General Assessment Information

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Test Type: This Residential Construction Academy certification assessment is a customized assessment for the Home Builders Institute. This assessment measures technical skills at the occupational level and includes items which gauge factual and theoretical knowledge. This assessment offers both a written and performance component and can be used at the secondary level and post-secondary level. This assessment can be delivered in an online or paper/pencil format.

Revision Team: The assessment content is based on input from secondary, post-secondary, and business/industry representatives from the state of California, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Maine, and New York.

CIP Code

46.0201 – Carpentry/Carpenter

Career Cluster 1 - Architecture and Construction

47-2031.01 – Construction Carpenters
The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), the leading professional organization for career and technical educators, commends all students who participate in career and technical education programs and choose to validate their educational attainment through rigorous technical assessments. In taking this assessment you demonstrate to your school, your parents and guardians, your future employers and yourself that you understand the concepts and knowledge needed to succeed in the workplace. Good Luck!

Home Builders Institute (HBI), an affiliate of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), is a national leader for career training in the building industry. HBI’s educational materials are designed to be relevant in today’s rapidly changing environment, bringing increased professionalism, competency and effectiveness to those entering the residential construction workforce.

HBI/NAHB assessments are based on national skill standards set by NAHB industry professionals and educators as are the materials contained in the Residential Construction Academy Series. Participants passing the assessments are eligible for certification through HBI/NAHB at the entry, semi-skilled or skilled levels.
This written assessment consists of questions to measure an individual's factual theoretical knowledge.

**Administration Time:** 50 minutes  
**Number of Questions:** 60  
**Number of Sessions:** This assessment may be administered in one session.

### Areas Covered

- **Safety** 16.6%  
- **Measurement** 16.6%  
- **Tools and Equipment** 16.6%  
- **Products and Materials** 16.6%  
- **Rough Carpentry and Framing** 16.6%  
- **Interior and Exterior Finishing** 16.6%
Specific Competencies and Skills Tested in This Assessment

Safety
  • OSHA, Fire Safety, Job Site Safety, Tool Safety, Data Sheets (SDS), Safety-Related Injuries, First Aid, Personnel, Power Cords, and Gasoline

Measurement
  • Fractions, Feet/Inches, Addition, Perimeter, Linear Feet, Rulers, Area, and Inches

Tools and Equipment
  • Block Planes, Snips, Saws, Screwdrivers, Circular Saws, Electric Drills, Belt Sanders, Nail Set Safety, Nail Set Use, Plumb, Abrasive Paper, Boring, Screw Guns, Table Saws, and Power Drills

Products and Materials
  • Sill Plates, Studs, Codes, Lumber, Hardboard, Glue, and Fasteners

Rough Carpentry and Framing
  • Blueprints, Concrete Forms, Floors, Walls, Steel Framing, Trusses, Roofs, and Work Platforms

Interior and Exterior Finishing
  • Drywall, Cornices, Siding, Windows, Suspended Ceilings, Flooring, Cabinets, and Insulation
Sample Questions

Which of these is the most frequent cause of construction site injuries and fatalities each year?
A. Trips and falls
B. Trench cave-ins
C. Heat exhaustion
D. Electrical shocks

How many inches are there in 12 feet?
A. 120 inches
B. 144 inches
C. 192 inches
D. 200 inches

The term "plumb" refers to which of these positions?
A. Square
B. Flat
C. Horizontal
D. Vertical

Galvanized casing nails are most commonly used to fasten which of these?
A. Flashing
B. Interior trim
C. Exterior trim
D. Architectural shingles

Which of these tools is most commonly used to cut drywall?
A. Crosscut saw
B. Utility knife
C. Chop saw
D. Rip saw
Performance Assessment

This performance assessment allows individuals to demonstrate their acquired skills by completing actual jobs using the tools, materials, machines, and equipment related to the technical area.

**Administration Time:** 2 hours and 45 minutes

**Number of Jobs:** 7

**Areas Covered:**

**18% Tool and Material Identification**
Participants will accurately identify a variety of tools and materials, including saws, bits, saw blades, wrenches, nails, fasteners, lumber, finishing, layout, and marking tools.

**9% Square Layout**
Participants will use the appropriate equipment and techniques to lay out and chalk a square.

**8% Establish a Starting Course for Vinyl Siding using a Builder’s Level**
Participants will properly set up and use a builder’s level to establish a level chalk line for the starting course of vinyl siding on a wall.

**17% Blueprint Reading and Exterior Sole Plate Layout**
Participants will lay out a sole plate according to instructions and include all necessary markings.

**19% Rafter Layout**
Participants will lay out one common rafter using provided plans and materials showing all necessary corrections and adjustments.
Areas Covered (continued)

11%  **Stairway Stringer**
Participants will layout a 3-tread stringer through interpreting the plan. Participant will use the appropriate tools and providing the correct riser height, tread run, stringer markings, and tread thickness.

18%  **Interior Frame**
Participants will install an interior frame in a given opening using appropriate procedures, tools, and equipment.
Maximum Time: 20 minutes

Participant Activity: The test participant will chalk out a 12-foot by 12-foot square using blue chalk and placing blocks at the corners, as shown in the drawing provided.