSWER B

WHY Portland cement plaster (commonly called stucco) is the standard base coat material specified for direct application over solid masonry substrates such as concrete block or poured concrete. Gypsum plaster over gypsum lath (A) is used on framed interior partitions, not masonry. Acrylic polymer-modified plaster over metal lath (C) is a finish system, not a base coat on masonry. Clay plaster (D) is a traditional/natural material not typically used in modern commercial plastering work in Arizona.

QUESTION 2

SINGLE CHOICE

Before applying a cement plaster base coat to a concrete masonry substrate, what surface condition must be verified?

- ☐ A The substrate must be sealed with a curing compound within the last 24 hours
- ☐ B The substrate must be uniformly painted with an oil-based primer
- ☒ C The substrate must be clean, sound, and properly cured, with roughened or absorbent surface characteristics
- ☐ D The substrate must be coated with a tackifier and allowed to flash off completely

ANSWER C

WHY Proper surface preparation for cement plaster over masonry requires the substrate to be clean (free of bond inhibitors), sound (structurally intact), properly cured, and sufficiently roughened or absorbent to provide mechanical bond. A fresh curing compound (A) would act as a bond breaker and is incorrect. Oil-based primer (B) is not a standard preparation for plaster-to-masonry. A tackifier (D) is used in roofing or flooring, not plastering base coat preparation.

QUESTION 3

SINGLE CHOICE

A crew applies the first base coat of three-coat Portland cement plaster over metal lath and then scores the surface horizontally with a comb-like tool before it fully hardens. What is this scored first coat called?

- ☐ A Brown coat
- ☒ B Scratch coat
- ☐ C Finish coat
- ☐ D Fog coat

ANSWER B

WHY In the traditional three-coat cement plaster system, the first coat applied over the lath is the scratch coat, named because it is scratched (scored) with horizontal marks to provide a mechanical key for the next coat. The brown coat is the second leveling coat applied over the scratch coat. The finish coat is the final decorative coat. A fog coat is a mist application for curing or color blending, not a base coat.

QUESTION 4

SINGLE CHOICE

Which of the following describes the proper curing method for a Portland cement plaster base coat in hot, dry Arizona weather?

- ☐ A Allow the base coat to air-dry only, with no additional moisture applied
- ☒ B Keep the base coat moist by periodic light water fogging for the prescribed curing period
- ☐ C Seal the base coat immediately with a curing compound and never re-wet
- ☐ D Cover the base coat with a heat blanket and let it bake dry within 24 hours

ANSWER B

WHY Portland cement plaster requires moisture for proper cement hydration during the curing period. In hot, dry Arizona conditions, periodic light water fogging (moist curing) is the standard practice to prevent premature drying, which would cause cracking and reduce bond strength. Air-drying without moisture (A) is inadequate in arid climates. A curing compound alone (C) may be acceptable in certain applications but typically the base coat is kept moist, and a heat blanket that bakes the coat (D) would drive out moisture and damage the plaster.

QUESTION 5

SINGLE CHOICE

Which type of metal lath is most commonly used as a plaster base on flat exterior wall surfaces in conventional three-coat stucco systems?

- ☒ **A Self-furring expanded metal lath**
- ☐ B Flat expanded metal lath without furring
- ☐ C Woven wire mesh without backing
- ☐ D Perforated gypsum lath

ANSWER A

WHY Self-furring expanded metal lath is the standard metal plaster base for conventional three-coat stucco on flat exterior walls. The self-furring dimples hold the lath away from the sheathing so plaster can fully encase the lath and keys into it properly. Flat lath without furring (B) requires separate furring strips. Woven wire mesh (C) is used in some specialized applications but not the standard flat-wall base. Perforated gypsum lath (D) is an interior product, not for exterior stucco.

QUESTION 6

SINGLE CHOICE

According to standard plastering practice, plaster application should be halted when ambient or substrate temperatures fall below what threshold?

- ☐ A Below 32°F (0°C)
- ☒ **B Below 40°F (4°C)**
- ☐ C Below 50°F (10°C)
- ☐ D Below 70°F (21°C)

ANSWER B

WHY Industry plastering standards and manufacturer requirements typically specify that plaster application should not proceed when temperatures are below 40°F (4°C), because cementitious materials need adequate temperatures for proper curing and to prevent freezing damage. The 32°F mark (A) is the freezing point of water and is too lenient; the risk of poor curing and freeze damage occurs above freezing as well. 50°F (C) and 70°F (D) are more conservative thresholds not used as standard minimums.

QUESTION 7

SINGLE CHOICE

In conventional Portland cement plaster (stucco) systems applied over wood or steel framing, what is the primary purpose of control joints?

- ☐ A To provide decorative reveals in the finished wall surface
- ☐ B To allow for drainage of moisture behind the plaster
- ☒ C To relieve stress caused by movement and minimize random cracking of the plaster
- ☐ D To serve as the sole attachment point between plaster and framing

ANSWER C

WHY Control joints in stucco systems are designed to relieve stresses from thermal expansion and contraction, structural movement, and shrinkage, channeling potential cracking at predetermined locations rather than allowing random cracks across the wall. While control joints can be decorative (A), that is not their primary function. Drainage (B) is provided by the weather-resistive barrier and weep screeds, not control joints. Control joints are not structural attachments (D); lath and fasteners perform that function.

QUESTION 8

SINGLE CHOICE

A plastering crew is mixing Portland cement plaster on-site. Which personal protective equipment item is most important to prevent the most common serious injury associated with this task?

- ☐ A High-visibility vest
- ☐ B Hearing protection
- ☒ C Eye protection (goggles or safety glasses) to guard against cement splash and dust
- ☐ D Steel-toed rubber overshoes only, with no other protection

ANSWER C

WHY Wet cement is highly alkaline and caustic; splashes to the eyes are among the most common serious injuries during plaster mixing and can cause chemical burns and permanent vision damage. Approved eye protection (goggles or safety glasses) is the most important PPE for this hazard. A hi-vis vest (A) helps with visibility but does not address the principal mixing hazard. Hearing protection (B) is relevant for certain tools but not the primary mixing hazard. Rubber overshoes alone (D) are inadequate; alkali-resistant gloves and eye protection are also required.

QUESTION 9

MULTIPLE CHOICE

A plastering contractor is preparing to apply three-coat Portland cement plaster over open wood-frame exterior walls in Arizona. Which combination of materials is required by standard plastering practice for this assembly? (Choose two.)

- ☒ **A** Self-furring metal lath
- ☒ **B** Asphalt-saturated building paper over the sheathing
- ☐ **C** Unfurred metal lath laid directly against solid plywood sheathing
- ☐ **D** A scratch, brown, and finish coat sequence totaling a minimum nominal 7/8 inch thickness
- ☐ **E** Two layers of Grade D building paper overlapped only at vertical seams

ANSWER A - B

WHY Over open framing, metal lath must be self-furring so the plaster keys properly into the mesh, and a weather-resistive barrier such as asphalt-saturated (Grade D) building paper is required behind the lath to protect the framing. Option C is incorrect because unfurred lath cannot develop a proper key against a solid substrate. Option D is incorrect because conventional three-coat plaster over metal lath is typically 7/8 inch total, but the standard is the lath and paper combination rather than a specific coat count. Option E is wrong because building paper must be lapped at both horizontal and vertical seams to shed water.