

# Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



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**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

SAMPLE

- 1. What is the gap at the bottom for a pre-school age guardrail over 20 inches and less than or equal to 30 inches?**
  - A. Less than 9 inches**
  - B. Greater than 9 inches**
  - C. Less than 3.5 inches**
  - D. Greater than or equal to 23 inches**
- 2. What is the maximum height of the upper rail for guardrails on elevated structures for ages 2-5?**
  - A. 29"**
  - B. 38"**
  - C. 28"**
  - D. 23"**
- 3. What is the maximum difference allowed between the minimum and maximum radius of a non-circular Merry-Go-Round platform?**
  - A. 1 inch**
  - B. 2 inches**
  - C. 3 inches**
  - D. 4 inches**
- 4. What is the maximum HIC score suspended elements should not exceed?**
  - A. 1000 HIC**
  - B. 450 HIC**
  - C. 500 HIC**
  - D. 550 HIC**
- 5. For preschool/school age children, how long should the slide chute exit be at least?**
  - A. 11 inches**
  - B. 9 inches**
  - C. 12 inches**
  - D. 10 inches**

- 6. How far through the exit use zone does the Slide Clearance Zone continue?**
- A. Until the end**
  - B. Continues indefinitely**
  - C. 60 inches**
  - D. 48 inches**
- 7. Two Track Rides next to each other should be at least \_\_\_\_ apart.**
- A. 2 feet**
  - B. 4 feet**
  - C. 6 feet**
  - D. 8 feet**
- 8. What is the maximum width of the upper access area through the guardrail or barrier to a sliding pole?**
- A. 7 inches**
  - B. 15 inches**
  - C. 18 inches**
  - D. 36 inches**
- 9. Which of the following is NOT an element of a comprehensive risk management plan?**
- A. Playground Safety Policy**
  - B. Annual Budget Review**
  - C. Documentation**
  - D. Inspectors and Maintenance**
- 10. Zone-Log Rolls may overlap with neighboring equipment if what condition is met?**
- A. There is at least 9' between equipment**
  - B. They are of the same color**
  - C. Both types of equipment are for the same age group**
  - D. There is at least 6' between equipment when adjacent designated play surfaces are no more than 30 inches**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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- 1. What is the gap at the bottom for a pre-school age guardrail over 20 inches and less than or equal to 30 inches?**
- A. Less than 9 inches**
  - B. Greater than 9 inches**
  - C. Less than 3.5 inches**
  - D. Greater than or equal to 23 inches**

For a preschool-age guardrail that measures over 20 inches and less than or equal to 30 inches in height, the applicable standards dictate that the gap at the bottom must be less than 3.5 inches. This limitation is designed to prevent a child's head from becoming trapped underneath the guardrail, ensuring a safer play environment. The correct detail regarding the required measurements emphasizes child safety, regarding how guardrails are designed to protect younger children from potential falls or accidents. Having a gap larger than specified would increase the risk of entrapment and negate the protective purpose of the guardrail. Thus, understanding the safety standards for guardrails is crucial for compliance and for creating a safe playground setting for preschoolers.

- 2. What is the maximum height of the upper rail for guardrails on elevated structures for ages 2-5?**
- A. 29"**
  - B. 38"**
  - C. 28"**
  - D. 23"**

The maximum height of the upper rail for guardrails on elevated structures intended for children ages 2-5 is 29 inches. This height is specified in safety standards to provide adequate protection for young children, ensuring they are safe while climbing or playing on elevated play structures. Children in this age range are still developing their motor skills and may not have the balance or awareness of older children. Therefore, the 29-inch height serves to help prevent falls while allowing children to engage in play in a way that promotes their physical development and exploration. This height is specifically crafted to balance safety concerns with the need for accessibility, allowing children to grasp the guardrails for stability when needed. The other height options listed do not conform to industry standards for this age group, as they either exceed the maximum limit set for safety or are not appropriate for the developmental abilities of children aged 2-5. Maintaining the correct guardrail height is critical in playground design to ensure compliance with safety regulations and to provide a safe environment for play.

**3. What is the maximum difference allowed between the minimum and maximum radius of a non-circular Merry-Go-Round platform?**

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

The maximum difference allowed between the minimum and maximum radius of a non-circular Merry-Go-Round platform would typically be 2 inches. One inch (option A) may not provide enough space for riders to sit comfortably, while 3 inches (option C) or 4 inches (option D) may result in an uneven or unstable platform. It is important to find a balance between providing enough space for riders without compromising the stability of the platform.

**4. What is the maximum HIC score suspended elements should not exceed?**

- A. 1000 HIC
- B. 450 HIC
- C. 500 HIC**
- D. 550 HIC

In the context of playground safety, the Head Injury Criterion (HIC) is a crucial measurement used to assess the potential for head injury during a fall onto a surface. For suspended elements, which are typically structures such as swings and other hanging apparatuses, the standard that governs their safety specifies that the maximum HIC score should not exceed a certain threshold. The correct answer reflects that suspended elements should not exceed a HIC score of 1000. This threshold is established to help ensure that injuries resulting from falls are minimized and that the risk of serious head trauma is adequately addressed. High HIC scores indicate a greater likelihood of severe head injuries upon impact, thus the limit is set to prioritize the safety of children using these playground features. In summary, a maximum HIC score of 1000 is a safety standard that aims to protect children from head injuries during falls from suspended playground elements, ensuring that the impact forces do not result in severe injury.

