

DEQ STORMWATER MANAGEMENT INSPECTOR PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

<https://deqstormwatermgmtinspector.examzify.com>



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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 program regulates erosion and sediment control in Virginia?**
 - A. Center for Watershed Protection
 - B. Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
 - C. Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Program
 - D. Virginia Stormwater Management Act

- 2. A stormwater outfall is discharging visibly to a stream during a rain event. What immediate action should you take?**
 - A. Ignore the discharge if it stops soon.
 - B. Notify only the DEQ, and take no internal action.
 - C. Document the discharge, assess BMPs, notify the site supervisor and DEQ according to procedures, and begin corrective actions.
 - D. Wait for the next inspection to record it.

- 3. What is the primary purpose of a Sediment Forebay?**
 - A. Store treated water
 - B. Capture and settle out sediment before stormwater enters the main treatment area
 - C. Provide additional irrigation water
 - D. Support aquatic life

- 4. Maximum Penalty under the Stormwater Act**
 - A. \$32,500
 - B. \$10,000
 - C. \$50,000
 - D. \$75,000

- 5. What are the steps to convert a sediment basin to a wet pond?**
 - A. Dewater, Dredge, and Regrade
 - B. Dredge, Regrade, and Dewater
 - C. Dewater and Regrade
 - D. Dewater, Dredge, and Remove

- 6. What is the purpose of rainfall data in planning and inspecting stormwater BMPs?**
- A. To determine plant species.
 - B. To adjust soil pH.
 - C. To trigger BMP activation, plan sampling during rain events, and assess performance under representative hydrographs.
 - D. To estimate project cost.
- 7. What is the required timeline to fix an improperly installed erosion control practice after discovery?**
- A. Within 24 hours of discovery
 - B. Immediately
 - C. Within seven days of discovery
 - D. Within seven days of discovery or longer with VSMP authority approval
- 8. How should a field inspector handle a discrepancy between observed BMPs and what is shown on the project plan?**
- A. Document the discrepancy with photos, notify the supervisor, and require corrective action to bring the site into compliance.
 - B. Ignore the discrepancy and continue with inspections.
 - C. Update the project plan to reflect the observed BMPs without notifying anyone.
 - D. Stop all work until the discrepancy is resolved, without documentation.
- 9. Which acronym stands for the Center for Watershed Protection?**
- A. DEQ
 - B. ESC
 - C. TMDL
 - D. CWP
- 10. Which of the following is NOT one of the five common classes?**
- A. Perimeter controls and inlet protection
 - B. Stabilization
 - C. Sediment basins and traps
 - D. Noise reduction and aesthetic enhancement

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which program regulates erosion and sediment control in Virginia?

- A. Center for Watershed Protection
- B. Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
- C. Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Program**
- D. Virginia Stormwater Management Act

Virginia regulates erosion and sediment control through the Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Program. This program sets the rules for erosion and sediment control measures on construction sites, requires an approved erosion and sediment control plan, and enforces compliance through localities to prevent sediment from leaving the site and entering waterways. It operates separately from broader stormwater or discharge-permit programs, focusing specifically on controlling sediment during land-disturbing activities. The other options are not regulatory programs for erosion and sediment control: a nonprofit organization provides guidance but has no regulatory authority; the VPDES program deals with permitted discharges of pollutants under NPDES, not the site-specific E&S controls; and the Virginia Stormwater Management Act covers broader stormwater management beyond the specific erosion and sediment control requirements.

2. A stormwater outfall is discharging visibly to a stream during a rain event. What immediate action should you take?

- A. Ignore the discharge if it stops soon.
- B. Notify only the DEQ, and take no internal action.
- C. Document the discharge, assess BMPs, notify the site supervisor and DEQ according to procedures, and begin corrective actions.**
- D. Wait for the next inspection to record it.

When a stormwater outfall is visibly discharging to a stream during rain, treat it as an actionable water-quality concern that needs prompt response. Start by documenting what you observe—the time, exact location, flow characteristics, rainfall conditions, and any noticeable indicators like color or odor—to create a clear record. Next, quickly assess the BMPs in place: confirm they are installed correctly, functioning, and sufficient to control the discharge, and identify any failures or gaps that allowed the outfall to overflow. Communicate with the site supervisor and follow internal procedures to notify the DEQ as required, ensuring both internal and regulatory awareness. Then begin corrective actions immediately to stop the discharge and prevent recurrence. This can include repairing or adjusting BMPs, fixing leaks or faulty outlets, enhancing stabilization and erosion controls, removing contaminated material, and implementing interim measures to keep polluted water from reaching the stream. Acting with documentation, assessment, notification, and rapid correction aligns with permit requirements and SWPPP practices. Delaying action or relying on a single step (like only notifying the regulator or waiting for the next inspection) would fail to protect water quality and comply with procedures.

3. What is the primary purpose of a Sediment Forebay?

- A. Store treated water
- B. Capture and settle out sediment before stormwater enters the main treatment area**
- C. Provide additional irrigation water
- D. Support aquatic life

A sediment forebay is an upstream pretreatment step that traps sediment and debris before stormwater reaches the main treatment area. By providing a shallow, still basin (often with baffles), it slows flow and allows heavier particles to settle out quickly. This dramatically reduces the sediment load entering the larger treatment basin, protecting downstream processes, lowering clogging and maintenance, and improving overall treatment efficiency. The other options describe uses that aren't the primary purpose of a forebay—storing treated water happens after treatment, not before; providing irrigation water isn't its function; and supporting aquatic life isn't the main reason for its design.

