

CALIFORNIA PIPELINE CONTRACTOR (C-34 LICENSE) PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

**VISIT US ONLINE FOR
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. Which practice helps control dust and sediment during trench work?**
 - A. Erosion and sediment control practices like silt fences, straw or hay bales, and stabilized stockpiles
 - B. Painting trench walls
 - C. Utilizing only water spray
 - D. Leaving soil exposed
- 2. What is the maximum spacing of shores for 2" thick sheeting or lagging when nonstress grade lumber is used?**
 - A. 2 ft
 - B. 3 ft
 - C. 4 ft
 - D. 6 ft
- 3. In trenching, what soil description demands the use of a trench box or sloping to prevent cave-ins?**
 - A. Very sandy soil with perfect drainage
 - B. Unstable or water-saturated soils require trench protective systems.
 - C. Dry, well-compacted soil
 - D. Grassy topsoil
- 4. Which statement correctly contrasts installation handling for PVC and ductile iron pipe?**
 - A. PVC is lighter and uses solvent-glued joints; ductile iron is heavier and uses mechanical joints with gaskets and restraints.
 - B. PVC and ductile iron are installed identically.
 - C. PVC uses threaded joints; ductile iron uses solvent-welded joints.
 - D. PVC is heavier and uses mechanical joints; ductile iron is lighter and uses solvent-glued joints.
- 5. PVC (PSM) sewer pipe must be marked with the manufacturer's name or trademark, nominal pipe size, and other identifying information at intervals of ___ feet or less.**
 - A. 2 feet
 - B. 5 feet
 - C. 8 feet
 - D. 10 feet

- 6. Of the following, the heaviest copper pipe is:**
- A. Type M
 - B. Type L
 - C. Type K
 - D. Type DWV
- 7. With special permission, the slope for a 6-inch building sewer may range from 1/4 inch per foot to 1/8 inch per foot. Which expression best describes this range?**
- A. 1/4 inch to 1/8 inch per foot
 - B. 1/8 inch to 1/4 inch per foot
 - C. 1/8 inch per foot
 - D. 1/2 inch per foot
- 8. What system is not a type of bituminous pipe coating?**
- A. Asphalt spray system
 - B. Coal-tar enamel
 - C. Coal-tar pitch
 - D. Asphalt tape wrap
- 9. Which regulatory considerations are important for environmental protection during pipeline work in California?**
- A. Local and state environmental requirements, erosion control, and project SWPPP requirements
 - B. Federal environmental regulations only
 - C. No environmental considerations
 - D. Local noise ordinances only
- 10. What is a 'service connection' in pipeline projects?**
- A. A branch off to irrigation only
 - B. A small pipeline that connects a main line to a building or property service.
 - C. A line used for air vents
 - D. A video line for metering

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which practice helps control dust and sediment during trench work?

- A. Erosion and sediment control practices like silt fences, straw or hay bales, and stabilized stockpiles**
- B. Painting trench walls
- C. Utilizing only water spray
- D. Leaving soil exposed

Keeping dust under control and preventing sediment from leaving the trench site hinges on erosion and sediment control measures that keep soil in place and minimize runoff. Silt fences act as barriers in the drainage path to capture sediment as water exits the site. Straw or hay bales provide a simple, movable barrier to slow surface water flow and trap sediment. Stabilized stockpiles keep exposed soil from washing or blowing away by covering, compacting, or using temporary stabilization like mulch or fabric. Used together, these practices reduce airborne dust and sediment-laden runoff, helping protect nearby waterways and air quality and meeting typical construction-site regulations. Painting trench walls does not address erosion or sediment control. Relying only on water spray may suppress dust briefly but doesn't control sediment movement and can create runoff. Leaving soil exposed increases erosion and dust and undermines control efforts.

2. What is the maximum spacing of shores for 2" thick sheeting or lagging when nonstress grade lumber is used?

- A. 2 ft
- B. 3 ft
- C. 4 ft**
- D. 6 ft

Shoring and lagging must resist lateral earth pressure without excessive deflection or failure. The spacing between shores depends on how stiff the sheet and the lumber are, which in turn depends on sheet thickness and lumber grade. With 2-inch-thick sheeting or lagging and non-stress grade lumber, each shore can only support a limited amount of load, so the shores must be spaced closely enough to keep the sheet from bending or the wall from bulging under the soil pressure. That practical limit is four feet. If you go farther apart, the sheet can bow or fail to hold back the earth, especially in soils with higher pressure or moisture. Closer spacing, like two or three feet, would be more conservative; six feet would exceed what this material can safely handle.

3. In trenching, what soil description demands the use of a trench box or sloping to prevent cave-ins?

- A. Very sandy soil with perfect drainage
- B. Unstable or water-saturated soils require trench protective systems.**
- C. Dry, well-compacted soil
- D. Grassy topsoil

The key idea here is trench safety tied to soil stability. When soil is unstable or soaking wet, its walls can fail without warning, so protective measures are required to keep workers from being buried. Using a trench box (shield) or sloping the sides provides structural support that prevents a cave-in and protects anyone inside the trench. Dry, well-compacted soil is typically stable enough that a trench wall may stand without a protective system, provided depth and other factors meet safety rules. Very sandy soil with good drainage can also be stable, as long as it isn't weakened by water or other factors, but unstable or water-saturated conditions are the scenarios that mandate protective systems. Grassy topsoil can hide weaknesses, so it still needs careful assessment, but the decisive safety factor is the soil's stability and moisture content—unstable or waterlogged soils require protection.

