

Champions School Home Inspection Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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 appropriate installation guideline for the top end of an SE cable service?

- A. Should be bent into a U-shaped drip loop before removing the cable sheathing**
- B. Should not be clamped within 36 inches of the top**
- C. Should have a gooseneck before the splice**
- D. Should be secured firmly to the gutter**

2. Why is it important to check the breather holes in a thermal pane window?

- A. To enhance energy efficiency**
- B. To prevent air leaks**
- C. To prevent condensation build-up**
- D. To ensure proper opening mechanism**

3. What do cracks that break bricks typically indicate?

- A. Weak mortar**
- B. Strong mortar**
- C. Structural framing defects**
- D. Differential foundation movements**

4. What is the minimum fire resistance rating required for an exterior wall with a fire separation distance of less than 3 feet?

- A. 20 minutes**
- B. 30 minutes**
- C. 45 minutes**
- D. 1 hour**

5. Which of the following is not considered a common problem with sump pumps?

- A. Inoperative**
- B. Short cycling**
- C. The discharge point is above grade level**
- D. Running continuously**

6. What would you identify a dirty evaporator coil in a heating system as?

- A. A dirty condensing coil**
- B. An obstructed heat exchanger**
- C. A dirty evaporator coil**
- D. A dirty compressor**

7. Which aspect is NOT typically considered in the implications of a report's conditions?

- A. Potential renovations needed**
- B. Client's personal taste**
- C. Safety hazards**
- D. Potential property value impact**

8. How should an inspector respond regarding a leaning retaining wall that shows no signs of damage or cracks?

- A. It is safe and requires no further evaluation.**
- B. It requires immediate reinforcement.**
- C. It should be monitored, but may need a specialist's assessment.**
- D. It is dangerous and must be replaced.**

9. What is the maximum steady-state efficiency for an oil burner?

- A. 72 percent**
- B. 77 percent**
- C. 82 percent**
- D. 87 percent**

10. What is the maximum allowable opening between railing spindles?

- A. 3 1/4 inches**
- B. 4 3/8 inches**
- C. 5 inches**
- D. 6 inches**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the appropriate installation guideline for the top end of an SE cable service?

- A. Should be bent into a U-shaped drip loop before removing the cable sheathing
- B. Should not be clamped within 36 inches of the top
- C. Should have a gooseneck before the splice**
- D. Should be secured firmly to the gutter

The guideline that specifies that the top end of an SE cable service should have a gooseneck before the splice is essential for ensuring proper drainage and protection of the electrical service. The gooseneck configuration allows for any water that may run along the cable to drip off rather than potentially entering the splice area or the service panel. This is crucial because moisture can lead to electrical failures, corrosion, or even fire hazards, especially at connection points where the integrity of the electrical path is critical. In residential electrical installations, a gooseneck helps in maintaining the integrity of the installation and promotes safety by reducing the risk of water intrusion. Proper installation practices in service entry cables are important for compliance with electrical codes and for ensuring the longevity and reliability of the electrical system.

2. Why is it important to check the breather holes in a thermal pane window?

- A. To enhance energy efficiency
- B. To prevent air leaks
- C. To prevent condensation build-up**
- D. To ensure proper opening mechanism

Checking the breather holes in a thermal pane window is important primarily to prevent condensation build-up. Thermal pane windows, also known as insulated glass units (IGUs), are designed with an airspace between two panes of glass. This airspace is crucial for thermal insulation; however, it must also be able to regulate moisture. Breather holes are small openings that allow air to escape during the manufacturing process and help equalize air pressure as temperatures change. If these holes are blocked or not functioning properly, moisture can accumulate in the airspace, leading to condensation. This not only reduces the insulating properties of the window but can also result in foggy glass and deterioration of the sealant or other components over time. While enhancing energy efficiency, preventing air leaks, and ensuring the proper functioning of the opening mechanism are all important aspects of window inspection and maintenance, they relate to different functions and components of the window. Condensation build-up specifically ties back to the functionality of the breather holes, highlighting their critical role in maintaining the integrity and efficiency of thermal pane windows.

