

C-36 PLUMBING CONTRACTOR PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

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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. 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 is the best method for cutting small diameter copper tubing?**
 - A. With a hacksaw
 - B. With a tubing cutter
 - C. With a pipe wrench
 - D. With a miter saw
- 2. Why is it important to thoroughly clean the jaws of threading machines?**
 - A. To maintain efficient operation
 - B. To prevent bending of the pipe
 - C. To ensure a better fit of tools
 - D. To avoid corrosion of materials
- 3. When performing oxyacetylene welding, how should the oxygen cylinder valve be adjusted?**
 - A. Turn the valve fully open
 - B. Open the valve 1/2 turn
 - C. Turn the valve 3/4 to 1-1/2 turns
 - D. Leave the valve closed
- 4. According to plumbing code, what type of thread must 1 inch galvanized steel pipe have?**
 - A. Standard flat thread
 - B. Standard taper thread
 - C. Unified thread
 - D. Metric thread
- 5. How frequently must cleanouts installed in pipes with diameters of 3 inches or less be installed?**
 - A. 50 feet
 - B. 75 feet
 - C. 100 feet
 - D. 150 feet

- 6. Which type of hacksaw blade is best suited for sawing cast iron?**
- A. A flexible blade
 - B. A hard blade
 - C. A bi-metal blade
 - D. A coarse blade
- 7. What is the minimum size of a fixture water supply pipe for a flush-valve toilet?**
- A. 1/2"
 - B. 3/4"
 - C. 1"
 - D. 3/8"
- 8. How many feet of water at 62 degrees F equals one pound of pressure per square inch?**
- A. 2.31 feet
 - B. 0.433 feet
 - C. 1.0 feet
 - D. 3.0 feet
- 9. How often must cleanouts be installed for each change in direction in a run of drainage piping?**
- A. Every 20 feet
 - B. Every 30 feet
 - C. Every 40 feet
 - D. Every 50 feet
- 10. How many gallons of water is equivalent to one fixture unit?**
- A. 5-1/2 gallons
 - B. 7-1/2 gallons
 - C. 10 gallons
 - D. 15 gallons

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the best method for cutting small diameter copper tubing?

- A. With a hacksaw
- B. With a tubing cutter**
- C. With a pipe wrench
- D. With a miter saw

The best method for cutting small diameter copper tubing is to use a tubing cutter. This tool is specifically designed for cutting copper pipes and tubing cleanly and effectively. A tubing cutter features a rotating cutting wheel that scores the surface of the copper as it is rotated around the tubing. This method minimizes the risk of deformity and provides a smooth, clean cut, which is essential for ensuring proper fittings and seals in plumbing applications. Using a hacksaw, while it could work for cutting copper tubing, often results in rough edges or burrs that may need further smoothing, making it less efficient and potentially problematic for connections. A pipe wrench is not a cutting tool and is used for gripping and turning pipes instead of cutting them. Meanwhile, a miter saw, commonly used for cutting wood or larger pipes, would not be practical or precise enough for the small diameter intended for copper tubing, which could lead to inaccuracies and a poor finish on the cut. Overall, the tubing cutter is designed specifically for this task, ensuring a high-quality cut that helps maintain the integrity of the plumbing system.

2. Why is it important to thoroughly clean the jaws of threading machines?

- A. To maintain efficient operation**
- B. To prevent bending of the pipe
- C. To ensure a better fit of tools
- D. To avoid corrosion of materials

Thoroughly cleaning the jaws of threading machines is crucial for maintaining efficient operation. When the jaws of a threading machine are clean, they can grip the pipe securely, which is essential for creating precise, clean threads. Debris, rust, or any buildup can compromise this grip, leading to issues such as slipping or uneven threads. If the machine doesn't operate efficiently, it can create delays and increase the risk of errors in the threading process. Ensuring the jaws are clean optimizes the performance of the machine, prolongs its lifespan, and enhances the quality of the threaded pipes produced. While other factors, such as preventing bending of the pipe or ensuring a better fit of tools, are relevant to the threading process, they are secondary to the impact that clean jaws have on the effective and efficient running of the machine itself. Cleaning also plays a role in avoiding corrosion, but the immediate connection to operational efficiency makes the importance of a clean jaw paramount.

