

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION

Safe working practices are essential on every construction site. These multiple-choice questions will help you check your understanding of common hazards, good housekeeping, and the day-to-day decisions that keep everyone safe on-site.

Q1	A worker reports feeling dizzy while using solvent-based materials in a small room. What is the most likely cause?	Ans.
A	Wrong gloves	
B	Poor ventilation	✗
C	Faulty power tool	
D	Low humidity	

Q2	A bag of cement has gone solid in the storage area. What has happened?	Ans.
A	Stored too close to timber	
B	It has absorbed moisture	✗
C	Mixed incorrectly	
D	Stored on the wrong pallet	

Q3	A site walkway becomes slippery after light rain. What should be done?	Ans.
A	Continue walking carefully	
B	Close the site	
C	Grit or sand the walkway and clear hazards	✗
D	Put up a wet-paint sign	

Q4	What is the correct procedure before lifting a heavy object?	Ans.
A	Bend your back over the heavy object	
B	Twist your back as you lift	
C	Assess the load, keep your back straight and use your legs	✗
D	Hold the object as far away from your body as possible	

Q5	Loose materials are stacked too high beside a pathway. What is the hazard?	Ans.
A	Noise	
B	Fire	
C	Falling objects	✗
D	Strong wind	

Q6	Why is good housekeeping essential on a construction site?	Ans.
A	Makes the site look tidy	
B	Impresses visitors	
C	Reduces slips, trips and manual-handling risks	✗
D	Speeds up deliveries	

Understanding the fundamentals of construction is essential for any trade professional. These exercises will help reinforce key principles used on-site every day. Select True or False for each statement below.

Q1	The legal minimum height for a guardrail on scaffolding is 950mm.	ANSWER			
		TRUE	✗	FALSE	
Q2	The standard width of a doorway in a new-built home must be at least 762mm to comply with accessibility regulations.	ANSWER			
		TRUE	✗	FALSE	
Q3	A Damp Proof Membrane (DPM) must be installed above a concrete slab to prevent rising damp.	ANSWER			
		TRUE		FALSE	✗
Q4	All new buildings must meet minimum energy efficiency requirements set by Building Regulations Approved Document L.	ANSWER			
		TRUE	✗	FALSE	
Q5	Building Regulations state that excavations up to 1.2 metres can be left unsupported as long as they appear stable.	ANSWER			
		TRUE		FALSE	✗
Q6	Timber stored on-site must be kept off the ground and protected from moisture.	ANSWER			
		TRUE	✗	FALSE	
Q7	Manual handling regulations say that any load can be lifted manually if it feels manageable.	ANSWER			
		TRUE		FALSE	✗
Q8	A vapour control layer (VCL) should be installed on the warm side of a wall or roof.	ANSWER			
		TRUE	✗	FALSE	
Q9	Silica dust from cutting bricks or concrete can cause long-term lung damage.	ANSWER			
		TRUE	✗	FALSE	
Q10	A ladder positioned at a ratio of 1:4 (one out, four up) is considered safe practice.	ANSWER			
		TRUE	✗	FALSE	

MEASUREMENTS

Getting measurements right is crucial in construction - whether it's length, weight, or volume, accuracy matters. Take this quick multiple-choice quiz to test your skills. If you ever need a refresher, you can always come back and try again!

Q1	How far is a kilometre (km)?	Ans.
A	Ten metres	
B	One hundred metres	
C	One thousand metres	✗
D	One million metres	

Q2	Which unit of length is the most suitable for measuring the length of a nail?	Ans.
A	mm	✗
B	cm	
C	m	
D	km	

Q3	Which of these statements is correct?	Ans.
A	1 litre = 10ml	
B	100ml = 1 litre	
C	500ml = half a litre	✗
D	2000ml = 1 litre	

Q4	A wall is 3m high and 5m long. What is the total area?	Ans.
A	8m ²	
B	10m ²	
C	12m ²	
D	15m ²	✗

Q5	Which unit of length is most suitable for measuring the height of a room?	Ans.
A	mm	
B	cm	
C	m	✗
D	km	

Q6	One brick is 215mm long. What is the length of 4 bricks laid end-to-end (ignoring joints)?	Ans.
A	430mm	
B	645mm	
C	860mm	✗
D	1000mm	

