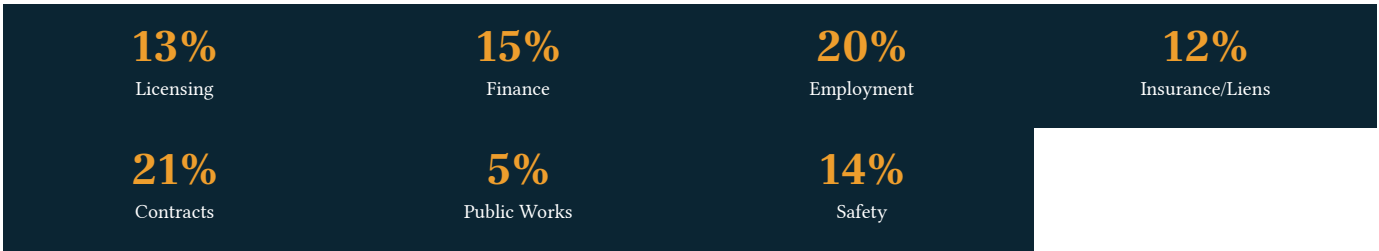


CALIFORNIA CSLB EXAM | SEVEN-DAY SPRINT

Law & Business Exam Study Guide

Licensing | Finance | Employment | Insurance & Liens
Contracts | Public Works | Safety



SOURCE LANE

The CSLB guide controls the seven-domain blueprint. Current official California and federal sources control high-drift figures. Compare the Notice to Appear with source S01 before exam day.

Use this guide with the offline practice app. Aim for two fresh weighted mocks at 80%+ and no repeated misses on the core number ladders. These are personal study gates, not CSLB's unpublished passing score.

Prepared 2026-08-01 | Official-source registry included

Exam-preparation aid only. It is not legal, tax, accounting, employment, insurance, or safety advice.

The two-minute memory sheet

Write this from memory before every practice set.

Prompt	Recall
Weights	13 / 15 / 20 / 12 / 21 / 5 / 14
License	\$25,000 bond / 2-year active renewal / 90-day qualifier clock
Minor work	less than \$1,000 plus every statutory condition
Down payment	\$1,000 or 10%, whichever is less
Lien ladder	20 notice / 90 record / 60 direct / 30 others / 90 enforce
Employment	20-day new hire / 8-40 OT / 5-30-6 meal
Public works	\$25k construction / \$15k maintenance / \$1k prevailing wage
Safety	IIPP cycle / serious event as soon as practical, no later than 8 hours
Markup	$\text{cost} \times (1 + \text{rate})$
Margin	$(\text{price} - \text{cost}) / \text{price}$

One-best-answer hierarchy

1. Protect people and stop an immediate hazard.
2. Stay licensed, bonded, insured, and within classification.
3. Put required agreements, notices, and changes in writing before action.
4. Verify scope, cost, schedule, authority, and earned value.
5. Document through the correct channel, then optimize speed or profit.

Law & Business exam map

What the official guide controls

The CSLB Law and Business Examination Study Guide divides the test into seven approximate domains. It describes a closed-book, four-choice examination with one best answer. Some questions require calculations, a calculator is supplied, and guessing is not penalized. [S01]

Domain	Weight	50-question practice target	First-pass focus
Business organization and licensing	13%	7	license status, qualifier, bond, advertising
Business finances	15%	7-8	cost, overhead, markup/margin, cash flow
Employment requirements	20%	10	hiring, payroll, records, supervision
Insurance and liens	12%	6	workers' compensation, coverage, notices, releases
Contract requirements and execution	21%	10-11	bid, scope, change orders, payments, project controls
Public works	5%	2-3	registration, prevailing wage, payroll, bonds
Safety	14%	7	IIPP, training, reporting, hazards

Percentages are approximate, so use the counts as practice targets, not a claim about the live item mix. [S01]

One-best-answer ladder

When two choices sound plausible, rank them:

1. Protect people and stop an immediate hazard.
2. Stay licensed, insured, bonded, and within classification.
3. Put required agreements, notices, and changes in writing before action.
4. Verify scope, cost, schedule, and authority.
5. Document and communicate through the correct channel.
6. Optimize speed or profit only after compliance and control.

This is a study heuristic, not a substitute for the cited rule.

How to diagnose

Take 25 weighted questions cold. For every miss, write only four fields:

- **Trigger:** the fact that should have activated the rule.
- **Rule:** one sentence, including scope or exception.
- **Why I missed:** knowledge, reading, calculation, or sequence.
- **Next retrieval:** the shortest question that would expose the gap again.

Do not memorize option letters. Retrieve the rule and the reason.

Numbers worth automatic recall

13 / 15 / 20 / 12 / 21 / 5 / 14 - official domain weights. [S01]

\$25,000 / 2 years / 90 days - contractor bond / active renewal / qualifier notice-replacement window. [S05-S07]

\$1,000 or 10%, **whichever is less** - home-improvement down payment cap. [S09]

20 / 90 / 60 / 30 / 90 - preliminary notice / general lien record / direct after completion notice / others after completion notice / foreclosure after record. [S11]

20 calendar days - new or rehired employee report to EDD. [S14]

\$25k / \$15k / \$1k - public-works registration exemption thresholds for construction/maintenance and prevailing-wage baseline. [S20]

8 hours - outer limit for reporting a work-connected fatality or serious injury/illness to Cal/OSHA, absent the stated exigent-circumstances extension. [S22]

Accuracy boundary

CSLB identifies the 2023 Law & Reference Book as a basic reference, but current agency pages and statutes control changed figures. [S02-S03] This guide is exam preparation, not legal advice.

Business organization and licensing - 13%

Core distinctions

The license belongs to the legal entity shown on CSLB records. A sole-owner license does not transfer when the business is sold, and a change in business entity may require a new license rather than a renewal. [S06-S07]

The qualifier is responsible for the classification. When an RMO or RME disassociates, CSLB must receive notice within 90 days and the business generally must replace the qualifier within 90 days to avoid suspension or removal of the classification. One 90-day extension may be requested in the conditions CSLB states. [S07]

Active means eligible to contract; inactive does not. Active licenses expire every two years. Inactive licenses expire every four years, but an inactive holder may not bid or contract. [S06]

Bond is not insurance. The contractor bond protects specified persons harmed by violations; it is not commercial general liability coverage. The current contractor bond amount is \$25,000. A separate \$25,000 qualifying-individual bond can be required for an RME or for an RMO without the stated ownership exemption. [S05]

Minor-work exemption

Current BPC 7048 excludes work from the licensing chapter only when the aggregate price for labor, materials, and all other items is **less than \$1,000** and the work is casual, minor, or inconsequential. It does not apply when a permit is required, a person is employed, contractor status is advertised, or the job is split to evade the law. [S12]

Trigger holder: **under \$1,000 + no permit + no employees + no contractor advertising + no splitting.**

