

16.4 (a) Concrete consists of an aggregate of particles that are bonded together by a cement.

(b) Three limitations of concrete are: (1) it is a relatively weak and brittle material; (2) it experiences relatively large thermal expansions (contractions) with changes in temperature; and (3) it may crack when exposed to freeze-thaw cycles.

(c) Three reinforcement strengthening techniques are: (1) reinforcement with steel wires, rods, etc.; (2) reinforcement with fine fibers of a high modulus material; and (3) introduction of residual compressive stresses by prestressing or posttensioning.