

Georgia Commercial Contractor Septic Practice Exam (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

- 1. How does environmental impact relate to septic system planning?**
 - A. It determines the aesthetics of the installation area**
 - B. It affects only the cost of wastewater treatment**
 - C. It must be assessed to prevent contamination**
 - D. It is a minor concern in rural areas**
- 2. Are there alternatives to traditional septic systems in Georgia?**
 - A. No, only traditional systems are permitted**
 - B. Yes, such as aerobic treatment units and constructed wetlands**
 - C. Yes, but only for commercial use**
 - D. Yes, but they must be approved by the EPA**
- 3. What is the estimate for daily sewage flow per bedroom for residential systems?**
 - A. 100 gallons**
 - B. 150 gallons**
 - C. 200 gallons**
 - D. 250 gallons**
- 4. Under what condition should check valves be used in dosing tanks?**
 - A. When the tank is smaller than 500 gallons**
 - B. When field lines are above the operating water level**
 - C. When using gravity feed**
 - D. When only liquid waste is pumped**
- 5. How are residential absorption fields sized?**
 - A. By the number of residents**
 - B. According to peak daily sewage flow**
 - C. Based on the size of the property**
 - D. By the age of the structure**

- 6. What is the minimum 28 day comprehensive strength of poured in place or pre-cast cement tanks?**
- A. 3000 pounds per square inch**
 - B. 3500 pounds per square inch**
 - C. 4000 pounds per square inch**
 - D. 4500 pounds per square inch**
- 7. How far into the liquid depth of the septic tank must Tees extend?**
- A. Minimum of 10% and Maximum of 30%**
 - B. Minimum of 25% and Maximum of 50%**
 - C. Minimum of 50% and Maximum of 75%**
 - D. Minimum of 0% and Maximum of 20%**
- 8. What characteristic of soil can help determine absorption rates for a septic system?**
- A. Particle size**
 - B. Organic material content**
 - C. Color variation**
 - D. Proximity to water sources**
- 9. How is dosing accomplished in septic systems?**
- A. By using gravity only**
 - B. By manual operation**
 - C. By using pumps or siphons**
 - D. By using solar energy**
- 10. What role does the state play in inspecting septic systems after installation?**
- A. To collect fees for septic permits**
 - B. To ensure that all work meets health and safety regulations**
 - C. To oversee the planning phase of the project**
 - D. To provide maintenance guidelines for homeowners**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. How does environmental impact relate to septic system planning?

- A. It determines the aesthetics of the installation area**
- B. It affects only the cost of wastewater treatment**
- C. It must be assessed to prevent contamination**
- D. It is a minor concern in rural areas**

In the context of septic system planning, assessing environmental impact is crucial to prevent contamination. Septic systems treat and dispose of wastewater, which, if not managed properly, can lead to significant environmental harm, including groundwater pollution and the degradation of local ecosystems. Proper assessment ensures that the system is designed and installed in a way that minimizes risks associated with nutrient loading and pathogen spread, thereby protecting water quality and public health. Evaluating environmental impact involves considering factors such as soil type, water table level, and proximity to water bodies. This assessment informs decision-making in selecting the appropriate system size and location, further ensuring compliance with local regulations aimed at protecting the environment. By focusing on preventing contamination, planners can minimize adverse effects on surrounding land and water resources, making this an essential aspect of responsible septic planning.

2. Are there alternatives to traditional septic systems in Georgia?

- A. No, only traditional systems are permitted**
- B. Yes, such as aerobic treatment units and constructed wetlands**
- C. Yes, but only for commercial use**
- D. Yes, but they must be approved by the EPA**

In Georgia, there are indeed alternatives to traditional septic systems that are recognized and permitted for use. These alternatives include various innovative wastewater treatment systems such as aerobic treatment units and constructed wetlands. Aerobic treatment units utilize oxygen to break down waste more efficiently compared to conventional septic tanks, allowing for a smaller footprint and reduced environmental impact in certain situations. Constructed wetlands mimic natural wetland processes to effectively treat wastewater, providing both treatment and habitat. The flexibility of these systems is essential in enhancing sustainability and accommodating various site conditions that may not be suitable for traditional septic systems. The other options touch on aspects that do not reflect the full scope of alternatives available. While it is necessary for all septic systems, including alternatives, to comply with regulations, stating that only traditional systems are permitted or that alternatives are limited to commercial use is inaccurate. Moreover, while EPA approval is necessary for some systems, it does not apply universally to all alternatives in Georgia. Thus, the presence of alternatives like aerobic treatment units and constructed wetlands showcases the options available beyond just traditional systems.

