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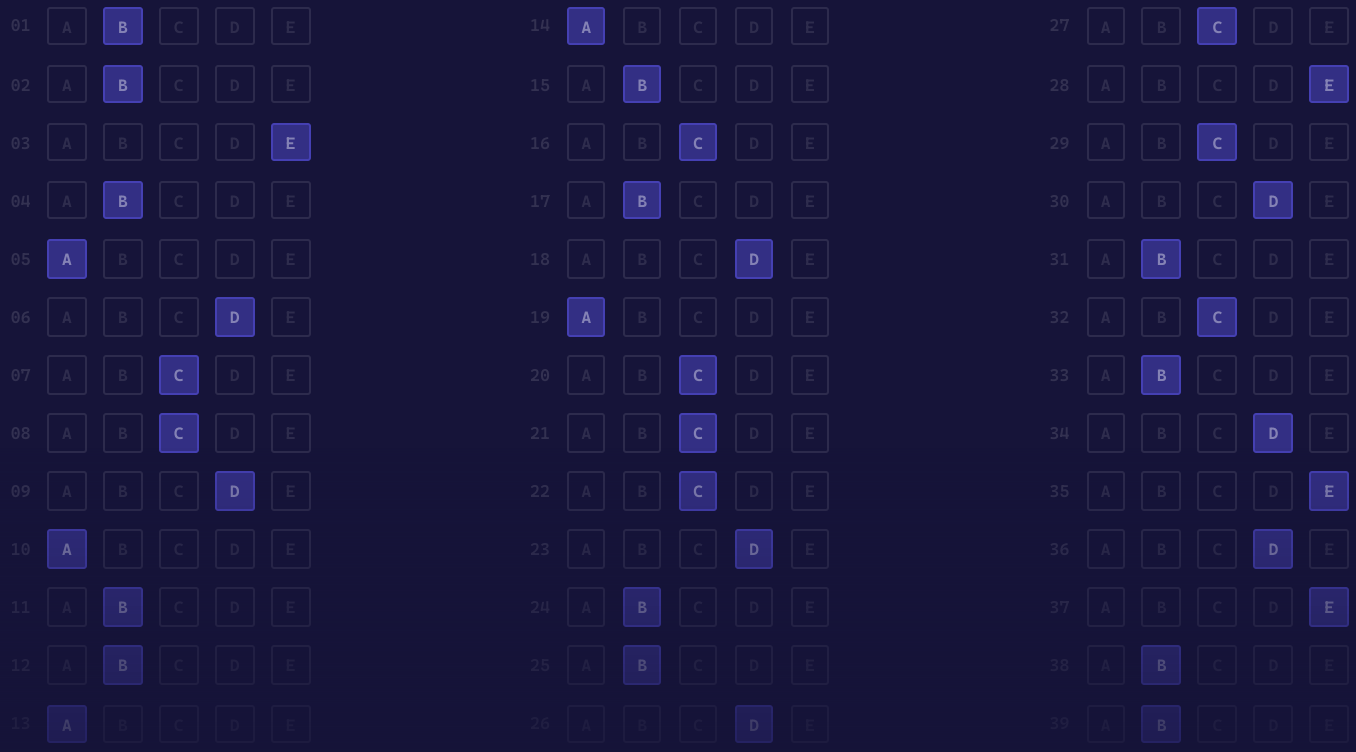

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

CA CONTRACTORS STATE LICENCE BOARD

YTLQV3S4

C-54 Tile Ceramic and Mosaic

EDITION	QUESTIONS	FORMAT
Demo	9	Limited Edition PDF

WEB www.mometrix.net

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Before you begin

What this is

9 practice questions for CA CONTRACTORS STATE LICENCE BOARD `YTLQV3S4`, 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, `YTLQV3S4`
- the question number
- the email address on your order

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

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QUESTION 1 SINGLE CHOICE

Before setting the first tile in a room, what is the primary purpose of laying out reference chalk lines that intersect at right angles at the room's center?

A To identify the locations for floor drains and plumbing penetrations before installation begins.

B **To establish a working grid that keeps tile joints straight, square, and balanced at the perimeter.**

C To mark the locations where thin-set mortar must be applied more thickly to level low spots.

D To determine the exact number of full tiles and cut tiles required for material ordering.

ANSWER B

WHY Perpendicular chalk lines at the room's center create a working grid that keeps tile joints aligned, ensures the pattern is square to the room, and produces balanced borders of cut tile at the perimeter rather than narrow slivers along one wall.

QUESTION 2 SINGLE CHOICE

A tile setter is installing ceramic wall tile around a row of electrical outlets. Which tool is most appropriate for making the precise, curved cuts needed to fit the tile around the outlet boxes?

A A manual snap cutter

B A portable wet saw with a diamond blade

C **A rod saw (grout saw with tungsten-carbide rod) used in a coping frame or jab saw**

D A standard carbide-tipped tile scoring knife

ANSWER C

WHY A rod saw (or a jab/coping saw fitted with a tungsten-carbide rod) is the standard tool for making small, curved, or notch cuts in ceramic tile, such as those required to fit around outlet boxes, pipes, or other irregular openings.

