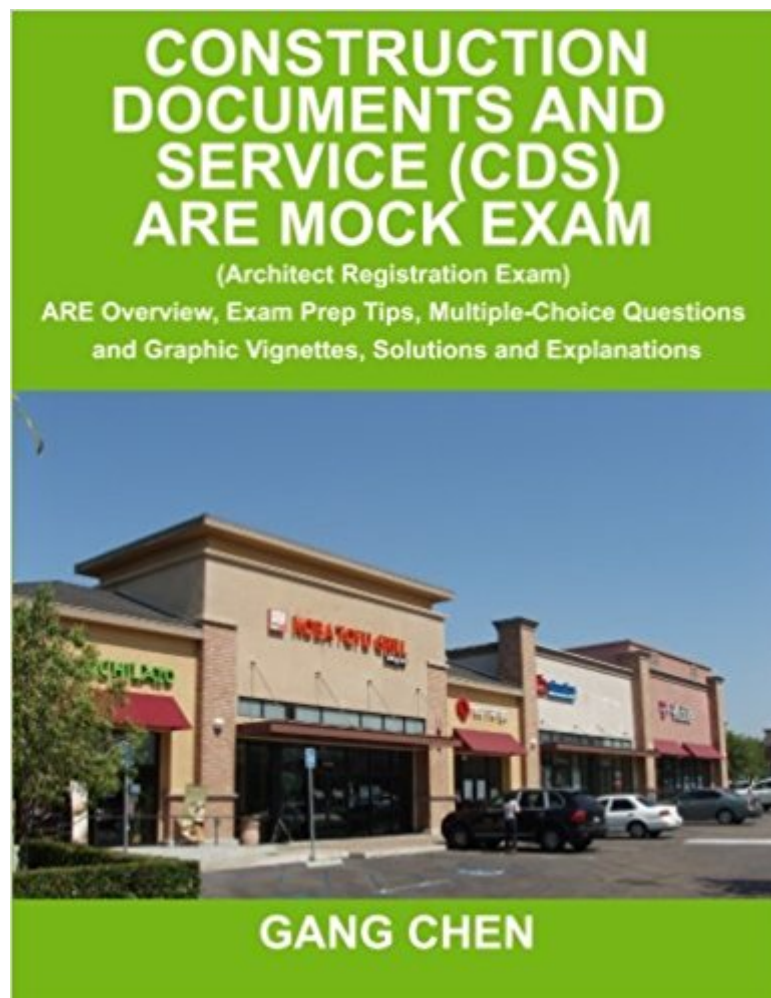




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# **Construction Documents And Service (CDS) ARE Mock Exam (Architect Registration Exam): ARE Overview, Exam Prep Tips, Multiple-Choice Questions And Graphic Vignettes, Solutions And Explanations**





## Synopsis

A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS & SERVICE DIVISION OF THE ARE ! Every July, NCARB begins to draw the Architect Registration Examinations (ARE) questions from a new edition of ARE exam guide and scope. We have incorporated this latest information into our books. Â To become a licensed architect, you need to have a proper combination of education and/or experience, meeting your Board of Architecture's special requirements, as well as passing all seven divisions of ARE. This book provides an ARE exam overview, resources, exam prep and exam taking techniques, tips and guide, a realistic and complete set of Mock Exams, solutions, and explanations for the Construction Documents & Service (CDS) Division of the ARE. This book covers the following subjects: 1. ARE, IDP, and Education Requirements 2. ARE Exam Content, Format, and Prep strategies 3. Bidding Procedures and Documents 4. Codes and Regulations 5. Environmental Issues 6. Construction Administration Services 7. Construction Drawings 8. Project Manual and Specifications 9. Contractual Documents 10. Project and Practice Management 11. Two Building Section Vignettes with Step-By-Step Solutions Using NCARB Practice Program Software This book includes 100 challenging questions in the same difficulty level and format as the real exam (multiple-choice, check-all-that-apply, and fill-in-the-blank), and two graphic vignettes. It will help you pass the CDS division of the ARE and become a licensed architect! Can you study and pass the ARE Construction Document and Service Exam (CDS) Exam in 2 weeks? The answer is yes IF you study the right materials: If you have ZERO experience but read the right materials, you can pass with 2 weeks of prep. If you study our book, "Construction Documents and Service (CDS) ARE Mock Exam (Architect Registration Exam)," you have an excellent chance of studying and passing the ARE Construction Documents and Service (CDS) Exam in 2 weeks. We have added many tips and tricks that WILL help you pass the exam on your first try. Our goal is to take a very complicated subject and make it simple. Â "Construction Documents and Service (CDS) ARE Mock Exam (Architect Registration Exam)" will save you time and money and help you pass the exam on the first try! Â Sample text from "CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS AND SERVICE (CDS) ARE MOCK EXAM (ARCHITECT REGISTRATION EXAM)": Â ... 1) Draw the slab on grade: Â Draw > Slab on GradeÂ (Figure 2.1) Â Note: The slab is NOT continuous, and it stops at the interior bearing wall, i.e., interior bearing wall sits directly on the foundation below and divides the slab into two segments on this section. You can use Zoom command to zoom in and adjust or move the element you draw to a more accurate location. Â You should place the bottom of the slab right on top of the grade line... FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) for CDS:Â Where are the five feet measured exactly for the CDS NCARB sample vignette, from grade to bottom or top of footing? (It's

