

California Registered Environmental Health Specialis (REHS)- Inspection/Investigation Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. Which of the following could be a challenge in determining CEQA exemptions?**
 - A. Preparing a full environmental impact report**
 - B. Deciding if a project is truly in-fill**
 - C. Collaborating with local community groups**
 - D. Defining what constitutes an existing facility**
- 2. What is a writ of habeas corpus?**
 - A. A request for legal representation**
 - B. A court order for a document review**
 - C. A court order to bring an individual before the court**
 - D. A document for legislative purposes**
- 3. Which of the following is a potential source of cadmium exposure?**
 - A. Coal**
 - B. Batteries**
 - C. Asbestos**
 - D. Silica**
- 4. What type of defamation is described as spoken?**
 - A. Slander**
 - B. Libel**
 - C. Innuendo**
 - D. Gossip**
- 5. Which of the following is NOT a component of a successful public health campaign?**
 - A. Information dissemination**
 - B. Community involvement**
 - C. Exclusivity of information to specialists**
 - D. Evaluation of campaign effectiveness**

- 6. What is an Environmental Impact Report (EIR)?**
- A. A document detailing financial costs of a project**
 - B. A summary of local zoning laws**
 - C. A document required by CEQA that outlines the potential environmental effects of a proposed project**
 - D. A marketing tool for community outreach**
- 7. NIOSH is a division of which larger organization?**
- A. FDA**
 - B. EPA**
 - C. CDC**
 - D. OSHA**
- 8. What does the enforcement of FIFRA primarily concern?**
- A. Food safety standards**
 - B. Insecticide regulation**
 - C. Pesticide registration**
 - D. Water quality monitoring**
- 9. What does a Notice of Violation (NOV) indicate?**
- A. It signifies a successful inspection**
 - B. It indicates a failure to comply with health regulations**
 - C. It is a report of a positive health outcome**
 - D. It represents an application for health permit**
- 10. What is the definition of misfeasance within the legal framework?**
- A. Committing an act that is illegal**
 - B. Negligently failing to act**
 - C. Improperly performing a lawful act**
 - D. Acting without permission**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which of the following could be a challenge in determining CEQA exemptions?

- A. Preparing a full environmental impact report**
- C. Collaborating with local community groups**
- B. Deciding if a project is truly in-fill**
- D. Defining what constitutes an existing facility**

Determining whether a project qualifies as infill development can be challenging due to the nuanced definitions and criteria involved. Infill development refers to building on vacant or underutilized land within existing urban areas that are already served by public infrastructure and services. The criteria for what constitutes infill can vary based on local regulations, the nature of the existing surroundings, and the specific characteristics of the property in question. Challenges arise when stakeholders have differing interpretations of whether a particular project meets the infill criteria. For instance, the project might be on the edge of a developed area, or it might involve redevelopment of a site that previously served a different function. Discrepancies in local planning policies or community perceptions about the impacts of the project can further complicate the assessment. Therefore, establishing whether a project truly qualifies as infill is integral to making well-informed decisions about its environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Other options do not present the same level of ambiguity or complexity in the context of CEQA exemptions. Preparing a full environmental impact report, while resource-intensive, is a defined process governed by clear guidelines. Collaborating with local community groups, although important, is a procedural matter that does not directly affect the factual determination of exemptions. Likewise

2. What is a writ of habeas corpus?

- A. A request for legal representation**
- B. A court order for a document review**
- C. A court order to bring an individual before the court**
- D. A document for legislative purposes**

A writ of habeas corpus is a legal instrument that serves to protect an individual's right to be free from unlawful detention. Specifically, it is a court order that requires a person holding another in custody to bring the detainee before the court and justify the reason for their detention. This fundamental legal safeguard allows individuals to challenge the legality of their imprisonment, ensuring that no one is held without sufficient cause, thereby protecting against arbitrary detention. This concept is rooted in the fundamental principle of due process, which is crucial in preserving individual liberties within the legal system. When a writ of habeas corpus is filed, the court examines the circumstances of the individual's detention. If the detention is found to be unlawful, the court can order the individual's release. This mechanism is essential in maintaining checks on governmental power, ensuring that legal and constitutional rights are upheld.