4. Maximum Penalty under the Stormwater Act

- A. \$32,500**
- B. \$10,000
- C. \$50,000
- D. \$75,000

Penalties under the Stormwater Act are capped by a fixed amount defined in the statute. This ceiling is the highest civil penalty the Act allows for a violation. The correct choice reflects that statutory cap—the number that matches the act's defined maximum. The other figures do not represent the limit set by the Act, so they aren't the maximum you'd face under enforcement. Knowing this helps you understand the enforcement risk and communicate the potential consequence to permittees clearly.

5. What are the steps to convert a sediment basin to a wet pond?

- A. Dewater, Dredge, and Regrade**
- B. Dredge, Regrade, and Dewater
- C. Dewater and Regrade
- D. Dewater, Dredge, and Remove

Converting a sediment basin into a wet pond requires a practical sequence: remove the water, remove the accumulated sediment, and then shape the basin to the desired final form. Dewatering first is essential because with the basin drained you can access the floor, inspect structures, and perform large earthwork without the interference of standing water. Once it is dry, dredging follows to physically remove the built-up sediment that has filled the basin and reduced storage capacity, so the pond can hold the intended water volume and the outlet structures function correctly. After the sediment has been removed, regrading is done to establish the proper bottom elevations and side slopes for a functioning wet pond, ensuring the permanent pool depth and safe, stable geometry around the outlet and embankments. Skipping dredging or trying to regrade without removing the sediment would prevent achieving the required water storage and drainage performance, so the three steps in that order best accomplish the conversion.

6. What is the purpose of rainfall data in planning and inspecting stormwater BMPs?

- A. To determine plant species.
- B. To adjust soil pH.
- C. To trigger BMP activation, plan sampling during rain events, and assess performance under representative hydrographs.**
- D. To estimate project cost.

Rainfall data ties precipitation to how stormwater BMPs behave. By looking at rainfall intensity, duration, and total amounts, you can decide when a BMP should activate to control runoff, plan sampling to occur during actual rain events so the data reflect real operating conditions, and interpret results using hydrographs that show how flow and pollutant loads rise and fall over the storm. This approach ensures you're evaluating performance under representative storm conditions, not just in dry periods. The other options don't fit because rainfall data isn't used to pick plant species, adjust soil pH, or estimate project cost in the context of planning and inspecting BMP performance.

7. What is the required timeline to fix an improperly installed erosion control practice after discovery?

- A. Within 24 hours of discovery
- B. Immediately
- C. Within seven days of discovery
- D. Within seven days of discovery or longer with VSMP authority approval**

The question tests the remediation timeline for a mis-installed erosion control practice found during inspection. The standard expectation is to fix the deficiency within seven days of discovery, reflecting a prompt but practical timeframe to restore control measures. If more time is needed due to site conditions or other factors, a longer period can be allowed with explicit approval from the VSMP authority. This combines a default seven-day deadline with the flexibility to extend when authorized, ensuring erosion and sediment controls are effective while accommodating legitimate delays. Rigid options like fixing immediately or within 24 hours aren't typically required and would be impractical in many field situations, whereas the correct choice explicitly includes the possibility of a longer approved extension.

8. How should a field inspector handle a discrepancy between observed BMPs and what is shown on the project plan?

- A. Document the discrepancy with photos, notify the supervisor, and require corrective action to bring the site into compliance.**
- B. Ignore the discrepancy and continue with inspections.
- C. Update the project plan to reflect the observed BMPs without notifying anyone.
- D. Stop all work until the discrepancy is resolved, without documentation.

When a field inspector finds that what's on the project plan doesn't match what's being implemented on the site, the proper move is to document the discrepancy with photos, notify the supervisor, and require corrective action to bring the site into compliance. Documentation with photos creates a verifiable record of the exact conditions and location, which is essential for tracking what was observed and when. Notifying the supervisor ensures there's oversight and that someone with authority coordinates an appropriate response, preventing meandering fixes or local improvisations that don't meet permit requirements. Requiring corrective action formalizes that the BMP will be implemented as intended or adjusted as needed, so pollutants are controlled and the project remains in compliance. Ignoring the discrepancy or continuing inspections without addressing it can allow noncompliance to go unchecked. Updating the plan to reflect what was observed without notifying anyone hides the issue and can mislead stakeholders about the project's status. Stopping all work without documentation is an extreme step that isn't the standard procedure; it should be reserved for urgent hazards or permit conditions, not routine discrepancies. Following the documented process keeps the site accountable and ensures timely remediation while maintaining a clear audit trail.

9. Which acronym stands for the Center for Watershed Protection?

- A. DEQ
- B. ESC
- C. TMDL
- D. CWP**

Recognizing what each acronym represents is the key idea. The Center for Watershed Protection is commonly abbreviated as CWP, which directly matches the organization in question. The other terms refer to different concepts: DEQ stands for Department of Environmental Quality (an agency), ESC is a different center or concept not tied to this organization, and TMDL stands for Total Maximum Daily Load (a regulatory limit, not an organization). So the acronym that correctly identifies the Center for Watershed Protection is CWP.

10. Which of the following is NOT one of the five common classes?

- A. Perimeter controls and inlet protection
- B. Stabilization
- C. Sediment basins and traps
- D. Noise reduction and aesthetic enhancement**

The concept here is recognizing which elements are actual erosion and sediment control categories versus items that don't fit those categories. The five common classes are focused on preventing sediment from leaving the construction site—through controls at the site perimeter and inlets, keeping exposed soil stabilized, and using structures like sediment basins and traps to capture sediment-laden runoff. Noise reduction and aesthetic enhancement, while sometimes desirable on a site, does not address erosion control or sediment capture, so it isn't one of the standard five classes. Perimeter controls and inlet protection, stabilization, and sediment basins and traps are all typical BMP categories used to manage stormwater on construction sites, making the noise/appearance option the one that doesn't belong.

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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