more logic to the top) Response: This issue has been solved and proved by many candidates. It is measured from the finish grade (NOT finish floor) to the bottom of the footing (This is the MINIMUM requirement). This is the ideal solution. However, if you draw it to the top of the footing or anything between the top and the bottom of the footing, you will also pass. Should the top of foundation align with top of slab? It's not drawn this way in NCARB? Response: Either way is OK as long as you maintain 5'-0" between the finish grade (NOT finish floor) and the bottom of the footing. All our books are available at [GreenExamEducation.com](http://GreenExamEducation.com) Check out FREE tips and info for all ARE Exams at [GeeForum.com](http://GeeForum.com), you can post jpeg files of your vignettes or your questions for other users' review.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Is CDS the easiest division? Â To me, CDS is the EASIEST divisions. It is a division that you can prepare in a short time using very limited study materials. I think ANYONE can study and pass CDS in 1 or 2 weeks if it is done right. No experience needed: Wells, experience is helpful but NOT mandatory. If you spend too much time, it is NOT going to help you. It will hurt you because you'd have forgotten most of the study materials by the time you take the exam. Â It is NOT how much you have read, but how much you can read, UNDERSTAND and MEMORIZE that counts. Â If you simply read the 650 pages of the AHPP once, it is NOT going to help you. You are much better off by reading the AIA documents mentioned in my book multiple times and make sure you retain the info. ARE Mock Exam series by ArchiteG, Inc. Â Time and effort is the most valuable asset of a candidate. How to cherish and effectively use your limited time and effort is the key of passing any

exam. That is why we publish the ARE Mock Exam series to help you to study and pass the ARE exams in the shortest time possible. We have done the hard work so that you can save time and money. We do not want to make you work harder than you have to. ^ Do not force yourself to memorize a lot of numbers. Read through the numbers a few times, and you should have a very good impression of them. ^ You need to make the judgment call: If you miss a few numbers, you can still pass the exam, but if you spend too much time drilling these numbers, you may miss out on the big pictures and fail the exam. ^ The official NCARB sample MC questions have no explanations, and the official NCARB sample vignettes have no step-by-step solutions. The existing ARE practice questions or exams by others are either way too easy or way over-killed. They do NOT match the real ARE exams at all. ^ We have done very comprehensive research on the official NCARB guides, many related websites, reference materials, and other available ARE exam prep materials. We match our mock exams vignettes questions as close as possible to the NCARB samples and the real ARE exams instead. Some other readers had failed an ARE exam two or three times before, and they eventually passed the exam with our help. ^ All our books include a step-by-step solution to each of the NCARB sample vignette with screenshots and related NCARB software commands, a complete set of MC questions (except for the SD ARE mock exam) and vignettes matching the real ARE exams, including number of questions, format, type of questions, etc. We also include detailed answers and explanations to our MC questions, and a step-by-step solution to each of the mock vignette with screenshots and related NCARB software commands. Our DWG files for our mock exam vignettes can also be installed and used with the NCARB software. ^ There is some extra information on ARE overviews and exam-taking tips in Chapter One. This is based on NCARB AND other valuable sources. This is a bonus feature we included in each book because we want our readers to be able to buy our ARE mock exam books together or individually. We want you to find all necessary ARE exam information and resources at one place and through our books.

What others are saying about "Construction Documents and Service (CDS) ARE Mock Exam (Architect Registration Exam)"... "Passed!!! "I PASSED!!! Having Gang Chen's book helped out greatly the second time around. I did not have this resource the first time taking the exam. So, I would highly recommend it for those who are preparing for the ARE - CDS exam. The book gives helpful study tips and pointer to preparing for the exam. The sample mock exam is great because it asks questions in an equivalent format that the actual exam would. What also is great is there is a detailed explanation of all the answers right or wrong and where to look it up. Overall this book helped. It is a must have for study material. Thank You, Gang Chen." -- James Lushbough ^ "Great Study Guide "The ARE CDS Mock Exam provided realistic exam-based

review questions which had a positive impact on my results. This review along with ARE Forum deserve credit for preparing me for my final exam. I am now a registered architect in my jurisdiction. Wouldn't have done it so soon without this valuable tool. Thanks again Mr. Gang Chen." -- John Schaaf ("FarmerJ")