Advertising and subcontracting

- Match the business name and license number to CSLB records.
- Do not lend a license number or imply a status the entity does not hold.
- Verify that a subcontractor is properly licensed for the work and currently active before award.
- A qualifier must exercise real supervision and control; the title alone is not the tested idea. [S03-S04]

Decision patterns

- **Entity changed?** Do not assume the old license transfers; check whether a new license is required. [S06]
- **Qualifier left?** Notify and begin replacement immediately; do not wait for the deadline. [S07]
- **Bond cancelled?** Contracting while suspended is unlicensed activity; restore continuous compliant coverage. [S05]
- **Small job?** Test every BPC 7048 condition, not price alone. [S12]

Retrieval prompts

1. Active renewal period? **Two years.** [S06]
2. Current contractor bond? **\$25,000.** [S05]
3. Qualifier clock? **90 days to notify and generally 90 days to replace.** [S07]
4. Minor-work price language? **Less than \$1,000 aggregate, plus all conditions.** [S12]

Business finances - 15%

The official domain covers cash management, budgeting and planning, taxes, and financial reporting. [S01]

Cost map

- **Direct cost:** traceable to one job - job labor, job material, equipment used only for that job, and that job's subcontract.
- **Overhead:** supports the business across jobs - office rent, accounting, general advertising, office staff, and general-use vehicle depreciation.
- **Labor burden:** employer costs above base wage, such as employer payroll taxes, workers' compensation, and benefits.
- **Revenue:** amount earned from customers.
- **Gross profit:** revenue minus direct cost.
- **Net profit:** revenue minus direct costs and overhead.

These are instructional accounting categories mapped to S01; a company's chart of accounts may be more detailed.

Six calculations

Markup

$$\text{selling price} = \text{cost} \times (1 + \text{markup rate})$$

If cost is \$8,000 and markup is 25%, price is $\$8,000 \times 1.25 = \$10,000$.

Margin

$$\text{gross margin} = (\text{price} - \text{cost}) / \text{price}$$

The same \$8,000 cost sold for \$10,000 has a 20% margin, not 25%.

Break-even revenue

$$\text{break-even revenue} = \text{fixed overhead} / \text{contribution margin ratio}$$

If fixed overhead is \$120,000 and contribution margin is 30%, break-even revenue is $\$120,000 / .30 = \$400,000$.

Current ratio

$$\text{current ratio} = \text{current assets} / \text{current liabilities}$$

If current assets are \$90,000 and current liabilities are \$60,000, the ratio is 1.5.

Burdened labor cost

$$\text{burdened cost} = \text{base wages} \times (1 + \text{burden rate})$$

Forty hours at \$30/hour with 35% burden costs $40 \times \$30 \times 1.35 = \$1,620$ before markup.

Cash movement

$$\text{ending cash} = \text{beginning cash} + \text{cash receipts} - \text{cash payments}$$

Profit and cash are not interchangeable. A profitable job can create a cash shortage when receipts arrive after payroll and supplier payments.

Controls

- Use job-cost codes consistently so estimates can be compared with actual cost.
- Match progress billing to contract milestones and earned value, not immediate cash need.
- Reconcile bank, receivables, payables, payroll liabilities, and job-cost reports.
- Treat withheld payroll tax as a liability, not available operating cash. Deposit timing follows the IRS lookback schedule and current rules. [S15]
- Forecast cash timing before accepting work that creates an unfunded labor or material gap.

One-best-answer patterns

- Asked about the **cause** of a cost variance? Compare estimated quantity/rate with actual quantity/rate.
- Asked where a general-use asset belongs? Usually overhead/general and administrative, not a direct job cost.
- Asked how to improve cash control? Timely billing, collection, reconciliation, and forecast beat borrowing without diagnosis.
- Asked markup versus margin? Identify the denominator before calculating.

Employment requirements - 20%

This is the second-largest exam domain. CSLB lists hiring, supervision and training, evaluation and recordkeeping, and payroll. [S01]

Hire correctly

Before assigning work, identify the correct relationship, complete required hiring and tax documents, verify authorization to work, obtain required coverage, give required notices, and train for the actual hazards. Worker classification depends on law and facts, not the label on an invoice. [S13]

California employers must report a new or rehired employee to EDD's New Employee Registry within **20 calendar days** of the first day of work. [S14]

Pay correctly

- Establish regular paydays and retain accurate time and payroll records. California generally requires wages at least twice each calendar month, subject to the detailed rules and exceptions. [S13]
- The general overtime baseline for nonexempt workers is time-and-one-half after eight hours in a workday or 40 hours in a workweek; daily and weekly triggers coexist, and other rules/exceptions can apply. [S16]
- A first 30-minute meal period is generally required by the end of the fifth hour when work exceeds five hours, with a limited mutual waiver when the total day is no more than six hours. A second is generally triggered over ten hours, subject to its conditions. [S17]
- Payroll deposits are determined by tax liability and the IRS lookback rules, not by employee count or how long the company has operated. [S15]

Supervise and document

Good supervision is a control cycle:

1. Define the task, standard, hazard, and authority.
2. Confirm the worker understands and is qualified.
3. Observe performance and correct deviations promptly.
4. Document training, incidents, time, evaluation, and corrective action consistently.
5. Retrain when assignments, equipment, processes, or hazards change. [S21]

Records and separation

- Time records should reflect time actually worked, not a desired total.
- Payroll tax withheld is a liability until deposited. [S15]
- Keep personnel evaluation objective and job-related.
- For termination or resignation, use the correct final-pay rule for the facts; do not assume the next regular payday always controls. [S13]
- Preserve required employment and safety records for the applicable period.

Triggers

20 days - new-hire report. [S14]

8 / 40 - general overtime trigger pair. [S16]

5 / 30 / 6 - first-meal trigger / duration / limited waiver day. [S17]

liability, not headcount - payroll deposit schedule logic. [S15]

Insurance and liens - 12%

Match the risk to the instrument

- **Contractor license bond:** statutory protection for specified harmed parties; current amount \$25,000. [S05]
- **Workers' compensation:** employee work injury/illness system. California employers with one or more employees generally must provide benefits; CSLB filing and exemption rules also matter to license status. [S08, S18]
- **Commercial general liability:** third-party bodily injury/property damage risk, subject to policy terms.
- **Builder's risk/property coverage:** covered damage to work or property during construction, subject to terms.
- **Auto coverage:** vehicle liability and physical-damage risks.
- **Performance/payment bonds:** project-specific promise of performance and payment, common in public works.

Do not treat a bond as liability insurance or assume one policy covers every loss.

Mechanics-lien sequence

1. A subcontractor or supplier may serve a preliminary notice before starting and up to 20 days after first furnishing. A late notice generally reaches back only 20 days. Laborers and the direct contractor do not use the same preliminary-notice requirement. [S11]
2. Use conditional releases when payment is promised but not yet cleared; use unconditional releases only after payment is received.
3. Without a recorded Notice of Completion/Cessation, the general lien-recording period is 90 days after completion. [S11]
4. A timely Notice of Completion shortens the direct contractor's window to 60 days and other claimants' window to 30 days. [S11]
5. A lien foreclosure action generally must be filed within 90 days after the lien is recorded. [S11]

Memory chain: **20 notice** → **90 record** → **60 direct** / **30 others** → **90 enforce**.

