

EARTHWORK LEVEL 2 PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

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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. The verification density testing frequency for pipe and structures is one test per how many LOTs?**
 - A. One test per 2 LOTs
 - B. One test per 4 LOTs
 - C. One test per 6 LOTs
 - D. One test per 8 LOTs
- 2. Which of the following is a valid method for backfill compaction?**
 - A. Smooth wheel or rubber tire rollers
 - B. Hand ramming only
 - C. No compaction allowed
 - D. Hammering with a sledge
- 3. The standard penetration resistance for crushed limerock in Florida has been standardized to what psi?**
 - A. 900 psi
 - B. 600 psi
 - C. 1000 psi
 - D. 800 psi
- 4. Which of the zones requires that material be placed in layers not to exceed 12 inches in compacted thickness?**
 - A. Bottom Zone
 - B. Cover Zone
 - C. Top Zone
 - D. Bedding Zone
- 5. In the event of a QC density exceeding the Proctor maximum by 5%, where is the independent verification test performed?**
 - A. Within 10 ft
 - B. Within 5 ft
 - C. Within 15 ft
 - D. At a distant lab

- 6. Is the LBR value affected by moisture at the time of compaction?**
- A. Yes
 - B. No
 - C. Depends on soil type
 - D. Not enough data
- 7. QA/QC primary purpose in earthwork projects?**
- A. To accelerate production
 - B. To maximize profits
 - C. To minimize safety checks
 - D. To ensure conformance
- 8. To what depth below the base should plastic material be removed?**
- A. 24 inches (2 ft)
 - B. 12 inches (1 ft)
 - C. 36 inches (3 ft)
 - D. 6 inches (0.5 ft)
- 9. Which packaging condition is required for geosynthetic materials when delivered to the job site?**
- A. Unopened shipping packages
 - B. Opened pallets
 - C. Loose bundles
 - D. Damaged containers
- 10. Which of the following items is included in the LOT scope besides parking lots?**
- A. Mainline pavement lanes
 - B. Parking lots
 - C. Concrete box culverts
 - D. Retaining wall systems

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. The verification density testing frequency for pipe and structures is one test per how many LOTs?

- A. One test per 2 LOTs
- B. One test per 4 LOTs**
- C. One test per 6 LOTs
- D. One test per 8 LOTs

The main idea is choosing how often to verify density so you get a trustworthy picture of compaction without testing every small area. For pipe and structure backfill, a common approach is to perform a verification density test in every fourth lot. This spacing provides representative coverage along the length of the install: it checks overall density performance, catches patterns of under- or over-compaction, and keeps testing manageable in terms of time and cost. If a test comes back within specification, the periodic checks build confidence that nearby areas are similar; if a test fails, additional testing can be targeted to investigate and address the issue. Testing more frequently (every two lots) would raise costs with limited extra benefit, while testing less often (every six or eight) could miss variations around pipes or structures. Therefore, one test per four lots is the balanced, standard choice.

2. Which of the following is a valid method for backfill compaction?

- A. Smooth wheel or rubber tire rollers**
- B. Hand ramming only
- C. No compaction allowed
- D. Hammering with a sledge

Achieving proper density in backfill relies on using equipment that provides even, controlled compaction. A smooth wheel or rubber-tired roller is well-suited for this because its continuous contact and weight crush air voids and compress the soil uniformly over larger areas. This helps reach the specified density without creating sharp impacts that could damage buried utilities or create irregular pockets of settlement. Hand ramming can work in very small, confined spots or around delicate features, but it's impractical for typical backfill volumes and tends to produce uneven density. Leaving no compaction would leave voids, reduce bearing capacity, and lead to settlement issues. Hammering with a sledge is uncontrolled and can fracture soil, shift or damage pipes, and likewise fail to achieve uniform density. Using a roller in lifts, with moisture content near ideal for the soil type, is the standard, reliable method to achieve the required compaction for backfill.

3. The standard penetration resistance for crushed limerock in Florida has been standardized to what psi?

- A. 900 psi
- B. 600 psi
- C. 1000 psi
- D. 800 psi**

Understanding how materials are rated for strength helps explain this. Standard penetration resistance is a way to express how much a material resists being penetrated, which in practice translates to its bearing strength and suitability as a base for pavement. For crushed limerock used in Florida road bases, the state has established a specific benchmark value: 800 psi. This standardized target provides a consistent, reliable level of strength for design and quality control, balancing adequate support for pavements with practical construction needs. The other values don't reflect the fixed Florida standard for this material, so 800 psi is the appropriate choice.