Â "Excellent book! "When used in conjunction with solid study materials, this mock exam was invaluable to me for passing CDS on my first attempt. For the vignette, the walk-through was particularly helpful in navigating NCARB's notoriously difficult software by proposing a logically ordered sequence and showing where inefficiencies could be eliminated to save time and perfect solutions. The MC questions are well written, and although a couple of typos are present, the meaning is obvious, and doesn't outweigh what makes this a 5 star book. They're written like the NCARB questions, with various types...check all that apply, fill in the blank, best answer, etc. The answer key helpfully describes why the correct answer is correct, and why the incorrect answers are not. At half the cost of other mock exams, this is a must buy if you want to pass CDS the first time you take it." -- Domiane Forte ("Vitruvian Duck")

Â "Very helpful "I certainly recommend this book to everyone who is preparing to take this exam. It is very helpful, easy to read and understand. It covers various areas of the actual exams and gives you the information that you need to solve the MC questions and the vignette section. I liked the Mock-up practice exam in this book which is very beneficial and is similar to the type of questions that you would encounter in the real exam." -- Seta Ohanesian ("SO")

Â "A great supplemental study guide "This book by Gang Chen is a great supplemental study guide for the ARE exam preparation. The overview is thorough and a great compliment to Ballast and Kaplan. This is a must have study guide as the practice questions are comparable to NCARB's. I will also be using the Building Design & Construction Systems's (BDCS) study guide by Gang Chen for my next exam." -- Brian Fracasse ("BFracasse")

Â "Invaluable Practice Test "This is an amazing resource for studying the CDS portion of the ARE. After studying for months on my first exam trying to find a concise list of information that I should study from, I went into my first exam blindsided by the level of difficulty that the multiple choice questions had. This time around I wasn't going to take any chances. This book contains a step by step studying plan for this portion of the test and contains a full sample test for you to practice and see how your studying is progressing. It's nice to have some practice for those dreaded choose the best three answers out of the seven listed. After you go through the practice exam, there is a detailed explanation of all the answers to help give you some closure with the questions that just drive you nuts (compared to the real exam where you will never know what the correct answers to the questions really are). Overall a great book that is definitely worth every cent I paid." -- Michael Scott ("mscott")

"Finally! "An absolute necessity to understanding the practice of the construction/design industry at a practical level! The text is an essential supplement for the study of Architecture License exams as it provides another dimension of information to other study material currently on the market. Quick references to contract documents, official AIA, NCARB sites, and other texts for necessary information helps to reinforce answers to Mock exam. Even phrasing of questions, be it intentionally or poor editing, gets your mind into the right exam mode. In addition, many answers to questions that arise even in your daily journey to licensure are addressed, many of which I personally have not seen printed in any study material to date. A must-have!" -- Julie Babikian (BUILD "1COR.3:9-11")

Â "Highly recommended book - Construction Documents and Service (CDS) ARE Mock Exam by Gang Chen "This book is essential for the ARE candidates. It provides step by step instruction for the best vignette solution. The mock up exam's questions were similar to the actual exam. I personally find it really helpful to have taken this mock exam in preparation for my actual exam. Highly recommended!" -- Pooi Lee, who passed ARE CDS division on his first try. Â "Very easy to read "This book is very easy to read and it gives you extra information that I haven't found in other resources. It also gives you a very good insight for the vignettes. The mock up exam is very good Thank Mr. Chen!" -- Paulina Mancilla ("pau") Â "It allows one to understand the Architectural field "Mr. Chen has evidently thought of this book as a means of providing information that would more than just allow someone to pass the ARE CDS exam. It allows one to understand the Architectural field and all the issues behind Construction Documents and Services." -- Manish KalantriÂ Â Â Â Â Â Â ("MK") Â "Very helpful for preparing for the exam "This book gives a good overview of the actual CDS ARE test. It is a decent complement to other study materials when preparing for the ARE. It has overall lots of information, which are very helpful for preparing for the exam. I would suggest reading the entire manual at least twice before you take the CDS exam." -- Ruchi Dhar ("Dhar") "Pretty Insightful "I found Gang Chen's CDS review to provide another level deeper than my Ballast Book which is also good. I definitely recommend this book and he gives a couple very special insights on the vignette that nobody else does. He is to the point and clear, just the way I like it. An easy and fast read. Thank you!" -- Demetrios Christopoulos ("Designer") Â "Great practice "CDS is a challenging exam that is best prepared for by review of the required contracts and understanding how to apply them to practical situations. The practice exam provides an excellent opportunity to test and retest your ability to apply your knowledge. The vignette breakdown is also all you need to understand to easily pass that section. With a few other study materials this book helped me pass on the first try! Thanks!" --Sarah Â "No other review material