Q7	A window opening measures 1200mm. How many centimetres is this?	Ans.
A	12cm	
B	120cm	✗
C	1.2cm	
D	1.2m	

Q8	A decorator needs to paint an 18m^2 wall. One litre covers 10m^2 . How much paint is needed for two coats?	Ans.
A	1 litre	
B	1.8 litres	
C	3.6 litres	
D	5 litres	

Q9	A floor measures 4m by 3m. What is the perimeter?	Ans.
A	7m	
B	12m	
C	14m	✗
D	24m	

Q10	A timber length is 2.4m. How many millimetres is this?	Ans.
A	24mm	
B	240mm	
C	2400mm	✗
D	24000mm	

Q11	A small slab area requires 0.5m^3 of concrete. Which unit best represents this measurement?	Ans.
A	Volume	✗
B	Area	
C	Length	
D	Weight	

Q12	A bricklayer needs a 10mm mortar joint. How many joints fit into 100mm?	Ans.
A	5	
B	10	✗
C	20	
D	100	

Q13	A rectangular room measures 5m by 4m. What is the floor area?	Ans.
A	9m^2	
B	18m^2	✗
C	20m^2	
D	25m^2	

Q14	A piece of timber measures 750mm. How many centimetres is this?	Ans.
A	7.5cm	
B	75cm	✗
C	750cm	
D	0.75cm	

BRICKLAYING

Bricklaying demands accuracy, consistency, and strong technical knowledge. Test your understanding of essential tools, materials, and site practices with these multiple-choice questions.

Q1	A newly built wall has uneven mortar joints. What is the most likely cause?	Ans.
A	Using too much water in the mix	
B	Not using a gauge rod or string line	✗
C	Bricks were the wrong colour	
D	Mortar dried too quickly	

Q2	White, powdery deposits have appeared on the surface of a finished wall. What is this?	Ans.
A	Mortar bloom	
B	Efflorescence	✗
C	Plaster dust	
D	Algae growth	

Q3	A brick wall shows horizontal cracking above window openings. What is the likely cause?	Ans.
A	Missing or inadequate lintel	✗
B	Mortar was over-mixed	
C	Bricks were too dry	
D	Excessive pointing	

Q4	Which brick bond provides the strongest structural performance for load-bearing walls?	Ans.
A	Stack bond	
B	Stretcher bond	
C	English bond	✗
D	Header bond	

Q5	A bricklayer is struggling with mortar drying too quickly during hot weather. What should be done?	Ans.
A	Increase cement in the mix	
B	Wet the bricks before laying	✗
C	Use larger trowels	
D	Reduce the amount of sand	

Q6	What is the main purpose of a DPC (damp-proof course) in brickwork?	Ans.
A	Adds insulation	
B	Improves soundproofing	
C	Prevents rising damp	✗
D	Strengthens brick bonds	

CARPENTRY & JOINERY

Carpentry and joinery rely on precision, sound judgment, and the right techniques. See how well you know common tools, fixings, and best practices used on-site every day.

Q1	A newly fitted door is rubbing on the floor after a few days. What is the most likely cause?	Ans.
A	Incorrect screws used	
B	Timber has expanded due to moisture	✗
C	Door was painted too quickly	
D	Hinges were fitted upside down	

Q2	A skirting board won't sit flush against the wall. What is the most likely reason?	Ans.
A	Wall is not perfectly straight	✗
B	Wrong timber grade	
C	Nails are too long	
D	Skirting is too tall	

Q3	What is the purpose of a moisture meter in carpentry?	Ans.
A	Checking levels	
B	Testing timber strength	
C	Measuring timber moisture content	✗
D	Marking cut lines	

Q4	Which joint is most suitable for joining two lengths of skirting board along a long wall?	Ans.
A	Halving joint	
B	Dovetail joint	
C	Mitre joint	✗
D	Mortise and tenon	

Q5	A timber floor feels bouncy in one area. What is the likely cause?	Ans.
A	Joists too far apart	✗
B	Floorboards too thick	
C	Screws too long	
D	Over-sanding	

Q6	A carpenter is fitting hinges to a new door. What must be done before fixing the hinges?	Ans.
A	Sand the entire door	
B	Mark and chisel out the hinge recess	✗
C	Fit the latch first	
D	Remove the door entirely	

PLASTERING

Plastering requires careful preparation, good timing, and an eye for detail. These questions will help you recap key skills, materials, and methods used to achieve a smooth, professional finish.

