FREE PRACTICE QUESTIONS · ONTARIO BUILDING CODE (BCIN) · HOUSE AND SMALL BUILDINGS

TEN FREE BCIN EXAM PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR HOUSE AND SMALL BUILDINGS.

Edited by Trevor Mulder · Sources: 2024 Building Code, MMAH study guides · Last checked October 28, 2026

Ten practice questions for the Ontario Building Code (BCIN) exams House 2024 and Small Buildings 2024, each with four options and one correct answer. Both exams are set by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) and delivered by Humber Polytechnic: 70 multiple-choice questions in three hours, open book, with a pass mark of 70 per cent. These are original questions written by TicketPrep from the 2024 Building Code and MMAH's published syllabi; none of them comes from an exam. They are free to use, print and share, and there is nothing to sign up for on this page.

01 How to use these

The questions come from the TicketPrep BCIN Part 9 bank, one bank written for both exams and grouped into seven study units of our own, from Unit A (compliance and administration) to Unit G (the Part 2 and Part 3 provisions that reach small buildings). The ten are spread across all seven units, each on a different one of our sub-topics. MMAH publishes the section lists each exam covers but no topic weights, so the units and the spread are ours. Zero of the ten are calculations, and one is on the Small Buildings syllabus only; every question is labelled with the exam or exams it belongs to. Answer each one before opening the explanation. Every explanation covers all four options, because knowing *why* a wrong answer is wrong is most of the skill.

- **Pace.** Each exam allows 180 minutes for 70 questions, about 2 minutes 34 seconds a question. Try these at that pace, with your Code open.
- **Books.** Both exams are open book: Humber's candidate rules allow the 2024 Building Code Compendium (Volumes 1 and 2), MMAH's Code and Construction Guide for Housing and a non-programmable calculator. The questions cite the Article they rest on, so you can practise finding it.
- **Print.** The printed version shows the questions and the answer key without the explanations, so it works as a handout. The explanations are on the web page.
- **Mark.** The pass mark is 70 per cent of the whole paper, with no minimum per topic, so score yourself on all ten together, then note which units cost you marks.

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02 The questions

Q1 · DIRECT RESPONSE · UNIT A COMPLIANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND GENERAL REQUIREMENTS · HOUSE AND SMALL BUILDINGS

A designer setting footing depths for a new house looks in SB-1 for the depth of frost penetration at the site. Where does the Building Code say that depth is to come from?

A. From local experience of frost penetration in the area.

B. From the January 2.5 % design temperature listed in SB-1.

C. From a geotechnical engineer's report, required for every footing.

D. From the SB-1 entry for the nearest listed location.

Q2 · DIRECT RESPONSE · UNIT B FIRE PROTECTION, FIRE SAFETY AND SOUND · HOUSE AND SMALL BUILDINGS

A fire alarm system is being installed in a Part 9 apartment building. With the bedroom and suite doors closed, what minimum sound pressure level must the alarm signal reach inside each bedroom?

A. 65 dBA

B. 75 dBA

C. 100 dBA

D. 110 dBA

Q3 · DIRECT RESPONSE · UNIT B FIRE PROTECTION, FIRE SAFETY AND SOUND · HOUSE AND SMALL BUILDINGS

In a Part 9 building, a floor that needs a 45 min fire-resistance rating is to be built as heavy timber construction, using solid-sawn planks laid flat and tongued and grooved. What minimum plank thickness does heavy timber construction call for?

A. 19 mm

B. 28 mm

C. 38 mm

D. 64 mm

Q4 · SCENARIO · UNIT C ROOMS, GLAZING, DOORS, STAIRS, GUARDS AND MEANS OF EGRESS · HOUSE AND SMALL BUILDINGS

An exterior ramp to the side door of a detached house rises 560 mm over a horizontal length of 5.0 m with no intermediate landing. It is not part of a barrier-free path of travel. Does the slope comply?

A. No; it is steeper than 1 in 10 and needs 5.6 m.

B. Yes; the 1 in 8 limit applies, and it is 1 in 8.9.

C. Yes; only barrier-free ramps have a slope limit.

D. No; any ramp steeper than 1 in 12 is prohibited.

Q5 · DIRECT RESPONSE · UNIT D STRUCTURE, SITE, FOUNDATIONS AND MASONRY · HOUSE ONLY

A detached house is to be built on a lot of placed fill, so its footing sizes must be designed under Section 4.2. Under that Section, what must the subsurface investigation show before the house may be placed on the fill?

