WATHIM
GCC exam prep

PRACTICE PACK

Qatar UPDA Engineer Exam

Sample paper

Two questions from each of the 4 papers (Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, Architecture) with the answer sheet, key and every answer explained, after the guide that opens the full pack.

2026 edition · 162 questions · 4 papers

162	4	25 · 60m	70%
ORIGINAL QUESTIONS	PAPERS, ONE PER DISCIPLINE	QUESTIONS · MINUTES A PAPER	OUR TARGET, NOT OFFICIAL

Prepared by Wathim · wathim.com · info@wathim.com

Original practice material. Not the official question bank.

About this pack

Qatar UPDA Engineer Exam Practice Bank · read this before you start.

162	4	4	100%
ORIGINAL QUESTIONS	EXAM-LENGTH PAPERS	TOPICS COVERED	ANSWERED AND SOURCED

Every question here comes with its correct answer, the reasoning, and the law, standard or study guide it is drawn from, so you learn the rule and not just the letter. The mix: 6 easier, 85 standard and 71 harder questions, marked on each one.

Electrical 41 | Architecture 41 | Civil 40 | Mechanical 40

The exam you are sitting

Type of test	Computer-based, multiple choice, in your own discipline *Training providers, consistent, 2026*
Number of questions	25 to 27, depending on the discipline and paper *Training providers, 2026*
Duration	60 minutes *Training providers, 2026*
Marking	No negative marking. Providers report +4 marks for a correct answer. *Training providers, 2026*
Pass mark	Not published by the Ministry. Providers variously say 13 of 25 (and 14 of 27), a minimum of 50%, and 60%. *Three providers, all unsourced*
Disciplines	Civil, mechanical, electrical and architecture are the papers most commonly offered *Training providers, 2026*
Attempts	No published limit we could find. Providers say fees apply again on a re-attempt. *Not established*
Grading after the exam	Trainee, C, B or A, decided on experience, qualifications, exam result and job role together *Training providers, 2026*
Renewal	Every three years once the licence is held *Training providers, 2026*

What these questions are. Original practice questions written by Wathim to the exam's published topics and to the laws and standards it tests. They are not real, recalled or leaked exam items, and no official question bank is published for this exam. Practising with honest original questions is the safe and effective way to prepare.

Topic coverage

Topic	Questions in this pack	Share
Electrical	**41**	25%
Architecture	**41**	25%
Civil	**40**	25%
Mechanical	**40**	25%

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Mark yourself

Score out of 25	Percentage	What it means
22-25	88-100%	Comfortably over the line. Keep the habit, sit the next paper cold.
18-21	72-84%	A pass, but a few questions either way decide it. Close your weakest topic first.
15-17	60-68%	Close. Read every answer you missed, then re-sit this paper in a week.
0-14	0-56%	A real gap. Work topic by topic before the next full paper.

25 questions in 60 minutes, the format providers consistently report. The Ministry publishes no pass mark, so the app shows a target rather than an official threshold - three sources give 60%, 50%, and 13 of 25, which is about 52%. The bands mark against 70%: 18 of 25.

How to use it

1. **Sit your own discipline's paper cold**
   25 questions, 60 minutes, no notes, on the answer sheet. A paper sat in one go tells you what you would score on the day.
2. **Mark it, then read every answer**
   The total says where you are. The answers and their sources say why, and that is the part that moves the score.
3. **Work the revision bank for your paper**
   The questions no paper uses are in the revision bank file, with their answers beside them. Do them by topic, not in one sitting.
4. **Re-sit the paper a week later**
   Cover your old marks. If the score has not moved, you read the answers without learning the rule behind them.
5. **Then sit the timed mock online**
   The same bank runs as a timed mock at wathim.com/practice/qatar-upda-practice, which tracks what you keep missing.

What is in the download

6 PDFs, each with its own cover, named **Wathim - Qatar UPDA Engineer Exam - *part*.pdf**. Print only the paper you are about to sit.

Start here	This guide: the exam, topic coverage, how to mark yourself and how to use the pack
Paper 1 - Civil	25 questions · 60 minutes · answer sheet, key, every answer explained, and the score bands
Paper 2 - Mechanical	25 questions · 60 minutes · answer sheet, key, every answer explained, and the score bands
Paper 3 - Electrical	25 questions · 60 minutes · answer sheet, key, every answer explained, and the score bands
Paper 4 - Architecture	25 questions · 60 minutes · answer sheet, key, every answer explained, and the score bands
Revision bank	62 more questions by topic, with the answer under each, and the night-before list of the hardest questions

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Answer sheet

Sample paper. Shade one letter per question, then mark it against the key at the end of the paper.

Name _____ Date _____ Score / 8

1 (A) (B) (C) (D)	2 (A) (B) (C) (D)	3 (A) (B) (C) (D)	4 (A) (B) (C) (D)	5 (A) (B) (C) (D)
6 (A) (B) (C) (D)	7 (A) (B) (C) (D)	8 (A) (B) (C) (D)		

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QATAR UPDA ENGINEER EXAM

Sample paper: 8 questions

8 of **162** questions
sample

Choose the single best answer. Answers and reasoning follow.