Payment-control pattern

- Compare the requested payment with completed work and delivered materials.
- Track preliminary notices by claimant.
- Request the correct conditional release with payment.
- After funds clear, collect the matching unconditional release.
- Use joint checks where appropriate to control payment risk.

One-best-answer patterns

- Claimant has not yet received funds? **Conditional** release.
- Claimant confirms cleared payment? **Unconditional** release for that amount/period.
- Owner recorded timely completion notice? Separate **60-day direct** / **30-day others** clocks. [S11]
- Employee is injured? Workers' compensation is the first coverage lane; do not confuse it with the license bond. [S18]

Contract requirements and execution - 21%

This is the largest official domain: bidding, cost control, project organization, contracts, and payments. [S01]

Bid before promise

Build a bid from verified scope:

1. Read plans, specifications, addenda, schedule, alternates, allowances, exclusions, and contract terms.
2. Perform quantity takeoff and obtain current labor, material, equipment, and subcontract pricing.
3. Add labor burden, project overhead, company overhead allocation, contingency where appropriate, and intended profit.
4. Resolve conflicts and assumptions in writing before submission.
5. Confirm license classification, capacity, schedule, bond, insurance, and subcontractor availability.

The lowest number is not the best bid if scope, risk, or compliance is missing.

Home-improvement controls

A home-improvement contract and changes must be written, legible, and understandable. The contract should identify the contractor, address, license number, scope/material detail, payment schedule, permits, and completion timing. [S09]

The down payment may not exceed **\$1,000 or 10% of the contract price, whichever is less**. Special-order material is not a general exception. Progress payments may not exceed the value of work performed or material delivered. [S09]

A scope or price change requires a written change order signed by the customer and contractor **before** the changed work. [S09]

The three-day cancellation rule is a baseline with transaction-specific scope and exceptions. People 65 and older have a five-day period for the transaction categories CSLB identifies. Read the fact pattern before choosing a number. [S10]

Execute through controls

- Hold a preconstruction handoff from estimate to operations.
- Use a baseline schedule and identify predecessors before promising dates.
- Process RFIs and submittals before installing uncertain work.
- Document daily progress, labor, deliveries, delays, inspections, and directives.
- Compare actual job cost and production with estimate while there is time to correct.
- Bill only according to the contract and earned progress.
- Close out punch work, releases, warranties, manuals, and final documentation.

Decision patterns

- **Ambiguous scope:** clarify in writing before bid or work.
- **Owner requests added work:** price/time impact, written signed change order, then proceed unless a genuine emergency or contract rule controls.
- **Cost overrun:** identify quantity, rate, productivity, scope, or schedule cause; do not hide it by moving cost codes.
- **Payment request:** verify the milestone and value earned; collect appropriate lien releases.
- **Conflict among documents:** follow the contract's order-of-precedence and formal clarification process.

Down-payment examples

Contract price	10%	Maximum down payment
\$6,000	\$600	\$600
\$12,000	\$1,200	\$1,000
\$80,000	\$8,000	\$1,000

Public works - 5%

Registration and wage lanes

Contractors, subcontractors, and sole proprietors generally register before bidding on or working on covered public works. Current registration costs \$400 per fiscal year and may be purchased for one, two, or three years. Eligibility includes required workers' compensation, applicable CSLB licensing, registered subcontractors, and no disqualifying wage debts or debarment. [S19]

The small-project registration exemption applies when a public-works project does not exceed **\$25,000** for new construction, alteration, installation, demolition, or repair, or **\$15,000** for maintenance. Jobs may not be split to avoid thresholds. [S20]

Contractors performing public work over **\$1,000** generally must pay prevailing wages and maintain or furnish payroll records under the cited Labor Code rules. Registration thresholds and prevailing-wage thresholds answer different questions. [S20]

Before bidding, verify:

- public-works coverage and awarding-body requirements;
- active CSLB classification and DIR registration;
- prevailing-wage determination and craft classification;
- apprenticeship, certified-payroll, bond, insurance, and reporting obligations;
- subcontractor eligibility and registration.

Trigger: **\$25k construction / \$15k maintenance is registration; \$1k is prevailing wage.** [S20]

Safety - 14%

IIPP control cycle

Every employer must establish, implement, and maintain an effective written Injury and Illness Prevention Program. It identifies responsibility and includes compliance, communication, hazard assessment, investigation, timely correction, training, and employee access. [S21]

Training is required for new employees, new assignments without prior training, new hazardous substances/processes/equipment, newly recognized hazards, and supervisors for hazards under their direction. [S21]

Serious-event reporting

A work-connected employee death or serious injury/illness must be reported to Cal/OSHA as soon as practically possible and no later than **eight hours** after the employer knew or should have known. Section 342 describes a limited exigent-circumstances extension, so “eight hours” is the exam trigger, not permission to wait. [S22]

Unknown hazard sequence

When material or a condition is unknown:

1. Stop and isolate the exposure.
2. Keep unprotected people out.
3. Identify the material/condition using competent information.
4. Select controls, trained personnel, PPE, permits, and disposal for the identified hazard.
5. Document and communicate before resuming.

Do not disturb a suspected hazardous material merely to identify it.

One-best-answer patterns

- Imminent hazard? Remove exposed personnel except those needed for correction with safeguards. [S21]
- New equipment or assignment? Train before exposure. [S21]
- Serious injury or death? Emergency response first, then immediate Cal/OSHA report within the eight-hour outer limit. [S22]
- Rule not found in a pocket summary? Use the applicable Title 8 orders; the construction guide is a route, not a complete substitute. [S23]

Seven-day study plan

D-7 - Diagnose and build the miss log

- Read the exam map and memory numbers.
- Take a 25-question weighted diagnostic cold.
- Record every miss by trigger, rule, miss type, and next retrieval.
- Do 15 business-math drills.

D-6 - Contracts and execution

- Study the largest domain first: bid, scope, contract, change, payment, closeout.
- Recite \$1,000 or 10%, whichever is less with three examples. [S09]
- Take 20 contract-domain questions and review every explanation.

D-5 - Employment

- Build the 20 days / 8-40 / 5-30-6 ladder. [S14, S16-S17]
- Practice worker classification, hiring, payroll liability, supervision, and records.
- Take 20 employment questions and 10 finance drills.

D-4 - Licensing and finance

- Build the \$25,000 / 2 years / 90 days ladder. [S05-S07]
- Drill markup versus margin, break-even, burdened labor, current ratio, and cash flow.
- Take licensing and finance domain sets.