3. What is the estimate for daily sewage flow per bedroom for residential systems?

- A. 100 gallons**
- B. 150 gallons**
- C. 200 gallons**
- D. 250 gallons**

The estimate for daily sewage flow per bedroom for residential systems is commonly recognized as 150 gallons. This figure is based on industry standards and guidelines that account for the average water usage of occupants in a household. When determining the design and sizing of a septic system, it's crucial to have an accurate estimation of daily sewage flow to ensure that the system can adequately handle the waste produced without risking failure or overloading. The 150 gallons per bedroom estimate considers typical usage patterns, which include activities such as bathing, laundry, and toilet use. Using this figure helps contractors and engineers design systems that will support the household's needs while maintaining compliance with local regulations and environmental considerations. Proper sizing prevents problems such as clogged systems and discharge of untreated sewage, which can pose health risks and environmental damage.

4. Under what condition should check valves be used in dosing tanks?

- A. When the tank is smaller than 500 gallons**
- B. When field lines are above the operating water level**
- C. When using gravity feed**
- D. When only liquid waste is pumped**

Check valves are crucial in dosing tanks, especially in scenarios involving pressurized systems. They are designed to prevent backflow, ensuring that effluent does not return to the dosing tank after it has been pumped out to the drain field. The specific condition where check valves should be used is when field lines are above the operating water level. In this instance, if the dosing tank were to lose pressure or if there was a disruption in operation, gravity could cause the liquid in the field lines to flow back into the tank. This backflow can dilute the effluent or possibly lead to system failures. Therefore, installing a check valve in this scenario is essential to maintain proper functionality and prevent contamination. The other choices do not appropriately justify the necessity of a check valve. The size of the tank alone doesn't dictate the need for a check valve, nor does the method of feed unless it involves pressurization. Additionally, performing pumping of liquid waste does not inherently necessitate a check valve unless the backflow risk is present, which is primarily the case with above-level lines.

5. How are residential absorption fields sized?

- A. By the number of residents
- B. According to peak daily sewage flow**
- C. Based on the size of the property
- D. By the age of the structure

Sizing residential absorption fields is primarily determined by the peak daily sewage flow. This method takes into account the volume of wastewater that the household generates, which is influenced by factors such as the number of occupants and their daily activities. By assessing the peak daily sewage flow, contractors can ensure that the absorption field is adequately sized to handle the maximum amount of effluent that will need to be absorbed and treated by the soil. This is crucial for maintaining the functionality and longevity of the septic system while also preventing potential environmental issues associated with inadequate absorption. While the number of residents can impact daily sewage flow, it is just one component of the overall calculation. The size of the property may affect the layout and location of the absorption field but does not directly determine its size. Similarly, the age of the structure does not play a role in the sizing process itself, as the sizing is focused on the current sewage flow rather than historical factors. Overall, sizing based on peak daily sewage flow is a key practice to ensure effective wastewater management in residential settings.

6. What is the minimum 28 day comprehensive strength of poured in place or pre-cast cement tanks?

- A. 3000 pounds per square inch
- B. 3500 pounds per square inch
- C. 4000 pounds per square inch**
- D. 4500 pounds per square inch

The minimum 28-day compressive strength of poured in place or pre-cast cement tanks is indeed 4000 pounds per square inch. This standard is crucial for ensuring that the tanks have sufficient durability and load-bearing capacity. Concrete needs to reach a specific strength to withstand various environmental stresses, including soil pressure, water pressure, and any loads from vehicles or equipment that might be situated above them. In the context of septic systems, which involve heavy materials and require longevity to prevent leaks or failures, 4000 psi provides a good balance of structural integrity and resistance to cracking. It also helps in addressing the saturated conditions often found in septic environments, ensuring the tanks perform reliably over an extended lifespan. Standards like this reflect industry best practices and comply with building codes that prioritize safety and performance in construction materials. Therefore, specifying a minimum strength of 4000 psi assures that the structure can support its intended use effectively.