3. Which of the following is a potential source of cadmium exposure?

- A. Coal**
- B. Batteries**
- C. Asbestos**
- D. Silica**

Cadmium exposure is primarily associated with certain industrial practices and consumer products. The option that identifies a potential source of cadmium exposure is batteries, specifically nickel-cadmium batteries. These batteries contain cadmium as one of their components, and improper disposal or leaching can lead to cadmium contaminating soil or water supplies, increasing the risk of human exposure. In addition to batteries, other sources of cadmium exposure include certain agricultural practices where cadmium may be present in fertilizers and soil, as well as industrial emissions from processes such as metal smelting. Understanding these sources is crucial for environmental health specialists as they work to mitigate the risks associated with cadmium and protect public health from exposure. While coal can contain trace amounts of cadmium due to natural mineral content, particularly in certain geographic areas, it is not the most prominent or direct source of exposure for the general population compared to batteries. Asbestos and silica are not relevant to cadmium exposure, as they are associated with different health risks and toxicological profiles.

4. What type of defamation is described as spoken?

- A. Slander**
- B. Libel**
- C. Innuendo**
- D. Gossip**

Slander refers to spoken defamation, where an individual's character or reputation is harmed through false and malicious statements made verbally. This form of defamation can occur in various settings, including conversations, speeches, or broadcasts, where the defamatory remarks are communicated audibly. The key aspect of slander is that it must be spoken rather than written or published, distinguishing it from libel, which pertains to defamation in written or printed form. Understanding the distinction between slander and other terms like libel, innuendo, and gossip is essential. While innuendo involves an implied or indirect remark, it does not necessarily constitute defamation unless it specifically attacks someone's character. Gossip generally refers to informal communication about others but lacks the legal definitions associated with slander or libel. Thus, recognizing that slander is specifically related to spoken statements solidifies its role within the context of defamation law.

5. Which of the following is NOT a component of a successful public health campaign?

- A. Information dissemination**
- B. Community involvement**
- C. Exclusivity of information to specialists**
- D. Evaluation of campaign effectiveness**

A successful public health campaign is built on several key components that promote its effectiveness and reach. Information dissemination is crucial as it involves sharing essential information with the public to raise awareness and educate individuals about health issues. This is the foundation of any campaign, as the target audience needs to be informed of health risks and preventive measures. Community involvement is another vital element. Engaging the community fosters a sense of ownership and ensures that the campaign resonates with the audience. When community members are involved in the planning and implementation of health initiatives, they are more likely to participate and advocate for the campaign. Evaluation of campaign effectiveness is equally important. Assessing how well the campaign met its objectives allows public health officials to understand what worked, what didn't, and how to improve future campaigns. This ongoing evaluation process helps to ensure that resources are used effectively and that health messages are reaching the intended audience. Exclusivity of information to specialists contradicts the fundamentals of a successful public health campaign. For a campaign to be effective, the information must be accessible and understandable to the general public. Limiting information to specialists restricts the flow of knowledge and fails to empower the community, which can undermine the overall success of health initiatives.

6. What is an Environmental Impact Report (EIR)?

- A. A document detailing financial costs of a project**
- B. A summary of local zoning laws**
- C. A document required by CEQA that outlines the potential environmental effects of a proposed project**
- D. A marketing tool for community outreach**

An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is a crucial document mandated by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). It serves to identify and analyze the potential environmental impacts that a proposed project may have on the surrounding environment. This comprehensive report ensures that decision-makers and the public are informed about the potential negative effects of development proposals and encourages the consideration of alternatives and mitigations to reduce those impacts. The purpose of the EIR is to provide a thorough examination of the project's potential effects on various environmental aspects, including air quality, water resources, wildlife, and community health. It is not simply a summary of laws, a financial analysis, or a marketing tool, but rather a critical mechanism for safeguarding environmental quality and promoting sustainable development in California. This requirement reflects the commitment to integrating environmental concerns into the planning and decision-making process for new projects.