A. Coarse clean granular fill with no more than 10 % passing a 4 mm sieve, placed and compacted in lifts.

B. An allowable bearing pressure of at least 75 kPa, with no surcharge acting on the fill at any point.

C. Fill fit to carry the house, no harmful movement of house or services, and explosive gas controlled.

D. Fill that has stood in place long enough to finish settling under its own weight before construction.

Q6 · DIRECT RESPONSE · UNIT D STRUCTURE, SITE, FOUNDATIONS AND MASONRY · HOUSE AND SMALL BUILDINGS

An interior masonry chimney in a house passes up through a wood floor. What clearances must the combustible floor framing and the combustible subflooring keep from the chimney?

A. Framing at least 50 mm; subflooring at least 12 mm.

B. Framing and subflooring both at least 12 mm.

C. Framing and subflooring both at least 50 mm.

D. Framing at least 150 mm; subflooring at least 50 mm.

Q7 · DIRECT RESPONSE · UNIT E WOOD-FRAME CONSTRUCTION, BUILDING ENVELOPE AND FINISHES · HOUSE AND SMALL BUILDINGS

A roofer is buying nails to fasten asphalt shingles on a new house. What minimum head diameter does the Building Code set for nails used with asphalt roofing?

A. 4.8 mm

B. 9.5 mm

C. 11 mm

D. 25 mm

Q8 · DIRECT RESPONSE · UNIT E WOOD-FRAME CONSTRUCTION, BUILDING ENVELOPE AND FINISHES · HOUSE AND SMALL BUILDINGS

The top-storey ceiling of a detached house will carry loose-fill insulation directly on the gypsum board. The joists are at 400 mm o.c., and the ceiling will be painted. The drawings call for 9.5 mm board fixed perpendicular to the joists. What has to change?

A. Nothing: 9.5 mm board fixed perpendicular is allowed on ceiling supports at 400 mm.

B. The thickness: board that carries the loose fill has to be at least 12.7 mm.

C. The orientation: 9.5 mm board on a ceiling has to run parallel to the joists.

D. The spacing: 9.5 mm ceiling board needs supports at no more than 300 mm.

Q9 · DIRECT RESPONSE · UNIT F BUILDING SERVICES, ENERGY AND WATER EFFICIENCY · SMALL BUILDINGS ONLY

In a bungalow, a forced-air supply trunk duct runs through the vented attic. Under Div. B 9.33.6.7., what insulation and joint sealing must that duct have?

A. RSI 0.5 insulation, with joints sealed to SMACNA Class A.

B. RSI 2.1 insulation, with joints sealed to SMACNA Class C.

C. RSI 2.1 insulation, with joints sealed to SMACNA Class A.

D. RSI 0.5 insulation, with joints sealed to SMACNA Class C.

Q10 · SCENARIO · UNIT G PART 2 AND PART 3 PROVISIONS FOR SMALL BUILDINGS · HOUSE AND SMALL BUILDINGS

A small office building's staff change room has three showers, one built as the barrier-free shower. At inspection, its vertical grab bar on the side wall is 1 000 mm long and its lower end sits 700 mm above the finished floor. What is the correct finding?

A. Compliant; the lower end may sit anywhere from 600 mm to 900 mm high.

B. Not compliant; the lower end belongs 750 mm to 870 mm above the floor.

C. Not compliant; the lower end belongs 600 mm to 650 mm above the floor.

D. Compliant; only the bar's 1 000 mm length is set, not its height.

03 Answer key

QUESTION	ANSWER	OUR UNIT	EXAM
Q1	A	Unit A Compliance, administration and general requirements	House and Small Buildings
Q2	B	Unit B Fire protection, fire safety and sound	House and Small Buildings
Q3	D	Unit B Fire protection, fire safety and sound	House and Small Buildings
Q4	A	Unit C Rooms, glazing, doors, stairs, guards and means of egress	House and Small Buildings
Q5	C	Unit D Structure, site, foundations and masonry	House only
Q6	A	Unit D Structure, site, foundations and masonry	House and Small Buildings
Q7	B	Unit E Wood-frame construction, building envelope and finishes	House and Small Buildings

QUESTION	ANSWER	OUR UNIT	EXAM
Q8	B	Unit E Wood-frame construction, building envelope and finishes	House and Small Buildings
Q9	C	Unit F Building services, energy and water efficiency	Small Buildings only
Q10	C	Unit G Part 2 and Part 3 provisions for small buildings	House and Small Buildings

04 More free questions

For the exams themselves, the BCIN exam guide covers the format, the pass mark, what you may bring, booking, fees and how the two exams nest, and the BCIN exam practice test page has five more sample questions and describes the full TicketPrep bank. Each of our seven units also has ten free questions of its own: Unit A, Unit B, Unit C, Unit D, Unit E, Unit F, Unit G.

BCIN
BCIN exam practice test: five more questions

GUIDE
BCIN exam guide: House and Small Buildings

HUB
All free practice questions

GUIDES
Exam guides and tools

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