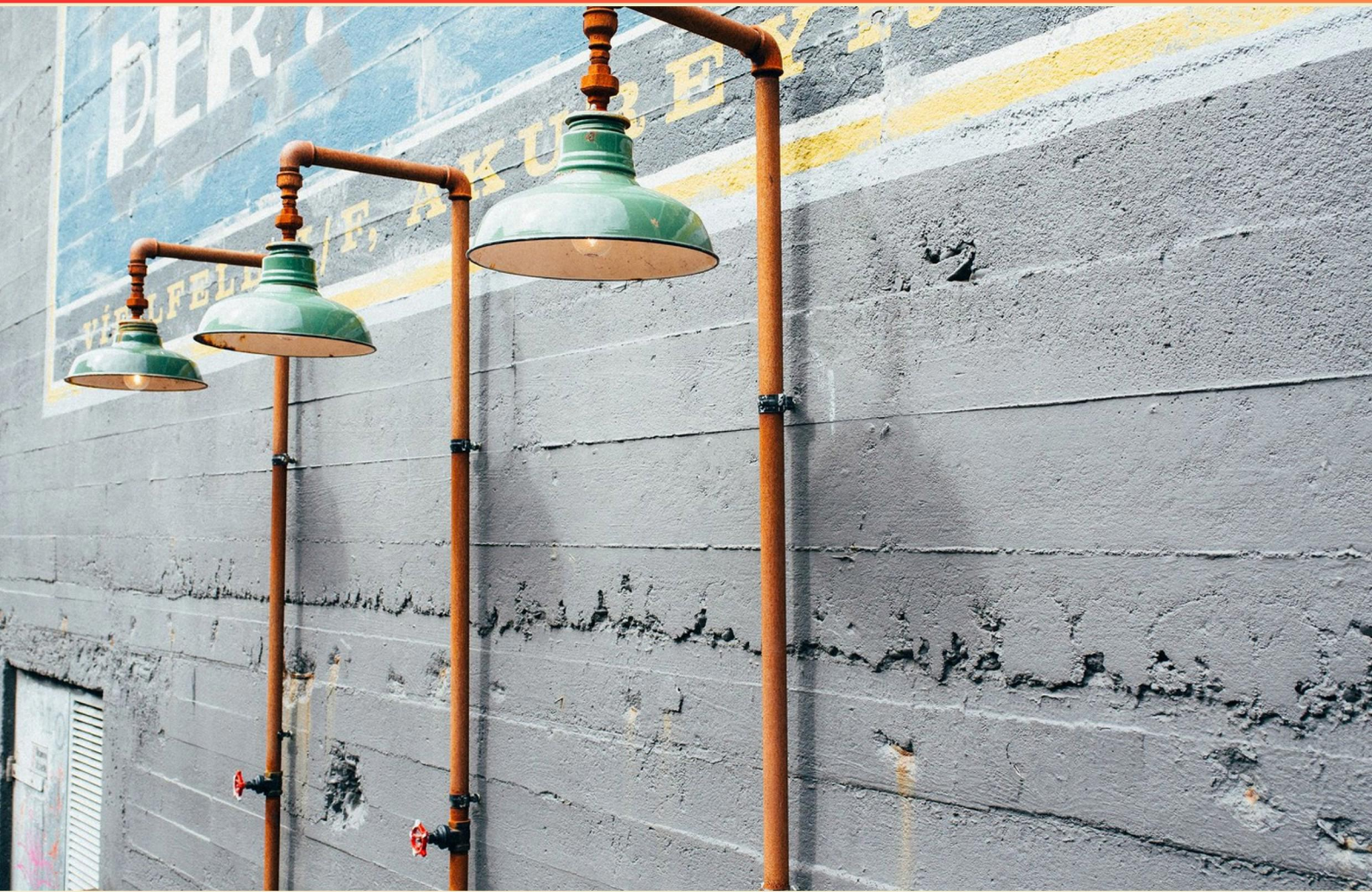


# AWWA ABC WATER DISTRIBUTION GRADES 1 AND 2 (SAMPLE)

## STUDY GUIDE



*Prepare with structure. Pass with confidence*



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# Table of Contents

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Copyright .....             | 1  |
| Table of Contents .....     | 2  |
| Introduction .....          | 3  |
| How to Use This Guide ..... | 4  |
| Questions .....             | 5  |
| Answers .....               | 8  |
| Explanations .....          | 10 |
| Next Steps .....            | 16 |