has been as helpful as this book "Definitely a very helpful and well structured exam review. Very good tips and a step by step walkthrough in completing the vignette section. No other review material has been as helpful as this book. I strongly recommend it to whoever wishes to pass this exam." --Juan Marmolejo Â "Excellent Resource "Of the many study aides for the ARE this is simply hand down the best. It is precise and concise to the point. If you follow this book you will have the greatest chance of passing the ARE the first time. The book strength is laying out a step-by-step process of obtaining the necessary skills to pass each section. It contains an excellent mock exam both for the Multiple Choice and Graphic Sections. For Graphic Section he layouts a step-by-step method to develop a passing solution in the shortest amount of time. He makes the complex subject simple." --A Paul ("Elias") Â "Best Review Guide in the market "This is the best Construction Documents review guide on the market. I had 4 days to study, so I needed to be efficient... All the books have a mock exams, all the books give you a reading lists to study. This books explains in detail what the answers are, and tells you where you can find them. Thereby, allowing you to study efficiently. There is nothing more frustrating than taking a mock exam, getting an answer wrong, and not knowing why. Chen's book alleviates this frustration by providing detailed answers with references for further reading. So instead of reading through thousands of pages of stuff you already know, all you need to do is; take the mock exam, read through the answers. For the questions that you get wrong, the guide tells you what to review and where to find the information. I do think the book covers the topics that would likely appear on the exam. The best part of the guide is the explanation for the solution to the building section. There is nowhere else where this solution is as clearly described. If for no other reason, BUY THIS BOOK for the building section solution. You will not find the solution elsewhere and it will save you hours of head scratching and give you confidence in drawing the solution." --Â Judy Wong

I bought this after reading the glowing reviews here and a few on AREforum. I returned it the next day, and I feel I should write this review to save others the \$\$ in return shipping. And the highest level, this book has too little useful content and too many problems to justify the price. It might be a worthy buy for \$15 or so, just for the additional sample multiple choice questions (which are decent, but not stellar). The advice / walkthrough for the vignette falls into two categories: advice commonly agreed upon and available for free by reading through the CDS section of the AREforum, and advice based on the author's speculation. The latter is spurious at best since there's no real way of knowing specifically how NCARB grades beyond a certain general level. At worst it's flat wrong. It's also overly verbose. You get the feeling like there was a conscious effort to make the thing longer,



to mask how little useful content there is. The huge font size throughout the text also contributes to this. The sample multiple choice generally seems to cover the material decently (though I didn't read all that much of it), but suffers from poor wording. The questions don't 'feel' like NCARB questions. If you want good multiple choice review, just buy the ballast book used. It has considerably more content and the questions are better structured. The production (typography/layout) is pretty poor. Not that it's a big deal but the book just doesn't look like it was put together by a pro. For \$60+ I'd kind of expect a little better.

Hard to follow

not as good as expected.

I did extensive research concerning what exam materials to purchase when preparing for the ARE CDS exam. Gang Chen's book was a great disappointment. I saw it was highly recommended however after prepping, cross referencing other guides, and taking the exam - I can conclude that it is good if you have extra money to spare and want another 100 set of questions to practice with. Otherwise invest in BALLAST ARE Practice CDS questions. Unlike Gang Chen's mock exam this book provides extensive explanations of questions/answers (in a more comprehensive manner) AND provides 2 sets of exams. I also notice Chen's book even repeats some questions from the free NCARB practice exam. Conclusion: Buy Ballast if you have to make a choice between the two resources because you get two sets of exams vs one, similar questions to that of Chens, and much better explanations to the exam questions that will help you target your weaker areas.

I have purchased the entire series of this book for the exams. I am using them in conjunction with the Kaplan study material. I found all of the extra information unnecessary and really only use the question and answer section for preparation. This series does a good job with the practice questions focusing on a more code based approach which I have found the Kaplan books lack. Together they seem to give a good balanced approach to studying and have successfully gotten me through the first three exams.

Gang Chen does a great job every time. I have purchased many of his books to help me study for the ARE. He does a very fantastic job of tricking you with how he words the questions and teaching you to SLOW DOWN when you read the practice questions. These books are well written and i

highly recommend Gang Chen to everyone!

I don't recommend this book, you are better off with Dorf and Ncarb recommended literature. In summary, is like a \$5 pamphlet, not worthy...

Practice problems are similar to the real exam. Design vignette instructions are very helpful and walk you through each step required to pass. This book helped me pass the test no doubt.

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