4. Which of the zones requires that material be placed in layers not to exceed 12 inches in compacted thickness?

- A. Bottom Zone
- B. Cover Zone
- C. Top Zone**
- D. Bedding Zone

The lift thickness rule is about how you compact backfill in stages. The material in the top zone is closest to the finished surface and will bear the most load from traffic and weather. Limiting each compacted layer to not more than 12 inches in this zone ensures the compactor can densify the entire lift, reducing voids and uneven density that lead to settlement or surface cracking. This controlled thickness helps achieve a uniform, stable finished surface. Bedding and bottom zones have different roles (support under the pipe and good contact with the subgrade), so their lift requirements are governed by those needs. The top zone is the one where keeping lifts under 12 inches matters most for surface performance.

5. In the event of a QC density exceeding the Proctor maximum by 5%, where is the independent verification test performed?

- A. Within 10 ft
- B. Within 5 ft**
- C. Within 15 ft
- D. At a distant lab

When field density results exceed the Proctor maximum by 5%, an independent verification test is required to confirm the result. This verification is done on the same area and on the same lift, within 5 feet of the original test location. The close proximity ensures the soil conditions, moisture, and compaction effort are essentially the same, so the verification outcome is meaningful and comparable to the QC result. A test conducted farther away or in a distant lab could reflect different conditions and wouldn't reliably confirm the on-site density.

6. Is the LBR value affected by moisture at the time of compaction?

- A. Yes**
- B. No
- C. Depends on soil type
- D. Not enough data

Moisture during compaction changes how densely the soil can pack and how its particles arrange themselves. The LBR value is a measure of the compacted soil's bearing-like resistance, which strongly depends on the density and structure created by the compaction process. When moisture content is near the optimum, particles rearrange efficiently, packing more tightly and producing a higher LBR. If the soil is too dry, compaction is less effective and the LBR tends to be lower; if it's too wet, excess water reduces inter-particle friction and the structure can loosen, also lowering the LBR. Because the moisture at the time of compaction directly alters the achieved density and soil fabric, the LBR value is affected by it.

7. QA/QC primary purpose in earthwork projects?

- A. To accelerate production
- B. To maximize profits
- C. To minimize safety checks
- D. To ensure conformance**

The main purpose of QA/QC in earthwork is to ensure conformance to project specifications and quality standards. QA establishes the planned processes, standards, and testing plan, while QC involves the on-site checks and tests that verify the earthwork actually meets those specifications—grade, alignment, compaction and moisture targets, material quality, and dimensional tolerances shown in the contract drawings. When work conforms to the design and contract documents, it reduces risk, prevents costly rework, and helps ensure safety and durability. While QA/QC activities can affect schedule or cost, and safety checks are essential, the core goal is verification that the finished earthwork meets all requirements.

8. To what depth below the base should plastic material be removed?

- A. 24 inches (2 ft)**
- B. 12 inches (1 ft)
- C. 36 inches (3 ft)
- D. 6 inches (0.5 ft)

Plastic soils are problematic under pavements because they become soft and unstable when wet and can consolidate and swell, leading to differential settlement of the pavement above. To create a reliable foundation, the layer containing that unstable, high-plasticity material must be cut out to a depth where the remaining soil is non-plastic enough to support loads when compacted. In this case, the specified depth to remove below the base is 24 inches. This depth ensures that the troublesome plastic material is removed and replaced with suitable, well-compacted material that provides adequate bearing capacity and minimizes future settlement. Removing only a shallower amount (such as 6 or 12 inches) wouldn't reach the unstable layer and could leave the subgrade prone to movement, while removing more than necessary (like 36 inches) adds cost without additional benefit.

9. Which packaging condition is required for geosynthetic materials when delivered to the job site?

- A. Unopened shipping packages**
- B. Opened pallets
- C. Loose bundles
- D. Damaged containers

Keeping geosynthetic materials in unopened shipping packages is essential because it protects them from moisture, dust, UV exposure, and physical damage during transit and storage. When packaging remains intact, the material stays clean, dry, and undisturbed until installation, preserving its performance and any warranty terms. Opening pallets, using loose bundles, or receiving damaged containers increases the risk of contamination, moisture ingress, tears, or punctures, which can compromise the material and its effectiveness.

10. Which of the following items is included in the LOT scope besides parking lots?

- A. Mainline pavement lanes
- B. Parking lots
- C. Concrete box culverts**
- D. Retaining wall systems

Focusing on what the LOT scope covers, you look at site elements that interact with drainage and parking, not the main roadway or vertical stabilization features. Concrete box culverts fit here because they are drainage structures that convey stormwater beneath parking areas and road sections, tying the site's surface features to its drainage plan. Mainline pavement lanes are part of the primary roadway scope, not the LOT package, and retaining wall systems are typically categorized under earthwork or structural scopes rather than LOT. So, the item included besides parking lots is the concrete box culverts.

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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://earthworklevel2.examzify.com>

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

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