Q1 Civil STANDARD

Why is dewatering often needed for deep excavation in coastal Qatar?

A. To reduce the concrete's water-cement ratio
B. To speed up compaction of imported fill
C. Because the groundwater table is shallow and would otherwise flood and destabilise the excavation
D. To improve the surveyor's line of sight

Q2 Civil STANDARD

Which soil property most directly governs the rate at which a saturated clay consolidates?

A. Its coefficient of consolidation, driven by permeability
B. Its plasticity index
C. Its specific gravity
D. Its colour

Q3 Mechanical STANDARD

What is the significance of a material's yield strength in design?

A. The stress at which fracture occurs
B. The stress beyond which permanent deformation begins
C. The maximum elastic deflection
D. The stress at which creep starts

Q4 Mechanical STANDARD

For a beam in bending, where does the maximum bending stress occur in the cross-section?

A. At the neutral axis
B. Uniformly across the section
C. At the extreme fibres furthest from the neutral axis
D. At the shear centre

Q5 Electrical STANDARD

In a CCTV or access control system, why is the cable route a security consideration?

A. Because an accessible cable is a point at which the system can be defeated
B. It affects image quality only
C. It affects the colour rendering
D. It reduces the power consumption

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Q6 Electrical STANDARD

What is the purpose of a load schedule?

A To record installed cable lengths
B To set out connected load, diversity and estimated maximum demand per board
C To list the lamps
D To record test results

Q7 Architecture STANDARD

Why is a snagging or defects inspection carried out before handover?

A To revalue the project
B To identify incomplete or defective work for correction before the building is accepted
C To test the design
D To close the contract immediately

Q8 Architecture STANDARD

Why is a dead-end corridor limited more tightly than a corridor with escape in two directions?

A To reduce construction cost
B To improve daylight
C Because an occupant has no alternative if the single route is blocked
D To simplify the ductwork

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Answer key at a glance

Mark your sheet and count your score first. Then read every answer below, including the ones you got right: a lucky guess looks the same as knowledge on the sheet.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
C	A	B	C	A	B	B	C

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Sample paper: answers and reasoning

Why the answer is right, why the others are not, and where the rule comes from.

Q1 Answer: **C** **Because the groundwater table is shallow and would otherwise flood and destabilise the excavation**

Coastal groundwater is shallow and often aggressive. Dewatering keeps the excavation workable and prevents base heave and piping, and the discharge itself is regulated.

Source: Qatar Construction Specifications, earthworks and dewatering

Q2 Answer: **A** **Its coefficient of consolidation, driven by permeability**

The rate depends on the coefficient of consolidation, which is governed by permeability and compressibility. Clays consolidate slowly because water drains out slowly, which is why settlement can continue for years.

Source: Terzaghi one-dimensional consolidation theory; EN 1997

Q3 Answer: **B** **The stress beyond which permanent deformation begins**

Yield marks the onset of permanent deformation. Ultimate tensile strength is the fracture-related limit, and most ductile design works to yield with a margin.

Source: Standard materials engineering

Q4 Answer: **C** **At the extreme fibres furthest from the neutral axis**

Bending stress varies linearly from zero at the neutral axis to a maximum at the extreme fibres, which is why material is placed far from the neutral axis in an I-section.

Source: Standard strength of materials

Q5 Answer: **A** **Because an accessible cable is a point at which the system can be defeated**

A system is only as secure as its weakest physical point. Cable in accessible containment outside the protected area can be cut or tapped, defeating the detection it was installed to provide.

Source: Standard electronic security system design practice

Q6 Answer: **B** **To set out connected load, diversity and estimated maximum demand per board**

The load schedule converts connected load into maximum demand, which sizes the supply, the protection and the cables. It is the arithmetic the rest of the design depends on.

Source: Standard electrical installation design practice

Q7 Answer: **B** **To identify incomplete or defective work for correction before the building is accepted**

Snagging records what remains outstanding at the point the client takes the building. It is leverage that largely disappears once possession has been taken.

Source: Standard construction handover practice

Q8 Answer: **C** **Because an occupant has no alternative if the single route is blocked**

With one way out, a single obstruction traps everyone beyond it. Codes therefore limit dead ends far more tightly than routes offering a choice of direction.

Source: Standard fire safety code practice

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What the full pack contains

This sample takes two questions from each paper. The full pack is:

Start here	The guide at the front of this sample, in full
4 full papers	One for each of Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, Architecture: 25 questions · 60 minutes each, with answer sheet, key, every answer explained and the score bands
Revision bank	62 more questions by topic with the answer under each, and the night-before list
Total	162 original questions, every one answered and sourced

Get the full pack at **wathim.com/practice/qatar-upda-practice**

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