3. When performing oxyacetylene welding, how should the oxygen cylinder valve be adjusted?

- A. Turn the valve fully open**
- B. Open the valve 1/2 turn
- C. Turn the valve 3/4 to 1-1/2 turns
- D. Leave the valve closed

When performing oxyacetylene welding, the oxygen cylinder valve should be turned fully open to ensure a proper and safe flow of oxygen. Fully opening the valve allows for maximum gas flow and minimizes the risk of back pressure that can occur if the valve is not fully opened. This practice ensures that the welding process receives a sufficient and consistent supply of oxygen, which is essential for achieving the right flame characteristics needed for effective welding. In addition to ensuring adequate gas flow, fully opening the valve also helps in maintaining the integrity of the equipment. By fully opening it, the operator can avoid issues such as incomplete combustion and irregular flame behavior that could arise from insufficient oxygen supply. This is critical for maintaining safety during the welding process and achieving high-quality welds. Overall, turning the oxygen cylinder valve fully open is a standard practice in safe and effective oxyacetylene welding operations.

4. According to plumbing code, what type of thread must 1 inch galvanized steel pipe have?

- A. Standard flat thread
- B. Standard taper thread**
- C. Unified thread
- D. Metric thread

The correct answer is that 1 inch galvanized steel pipe must have a standard taper thread. This type of thread is designed to create a seal when two pieces of pipe are joined together, ensuring a tight fit that can withstand pressure and prevent leaks. Tapered threads gradually become narrower towards the end, allowing for increased contact area and resistance to leakage as the joint is tightened. In plumbing applications, especially with pipes that will carry fluids under pressure, using standard taper threads is crucial for maintaining the integrity of the plumbing system. This is especially important in various configurations and fittings used in piping systems, which may experience fluctuations in temperature and pressure. Other thread types, such as flat threads, do not provide the same sealing capabilities because they do not increase contact pressure as they are tightened. Unified and metric threads are typically used in different contexts and applications and are not standard for galvanized steel pipes in plumbing systems. Therefore, the specific requirement for standard taper threads is essential for ensuring safe and reliable plumbing installations.

5. How frequently must cleanouts installed in pipes with diameters of 3 inches or less be installed?

- A. 50 feet
- B. 75 feet
- C. 100 feet**
- D. 150 feet

Cleanouts in plumbing systems are crucial for maintaining the integrity of drainage and waste systems, as they provide access for cleaning and inspection. When considering pipes with diameters of 3 inches or less, the frequency of cleanout installation is typically determined by plumbing code requirements. For pipes of this size, cleanouts must generally be installed a maximum of 100 feet apart. This distance ensures that any clogs or blockages in the system can be efficiently addressed without requiring extensive excavation or disruption of the plumbing. Regular access points for maintenance also help in keeping the plumbing system functioning properly and reduce the likelihood of severe backups. Thus, cleanouts should be spaced appropriately to balance accessibility and plumbing code adherence, making the requirement of installing them every 100 feet both practical and in line with regulatory standards. This ensures that serviceability and maintenance practices can be effectively conducted on plumbing systems consisting of smaller diameter pipes.

6. Which type of hacksaw blade is best suited for sawing cast iron?

- A. A flexible blade
- B. A hard blade**
- C. A bi-metal blade
- D. A coarse blade

When sawing cast iron, the most effective choice is a hard blade. Hard blades are designed to cut through tougher materials like cast iron due to their rigidity and durability. They are constructed to maintain their sharp edge while handling the stress of cutting dense and brittle materials. This is particularly important with cast iron, which is known for its hardness and can quickly dull a softer blade. The composition of a hard blade allows it to effectively penetrate the rough texture of cast iron, providing cleaner cuts and reducing the likelihood of breakage or chipping during the sawing process. Moreover, the hardness of the blade helps in achieving a more precise cut, which is essential for plumbing applications where accurate fitting is crucial. In contrast, flexible blades are better suited for materials that require more maneuverability and finer curves, while bi-metal blades, although versatile, do not specifically excel in applications requiring the cutting of dense metals like cast iron. Coarse blades, while they might provide a faster cut, may lead to rough edges and lack the durability needed for thorough cutting of such a material.