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QUESTION 3 SINGLE CHOICE

Which substrate is specifically manufactured and code-recognized for use as an underlayment for ceramic tile in wet areas such as shower walls and tub surrounds?

A Standard gypsum wallboard (drywall)

B Cementitious backer board (e.g., Durock or Wonderboard)

C Medium-density fiberboard (MDF)

D Exterior-grade plywood

ANSWER B

WHY Cementitious backer board is the code-recognized substrate for tile in wet locations because it is dimensionally stable and will not deteriorate when exposed to moisture, unlike paper-faced drywall, MDF, or plywood.

QUESTION 4 SINGLE CHOICE

When operating a dry-cutting tile saw or grinding tile edges, which respiratory hazard is the primary long-term health concern addressed by Cal/OSHA standards?

A Carbon monoxide from fuel-powered equipment

B Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from thin-set mortar

C Respirable crystalline silica dust

D Asbestos fibers released from older tiles

ANSWER C

WHY Dry-cutting, grinding, or drilling tile generates fine respirable crystalline silica dust. Long-term inhalation causes silicosis and is the primary respiratory hazard regulated by Cal/OSHA's silica standards for tile and stone work, typically requiring wet cutting or dust collection plus respiratory protection.

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QUESTION 5 SINGLE CHOICE

When installing a pattern of tiles on a floor, what is the standard minimum joint (gap) width recommended between tiles before grouting?

A Tight butted with no joint, as is standard for glazed wall tile

B Approximately 1/16 inch to 1/8 inch, depending on tile size and manufacturer requirements

C Exactly 1/4 inch for all residential installations

D At least 1/2 inch to allow for adhesive expansion

ANSWER B

WHY Most floor tile is installed with grout joints ranging from 1/16 inch to 1/8 inch, and the manufacturer's specifications must be followed. 'Butting' floor tiles is incorrect; the joint width depends on tile type, size, and the manufacturer's instructions.

QUESTION 6 MULTIPLE CHOICE

A contractor estimates the tile needed for a 300 square foot floor using 12-inch square tiles. Which of the following must be added to the raw square-foot calculation when determining the quantity to order? (Choose two.)

A An overage/waste factor (commonly 10% to 15%) to cover cuts and breakage

B The exact number of full tiles required, with no allowance for breakage

C Additional tile for attic stock and future repair matching

D The grout weight per square foot

ANSWER A · C

WHY When ordering tile, contractors must include an overage factor (typically 10–15%) to cover cuts, breakage, and mis-cuts, plus attic stock so future repairs match the original batch. Ordering only the exact number is unsafe, and grout weight is a separate calculation that does not affect tile quantity.

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QUESTION 7 SINGLE CHOICE

Which type of mortar is typically required for installing porcelain tile over a plywood substrate?

A Standard non-modified thin-set mortar

B A polymer-modified or latex-modified thin-set mortar conforming to ANSI A118.4 or A118.15

C Type I organic adhesive (mastic)

D Epoxy mortar only

ANSWER B

WHY Porcelain tile is dense and non-absorbent, and plywood substrates move with humidity. A polymer- or latex-modified thin-set meeting ANSI A118.4 (or the higher-performance A118.15) is required to achieve a strong mechanical bond between porcelain and plywood. Non-modified thin-set is not acceptable, mastic is not approved for plywood or porcelain, and epoxy is not the standard general-purpose choice.

QUESTION 8 SINGLE CHOICE

For a grout joint that is 1/8 inch wide on a glazed ceramic floor tile installation, which type of grout is typically specified?

A Sanded cementitious grout

B Unsanded cementitious grout

C 100% solids epoxy grout

D Silicone caulk

ANSWER A

WHY Sanded grout is the standard selection for joints 1/8 inch and wider because the sand adds body, reduces shrinkage, and resists cracking in wider joints. Unsanded grout is used for narrower joints (typically less than 1/8 inch) and for polished stone or vertical surfaces, while epoxy and silicone are specialty products used in specific conditions.

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QUESTION 9 MULTIPLE CHOICE

Which of the following are important layout considerations that affect the final appearance and professionalism of a tile installation? (Choose two.)

A **Ensuring cut tiles at the perimeter are no smaller than half of a full tile wherever possible**

B **Aligning joints to intersect at the centerline of doorways and major focal points**

C Setting all perimeter tiles first and filling the field with full tiles afterward

D Beginning each row with a cut tile to minimize waste

ANSWER **A** · **B**

WHY Best-practice layout requires balanced borders (avoiding slivers less than half a tile) and aligning joint lines with the centerlines of doorways and other visual focal points. The field is set first, not the perimeter, and rows should begin with full or properly sized tiles — not necessarily cut tiles — to maintain balance.

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