

# Alabama Journeyman Plumbing Pre-Test Practice (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

**This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of questions,**

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# Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

# How to Use This Guide

**This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:**

## 1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

**Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Don't worry about getting everything right, your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.**

## 2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

**Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations, and take breaks to retain information better.**

## 3. Learn from the Explanations

**After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.**

## 4. Track Your Progress

**Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.**

## 5. Simulate the Real Exam

**Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.**

## 6. Repeat and Review

**Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning.**

## 7. Use Other Tools

**Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.**

**There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly — adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!**

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## **Questions**

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- 1. How do you properly pitch a horizontal drain pipe?**
  - A. Level with the floor**
  - B. Towards the drain at a slope according to specifications**
  - C. Away from the drain**
  - D. At a downward angle of 45 degrees**
  
- 2. What is the role of a pressure-reducing valve (PRV) in a plumbing system?**
  - A. To filter incoming water**
  - B. To increase water pressure**
  - C. To reduce incoming water pressure to a safe level**
  - D. To measure water temperature**
  
- 3. What is the minimum interior cross-sectional area required for all shower compartments?**
  - A. 600 in.<sup>2</sup>**
  - B. 800 in.<sup>2</sup>**
  - C. 900 in.<sup>2</sup>**
  - D. 1000 in.<sup>2</sup>**
  
- 4. What is the load value in water supply fixture units for hot water in a kitchen sink faucet for private use?**
  - A. 1**
  - B. 2**
  - C. 3**
  - D. 4**
  
- 5. What is a common method used to connect pipes in plumbing?**
  - A. Soldering**
  - B. Welding**
  - C. Cold fusing**
  - D. Drilling**

**6. In a predominantly flush valve supply system with a WSFU load of 60, what is the demand in gallons per minute?**

- A. 45
- B. 54
- C. 60
- D. 72

**7. Which plumbing tool is specifically used to clear clogs in smaller drain lines?**

- A. Hand auger or drain snake
- B. Pipe wrench
- C. Plumber's tape
- D. Caulking gun

**8. What is the minimum size for a main in piping of a central vacuum system?**

- A. 1/2 inch
- B. 3/4 inch
- C. 1 inch
- D. 1 1/2 inch

**9. What is the main purpose of a shower diverter?**

- A. To control the temperature of shower water
- B. To redirect water flow from the tub spout to the showerhead
- C. To prevent clogs in shower drains
- D. To increase water pressure in the shower

**10. How often should backflow preventers be tested?**

- A. Every six months
- B. Annually
- C. Every two years
- D. Only when a problem occurs

## **Answers**

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1. B
2. C
3. C
4. A
5. A
6. B
7. A
8. C
9. B
10. B

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## **Explanations**

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## 1. How do you properly pitch a horizontal drain pipe?

- A. Level with the floor
- B. Towards the drain at a slope according to specifications**
- C. Away from the drain
- D. At a downward angle of 45 degrees

To properly pitch a horizontal drain pipe, it is essential to direct it towards the drain at a specific slope as outlined in plumbing specifications. This slope facilitates the flow of wastewater and ensures that solids and liquids move effectively through the pipe without causing blockages. Typically, the pitch for horizontal drain pipes is about a quarter of an inch per foot for pipes that are 3 inches or larger in diameter, although local codes may vary. This gradual slope allows gravity to assist in transporting waste away from fixtures toward the drainage system and ultimately to the sewer or septic system. Maintaining the correct pitch is crucial for the overall efficiency of the plumbing system, preventing backflow and ensuring that the system functions properly over time. A level pipe may lead to stagnant water, while pitching away from the drain can cause proper drainage to become compromised. Similarly, a steep angle like 45 degrees is not just impractical but could lead to increased wear on the pipe and other issues. Thus, following the manufacturer's specifications and local codes is fundamental to ensuring a well-functioning drainage system.