SAMPLE

# 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. 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.

## 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. 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!

## Questions

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- 1. What type of meter is referred to as an analog meter with a needle?**
  - A. D'Arsonval meter
  - B. Digital multimeter
  - C. Clamp meter
  - D. Solid state meter
- 2. What type of meter is most common for individual service lines?**
  - A. Positive displacement meters
  - B. Magnetic meters
  - C. Coriolis meters
  - D. Turbine meters
- 3. What components are used to create a flow restriction and prevent excessive circulation of water between the impeller discharge and suction areas?**
  - A. Wear rings
  - B. Check valves
  - C. Pressure gauges
  - D. Flow meters
- 4. If the excavation on a road needs to close one lane and the speed limit is 25 mph, how many cones are needed to divert traffic?**
  - A. 3
  - B. 4
  - C. 6
  - D. 8
- 5. Which three types of power actuators are commonly used to operate valves in water systems?**
  - A. Mechanical, thermal, and pneumatic
  - B. Electric, hydraulic, and pneumatic
  - C. Electric, manual, and hydraulic
  - D. Solar, electric, and thermal

- 6. What is generally discouraged regarding the use of fire hydrants?**
- A. Frequent usage for general water needs
  - B. Unauthorized use in emergency situations
  - C. Miscellaneous use without control
  - D. Operational testing without supervision
- 7. What are the types of valves commonly found in water systems?**
- A. Ball, pinch, and check valves
  - B. Gate, globe, pressure-relief, air-and-vacuum relief, and butterfly valves
  - C. Globe, pinch, and diaphragm valves
  - D. All of the above
- 8. Which of the following is not generally a process used for compacting the pipe embedment and backfill placed in a trench?**
- A. Sifting
  - B. Tamping
  - C. Vibrating
  - D. Rolling
- 9. Is it true that gaskets should always be stored in a clean, secure location until they are needed?**
- A. True
  - B. False
  - C. Sometimes
  - D. Not applicable
- 10. What are the two principal types of throttling valves used in a water system?**
- A. Altitude valves and backpressure valves
  - B. Pressure-reducing valves and altitude valves
  - C. Globe valves and butterfly valves
  - D. None of the above

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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## 1. What type of meter is referred to as an analog meter with a needle?

- A. D'Arsonval meter**
- B. Digital multimeter
- C. Clamp meter
- D. Solid state meter

*An analog meter with a needle is indeed referred to as a D'Arsonval meter. This type of meter operates on the principle of electromagnetic deflection, where the current flowing through a coil creates a magnetic field that causes the needle to move against a calibrated scale. This provides a visual indication of the measurement being taken, such as voltage, current, or resistance. In contrast, a digital multimeter displays its readings on a digital screen, making it fundamentally different from the analog type. A clamp meter, while used to measure current, typically has jaws that clamp around a conductor and displays the measurement digitally or via a needle in some older models. Solid state meters use electronic components and circuits for measurement, rather than relying on the mechanical movement of a needle. Thus, the D'Arsonval meter stands out as the key example of an analog meter with a needle that accurately indicates varying electrical measurements.*

## 2. What type of meter is most common for individual service lines?

- A. Positive displacement meters**
- B. Magnetic meters
- C. Coriolis meters
- D. Turbine meters

*Positive displacement meters are most common for individual service lines because they accurately measure the flow of water in residential and small commercial applications. These meters work by capturing a specific volume of water as it flows through the meter. As water enters the meter, it moves a piston or diaphragm, which then causes the meter's register to record the flow. This design ensures that even at low flow rates, such as when a household might only be using a small amount of water, the meter still provides precise readings. This type of meter is particularly advantageous for billing purposes as it can reliably measure water consumption over various flow rates and pressures. The enduring use of positive displacement meters in individual service lines reflects their proven performance and reliability in accurately reflecting consumers' water use. Additionally, while magnetic, turbine, and Coriolis meters serve important roles in specific applications, they are less common in the context of individual service lines. Magnetic meters typically require a certain flow velocity for accurate measurements and are often used in larger pipes or industrial applications. Turbine meters can be very efficient but may not perform well at low flow rates, making them less suited for residential service. Coriolis meters, while highly accurate, are more often used in specialized industrial applications due to their complexity and*