Q1	Fresh plaster is cracking as it dries. What is the likely cause?	Ans.
A	Over-trowelling	
B	Drying too quickly	✗
C	Using a medium float instead of a trowel	
D	Applying plaster too thinly	

Q2	Brown staining appears through paint on new plaster. What is the issue?	Ans.
A	Plaster reacted with the roller sleeve	
B	Surface wasn't sealed with a mist coat	✗
C	Paint was too thick	
D	Plaster was overdue	

Q3	What is the purpose of a scratch coat?	Ans.
A	Decorative finish	
B	Improves key for the next coat	✗
C	Speeds up drying	
D	Makes plaster waterproof	

Q4	A plastered wall is drying in uneven patches. What is the most likely cause?	Ans.
A	Uneven suction in the background surface	✗
B	Using the wrong size hawk	
C	Applying too much PVA	
D	Adding too much water when mixing	

Q5	Which tool is used to straighten and level freshly applied plaster?	Ans.
A	Hawk	
B	Darby	✗
C	Sponge float	
D	Corner trowel	

Q6	Plaster starts to drag and tear during application. What does this usually mean?	Ans.
A	Mix is too stiff	
B	Plaster has started to go off	✗
C	Trowel is too clean	
D	Wall was too wet	

PAINTING & DECORATING

Successful painting and decorating depend on proper preparation, the right tools, and a clear understanding of materials. Put your knowledge to the test with these essential trade questions.

Q1	A newly fitted door is rubbing on the floor after a few days. What is the most likely cause?	Ans.
A	Wrong roller sleeve	
B	Painting onto a dusty or greasy surface	✗
C	Paint was too cold	
D	Too many coats applied	

Q2	The finish on a wall looks patchy and streaky. What's the most likely reason?	Ans.
A	Poor cutting-in technique	
B	Not maintaining a wet edge	✗
C	Using a 2-inch brush	
D	Roller sleeve was brand new	

Q3	What is the main purpose of a primer before painting?	Ans.
A	Adds shine	
B	Helps topcoat adhere properly	✗
C	Reduces room temperature	
D	Thickens the paint	

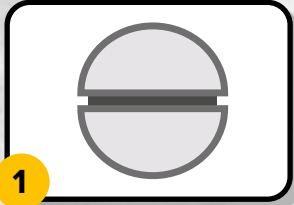
Q4	A painted surface shows bubbling. What is the most likely cause?	Ans.
A	Overstirring the paint	
B	Applying paint to a damp surface	✗
C	Using the wrong tray	
D	Paint was stored too high	

Q5	Which roller sleeve is most suitable for smooth interior walls?	Ans.
A	Long pile	
B	Medium pile	
C	Short pile	✗
D	Foam only	

Q6	A decorator notices brush marks on the final coat. What is the most likely cause?	Ans.
A	Paint was applied too quickly	
B	Using a poor-quality or worn brush	✗
C	Applying too much pressure	
D	Painting in cool temperatures	

NAME THAT SCREW!

Study the images below and write the correct screw type in the blank spaces.



1

Slotted screw



2

Phillips cross head screw



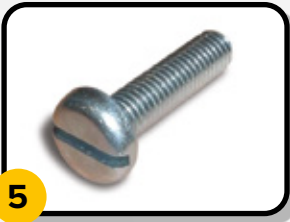
3

Pozidriv



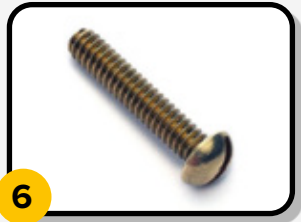
4

Countersunk screw



5

Pan head screw



6

Round head screw



7

Allen screw



8

Set screw



9

Set screw with nut & washer

SCREW TYPES

Set screw with nut & washer
Pan head screw
Phillips cross head screw

Pozidriv
Slotted screw
Countersunk screw

Allen screw
Set screw
Round head screw

Go to www.btxskills.co.uk to download all the exercise answers for free.