## 2. What is the role of a pressure-reducing valve (PRV) in a plumbing system?

- A. To filter incoming water
- B. To increase water pressure
- C. To reduce incoming water pressure to a safe level**
- D. To measure water temperature

The role of a pressure-reducing valve (PRV) in a plumbing system is to reduce incoming water pressure to a safe level. High water pressure can lead to a variety of problems, including leaks and damage to plumbing fixtures and appliances. A PRV controls the pressure of water entering a building or a specific plumbing system by automatically reducing it to a preset level, which protects the plumbing infrastructure and maintains efficient operation throughout the system. Maintaining a proper pressure level is crucial for ensuring the longevity of pipes and fixtures, as well as optimizing water flow. A correctly functioning PRV helps prevent over-pressurization, which can lead to issues such as burst pipes or excessive wear on plumbing fixtures. In contrast, filtering incoming water is typically the function of a different device, such as a water filter, and increasing water pressure is not a function of the PRV, as its purpose is the opposite. Measuring water temperature is carried out by temperature gauges or thermometers, not by a PRV, which focuses solely on managing pressure.

**3. What is the minimum interior cross-sectional area required for all shower compartments?**

- A. 600 in.<sup>2</sup>**
- B. 800 in.<sup>2</sup>**
- C. 900 in.<sup>2</sup>**
- D. 1000 in.<sup>2</sup>**

The minimum interior cross-sectional area required for all shower compartments, which is identified as 900 square inches, ensures adequate space for the occupant's comfort and safety. This standard is established to provide enough room for an individual to move freely while bathing, thereby reducing the risk of accidents such as slipping or falling within the enclosed space. In the context of plumbing design and bathroom construction, maintaining certain measurements is critical not only for compliance with building codes but also for enhancing the user experience. A shower compartment that meets or exceeds this minimum area can accommodate various installation features, such as grab bars or seating, which further improve accessibility and utility. The specified minimum area of 900 square inches aligns with industry standards and reflects best practices in residential and commercial plumbing installations, ensuring that showers are both functional and comfortable for users.

**4. What is the load value in water supply fixture units for hot water in a kitchen sink faucet for private use?**

- A. 1**
- B. 2**
- C. 3**
- D. 4**

The load value for hot water in a kitchen sink faucet for private use is established at 1 water supply fixture unit. This value is part of the plumbing code and is used to determine the demand on the water supply system. The fixture unit is a standardized measure that helps plumbers calculate the overall load on the system based on the number of fixtures and their usage patterns. A kitchen sink is typically used for domestic purposes, and its water supply demand is relatively low compared to other fixtures in a plumbing system. The value of 1 fixture unit accurately reflects the average usage for typical residential kitchen sinks, allowing for effective sizing of water supply pipes and ensuring adequate water pressure is maintained throughout the system. Higher values associated with other options would apply to fixtures with more significant load requirements, such as bathtubs, showers, or commercial-grade faucets, which necessitate a more robust supply system. Understanding these load values is crucial for proper plumbing design and installation.

**5. What is a common method used to connect pipes in plumbing?**

**A. Soldering**

**B. Welding**

**C. Cold fusing**

**D. Drilling**

Soldering is a common method used to connect pipes in plumbing, particularly for copper pipes. This process involves melting a filler metal (solder) to join the pipes together. The heat from a soldering torch allows the solder to flow into the joint, creating a strong, watertight seal once it cools and solidifies. Soldering is widely used because it is effective for joining pipes that will carry water and other liquids, ensuring durability and leakage prevention. In addition to soldering, the other methods listed have different applications and are not typically suited for standard plumbing connections. Welding, for instance, is generally reserved for thicker metals used in structural applications rather than for conventional plumbing tasks. Cold fusing is a process associated with certain types of plastics and is not applicable to traditional metal plumbing systems. Drilling does not serve the purpose of connecting pipes but rather involves creating holes or access points in materials. Thus, soldering stands out as the standard technique for joining pipes in plumbing systems.

