

CWEA Collection System Maintenance (CSM) Certification Grade 2 Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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SAMPLE

Questions

SAMPLE

- 1. What is a responsibility of workers in relation to SSO reporting?**
 - A. Only report spills they see**
 - B. Document every spill without fail**
 - C. Report all spills promptly**
 - D. Wait for manager's approval before reporting**
- 2. What are the requirements for a Class B license?**
 - A. Vehicle weight more than 26,000 lbs**
 - B. Vehicle weight less than 26,000 lbs**
 - C. No requirements for weight**
 - D. Vehicle must be commercial only**
- 3. If the soil strength is greater than 0.5 tsf but less than 1.5 tsf, what type of soil is indicated?**
 - A. Type A**
 - B. Type B**
 - C. Type C**
 - D. Type D**
- 4. Which repair method allows for the entire pipe section to be replaced or lined with minimal disruption to the ground surface above the pipe?**
 - A. Open-cut**
 - B. Trenchless**
 - C. Spot repair**
 - D. Excavation**
- 5. What is the primary concern when developing a system-specific SSMP?**
 - A. Maximizing plant output**
 - B. Establishing regulatory compliance**
 - C. Enhancing public relations**
 - D. Reducing construction costs**

- 6. How is a Cast-in-Place manhole base created?**
- A. The base is pre-formed in a factory**
 - B. The concrete is poured and the base is formed in the field**
 - C. The base is assembled from pre-cast sections**
 - D. The base is made with composite materials**
- 7. According to Cal/OSHA law, a vertical walled trench exceeding what depth must be shored?**
- A. 4 feet**
 - B. 5 feet**
 - C. 6 feet**
 - D. 7 feet**
- 8. How long is the inquiry identification number for an underground service alert (USA) considered viable?**
- A. 14 days**
 - B. 21 days**
 - C. 28 days**
 - D. 30 days**
- 9. What is one source of excessive clear water that can infiltrate a collection system?**
- A. Environmental runoff**
 - B. Cracked pipes**
 - C. Stormwater drainage**
 - D. High water table infiltration**
- 10. What does the acronym CIPP stand for?**
- A. Closed-In-Place Pipe**
 - B. Continuous In-Place Pipe**
 - C. Cured-In-Place Pipe**
 - D. Cast-In-Place Pipe**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is a responsibility of workers in relation to SSO reporting?

- A. Only report spills they see**
- B. Document every spill without fail**
- C. Report all spills promptly**
- D. Wait for manager's approval before reporting**

The responsibility of workers in relation to SSO (Sanitary Sewer Overflow) reporting is to report all spills promptly. This is essential for several reasons. First and foremost, prompt reporting allows for quick mitigation of environmental impacts and potential public health hazards associated with untreated sewage spills. By ensuring that spills are reported immediately, it enables the appropriate response teams to take action to contain the spill, minimize its spread, and initiate clean-up procedures if necessary. Additionally, prompt reporting is crucial for compliance with regulatory requirements. Many jurisdictions have specific legal obligations that require operators to notify relevant authorities and the public when a spill occurs. Failing to report an incident in a timely manner could lead to regulatory penalties for the organization and jeopardize the safety of the surrounding community. Overall, the duty to report spills promptly underscores the commitment to environmental protection and public safety that is foundational in the field of wastewater management. This proactive approach not only helps in managing immediate issues but also aids in long-term planning and resource allocation to prevent future incidents.

2. What are the requirements for a Class B license?

- A. Vehicle weight more than 26,000 lbs**
- B. Vehicle weight less than 26,000 lbs**
- C. No requirements for weight**
- D. Vehicle must be commercial only**

A Class B license is specifically designed for operators of larger vehicles. The requirement for a Class B license includes the ability to operate vehicles that weigh more than 26,000 pounds. This includes vehicles such as buses and trucks that may be used for commercial purposes or special operations. The weight requirement is critical because it designates a category for drivers who not only need to manage larger vehicles but also require additional skills and awareness regarding driving dynamics, safety protocols, and vehicle maintenance associated with operating heavier equipment. The other choices do not correctly represent the requirements for a Class B license, as they either misstate the vehicle weight limits or omit key factors that define the Class B category. Understanding these requirements is essential for those pursuing a Class B license, ensuring they meet all necessary regulations for safe and legal operation on the roads.