7. NIOSH is a division of which larger organization?

- A. FDA
- B. EPA
- C. CDC**
- D. OSHA

The correct answer is that NIOSH is a division of the CDC, or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. NIOSH, which stands for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, is primarily focused on researching and making recommendations to prevent work-related illnesses and injuries. As a part of the CDC, NIOSH contributes to the overall public health mission by improving workplace safety through evidence-based recommendations. Understanding NIOSH's function is critical in the context of environmental health, as workplace safety often intersects with public health initiatives. The collaboration between NIOSH and the CDC facilitates the distribution of important findings regarding occupational hazards, thereby helping to inform policy updates, regulatory frameworks, and health guidelines that can protect workers. The other organizations mentioned, while involved in health and safety, each have different primary focuses. The FDA (Food and Drug Administration) is primarily concerned with food safety, drug approval, and regulation of medical devices. The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) focuses on environmental protection and regulations pertaining to pollution control. OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) is responsible for ensuring safe and healthy working conditions through various regulations but operates as a standalone entity rather than as a division of another organization.

8. What does the enforcement of FIFRA primarily concern?

- A. Food safety standards
- B. Insecticide regulation
- C. Pesticide registration**
- D. Water quality monitoring

The enforcement of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) primarily concerns pesticide registration. This federal law regulates the registration, distribution, sale, and use of pesticides to ensure that they are safe for consumers and the environment. Under FIFRA, any pesticide intended for sale in the United States must be registered with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which involves a thorough evaluation of its potential effects on human health and the environment. This regulatory framework is critical to ensure that only those products that have met safety and efficacy standards are allowed to be marketed and used. Registration under FIFRA includes the assessment of risks associated with the pesticide, appropriate labeling, and directives on how it can be safely used. While insecticide regulation is a part of FIFRA, the focus lies primarily in the comprehensive registration process that encompasses all categories of pesticides. Other choices, such as food safety standards and water quality monitoring, relate to different regulatory frameworks and agencies that oversee public health and environmental protection but do not directly pertain to the core focus of FIFRA.

9. What does a Notice of Violation (NOV) indicate?

- A. It signifies a successful inspection
- B. It indicates a failure to comply with health regulations**
- C. It is a report of a positive health outcome
- D. It represents an application for health permit

A Notice of Violation (NOV) serves as a formal notification indicating that specific health regulations or standards have not been met. It highlights areas where a facility or entity is falling short of compliance, which could pose risks to public health and safety. The issuance of an NOV typically follows an inspection or investigation in which deficiencies have been observed. The purpose of an NOV is to inform the responsible party of these violations, often providing details on the nature of the non-compliance, the applicable regulations, and the necessary steps needed to rectify the issues. This allows the entity time to address and resolve the violations to return to compliance. In contrast, the other options provide reasons that do not align with the definition and purpose of an NOV. A successful inspection would not typically culminate in a Notice of Violation, and a report of a positive health outcome would signify compliance, not non-compliance. Lastly, an application for a health permit would not be represented through a Notice of Violation, as this pertains to seeking appropriate permission to operate rather than highlighting violations of existing regulations.

10. What is the definition of misfeasance within the legal framework?

- A. Committing an act that is illegal
- B. Negligently failing to act
- C. Improperly performing a lawful act**
- D. Acting without permission

The definition of misfeasance within the legal framework focuses on the scenario where a person improperly performs a lawful act. This means that while the act itself is legal, it is carried out in a negligent or inadequate manner, leading to harm or damage. For instance, if a professional such as a contractor does work that is within their rights but does so with negligence, resulting in issues such as property damage or personal injury, this could be considered misfeasance. This concept is essential in contexts like environmental health, where professionals must adhere not only to the legality of their actions but also to the standards of care expected in their duties. Misfeasance emphasizes the importance of executing lawful duties properly and the potential legal implications of failing to do so. The other options describe different scenarios. Committing an act that is illegal signifies a different violation and would fall under a category of misconduct distinct from misfeasance. Negligently failing to act pertains to nonfeasance, where a person fails to take any action when required. Finally, acting without permission would relate to unauthorized actions, which again falls outside the realm of misfeasance since it does not involve the performance of an otherwise lawful act.