3. What do cracks that break bricks typically indicate?

- A. Weak mortar**
- B. Strong mortar**
- C. Structural framing defects**
- D. Differential foundation movements**

Cracks that break bricks typically indicate weak mortar. In masonry construction, the mortar acts as the adhesive that holds the bricks together and provides structural integrity to the wall. When the mortar is weak, it may not be able to adequately absorb or distribute the stresses placed upon it, which can lead to cracking in the bricks themselves. This situation often results from factors such as improper mix ratios, deterioration over time, or subpar materials being used. In addition, weak mortar can fail to maintain the bond necessary to cope with movements caused by temperature changes, settling, or other stresses. This failure can manifest as bricks that fracture under pressure as they are unable to rely on the surrounding mortar for support and stability. While other options, like structural framing defects and differential foundation movements, can also lead to cracks in masonry, they tend to cause different types of issues or symptoms that might not specifically result in brick cracking. Strong mortar, on the other hand, is unlikely to be connected to the presence of cracking bricks, as it should effectively hold the brick together in a stable wall assembly.

4. What is the minimum fire resistance rating required for an exterior wall with a fire separation distance of less than 3 feet?

- A. 20 minutes**
- B. 30 minutes**
- C. 45 minutes**
- D. 1 hour**

The correct minimum fire resistance rating required for an exterior wall with a fire separation distance of less than 3 feet is indeed 1 hour. This requirement is in accordance with building codes aimed at preventing the spread of fire between neighboring properties and structures. When a building is constructed close to a property line, it is critical to have a higher fire resistance rating for exterior walls to offer sufficient protection to adjacent properties. A wall with a 1-hour fire resistance rating is designed to withstand exposure to fire for at least one hour, thereby providing critical time for firefighters to respond and allowing occupants to escape in the event of a fire. By contrast, lower ratings like 20 minutes, 30 minutes, or even 45 minutes may not provide enough protection in such scenarios, particularly where there is a risk of fire spreading quickly in tightly packed urban areas or residential developments. Ensuring that the wall meets the 1-hour standard helps to mitigate these risks effectively, promoting overall safety in fire scenarios.

5. Which of the following is not considered a common problem with sump pumps?

- A. Inoperative**
- B. Short cycling**
- C. The discharge point is above grade level**
- D. Running continuously**

Running continuously is not typically considered a common problem with sump pumps; instead, it is often seen as a normal operating condition in certain circumstances. Sump pumps are designed to remove water that accumulates in basements or crawl spaces, and during periods of heavy rainfall or high groundwater levels, it's expected for the pump to operate continuously to keep up with the influx of water. In contrast, issues such as inoperative pumps, short cycling (where the pump turns on and off frequently), and an improper discharge point (like being above grade level) are recognized problems that can affect the efficacy of sump pumps. An inoperative pump fails to perform its primary function, short cycling can lead to wear and tear on the pump and decrease its lifespan, and improper discharge can cause water to flow back into the area that the sump pump is meant to protect. Thus, running continuously indicates a need for attention only if it occurs inappropriately during dry conditions, making it less significant as a 'problem' compared to the other issues listed.

6. What would you identify a dirty evaporator coil in a heating system as?

- A. A dirty condensing coil**
- B. An obstructed heat exchanger**
- C. A dirty evaporator coil**
- D. A dirty compressor**

A dirty evaporator coil is specifically identified for its function within the heating system. In a heating system, the evaporator coil is responsible for absorbing heat, and when it becomes dirty, the efficiency of this heat absorption decreases. Dust, dirt, and other debris can accumulate on the evaporator coil, hampering its ability to transfer heat properly, which can lead to reduced heating performance and increased energy consumption. Recognizing the evaporator coil's condition is crucial for maintenance and system efficiency, as cleaning or replacing it can restore optimal performance. The terminology is important as it directly reflects the component in question, emphasizing the distinction between different components such as the condensing coil and the compressor, which have entirely different roles in heating and cooling systems. This precision ensures clarity when diagnosing issues and planning repairs or maintenance.