3. If the soil strength is greater than 0.5 tsf but less than 1.5 tsf, what type of soil is indicated?

- A. Type A**
- B. Type B**
- C. Type C**
- D. Type D**

The correct answer, indicating soil type B, is appropriate because soil classification is often determined based on its unconfined compressive strength, which is measured in tons per square foot (tsf). Soil in the range of greater than 0.5 tsf and less than 1.5 tsf is typically classified as type B soil. This type of soil generally has moderate strength and is considered to have a higher potential for stability compared to type C soil, which has lower strength characteristics. Type B soil can support construction and excavation work reasonably well, but precautions still need to be taken due to its moderate strength. This classification is essential for ensuring safety during excavation and construction activities, as it helps in determining the necessary protective measures and excavation angles that may be required. In contrast, type A soils have greater strength, typically more than 1.5 tsf, and type C soils possess lower strength and have strength values less than 0.5 tsf. Type D soils are often more unstable or weak, but specific values are not always applied in this approach. Understanding these classifications is vital for anyone working in construction or excavation and helps inform safe working practices.

4. Which repair method allows for the entire pipe section to be replaced or lined with minimal disruption to the ground surface above the pipe?

- A. Open-cut**
- B. Trenchless**
- C. Spot repair**
- D. Excavation**

The trenchless repair method is designed to replace or line entire sections of piping with minimal impact on the surface above. This technique utilizes advanced technologies that allow for the installation of new pipes or relining existing pipes without the extensive digging associated with traditional methods. By making only small access points, usually at either end of the section being worked on, trenchless methods significantly reduce the disruption to roadways, sidewalks, or landscaping, which can present both cost savings and a quicker return to normal conditions above ground. In contrast, the open-cut method requires a significant excavation of the ground, disrupting the surface and often leading to prolonged work and restoration efforts. Spot repairs involve addressing specific sections of a pipe but do not replace whole sections, making them less applicable for situations where the entire segment is compromised. Excavation, while similar to open-cut, also implies substantial surface disruption and is not aimed at minimally invasive interventions. For these reasons, the trenchless method stands out as the most efficient and least disruptive option for pipe repair.

5. What is the primary concern when developing a system-specific SSMP?

- A. Maximizing plant output**
- B. Establishing regulatory compliance**
- C. Enhancing public relations**
- D. Reducing construction costs**

When developing a system-specific Sanitary Sewer Management Plan (SSMP), the primary concern is establishing regulatory compliance. SSMPs are designed to ensure that sewer systems adhere to local, state, and federal regulations concerning wastewater management. These regulations are established to protect public health and the environment from the adverse effects of sewer overflows and to ensure that utilities operate in a manner that meets legal standards. Compliance with these regulations enables organizations to avoid fines, legal issues, and the potential for negative environmental impacts associated with sewer system failures. By prioritizing regulatory compliance, a utility can also enhance its overall operational practices, ensuring that they employ best management practices and embrace preventive maintenance strategies. While maximizing plant output, enhancing public relations, and reducing construction costs are important factors in the overall management of a sewage system, they are secondary to the fundamental requirement of meeting regulatory obligations. An effective SSMP focuses on compliance first, which in turn can lead to better operational performance and community relations as a result of a well-managed sewer system.

