



Building examinations guide

Examination 3 - Estimating

Competency assessments relating to an application for registration as a building practitioner under the *Building Services (Registration) Act 2011*

Objective

The Building Services Board conducts examinations to assess the knowledge and skills in relation to building work of applicants for building practitioner registration under the pathways identified in the Building Services (Registration) Regulations 2011 at regulation 16, Sets 4 and 5.

These examinations are designed to assess if the knowledge and skills of the applicant are equivalent to someone who successfully completed the Diploma of Building and Construction (Building).

There are no study guidelines for these examinations as they are a test of the knowledge and skills an applicant holds as a consequence of experience.

Content

There are six parts to this examination. They relate to the following estimating principles:

1. Tendering;
2. Labour cost calculation;
3. Plant cost calculation;
4. Unit rate calculation;
5. Estimate; and
6. Overheads.

Examination date

To book to sit the examinations complete and return "Form 48 – Intention to sit Board examinations". The examination dates are published on the department's website.

Examination dates can be rescheduled at your request until the day before the booked exam.

➔ If you do not attend a booked examination you forfeit the fee and the examination will be deemed a fail.

If you have any questions or need to reschedule your examination date contact the department on 1300 489 099 and ask for Licensing Services or email be.licensing@dmirs.wa.gov.au

Fees

Fees are payable to the department in advance of each examination. See "Form 48 – Intention to sit Board examinations" for details.

Location

North Metropolitan TAFE

East Perth Campus
140 Royal Street, East Perth

Please report to the front security desk for directions to the exam room on the day.

Alternative arrangements are available for candidates intending to sit examinations outside the metropolitan area. Contact the department for further information.

Start time

Arrive 15 minutes early for identification.

Examination start time is 11.00am. The first 15 minutes is reading time only.

➔ No additional time is provided to candidates who arrive late.

Duration

11.00am to 2.15pm

Reading time 15 minutes followed by a three hour exam.

What to bring with you

- Photographic Identification – such as a passport or driver's licence;
- Scale ruler;
- Calculator; and
- Writing implements (pens, pencil, eraser etc).

This is an open book examination. Candidates may have access to any electronic, printed or written material to complete the examination.

Examination instructions

Candidates are required to show all calculations in their answer booklet, as to how they arrived at their answers. Marks may be deducted where calculations are not provided.

Candidates will be provided with all necessary plans and pricing details.

Marks

Marks for each part are detailed on the examination paper for a total of 100 marks. To pass the examination, you must achieve an overall mark of at least 60%, or 60 marks.

Open book exams


An open book examination is one in which candidates may have access to any printed or written material and a calculator during the examination.

How do I prepare for an open book exam?

You must prepare as if you were sitting a closed exam. If you do not know your subject matter when you are sitting the exam, the notes and books that you take in with you will be of little help.

1. Make a summary – make sure that your summary is concise to easily access in the exam which includes:
 - important formulas for quick reference;
 - examples you have difficulty with; and
 - examples of graphs or diagrams.
2. Know your books – know your way around your relevant study materials:
 - identify the appropriate parts so that you can access them during the exam without having to search the text; and
 - use coloured highlighter pens, sticky paper notes, or, if necessary, brief annotations to mark important pages in the study books.
3. Know how to use your calculator efficiently and effectively.

How do I sit for an open book exam?

1. Use the reading time to:
 - read the exam instructions;
 - read through the entire exam;
 - note the questions you can do easily and those you cannot; and
 - note the number of marks for each question and work out a rough time for each.
 2. Schedule your time:
 - give more time to questions worth more marks;
 - do the easiest questions first; and
 - clearly mark questions you leave out so that you can return to them later.
 3. Review your work:
 - check your answer; and
 - check that you answered the right number of questions.
-  During the exam, spend your time writing, not reading and looking up information.

Reference documents

Where documents such as the Building Code of Australia, Australian Standards, Acts or Regulations are referenced in this guide, they refer to the latest versions of those documents that are in-force at the time of sitting the examination.

Resources



Suggested texts to assist your preparation for the examinations.

Building construction. Volume 1 / F.
Abbott, E. Schreuders (TA661) 2nd Edition
Building construction. Volume 2 (TB702)



The Building Code of Australia is available from the Australian Building Codes Board.
Website: www.abcb.gov.au



Copies of Acts and Regulations are available from the State Law Publisher.
Website: www.slp.wa.gov.au



Australian Standards are published and distributed by SAI Global under licence from Standards Australia.

Telephone: 13 12 42

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Website:
www.standards.org.au/SearchandBuyASTandard

Further information

If you have any questions regarding the examinations contact the department on 1300 489 099 and ask for Licensing Services or email be.licensing@dmirs.wa.gov.au

SUMMARY

This is a summary of the areas covered by each part of this examination.

1. Tendering

This part of the examination seeks to examine your knowledge in relation to tender process and consideration.

2. Labour cost calculation

This part of the examination seeks to examine your knowledge in relation to being able to calculate an hourly cost of labour.

3. Plant cost

This part of the examination seeks to examine your knowledge in relation to being able to calculate a plant recovery rate (e.g. price per hour of plant usage).

4. Unit rate calculation

This part of the examination seeks to examine your knowledge in relation to being able to calculate a unit rate of work including materials, labour, and associated costs (e.g. price per m² of brickwork).

5. Estimate

This part of the examination seeks to examine your knowledge in relation to the taking off of quantities and the formulation of an estimate of cost for the supply and installation of an element of a proposed building (e.g. suspended slab).

6. Overheads

This part of the examination seeks to examine your understanding of both project and business overheads.