7. What is the minimum size of a fixture water supply pipe for a flush-valve toilet?

- A. 1/2"
- B. 3/4"
- C. 1"**
- D. 3/8"

The minimum size of a fixture water supply pipe for a flush-valve toilet is 1 inch. This specification is based on the requirements for providing adequate water flow and maintaining proper pressure for flush-valve toilets, which typically have a higher demand for water compared to standard tank-style toilets. Flush-valve toilets rely on the rapid influx of water to ensure a powerful flush, and utilizing a larger supply pipe ensures that the toilet receives enough water quickly during operation. A 1-inch supply pipe can accommodate the high volume of water needed without experiencing significant pressure drops that could lead to inadequate flushing performance. In contrast, smaller pipe sizes such as 1/2 inch, 3/4 inch, and 3/8 inch are typically insufficient for this application, as they may not deliver the necessary water volume and pressure in a timely manner, compromising the functionality of the flush-valve system. Therefore, selecting a 1-inch pipe for a flush-valve toilet is critical for optimal performance.

8. How many feet of water at 62 degrees F equals one pound of pressure per square inch?

- A. 2.31 feet**
- B. 0.433 feet
- C. 1.0 feet
- D. 3.0 feet

One pound of pressure per square inch (psi) can be correlated to a specific height of a fluid column. In the case of water at 62 degrees Fahrenheit, the height required to generate a pressure of one psi is approximately 2.31 feet. This relationship comes from hydrostatic principles, which dictate that pressure in a fluid is determined by the height of the fluid column above the point in question. At sea level, the density of water at this temperature is effectively constant, allowing for this standardized conversion factor. Understanding this conversion is essential for plumbing applications, as it assists in calculations regarding water pressure in systems, helping to design plumbing networks and ensure they can accommodate the necessary pressure according to the heights at which water is delivered or stored.

9. How often must cleanouts be installed for each change in direction in a run of drainage piping?

- A. Every 20 feet
- B. Every 30 feet
- C. Every 40 feet**
- D. Every 50 feet

The correct choice specifies that cleanouts must be installed for every change in direction in a run of drainage piping at intervals not exceeding 40 feet. This requirement serves several important functions in plumbing systems. The primary purpose of cleanouts is to provide access for clearing blockages and maintaining drainage systems. By ensuring that there are cleanouts at these intervals, plumbers can effectively manage potential clogs and facilitate maintenance. In addition to providing access points for cleaning, the requirement for intervals up to 40 feet helps to prevent the accumulation of debris in the piping system, thereby reducing the likelihood of future blockages. This spacing is considered adequate for typical drainage systems, allowing sufficient access without excessive installation of cleanouts, which can increase costs and complexity. Understanding this standard is crucial for ensuring compliance with plumbing codes and maintaining effective drainage within a plumbing system. It reflects a balance between accessibility for maintenance and practicality in system design.

10. How many gallons of water is equivalent to one fixture unit?

- A. 5-1/2 gallons
- B. 7-1/2 gallons**
- C. 10 gallons
- D. 15 gallons

One fixture unit is equivalent to 7-1/2 gallons of water. This measurement is crucial in plumbing design because it helps determine the flow rates and sizing of piping systems. The fixture unit system provides a standardized way to represent the demand that different plumbing fixtures place on a water supply system. By using this standard, plumbers and engineers can calculate the overall water requirements for a building and ensure that the plumbing infrastructure can adequately support all fixtures during peak usage times. This unit of measurement is particularly important in designing water supply systems, as it allows for a more accurate assessment of the total number of fixtures and their demands. It also assists in the proper sizing of water supply lines, ensuring that sufficient water pressure is maintained for all fixtures in use. Understanding that one fixture unit corresponds to 7-1/2 gallons helps plumbing professionals effectively plan and install plumbing systems that meet building codes and performance standards.

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.

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

<https://c36plumbingcontractor.examzify.com>

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

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