D-3 - Insurance, liens, and payments

- Recite 20 / 90 / 60 / 30 / 90 and explain who each clock belongs to. [S11]
- Sort bond, workers' compensation, CGL, builder's risk, and project bonds by risk.
- Practice conditional versus unconditional releases.

D-2 - Public works and safety

- Recite \$25k / \$15k / \$1k and distinguish registration from prevailing wage. [S20]
- Rehearse IIPP duties and the eight-hour serious-event reporting trigger. [S21-S22]
- Take the first 50-question weighted mock closed-book.

D-1 - Consolidate

- Take a fresh 50-question mock.
- Review only missed/uncertain rules and weak domains.
- Write the two-minute memory sheet from scratch twice.
- Stop heavy study two hours before sleep.

Exam morning

- Ten-minute recall only: weights, number ladders, formulas, and decision hierarchy.
- Read every qualifier: first, best, except, most, less than, within, before.
- Answer every question; CSLB states there is no guessing penalty. [S01]

Study gates

Use 80% on two fresh mocks and no repeated misses on the core number ladders as personal readiness targets. They are not CSLB's passing score; S01 does not publish one.

The community-curated study stack

This page answers one question: what is the smallest resource set that covers the official blueprint, supplies enough practice, and avoids resource overload?

What the evidence can prove

The strongest broad evidence comes from CSLB's survey of recently licensed contractors. Of 15,342 surveys sent from July 2024 through June 2025, 1,653 responded, an 11 percent response rate. Among respondents, 57 percent used CSLB study guides, 59 percent used the CSLB Law Book, and 61 percent attended a school, college, or class. Of those who attended, 65 percent called it useful. These figures describe self-selected respondent behavior; they do not prove that any resource caused a pass. [S24]

Recent test-taker threads converge on a narrower practical point: practice banks help with concepts, scenarios, vocabulary, and timing, but the real wording and topic mix are not exact replicas. Candidates repeatedly recommend reviewing explanations, skipping difficult items temporarily, and returning later. [C01-C03]

The minimum high-coverage stack

Priority	Resource	Use it for	Stop rule
1 - Required	CSLB Law & Business Study Guide plus this system's official registry	Blueprint, weights, scope, current numbers, and authority	Recheck only when a miss exposes a rule gap [S01-S02]
2 - Required	This Exam Lab: weighted diagnostic, domain sets, math drills, flashcards, and miss review	Active recall and proof of weak domains	Two fresh weighted mocks at 80 percent or better, with no repeated core-rule miss; this is a personal readiness gate, not CSLB's passing score
3 - Targeted reference	California Contractors License Law & Reference Book and current agency pages	Resolve a missed rule or unfamiliar term	Read the relevant section, not the entire book by default [S03]
4 - Choose one question supplement	One current explanation-backed bank, such as Contractor-Prep, or one paid school bank if structure is needed	Extra scenario volume after this lab's original questions	Stop when scores rise because explanations make sense, not because answer order is memorized [C02-C03, C06-C07]
5 - Optional video	PaintThinnerGang's 2026 Law & Business series	Alternate explanation when reading is not sticking	Watch only the weak-topic segment and verify every legal number in the official registry [C04, C08-C09]

Do not buy or open several overlapping banks at once. CSLB's survey shows that classes are common, not mandatory, and community reports include both paid-school and self-study passes. [S24, C05-C06]

The 75-minute daily loop

- 10 minutes:** write the weight and number ladders from memory.
- 25 minutes:** take a closed-book 25-question weighted or weak-domain set.
- 25 minutes:** review every miss. Write the trigger, rule, scope, exception, and official source.
- 10 minutes:** do flashcards or business-math drills only for the weakest domain.
- 5 minutes:** choose tomorrow's weak domain. Stop adding resources.

On a 50-question mock, answer known items first, flag uncertainty, then return. That tactic is consistent with current candidate reports and CSLB's no-guessing-penalty guidance. [S01, C01-C02]

What not to study

- **Do not use recalled or leaked exam questions.** They may be wrong, stale, or unethical, and they train wording instead of the rule.
- **Do not use Quizlet alone.** One community thread explicitly doubts that it is sufficient, while successful reports combine notes or video with practice. [C04]
- **Do not read the full Law Book cover to cover unless your schedule and diagnostic justify it.** Use the blueprint and misses to route your reading. [S01-S03]
- **Do not chase an unofficial passing score or question count.** CSLB does not publish those operational figures in the official study guide.
- **Do not overreact to one candidate's topic memory.** One July 2026 report found fewer asbestos items than its practice bank, illustrating why anecdotes must not reweight the official blueprint. [C02]
- **Do not trust old numbers in videos.** C08 is newer than C09, but neither outranks current statutes or agency pages.

Coverage guardrail

Keep the official weights fixed: 13 / 15 / 20 / 12 / 21 / 5 / 14. Community discussion reinforces spending the most time on contracts and employment, but it does not justify deleting public works, safety, finance, licensing, or liens. Every weighted mock must still sample all seven domains. [S01, C01-C03]

Purchase gate

Use a paid course only if at least one of these is true:

- you cannot maintain a self-study schedule;
- vocabulary is blocking comprehension after official-source review;
- two weeks of explanation-backed practice are not improving weak-domain scores; or
- you need live accountability or application help beyond exam content.

Before paying, demand a current-edition date, domain mapping, explanations with source references, fresh randomized sets, and a refund/extension policy. A claim that questions are "the same as the exam" is a warning, not a quality signal. [C01, C05-C07]

PaintThinnerGang 2026 Parts 1-2: verified notes

These notes retain the instructor's useful emphasis while removing filler, personal business advice, and unsupported claims about what will appear on an individual exam. Part 1 is source C08; Part 2 is source C10. A timestamp means "the presenter discusses this here," not "CSLB confirms an exam item at this timestamp." Official sources control every rule.

The short verdict

The presenter has good instincts about **numeric triggers and role distinctions**. His strongest priorities are the minor-work exemption, qualifier experience, bonds, active/inactive status, RME/RMO rules, classification scope, home-improvement salespersons, written contracts, cancellation, and payment limits. Those topics map to the published Organization and Licensing, Insurance and Liens, and Contracts and Execution domains. [S01]

His weak point is precision at the edges. He frequently converts a conditional rule into an absolute, treats personal advice as licensing doctrine, and says a fact "will be on the test" without evidence. Use the verified rules below; do not memorize his blanket shortcuts.