4. Which statement correctly contrasts installation handling for PVC and ductile iron pipe?

- A. PVC is lighter and uses solvent-glued joints; ductile iron is heavier and uses mechanical joints with gaskets and restraints.
- B. PVC and ductile iron are installed identically.
- C. PVC uses threaded joints; ductile iron uses solvent-welded joints.**
- D. PVC is heavier and uses mechanical joints; ductile iron is lighter and uses solvent-glued joints.

Understanding how joints are made for PVC versus ductile iron pipes guides how you handle and install them. The statement that PVC uses threaded joints while ductile iron uses solvent-welded joints provides the clearest contrast between the two materials, which is why it's the best choice here. This contrast affects the installation sequence: threaded joints require threading and tightening, while solvent-welded joints require surface preparation, priming, adhesive application, and a curing period before the joint is ready for service. The other options either imply the two materials are installed the same way or assign joint methods in a way that doesn't align with the typical contrasting practices covered in this topic.

5. PVC (PSM) sewer pipe must be marked with the manufacturer's name or trademark, nominal pipe size, and other identifying information at intervals of ___ feet or less.

- A. 2 feet
- B. 5 feet**
- C. 8 feet
- D. 10 feet

The key idea is that PVC sewer pipe must carry identifying markings at regular, short intervals to allow quick verification of who made the pipe, its nominal size, and other important details while it's in the trench or stored on site. Those markings help inspectors and crews confirm the correct material is being used and track it for any quality or compatibility checks. Five feet or less is the standard interval because it ensures a readable mark is readily accessible anywhere along a run of pipe, even after sections are cut or joined. This frequent identification supports proper material selection, traceability, and compliance with specifications, which is especially important for sewer installations where correct sizing and source matter for performance. Longer intervals would make it harder to verify the pipe's size and source in the field, while much more frequent markings would be unnecessarily burdensome. The five-foot requirement strikes the right balance for practical field use.

6. Of the following, the heaviest copper pipe is:

- A. Type M
- B. Type L
- C. Type K**
- D. Type DWV

The main idea is that the weight and strength of copper tubing come from its wall thickness. Type K has the thickest walls of the standard copper tube types, which makes it the heaviest per length. It's designed for tougher applications, like underground or exterior service, where protection and strength are important. Type L is the standard-strength choice for most indoor water lines, with thinner walls than K. Type M has the thinnest walls and is used where cost is a concern and the system doesn't demand as much strength. DWV tubing is for drainage (waste and vent) rather than pressurized water, so its design emphasizes different properties and it isn't chosen for weight or pressure resistance like Type K. So, the heaviest option is Type K.

7. With special permission, the slope for a 6-inch building sewer may range from 1/4 inch per foot to 1/8 inch per foot. Which expression best describes this range?

- A. 1/4 inch to 1/8 inch per foot
- B. 1/8 inch to 1/4 inch per foot
- C. 1/8 inch per foot
- D. 1/2 inch per foot

The range is described by its endpoints in a specific order: it can vary from 1/4 inch per foot down to 1/8 inch per foot. Writing the range as "1/4 inch to 1/8 inch per foot" keeps that start-to-end direction exactly as stated. It communicates the same bounds, just in the same sequence. Reversing the order would convey the numerical spread but not reflect the way the range is presented in the question.

8. What system is not a type of bituminous pipe coating?

- A. Asphalt spray system
- B. Coal-tar enamel
- C. Coal-tar pitch
- D. Asphalt tape wrap

Bituminous pipe coatings are defined by the coating formulations or systems used to protect metal surfaces, such as coal-tar based coatings or asphalt-based wraps. Coal-tar enamel and coal-tar pitch are both classic bituminous coatings derived from coal tar, offering a protective film against corrosion. Asphalt tape wrap is also a bituminous coating, using asphalt-impregnated tape to build up a protective layer around the pipe. An asphalt spray system, on the other hand, describes a method of applying asphalt to the pipe surface rather than a distinct coating system. It's about how the coating is applied (spraying) rather than naming a particular bituminous coating composition or configuration. So while spray-applied asphalt can be used, it isn't itself a separate type of bituminous pipe coating, which is why it's the correct choice.

9. Which regulatory considerations are important for environmental protection during pipeline work in California?

- A. Local and state environmental requirements, erosion control, and project SWPPP requirements
- B. Federal environmental regulations only
- C. No environmental considerations
- D. Local noise ordinances only

In pipeline work in California, protecting the environment means following a mix of local, state, and federal requirements, not just one level. Local and state environmental requirements establish the specific permits, approvals, and performance standards for California projects. Erosion control is crucial because soil disturbance can cause sediment to wash into streams and waterways, so having measures to keep sediment on site and out of the water is essential. A project SWPPP, the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, documents potential pollution sources, the practices to prevent pollution, and the procedures for inspections and corrective actions during construction. This combination is the best fit because it covers the full scope of environmental protection: regulatory adherence at the applicable levels, concrete measures to control erosion and runoff, and a formal plan to manage stormwater throughout the project. The other options are incomplete or ignore environmental protections entirely.

10. What is a 'service connection' in pipeline projects?

- A. A branch off to irrigation only
- B. A small pipeline that connects a main line to a building or property service.**
- C. A line used for air vents
- D. A video line for metering

A service connection is the small-diameter pipe that ties the main line to the building or property's service line. It's the delivery path from the larger main to the customer's side, and it typically includes a shutoff at the property boundary and can lead to a meter or other service equipment. This is the defining feature: a direct, customer-focused link from the main to the building/service. That's why the correct description fits: it's a small pipeline connecting a main line to a building or property service. The other options describe things that aren't the service connection—an irrigation-only branch, a line for air vents, or a line for metering video—so they don't capture the essence of the service connection.

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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:

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

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