



Building examinations guide

Examination 1 - Construction residential low rise

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 twelve parts to this examination. They relate to the following residential low rise construction principles:

1. Site Investigation and Earthworks;
2. Footings and Floors;
3. Walls;
4. Damp Proofing;
5. Roofs;
6. Joinery and Fixing;
7. Glazing;
8. Plumbing and Drainage;
9. Safety;
10. Electrical Installation and Fire Protection;
11. Plastering, Tiling and Painting; and
12. Energy Efficiency.

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

A number of the examination questions require sketches to be provided of a particular construction detail. Sketches need to be made using ruled lines, be a minimum of half a page in size and all notations to be in a printed format.

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



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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. Site investigation and earthworks

The part of the examination seeks to examine your knowledge in relation to site conditions, general site preparation for footings, services, drainage and installation of termite management.

2. Footing and floors

This part of the examination seeks to examine your knowledge of suitable construction methods, material behaviours and properties used for footings and slabs, framed floors, floor coverings, for ground and suspended floor configurations.

3. Walls

This part of the examination seeks to examine your knowledge of timber, steel, masonry and concrete walling systems in regards to construction, regulatory requirements, material behaviours and properties.

4. Damp proofing

This part of the examination seeks to examine your knowledge of damp and water proofing construction for floors, walls and roofs, material behaviours and properties.

5. Roofs

This part of the examination seeks to examine your knowledge of timber and steel roof framing, and of concrete roof configurations.

6. Joinery and fixing

This part of the examination seeks to examine your knowledge of window, door and stair construction from both aluminium and timber joinery.

7. Glazing

This part of the examination seeks to examine your knowledge of the different types of glass used in buildings and their properties and uses. It also tests your knowledge of window and door construction where they contain glass.

8. Plumbing and drainage

This part of the examination seeks to examine your knowledge of plumbing products and their uses, terms used to describe products and installation requirements for water supply and drainage pipes.

9. Safety

This part of the examination seeks to examine your knowledge of safety legislation and its application, your understanding of site safety management: site safety induction; the duties required of both an employer and employee; and safe movement and access requirements within a building or around a building site.

10. Electrical installation and fire protection

This part of the examination seeks to examine your knowledge of electrical components and their uses; terms used to describe components and regulatory installation requirements for both electrical cabling and associated components; and fire separation construction requirements, fire suppression and detection systems.

11. Plastering, tiling and painting

This part of the examination seeks to examine your knowledge of how sheet plastering (both plasterglass and plasterboard), tiling and painting products are installed and in what situations the products are suitable for use so that they perform to the standards required of them.

12. Energy efficiency

This part of the examination seeks to examine your knowledge of various types of building fabric thermal insulation and where these materials are required to be located. It also tests your knowledge of building ventilation and acoustic requirements between sole occupancy units.