What he verbally prioritizes

Presenter emphasis	Where	What to retain	Official weight/status
Minor-work license exemption	Part 1, 5:20-8:09 and 33:21-34:34	Less than \$1,000 aggregate plus every condition; no job splitting	High-value licensing trigger; exact correction below [S12, S27]
Qualifier and experience	Part 1, 8:09-12:58, 25:51-28:20, and 40:19-45:39	Qualifier; four journey-level years in the prior ten; verifiable experience	Direct Organization and Licensing content [S01, S26]
Application fees and issuance	Part 1, 16:02-24:53 and 1:03:08-1:08:57	\$450 application; \$200/\$350 initial fee; bond and insurance filings before active issuance	Verified current figures, but procedure is lower priority than domain rules [S26]
RME/RMO distinctions	Part 1, 1:09:19-1:16:35	RME 32 hours or 80%; qualifier must supervise/control; multiple-firm rules are conditional	Strong role-and-number cluster; his "license lending" discussion must be rejected [S04, S26-S27]
A/B/B-2/C scope	Part 1, 47:19-58:05 and 1:40:47-1:47:25	Fixed works; two unrelated trades; three unrelated trades/nonstructural; specialty scope	Verified classification distinctions [S29]
Exam access and eligibility	Part 1, 1:24:57-1:31:04	PSI; Spanish versions for ten exams; approved translators; 18-month eligibility	Verified, but do not merge 18-month eligibility with other five-year rules [S28]
CSLB mission, complaints, and SWIFT	Part 2, 0:33-20:13	Consumer protection; complaints and discipline; unlicensed enforcement	Maps to licensing and contract compliance; organizational trivia is lower yield [S01, S25]
HIS and home-improvement contracts	Part 2, 20:19-37:04	Registration/exemptions, written contracts, cancellation, change orders, down/progress payments	High-value Contracts and Execution material [S01, S09-S10, S32-S33]

The instructor repeatedly estimates that his opening material represents 35-50 percent of the exam. **Do not use that estimate.** CSLB publishes only seven approximate domain weights: 13/15/20/12/21/5/14. It does not publish a topic-by-topic item guarantee. [S01]

Verified high-yield extraction

1. License threshold and qualifier

- The minor-work exemption applies only when the aggregate price of labor, materials, and all other items is **less than \$1,000**, no permit is required, no workers are employed, the person does not advertise as a licensed contractor, and the work is not split to evade the limit. Exactly \$1,000 is outside the exemption. [S12, S27]
- Every classification on a license needs a qualifier. The qualifier meets the experience and examination requirements and is responsible for supervision and control of construction operations. [S26-S27]
- The baseline experience rule is four full years at journey level or as a foreman, supervisor, contractor, or qualifying owner-builder within the ten years immediately before application. The experience must be verifiable. [S26-S27]
- Education or approved training may provide partial credit, but it does not turn helper/trainee time into journey-level experience. Keep the current application instructions - not a video paraphrase - as the final authority. [S26]
- A Social Security number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number is accepted, the qualifier must be at least 18, and an out-of-state person may apply if qualified. [S26-S27]

2. Fees, bond, insurance, and license status

- Current original-license fees are \$450 to apply, then \$200 for a sole owner or \$350 for a non-sole-owner initial license. A \$150 additional-classification fee applies in the specific original waiver/joint-venture application context; adding a classification to an existing license has its own current fee. [S26]
- The contractor license bond is \$25,000. It benefits consumers harmed by defective construction or other license-law violations and employees with unpaid wages. It is not interchangeable with general liability insurance, and a surety payout ordinarily creates repayment exposure for the contractor. [S05, S31]
- A \$25,000 cashier's check payable to CSLB can be used in place of the required surety bond; merely keeping money in a personal "separate bank account" is not the rule. [S31]
- Workers' compensation is required when there are employees, including an RME or HIS. It is also required for active C-8, C-20, C-22, C-39, and C-61/D-49 licenses even without employees. Other no-employee entities may file an exemption if legally eligible; exemption is not limited to sole proprietors. [S08, S18, S26]
- Every LLC license also needs a \$100,000 employee/worker bond and liability insurance starting at \$1 million for five or fewer listed personnel, increasing \$100,000 per additional person to \$5 million. [S26]
- An active license may bid and contract and must maintain applicable bonds and insurance. An inactive license may not bid or contract. Active renewal is every two years; inactive renewal is every four years. [S06]

3. RME, RMO, and multiple firms

- An RME is a bona fide employee who is permanently employed and actively engaged at least 32 hours per week or 80 percent of the firm's operating hours, whichever is less. An RME may qualify only one active license at a time. [S26-S27]
- A qualifier may serve more than one firm only when at least one statutory relationship exists: common ownership of at least 20 percent in each firm, subsidiary/joint-venture relationship, or the same majority of partners/officers/managers. Even then, the limit is three firms in a one-year period. [S04, S27]
- The 20 percent figure is **not** a required paycheck, profit share, or permission to rent a license. Every qualifier remains responsible for supervision and control through operations, technical/administrative decisions, workmanship checks, or jobsite supervision. "License lending" without those duties is a disciplinary and criminal risk. [S04]
- When a qualifier disassociates, the licensee must notify and replace the qualifier within 90 days; a separate 90-day extension may be available on written request. Do not generalize "CSLB always means 90 days" to unrelated deadlines. [S07]

4. Classifications and asbestos

- Class A centers on fixed works requiring specialized engineering knowledge. It is not limited to government clients and is not categorically barred from private or residential-related projects within scope. [S29]
- Class B covers structures and may take framing/carpentry alone. For other work, the contract generally needs at least two unrelated trades other than framing/carpentry, unless the contractor holds the specialty classification or properly subcontracts it. C-16 Fire Protection and C-57 Well Drilling require the specialty license or an appropriately licensed subcontractor. [S29]
- Class B-2 is for nonstructural work on existing residential wood-frame structures and requires at least three unrelated trades. C-16, C-22, and C-57 work and structural or full-system work remain restricted unless properly licensed/subcontracted. [S29]
- Class C is a specialty classification for a specific trade or craft. A manufacturer becomes a contractor when it performs onsite construction, alteration, or repair. [S29]

- Every initial applicant completes the asbestos awareness open-book exam before issuance. That awareness exam does **not** authorize asbestos work. C-22 licensure or CSLB asbestos certification plus Cal/OSHA registration and other requirements govern qualifying asbestos-related work. [S34]
- An underground storage tank is not a septic tank synonym. Do not retain the video's septic explanation; storage-tank removal has classification and hazardous-substance-certification rules. [S25]

5. Exam administration

- The normal path requires Law and Business plus the applicable trade examination unless a valid waiver or exemption applies. C-61 limited specialties may differ. [S26]
- PSI administers the examinations. Eligibility expires if the required examination or examinations are not passed within 18 months after the application is accepted. [S28]
- CSLB offers Spanish versions of Law and Business and nine listed trade exams. Other language needs may use an approved translator, and disability accommodations must be requested through the prescribed process. [S28]
- Do not disclose or reproduce examination content. The project's questions are original and domain-mapped, not recalled CSLB items. [S01]