**3. What components are used to create a flow restriction and prevent excessive circulation of water between the impeller discharge and suction areas?**

- A. Wear rings**
- B. Check valves
- C. Pressure gauges
- D. Flow meters

*Wear rings are crucial components in centrifugal pumps that serve to create a flow restriction between the impeller discharge and suction areas. They are typically positioned between the impeller and the pump casing and are designed to minimize the leakage of water back to the suction side of the pump. This helps maintain efficient flow and prevents excessive backflow that could lead to reduced pump performance or even cavitation. By providing a precise fit and controlled flow path, wear rings contribute to the overall hydraulic efficiency of the pump. If the clearance between the impeller and the wear ring is too large, it can allow too much fluid to circulate back, diminishing the effectiveness of the pumping action. Therefore, wear rings are integral to ensuring that the energy applied to the water is effectively transformed into flow, rather than being wasted by excessive recirculation. In contrast, components like check valves are used to prevent backflow in a system, but they do not specifically create flow restrictions like wear rings do. Pressure gauges monitor system pressure but do not directly affect flow restrictions, and flow meters measure the rate of flow rather than regulating it. Thus, wear rings uniquely fulfill the requirement of establishing flow restrictions to optimize pump performance.*

**4. If the excavation on a road needs to close one lane and the speed limit is 25 mph, how many cones are needed to divert traffic?**

- A. 3
- B. 4
- C. 6**
- D. 8

*To properly divert traffic in a situation where one lane of a road is closed, the number of traffic cones needed is determined by the guidelines set forth by traffic control standards. For a speed limit of 25 mph, it is generally recommended to place cones at specific intervals to ensure drivers have enough warning and guidance to safely navigate through the work zone. In most cases, with a lower speed limit of 25 mph, the standard practice is to place cones every 10 to 15 feet leading up to the work area. Typically, an effective setup for this scenario would require a minimum of 6 cones to create a clear and visible delineation for drivers, ensuring they are adequately alerted to the lane closure and have room to maneuver safely. This arrangement not only helps in guiding traffic but also enhances safety for both the drivers and the workers present in the excavation area. In contrast, fewer cones might not provide sufficient guidance or warning, while more than 6 could be excessive given the speed limit and the layout, leading to unnecessary clutter. Therefore, the reasoning behind needing 6 cones is based on providing an effective traffic control approach that aligns with safety protocols and visibility standards for the given speed limit.*

**5. Which three types of power actuators are commonly used to operate valves in water systems?**

- A. Mechanical, thermal, and pneumatic
- B. Electric, hydraulic, and pneumatic**
- C. Electric, manual, and hydraulic
- D. Solar, electric, and thermal

*The correct answer, which identifies the three commonly used types of power actuators in water systems, focuses on electric, hydraulic, and pneumatic actuators. Electric actuators are widely employed due to their ease of integration into modern control systems and their ability to provide precise control of valve position through electrical signals. They are advantageous for their reliability and low maintenance requirements. Hydraulic actuators utilize fluid pressure to operate valves and are favored in applications where high torque or force is necessary. Their ability to manage large valves or processes requiring significant power makes them essential in certain water distribution applications. Pneumatic actuators, which rely on compressed air, are valued for their quick response times and capability to deliver rapid valve operation. They are often used in situations where speed is crucial, or where electric power is unavailable or impractical. These three types of actuators are integral to efficient and effective valve operation in water distribution systems, highlighting their importance in maintaining the functionality and reliability of the water infrastructure. The other options listed include actuators that may not be as commonly associated with water systems or do not align with standard industry practices.*

**6. What is generally discouraged regarding the use of fire hydrants?**

- A. Frequent usage for general water needs
- B. Unauthorized use in emergency situations
- C. Miscellaneous use without control**
- D. Operational testing without supervision

*The correct choice highlights the concern surrounding miscellaneous use of fire hydrants without control. Fire hydrants are essential components of a water distribution system, primarily designed for emergency purposes, such as providing water to firefighting efforts. Using them for various unregulated purposes can lead to a range of issues. When hydrants are used without proper oversight or authorization, it can adversely affect the water supply system's pressure and flow rates. This can impede the ability of firefighters to access sufficient water during an emergency, potentially endangering lives and property. Additionally, unregulated use could lead to contamination of the water supply or damage to the hydrants themselves. As a result, municipalities often have strict guidelines governing hydrant usage to maintain the integrity and reliability of the water distribution system. On the other hand, the other options focus on specific incidents that, while significant, involve misuse or inappropriate handling of hydrants in more defined contexts. However, the overarching issue remains that any miscellaneous and uncontrolled use is discouraged to ensure system reliability and safety.*