6. How is a Cast-in-Place manhole base created?

- A. The base is pre-formed in a factory**
- B. The concrete is poured and the base is formed in the field**
- C. The base is assembled from pre-cast sections**
- D. The base is made with composite materials**

A cast-in-place manhole base is created by pouring concrete directly into forms set up in the field. This method allows for the base to be custom-shaped and sized according to the specific requirements of the installation site. Pouring the concrete on-site means that it can properly bond with the surrounding soil and adhere to the manhole structure, ensuring durability and stability. This on-site construction approach is particularly advantageous for handling site-specific conditions such as drainage needs, soil type, and depth of the manhole. In contrast, pre-fabricated options like assembling from pre-cast sections or using composite materials do not provide the same level of customization and can sometimes lead to challenges in ensuring watertight seals or structural integrity when installed. Hence, the practice of pouring concrete in situ, or in place, is often preferred for its adaptability and effectiveness in creating robust manhole bases.

7. According to Cal/OSHA law, a vertical walled trench exceeding what depth must be shored?

- A. 4 feet
- B. 5 feet**
- C. 6 feet
- D. 7 feet

According to Cal/OSHA regulations, a vertical walled trench that exceeds 5 feet in depth must be shored. The shoring is required to ensure the safety of workers who may be exposed to cave-ins or falling materials while working in or around the trench. At depths greater than 5 feet, the risk of trench collapse increases significantly, which is why regulatory measures are established to protect workers. Understanding this depth requirement is crucial for maintaining workplace safety and compliance with regulations. For trenches that are 5 feet deep or more, specific shoring methods, such as using trench boxes or other protective systems, must be implemented to create a safe working environment. This regulation reflects the industry's commitment to reducing the risk of accidents and injuries on job sites, ensuring that workers can perform their tasks without undue risk.

8. How long is the inquiry identification number for an underground service alert (USA) considered viable?

- A. 14 days
- B. 21 days
- C. 28 days**
- D. 30 days

The inquiry identification number for an underground service alert (USA) is considered viable for 28 days. This time frame is important as it allows sufficient opportunity for utility companies to respond to the inquiry and take necessary precautions to ensure safety during excavation or construction activities. After 28 days, the alert is no longer valid, and any excavation work would need to be re-initiated with a new inquiry identification number. This protocol is essential for maintaining safety and compliance with the laws governing underground utility markings. The duration is set by regulations that ensure utility operators have adequate time to locate and mark their facilities, protecting workers and the public from accidents related to unmarked underground utilities.

9. What is one source of excessive clear water that can infiltrate a collection system?

- A. Environmental runoff**
- B. Cracked pipes**
- C. Stormwater drainage**
- D. High water table infiltration**

High water table infiltration is a significant source of excessive clear water that can infiltrate a collection system. When the water table rises, it exerts hydrostatic pressure on the sewer system, allowing groundwater to seep into the pipes. This infiltration can occur through joints, cracks, or other defects in the sewer infrastructure, leading to increased flow in the system during periods of high groundwater levels. Understanding the dynamics of water tables is crucial for managing collection systems because excessive infiltration can overwhelm sewage treatment facilities, leading to operational challenges and potential environmental issues, such as combined sewer overflows. Identifying high water table conditions helps operators develop strategies to mitigate this source of infiltration and improve the overall efficiency of the collection system.

10. What does the acronym CIPP stand for?

- A. Closed-In-Place Pipe**
- B. Continuous In-Place Pipe**
- C. Cured-In-Place Pipe**
- D. Cast-In-Place Pipe**

The acronym CIPP stands for Cured-In-Place Pipe. This refers to a trenchless rehabilitation method used primarily for repairing existing pipelines, particularly in underground sewer systems. The CIPP process involves inserting a resin-saturated felt tube into the damaged pipe. Once in place, the tube is cured, usually by applying heat or ultraviolet light, which hardens the resin and forms a new, durable pipe within the old pipe. CIPP is favored because it minimizes disruption to the surface above the pipelines, preserves the original pipe's structural integrity, and is effective in extending the life of aging infrastructure. While the other options mention various pipe-related terms, they do not align with the trenchless technology methods used in rehabilitation efforts like those of CIPP.