6. CSLB, complaints, and enforcement

- CSLB is a Department of Consumer Affairs board whose primary mission is public protection. It licenses/regulates contractors, investigates complaints, and operates SWIFT against unlicensed activity. [S25]
- The 15 seats are five contractors plus the local-building-official, labor, senior, and other public-member seats defined in BPC 7002. Current CSLB webpages count the labor representative within ten public members, while the 2026 Law Book describes nine public members plus one labor representative. Learn the seat structure only if your diagnostic exposes this gap; do not spend core study time on the label. [S04, S25]
- CSLB investigates license-law violations but does not guarantee restitution. Bond claims are filed with the surety, not processed by CSLB, and private recovery may require small claims or civil court. [S31]
- A first conviction for unlicensed contracting can bring up to six months in county jail and/or a fine up to \$5,000. In a declared disaster area, unlicensed repair or improvement work can be prosecuted as a felony. [S04]
- As of July 1, 2026, an unlicensed administrative citation carries a \$1,500-\$15,000 civil penalty and an order of abatement; the written appeal period is 15 working days. The video's older \$200 minimum is stale. [S04]
- Current licensed-contractor citation ranges are generally \$500-\$8,000, or \$1,500-\$30,000 for specified serious violations, operative July 1, 2026. [S04]
- Complaint disclosure periods and discipline sequences are real, but they are lower-yield than the conduct that prevents discipline. Memorize them only after the blueprint-weighted core is stable. [S01, S04, S25]

7. HIS and home-improvement contracts

- A home improvement salesperson generally must register when soliciting, selling, negotiating, or executing home-improvement contracts on behalf of one or more licensed contractors. Before the transaction, the HIS identifies the represented contractor's business name and license number. Statutory exemptions include listed personnel, qualifying persons, fixed-location retail sales initiated by the buyer, appointment setters, and bona fide service repairpersons within the original request. [S33]
- A written home-improvement contract is required when the aggregate contract price exceeds \$500. This is a different trigger from the under-\$1,000 minor-work license exemption. [S12, S32]
- The contract and change orders must be written, legible, understandable, complete, and signed; the buyer receives a filled-in signed copy before work begins. Required headings and notices use different 10- and 12-point specifications, so "all text 10 point" is not a safe memory rule. [S32]
- A down payment may not exceed \$1,000 or 10 percent of the contract price, whichever is less. Progress payments cannot exceed the value of completed work or delivered materials. Written change orders are signed before changed work. [S09, S32]
- The standard cancellation period is three days. It becomes five days when the buyer is 65 or older. The video's on-screen "75" is wrong even though the presenter later says 65. [S10, S32]
- There is no generic "waive cancellation so work can start now" rule. Service-and-repair treatment is a narrow customer-initiated, short-notice/emergency exception with a total price under \$750 and specific contract requirements; failure to meet them returns the agreement to the ordinary home-improvement rules. [S10, S32]

Claims to reject or quarantine

Video claim or framing	Status	Correct study rule
"\$1,000 or less" is exempt	Incorrect boundary	Less than \$1,000 and every condition [S12]
A bond is a general liability substitute for any broken window	Misleading	Bond covers eligible license-law/wage claims; insurance is distinct [S31]
Only sole proprietors can file a workers' compensation exemption	Incorrect	Eligibility turns on employees, RME/HIS status, and mandatory classifications [S08, S26]
An RMO can take 20 percent and stop working	Dangerous/incorrect	Twenty percent is one multiple-firm relationship; supervision/control remains mandatory [S04]
CSLB deadlines are generally 90 days	Unsafe shortcut	Ninety days applies to named processes only; use the specific rule [S07, S27]
Class A works only for government and never homes	Incorrect absolute	Scope is fixed works requiring engineering knowledge, not customer identity [S29]
UST means a septic/waste tank	Incorrect	Underground storage tank and septic-system scopes are distinct [S25]
Only "heinous," murder, child, or drug cases matter in background review	Unsupported speculation	CSLB applies statutory recency, substantial-relationship, and rehabilitation criteria [S30]
The opening material is 35-50 percent of the exam	Unverifiable	Use the official seven weights only [S01]
All contract text/headings use 10 point	Oversimplified	BPC 7159 assigns different sizes to specific headings/statements [S32]
Senior cancellation age is 75	Incorrect	Age 65 or older receives five days [S10]
A buyer can always sign away cancellation to start immediately	Incorrect absolute	Only defined statutory exceptions apply [S10, S32]
Unlicensed citation minimum is \$200	Stale after 2026-07-01	Current range is \$1,500-\$15,000 [S04]
CSLB lookup shows lawsuits generally	Overstated	It shows license status and CSLB-recorded bond, insurance, personnel, and disciplinary information; it is not a universal lawsuit database [S25]

Minimal use plan

Do not rewatch both full presentations. Use these segments only when the matching concept is weak:

1. **Licensing triggers:** Part 1, 5:20-8:09; then recite "less than \$1,000 plus all conditions."
2. **Qualifier/RME/RMO:** Part 1, 25:51-28:20 and 1:09:19-1:16:35; skip the business-partnership advice and use the corrected rules above.

3. **Classifications:** Part 1, 1:40:47-1:47:25.
 4. **Enforcement:** Part 2, 15:19-20:13; replace penalty minimums with the current figures above.
 5. **HIS/contracts/payments:** Part 2, 25:50-37:04; stop and correct the senior-age, cancellation-waiver, and font-size statements.
- Everything else in these two parts is either repeated, procedural, personal advice, or lower-yield reference material. Return to weighted practice after the relevant segment; do not make the videos a second curriculum.

Official Source Registry - CSLB Law & Business

Last verified: 2026-08-01

ID	Authority	Source and claim scope	Currency/status	URL
S01	Exam authority	CSLB, *Law and Business Examination Study Guide*: seven domains, weights, format, test strategy, named resources	For exams on/after 2021-12-01; publisher line 03-2026; checked 2026-08-01	< https://www.cslb.ca.gov/Resources/StudyGuides/LawStudyGuide.pdf >
S02	Exam authority	CSLB, Studying for the Examination: Law & Business scope and basic reference	Live page checked 2026-08-01	< https://www.cslb.ca.gov/contractors/applicants/contractors_license/exam_application/Studying_For_Exam.aspx >
S03	Compiled CSLB reference	*California Contractors License Law & Reference Book, 2023 Edition*: compiled statutes, regulations, licensing and enforcement context	Historical compiled edition; current sources control drift	< https://www.cslb.ca.gov/Resources/GuidesAndPublications/2023/CSLB-2023-Law-and-Reference-Book.pdf >
S04	Statutory authority	California Business and Professions Code, Contractors State License Law, Chapter 9	Current code checked 2026-08-01	< ">https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayexpandedbranch.xhtml?tocCode=BPC&division=3.&title=&part=&chapter=9.&article=> >
S05	Licensing authority	CSLB bond requirements: \$25,000 contractor bond and qualifier-bond conditions	Live page checked 2026-08-01	< https://www.cslb.ca.gov/contractors/maintain_license/bond_information/bond_requirements.aspx >
S06	Licensing authority	CSLB renewal: active license two years; inactive license four years	Live page checked 2026-08-01	< https://www.cslb.ca.gov/contractors/maintain_license/renew_license/general_renewal_information.aspx >