**7. What are the types of valves commonly found in water systems?**

- A. Ball, pinch, and check valves
- B. Gate, globe, pressure-relief, air-and-vacuum relief, and butterfly valves**
- C. Globe, pinch, and diaphragm valves
- D. All of the above

*The correct answer includes gate, globe, pressure-relief, air-and-vacuum relief, and butterfly valves, all of which are commonly utilized in water distribution systems. Gate valves are essential for fully stopping or allowing the flow of water, making them ideal for on/off control and suitable for use in a service line. Globe valves are often used for regulating flow, providing greater control than gate valves, particularly in applications where precise adjustments are necessary. Pressure-relief valves are crucial for protecting the system from overpressure conditions, allowing excess pressure to escape as needed, which helps prevent damage to pipes and other infrastructure. Air-and-vacuum relief valves are designed to allow air to enter or exit the system, which is vital for maintaining proper pressure. Butterfly valves offer a balance of cost-effectiveness and efficiency and are typically engaged in larger pipe systems where space-saving designs are advantageous. Their quick operation makes them suitable for various applications in distribution systems. While other options include types of valves not as commonly found in all water systems, such as pinch and diaphragm valves, the specific collection of valves in the correct answer most accurately represents the standard choices in typical water distribution infrastructure.*

**8. Which of the following is not generally a process used for compacting the pipe embedment and backfill placed in a trench?**

- A. Sifting**
- B. Tamping
- C. Vibrating
- D. Rolling

*The process of compacting pipe embedment and backfill in a trench is critical for ensuring the stability and longevity of the pipeline. Among the methods listed, sifting is not used to achieve compaction. Sifting is generally a method used to separate materials based on size, such as removing large debris or aggregates from smaller particles. This process does not contribute to the density or stability required in compacting backfill. In contrast, tamping, vibrating, and rolling are established methods for compacting materials. Tamping involves applying a force using a tamper to compress the soil, increasing its density. Vibrating uses vibrations to rearrange soil particles, which leads to better compaction and stability. Rolling utilizes a heavy roller to press down on the soil, which also aids in achieving the required compaction levels. Thus, among the standard methods for compacting backfill in a trench, sifting does not serve this purpose.*

**9. Is it true that gaskets should always be stored in a clean, secure location until they are needed?**

**A. True**

B. False

C. Sometimes

D. Not applicable

*Storing gaskets in a clean, secure location until they are needed is indeed essential for ensuring their integrity and effectiveness when installed. Gaskets are critical components in sealing joints to prevent leaks in water distribution systems. If gaskets are exposed to dirt, moisture, or harsh environmental conditions during storage, their material properties can degrade. This degradation can lead to potential failure when installed, resulting in leaks and compromising system reliability. Proper storage conditions help to maintain the physical characteristics of the gaskets, ensuring they can perform their sealing function effectively when required. It is a best practice in the industry to verify that storage environments are clean and that the gaskets are protected from contaminants, moisture, and physical damage. This practice supports the longevity and reliability of the materials, ultimately contributing to the overall performance of the water distribution system.*

**10. What are the two principal types of throttling valves used in a water system?**

A. Altitude valves and backpressure valves

**B. Pressure-reducing valves and altitude valves**

C. Globe valves and butterfly valves

D. None of the above

*The two principal types of throttling valves used in a water system are pressure-reducing valves and altitude valves. Pressure-reducing valves are designed to automatically reduce the inlet pressure to a desired lower outlet pressure, allowing for controlled water flow, which is essential in maintaining system integrity and preventing damage from excessive pressure. Altitude valves, on the other hand, are utilized to control the water levels in tanks or reservoirs, activating when water reaches a certain height to either fill or drain the system accordingly. Both types of valves are critical for controlling pressure and flow in a water distribution system, ensuring safety and efficiency in operations. They help in maintaining optimal functioning within the system by managing pressure fluctuations and thereby protecting valuable infrastructure.*

## 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://awwaabcwaterdistrib1and2.examzify.com>

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

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