7. How far into the liquid depth of the septic tank must Tees extend?

- A. Minimum of 10% and Maximum of 30%**
- B. Minimum of 25% and Maximum of 50%**
- C. Minimum of 50% and Maximum of 75%**
- D. Minimum of 0% and Maximum of 20%**

The correct answer indicates that the Tees in a septic tank should extend a minimum of 25% and a maximum of 50% into the liquid depth of the tank. This specific extension is important for effective operation and efficiency of the septic system. Extending the Tees within this range ensures proper removal of effluent while preventing excessive floating solids from being drawn into the outflow system. If the Tees extend too shallow, a significant volume of solids could escape the tank, leading to clogs and reduced functionality in the drain field. Conversely, if they extend too deep, there's a risk of drawing in too much sludge, which can also impair the system's performance. Maintaining this balance allows for optimal sedimentation in the tank, ensuring that solids settle appropriately while allowing the liquids to flow out efficiently. This design consideration is critical for preventing premature failure of the septic system and promoting longevity and reliable service. Other options provided suggest incorrect ranges that do not align with best practices in septic tank design.

8. What characteristic of soil can help determine absorption rates for a septic system?

- A. Particle size**
- B. Organic material content**
- C. Color variation**
- D. Proximity to water sources**

The characteristic of soil that plays a crucial role in determining the absorption rates for a septic system is particle size. The size of soil particles directly affects porosity and permeability, which influence how quickly water can infiltrate and be absorbed into the soil. Larger particles, like sand, create larger spaces between them, allowing water to flow more freely, resulting in higher absorption rates. On the other hand, smaller particles, like clay, have less space between them, leading to slower water movement and reduced absorption capacity. Therefore, understanding the particle size distribution within the soil is vital for assessing its suitability for septic systems. While organic material content can influence water retention and nutrient availability, it is the physical structure of the soil that primarily governs drainage and absorption capabilities for a septic system. Color variation may indicate different soil types but does not directly inform absorption rates. Proximity to water sources can affect saturation levels but does not specifically characterize the absorption potential of the soil itself.

9. How is dosing accomplished in septic systems?

- A. By using gravity only
- B. By manual operation
- C. By using pumps or siphons**
- D. By using solar energy

Dosing in septic systems refers to the process of delivering wastewater to the drain field or absorption area in a controlled manner. This is crucial for ensuring that the system functions properly and does not overwhelm the absorption capacity of the soil. Using pumps or siphons is the most effective method for dosing, especially in situations where gravity alone is not sufficient to move the wastewater from the septic tank to the drain field. Pumps can provide the necessary force to lift wastewater to higher ground or to move it over longer distances, ensuring an even distribution of effluent across the drain field. Siphons also serve a similar purpose by utilizing the flow of water and gravity to create a vacuum effect, allowing wastewater to be transferred without the need for mechanical pumps. This method is particularly advantageous in areas where the natural terrain does not allow for gravity-based systems or in installations where space and layout constraints exist. By utilizing these technologies, the septic system can maintain optimal performance and effectively prevent issues such as ponding or backup that might arise with less controlled dosing methods. In contrast, relying solely on gravity can lead to uneven distribution, while manual operation can be impractical and labor-intensive. Solar energy, while an innovative concept for many applications, is not typically used in traditional dosing methods.

10. What role does the state play in inspecting septic systems after installation?

- A. To collect fees for septic permits
- B. To ensure that all work meets health and safety regulations**
- C. To oversee the planning phase of the project
- D. To provide maintenance guidelines for homeowners

The state's role in inspecting septic systems after installation primarily focuses on ensuring that all work meets health and safety regulations. This involves verifying that the installation has been completed according to defined standards, which helps protect public health and the environment. Inspections are critical in identifying potential issues that could lead to system failure or contamination of groundwater, thereby safeguarding the community and natural resources. While the collection of fees for septic permits is part of the overall process, it does not encompass the vital function of oversight that inspections perform in verifying compliance with regulations. The state does not oversee the planning phase of the project directly, but rather, its emphasis is on the adherence to established codes and practices during and after the installation. Similarly, while maintenance guidelines are important for homeowners, they pertain more to the care of the system rather than the regulatory oversight and inspection role performed by the state following installation.

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://georgiacommercialcontractor-septic.examzify.com>

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