ID	Authority	Source and claim scope	Currency/status	URL
S07	Licensing authority	CSLB personnel changes: qualifier notice/replacement within 90 days and limited extension	Live page checked 2026-08-01	< https://www.cslb.ca.gov/Contractors/Maintain_License/Change_In_Personnel.aspx >
S08	Licensing authority	CSLB license issuance: bond, workers' compensation filing/exemption conditions, and active/inactive boundaries	Live page checked 2026-08-01	< https://www.cslb.ca.gov/Contractors/Applicants/Contractors_License/Exam_Application/Issuing_My_License.aspx >
S09	Contract authority	CSLB home-improvement contracts: written terms, progress payments, \$1,000-or-10% down-payment cap, written change orders	Live page checked 2026-08-01	< https://www.cslb.ca.gov/Consumers/Hire_A_Contractor/Home_Improvement_Contracts/What_Is_A_Contract.aspx >
S10	Contract authority	CSLB contract warnings/exceptions: three-day cancellation baseline and five-day senior rule with scope	Live page checked 2026-08-01	< https://www.cslb.ca.gov/Consumers/Hire_A_Contractor/Home_Improvement_Contracts/Warnings_And_Exceptions.aspx >
S11	Lien authority	CSLB mechanics-lien prevention: preliminary notice, releases, 90/60/30-day recording windows	Live page checked 2026-08-01	< https://www.cslb.ca.gov/consumers/legal_issues_for_consumers/mechanics_lien/How_To_Prevent_A_Mechanics_Lien.aspx >
S12	Statutory authority	California BPC 7048 minor-work exemption: under \$1,000 aggregate with conditions, effective 2026	Current code checked 2026-08-01	< https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=BPC&sectionNum=7048. >
S13	Employment/tax authority	EDD California Employer's Guide DE 44: registration, payroll-tax reporting, withholding, records	Revision 52 (04-2026), checked 2026-08-01	< https://edd.ca.gov/siteassets/files/pdf_pub_ctr/de44.pdf >

ID	Authority	Source and claim scope	Currency/status	URL
S14	Employment authority	EDD reporting requirements: new or rehired employees within 20 calendar days	Live page checked 2026-08-01	< https://edd.ca.gov/en/payroll_Taxes/Reporting_Requirements >
S15	Federal tax authority	IRS Publication 15 (2026): federal payroll deposits, lookback schedules, \$100,000 next-day rule	2026 edition checked 2026-08-01	< https://www.irs.gov/publications/p15 >
S16	Wage authority	California DLSE overtime FAQ: general 8-hour/day and 40-hour/week baseline, subject to exceptions	Live page checked 2026-08-01	< https://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/faq_overtime.htm >
S17	Wage authority	California DLSE meal-period FAQ: first meal by end of fifth hour and conditional waivers	Live page checked 2026-08-01	< https://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/FAQ_MealPeriods.html >
S18	Insurance authority	DWC employer FAQ: workers' compensation required when employing one or more employees	Live page checked 2026-08-01	< https://www.dir.ca.gov/DWC/faqs.html >
S19	Public-works authority	DIR contractor registration: eligibility, \$400 per year, fiscal-year term, registration before bidding/working	April 2026 page checked 2026-08-01	< https://www.dir.ca.gov/Public-Works/Contractor-Registration.html >
S20	Public-works authority	DIR public-works FAQ: \$25,000 construction and \$15,000 maintenance registration exemption thresholds; prevailing-wage baseline above \$1,000	Live page checked 2026-08-01	< https://www.dir.ca.gov/Public-Works/PublicWorksSB854FAQ.html >
S21	Safety regulation	Cal/OSHA Title 8 section 3203: written IIPP, inspections, correction, training, and records	Current regulation checked 2026-08-01	< https://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/3203.html >
S22	Safety regulation	Cal/OSHA Title 8 section 342: serious injury/illness or death reporting as soon as practical, no later than eight hours	Current regulation checked 2026-08-01	< https://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/342.html >

ID	Authority	Source and claim scope	Currency/status	URL
S23	Safety authority	Cal/OSHA construction-employer guide: applicable safety-order families and administrative duties	Live guide checked 2026-08-01	< https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/Construction-guide-summary.html >
S24	Applicant survey	CSLB September 2025 board packet: 2024-25 survey response rate and reported use of study guides, Law Book, website, and classes	Official board packet checked 2026-08-01; self-selected 11% response rate	< https://web.cslb.ca.gov/Resources/BoardPackets/2025/Sept5Packet_Electronic.pdf >
S25	Compiled CSLB reference	*California Contractors License Law & Reference Book, 2026 Edition*: current licensing, enforcement, home-improvement, and statutory reference	2026 edition checked 2026-08-01; live statute controls if a later operative date differs	< https://www.cslb.ca.gov/Resources/GuidesAndPublications/2026/2026_CSLB_Law_Book.pdf >
S26	Applicant/licensing authority	Current original-license application: fees, entity/qualifier positions, four-in-ten experience, RME 32-hour/80-percent rule, workers' compensation, LLC bonds and liability insurance	Revision 01-2026 checked 2026-08-01	< https://www.cslb.ca.gov/Resources/FormsAndApplications/ApplicationForOriginalContractorsLicense.pdf >
S27	Applicant/licensing authority	CSLB Before Applying: minor-work exemption, penalties, qualifier duties, multiple-license conditions, out-of-state applicants	Live page checked 2026-08-01	< https://www.cslb.ca.gov/Contractors/Applicants/Contractors_License/Exam_Application/Before_Applying_For_License.aspx >
S28	Exam authority	CSLB Examination FAQ: PSI scheduling, 18-month eligibility, Spanish versions, translators, and accommodations	Live page checked 2026-08-01	< https://www.cslb.ca.gov/About_us/Examination_FAQ.aspx >
S29	Classification authority	CSLB descriptions of A, B, B-2, and C classifications and the B/B-2 scope restrictions	May 2025 publication checked 2026-08-01	< https://www2.cslb.ca.gov/Resources/GuidesAndPublications/DescriptionClassifications_ENG0525_ADA.pdf >

ID	Authority	Source and claim scope	Currency/status	URL
S30	Licensing authority	CSLB fingerprint, conviction, substantial-relationship, and rehabilitation review criteria	Live page checked 2026-08-01	< https://www.cslb.ca.gov/about_Us/faqs/fingerprint_q_and_a.aspx >
S31	Bond authority	CSLB contractor-license bond guide: purpose, eligible claimants, \$25,000 amount, and bond-versus-insurance distinction	Live publication checked 2026-08-01	< https://cslb.ca.gov/Resources/GuidesAndPublications/ContractorsLicenseBondsGuide.pdf >
S32	Contract statute	Current BPC 7159: over-\$500 home-improvement contract threshold, required content/type sizes, progress payments, down payment, and cancellation notices	Current code checked 2026-08-01	< https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=BPC&sectionNum=7159 >
S33	HIS statute	Current BPC 7152: HIS definition, one-or-more contractor rule, identification duty, and exemptions	Effective 2026-01-01; checked 2026-08-01	< https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=BPC&sectionNum=7152 >
S34	Asbestos authority	CSLB asbestos certification: initial-license open-book awareness exam versus C-22/certification and DOSH requirements for asbestos-related work	Live page checked 2026-08-01	< https://www.cslb.ca.gov/about_us/library/licensing_classifications/ASB_-_Asbestos_Certification.aspx >