**5. For preschool/school age children, how long should the slide chute exit be at least?**

- A. 11 inches**
- B. 9 inches
- C. 12 inches
- D. 10 inches

Sliding is a popular activity among preschool and school age children, so it is important to ensure that the slide is safe and appropriate for their age. The height of the chute exit is a key factor in this safety. The recommended minimum length for a slide chute exit for this age group is 11 inches, making option A the correct answer. Options B, C, and D are incorrect because the lengths they provide are either too short or too long, which can increase the risk of injury for children. It is important to follow these safety guidelines to provide a fun and safe experience for children on the slide.

**6. How far through the exit use zone does the Slide Clearance Zone continue?**

**A. Until the end**

**B. Continues indefinitely**

**C. 60 inches**

**D. 48 inches**

The exit use zone of a slide, often referred to in safety standards, is designed to provide adequate space for children exiting the slide and to ensure that they do not come into contact with hazards or other equipment directly after they dismount. This clearance zone is critical in playground design to minimize the risk of falls and collisions. The concept of the exit use zone extending indefinitely reflects the understanding that safety should not be limited to a specific distance but rather continue as long as necessary to ensure the safe dispersal of children from the slide. The purpose is to prevent situations where a child could fall or collide with other users or equipment after exiting the slide. By ensuring that this zone continues without a defined limit, playground designers can account for variations in space usage and children's behavior, promoting a safer play environment. This approach aligns with best practices in playground safety and the guidelines set forth in various safety standards, such as those by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). The emphasis is on providing ample safety space to mitigate risks associated with playground equipment use.

**7. Two Track Rides next to each other should be at least \_\_\_\_ apart.**

**A. 2 feet**

**B. 4 feet**

**C. 6 feet**

**D. 8 feet**

It is important for two track rides to be at least 4 feet apart for safety reasons. Having the tracks too close together can cause collisions or overlapping of rides, risking the safety of riders. Additionally, having a wider distance between tracks allows for proper maintenance and inspections to take place without interfering with the operation of another ride. Choosing options A, C, or D would not allow adequate space for safe operation and maintenance of the rides.

**8. What is the maximum width of the upper access area through the guardrail or barrier to a sliding pole?**

- A. 7 inches
- B. 15 inches**
- C. 18 inches
- D. 36 inches

The maximum width of the upper access area addressed in this question refers to the area through which a person can pass to access the sliding pole. Option A, C, and D are incorrect as they are too narrow to allow a person to pass through comfortably. The width of 7 inches (option A) will not allow most adults to pass through, while a 36-inch width (option D) is not necessary and could result in wasted material and unnecessary expense. Option C, with a width of 19 inches, is also not ideal as it only allows for a small margin of clearance on either side of the person, making it difficult to maneuver. Option B, with a width of 15 inches, provides enough space for a person to comfortably pass through the upper access area while also allowing for maneuverability. Therefore, option B is the correct answer.

**9. Which of the following is NOT an element of a comprehensive risk management plan?**

- A. Playground Safety Policy
- B. Annual Budget Review**
- C. Documentation
- D. Inspectors and Maintenance

A comprehensive risk management plan involves numerous elements to help mitigate potential risks. Here, option A discusses a Playground Safety Policy, which is an action plan for maintaining playground safety measures. Option C mentions Documentation, which is essential in keeping records of any incidents or accidents that occur on the premises. Option D states Inspectors and Maintenance, which refers to having a team that regularly checks for any potential hazards and conducts routine maintenance to ensure safety. However, option B, Annual Budget Review, is not a direct element of a comprehensive risk management plan. While it may be important to include financial planning and budgeting within the overall plan, it is not considered a direct component in mitigating risks.

**10. Zone-Log Rolls may overlap with neighboring equipment if what condition is met?**

- A. There is at least 9' between equipment**
- B. They are of the same color**
- C. Both types of equipment are for the same age group**
- D. There is at least 6' between equipment when adjacent designated play surfaces are no more than 30 inches**

When planning and designing playground equipment in a Zone-Log configuration, it is crucial to consider the required safety zones around each piece of equipment to prevent overlapping and potential collisions. These safety zones vary based on the height and type of equipment, but typically require a minimum of 6 feet of spacing between equipment when adjacent designated play surfaces (such as swings or slides) are no more than 30 inches in height. Options A, B, and C do not address this specific condition and do not necessarily ensure safe spacing between equipment. For example, option A only mentions a minimum distance between equipment, but does not account for the height or type of equipment. Option B, the color of the equipment, has no impact on safe spacing. And option C, while it may seem logical that equipment for the same age group would be spaced apart, fails to address the height and type of equipment and may still result