7. Which aspect is NOT typically considered in the implications of a report's conditions?

- A. Potential renovations needed**
- B. Client's personal taste**
- C. Safety hazards**
- D. Potential property value impact**

In evaluating the implications of a home inspection report, aspects such as potential renovations needed, safety hazards, and potential property value impacts are commonly addressed because they directly relate to the condition of the property and the implications for the buyer. Potential renovations needed refer to necessary improvements or repairs identified in the inspection, which can directly affect the livability and functionality of the property. Safety hazards are critical in reports since they can pose immediate risk to occupants, thus demanding urgent attention. Potential property value impact assesses how the issues raised in the report could influence the market value of the home, guiding the buyer in their purchasing decision. In contrast, the client's personal taste is subjective and does not directly relate to the physical condition of the property or the safety and structural integrity concerns typically raised during a home inspection. While personal preferences may influence a client's decisions regarding renovations or modifications, they are not a factual part of the condition report itself, as reports are meant to provide objective assessments rather than subjective opinions. Consequently, client personal tastes are not typically considered in the implications detailed in a home inspection report.

8. How should an inspector respond regarding a leaning retaining wall that shows no signs of damage or cracks?

- A. It is safe and requires no further evaluation.**
- B. It requires immediate reinforcement.**
- C. It should be monitored, but may need a specialist's assessment.**
- D. It is dangerous and must be replaced.**

The stance that a leaning retaining wall should be monitored, with the possibility of requiring a specialist's assessment, balances safety with the understanding that structural issues can develop over time. While the wall currently shows no signs of damage or cracks, the lean itself could indicate a potential problem, such as inadequate drainage, soil erosion, or shifting soil conditions. Monitoring the wall allows for close observation over time to determine if its condition worsens, which would necessitate further action. By suggesting that a specialist might be needed, the response acknowledges the complexity of retaining walls and the expertise required to evaluate potential risks accurately. This approach ensures that the integrity of the wall can be assessed more thoroughly while ensuring homeowner safety. The other perspectives imply either immediate action, which might be unnecessary, or a lack of potential risk, which could overlook significant future consequences.

9. What is the maximum steady-state efficiency for an oil burner?

- A. 72 percent**
- B. 77 percent**
- C. 82 percent**
- D. 87 percent**

The maximum steady-state efficiency for an oil burner is considered to be 87 percent. This figure represents the best performance that can be consistently achieved under normal operating conditions. Efficiency in this context refers to the ratio of the useful energy output to the total energy input. An oil burner that achieves 87 percent efficiency effectively converts 87 percent of the energy contained in the oil into usable heat, while the remaining 13 percent is lost, primarily through flue gases and other inefficiencies inherent in combustion processes. Understanding this efficiency is critical for assessing the performance of heating systems, as it can have a significant impact on energy consumption and operating costs. Higher efficiency ratings indicate better utilization of fuel and reduced environmental impact, which is increasingly important in modern energy use considerations. The other choices represent lower maximum efficiency levels that do not reflect the optimal performance achievable with modern oil-burning technologies. Each of those levels falls short of the maximum steady-state efficiency benchmark established for well-designed oil burners.

10. What is the maximum allowable opening between railing spindles?

- A. 3 1/4 inches**
- B. 4 3/8 inches**
- C. 5 inches**
- D. 6 inches**

The maximum allowable opening between railing spindles is 4 3/8 inches. This measurement is crucial for safety standards, particularly in residential settings, to prevent the risk of children or pets slipping through the spindles and potentially falling. Building codes, such as the International Residential Code (IRC), have established this limitation to ensure that guardrails and railings are designed with adequate spacing that balances safety and structural support. Understanding this specific measurement is important for home inspectors and builders, as it reflects compliance with safety regulations. Any openings larger than this could lead to serious safety hazards and would not meet the legal requirements for proper construction practices. Adhering to these guidelines helps to maintain a safe environment in residential properties.

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://championsschhomeinsp.examzify.com>

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

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