Claim-status notes

- **Confirmed:** CSLB publishes seven approximate weights totaling 100%: 13/15/20/12/21/5/14. The test is closed-book, four-choice, one-best-answer, may include calculations, provides a calculator, and has no guessing penalty. [S01]
- **Confirmed:** current CSLB pages state a \$25,000 contractor bond, two-year active-license renewal, and a 90-day qualifier notification/replacement period. [S05-S07]
- **Confirmed:** the home-improvement down payment cap is the lesser of \$1,000 or 10% and written change orders are required before changed work. [S09]
- **Confirmed:** under the 2026 BPC 7048 rule, the minor-work exemption is below \$1,000 aggregate and disappears when a permit is required, workers are employed, contractor status is advertised, or work is split to evade the law. [S12]
- **Confirmed:** current official employment, public-works, and safety pages support the numeric triggers taught in this guide. [S13-S23]
- **Confirmed:** the original-license application still lists \$450 application, \$200 sole-owner initial, and \$350 non-sole-owner initial fees; experience is four journey-level years within the preceding ten, and an RME works at least 32 hours or 80 percent of operating hours, whichever is less. [S26]

- **Confirmed:** CSLB examination eligibility expires after 18 months if the required examination or examinations are not passed. Passing-result and waiver rules should not be collapsed into a generic five-year extension. [S28]
- **Confirmed:** a written home-improvement contract is required when the aggregate price exceeds \$500, which is distinct from the under-\$1,000 minor-work license exemption. [S12, S32]
- **Confirmed:** as of July 1, 2026, the current unlicensed administrative citation range is \$1,500 to \$15,000; older \$200-minimum material is stale. [S04]
- **Confirmed survey result, not causal proof:** among 1,653 recently licensed respondents, 57% used CSLB study guides, 59% used the Law Book, 61% attended a school/class, and 65% of attendees rated it useful; response rate was 11%. [S24]
- **Derived practice:** markup, margin, break-even, current-ratio, labor-burden, and cash-flow drills are transparent arithmetic mapped to the S01 Business Finances domain; they are not statutory claims.
- **Unknown:** CSLB does not publish the operational question count or passing score in S01. The app uses 25- and 50-question practice sets only as learning formats.
- **User check:** compare the resources and instructions on the Notice to Appear against S01 before exam day.

Community Evidence Registry - CSLB Law & Business

Last verified: 2026-08-01

Community evidence is used only to choose study formats, resource order, and review tactics. It does not establish the law, exam questions, the passing score, or what any future candidate will see. Official source IDs [S01-S34](#) control doctrine.

ID	Evidence type	Useful signal	Reliability limits	URL
C01	Reddit, r/Contractor, May 2026	Recent candidates describe school questions as conceptually similar rather than exact, and recommend answering easy items first, then returning to difficult items	Small self-selected thread; trade and Law & Business experiences are mixed together	< https://www.reddit.com/r/Contractor/comments/1t5mem3/general_b_exam_cslb/ >
C02	Reddit, r/AskContractors, July 2026	A candidate reports passing after daily 115-question practice, says the real exam was more scenario-based, and notes content mismatch in both directions	One first-person report; the thread discusses Contractor-Prep and includes no independent audit of its bank	< https://www.reddit.com/r/AskContractors/comments/1sxkk4m/would_you_say_this_website_is_credible_for_cslb/ >
C03	Reddit, r/Construction, 2025-2026	A candidate reports passing after using about 200 explanation-backed questions and finding them harder than the exam; the thread emphasizes weight-first study	The resource creator participates heavily, so promotional conflict is present; the pass report is a separate low-engagement reply	< https://www.reddit.com/r/Construction/comments/1n30t9h/how_do_i_pass_the_law_and_business_exam_for/ >
C04	Reddit, r/Contractor, 2024-2025	Multiple replies recommend PaintThinnerGang notes/videos or repeated practice tests; one reply rejects Quizlet-only preparation	Low vote counts, unnamed paid bank in one report, and no way to verify study exposure	< https://www.reddit.com/r/Contractor/comments/1ah6ykf/ >
C05	Reddit, r/Contractor, May 2025	Mixed reports show both paid-school and low-cost/self-study paths can work; a first-time passer warns that background knowledge mattered	Retrospective anecdotes with selection bias; does not compare equivalent candidates	< https://www.reddit.com/r/Contractor/comments/1kqssut/cslb_study_guides/ >

ID	Evidence type	Useful signal	Reliability limits	URL
C06	Reddit, r/Contractor, 2024-2025	Several candidates say a commercial digital book/question bank helped with Law & Business, while one estimates a meaningful minority of actual content felt new	Thread began about a trade-exam failure; vendor mentions may include promotion and exact percentages are recollections	< https://www.reddit.com/r/Contractor/comments/1dqsq4w/i_am_practicing_to_pass_my_cslb_trade_exam_in/ >
C07	Reddit, r/Contractor, 2024	A candidate describes repeating practice sets until 85-90 percent while worrying about memorization without understanding vocabulary	Preparation-stage report, not a confirmed outcome in the quoted passage	< https://www.reddit.com/r/Contractor/comments/1din2nl/general_contractor_b_exam_ca/ >
C08	YouTube, PaintThinnerGang, February 2026	Current free multipart Law & Business walkthrough; the research engine found it was the highest-signal exam-specific video and Reddit users independently recommended the channel	Creator-made, not CSLB-reviewed; every legal number must be checked against the official registry	< https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DNYQcIt9wGg >
C09	YouTube, PaintThinnerGang, April 2025	High-engagement question-and-answer review useful for retrieval practice	Older than C08 and includes direct answer delivery; wording and legal figures may be stale or oversimplified	< https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BE4-FA3Zeo8 >
C10	YouTube, PaintThinnerGang, 2026 Part 2	Walkthrough of CSLB purpose/enforcement, home-improvement salespersons, and contract fundamentals; useful timestamps were extracted into the verified-video notes	Creator-made, not CSLB-reviewed; it overstates topic certainty, contains a senior-age contradiction, and simplifies contract exceptions	< https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPy0deA_b4g >

Research record

- Query plan: [sources/community-research-plan.json](#)
- Live social/video raw file: [/Users/m5-pro/Documents/Last30Days/california-cslb-law-and-business-exam-test-taker-experiences-study-resources-preparation-raw-v3.md](#)
- Recent-source limitation: the live engine returned many off-topic high-engagement construction posts. Only exam-specific results survived curation.
- Conflict rule: when community advice conflicts with an official source, discard the community claim.