**6. In a predominantly flush valve supply system with a WSFU load of 60, what is the demand in gallons per minute?**

**A. 45**

**B. 54**

**C. 60**

**D. 72**

To determine the demand in gallons per minute (GPM) for a predominantly flush valve supply system with a Water Supply Fixture Unit (WSFU) load of 60, it's important to understand how to convert WSFU to GPM. The demand in GPM can be estimated using plumbing design standards, which often provide a relationship or conversion factor between WSFUs and GPM, particularly in commercial applications where flush valves are commonly used. For a WSFU load of 60, typical conversion calculations based on established plumbing codes indicate that the demand would align closely with the efficiency of flush valve systems. When calculating the demand, reference may be made to recognized tables or guidelines that provide standard flow rates for different fixtures. For a flush valve system, particularly one with high-volume needs, the demand can be calculated to approximate 54 GPM when applying the conventional factors utilized in plumbing design. This estimation acknowledges characteristics of flush valve systems, which often have higher flow rates compared to gravity-fed fixtures. Thus, the conversion for a WSFU load of 60 effectively leads to a demand of 54 GPM, providing the logic behind this choice. The correct answer is consistent with the operational flow expectations for such systems, ensuring they can efficiently service

**7. Which plumbing tool is specifically used to clear clogs in smaller drain lines?**

- A. Hand auger or drain snake**
- B. Pipe wrench**
- C. Plumber's tape**
- D. Caulking gun**

The hand auger, also known as a drain snake, is specifically designed to navigate through smaller drain lines to remove clogs. This tool features a flexible, coiled metal wire that can easily reach into the bends and curves of smaller pipes, allowing the user to break up and retrieve blockages caused by debris, hair, grease, or other materials. Its design allows for manual cranking, giving the plumber precise control to effectively push through the clog, making it ideal for clearing obstructions without the need for harsh chemicals or dismantling pipework. Understanding the function of this tool is critical for tackling common plumbing issues efficiently and minimizing damage to drainage systems. Other tools like the pipe wrench, plumber's tape, and caulking gun serve different purposes in plumbing tasks. The pipe wrench is primarily used for gripping and turning pipes and fittings, plumber's tape is used for sealing threaded joints to prevent leaks, and the caulking gun dispenses adhesive or sealant. None of these options are suitable for specifically clearing clogs from smaller drain lines, which is where the hand auger excels.

**8. What is the minimum size for a main in piping of a central vacuum system?**

- A. 1/2 inch**
- B. 3/4 inch**
- C. 1 inch**
- D. 1 1/2 inch**

The minimum size for a main in the piping of a central vacuum system is 1 inch. This size is important to ensure adequate airflow and suction capability throughout the vacuum system. A 1-inch diameter pipe can handle the necessary air volume and maintain effective suction, which is crucial for the system to efficiently collect debris and dust from the designated areas. Piping that is too small could lead to restrictions in airflow, resulting in diminished performance, increased noise levels, and potential strain on the vacuum unit itself. Therefore, using a 1-inch main piping size helps to optimize the function of the central vacuum system and ensure that it operates effectively and reliably.

## 9. What is the main purpose of a shower diverter?

- A. To control the temperature of shower water
- B. To redirect water flow from the tub spout to the showerhead**
- C. To prevent clogs in shower drains
- D. To increase water pressure in the shower

The main purpose of a shower diverter is to redirect water flow from the tub spout to the showerhead. When you pull up on the diverter knob or lever on the tub spout, it changes the direction of water flow, allowing you to switch between using the bathtub faucet and the shower. This function is essential for those who want the convenience of switching between bathing in the tub and taking a shower without the need for separate controls or fixtures. The diverter is typically integrated into the tub spout or may be a separate valve in the plumbing system, making it a crucial component in the design of modern shower-bath combinations.

## 10. How often should backflow preventers be tested?

- A. Every six months
- B. Annually**
- C. Every two years
- D. Only when a problem occurs

Backflow preventers are critical devices used in plumbing systems to prevent contaminated water from reversing flow back into the clean water supply. Testing these devices annually ensures they are functioning correctly and effectively safeguarding public health. Regular testing helps identify any wear and tear or malfunctions, allowing for timely repairs and maintenance. While some systems may recommend different testing intervals based on specific local regulations or usage conditions, the annual testing standard is widely accepted as a best practice. This practice minimizes the risk of cross-contamination and ensures compliance with health and safety regulations. Always following the most stringent testing requirements helps ensure that drinking water remains safe and free from potential pollutants.

# Next Steps

**Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.**

**As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.**

**If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at [hello@examzify.com](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://aljourneymanplumbingpretest.examzify.com>**

**We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!**

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