

Illinois Septic Installers 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

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- 1. Which type of distribution lines can be used in gravel systems?**
 - A. Only concrete pipes**
 - B. Only rigid plastic**
 - C. Perforated pipe or OJ tile**
 - D. Fiberglass only**

- 2. Which method of discharge is NOT allowed for Class II effluent from aerobic systems?**
 - A. Subsurface seepage system**
 - B. Sand filter**
 - C. Surface discharge**
 - D. None of the above**

- 3. Which systems can precede a peat filter system?**
 - A. Septic tank and holding tank**
 - B. Septic tank, Imhoff tank, and aeration tank**
 - C. Septic tank and injection wells**
 - D. Septic tank and sand filters**

- 4. What is the minimum dosing volume required in relation to the pipe volume of the dosing network?**
 - A. 3 times**
 - B. 4 times**
 - C. 5 times**
 - D. 6 times**

- 5. Where does a peat filter system typically discharge effluent?**
 - A. Into the main sewer line**
 - B. Above ground**
 - C. Subsurface**
 - D. Into surface waters**

- 6. True or False: The bedding material for the collection lines in a recirculating sand filter is the same as in a regular sand filter.**
- A. True**
 - B. False**
 - C. Only in specific conditions**
 - D. Only when permitted**
- 7. How often should aerobic treatment units be evaluated?**
- A. Once a year**
 - B. Every six months**
 - C. Once every two years**
 - D. Quarterly**
- 8. How far should the concrete pad for a sanitary dump station extend around the drain?**
- A. At least 1 foot**
 - B. At least 2 feet**
 - C. At least 3 feet**
 - D. At least 4 feet**
- 9. What is the appropriate material to cover the distribution line in a gravel system?**
- A. Soil only**
 - B. Coarse gravel**
 - C. Sand**
 - D. Clay**
- 10. What is the recommended depth for sand filter media in a raised filter bed?**
- A. 20 inches**
 - B. 25 inches**
 - C. 30 inches**
 - D. 35 inches**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which type of distribution lines can be used in gravel systems?

- A. Only concrete pipes**
- B. Only rigid plastic**
- C. Perforated pipe or OJ tile**
- D. Fiberglass only**

The use of perforated pipe or OJ tile in gravel systems is correct because these materials are designed to facilitate the effective drainage of wastewater within the septic system. Perforated pipes allow effluent to seep through holes along their length, enabling the liquid to distribute evenly throughout the gravel, which helps in the filtration and absorption process. The gravel acts as a natural filter, allowing microorganisms to break down contaminants. This combination ensures that wastewater is adequately treated before it reaches the surrounding soil. Concrete pipes, rigid plastic, and fiberglass are not typically chosen for use in gravel systems due to their solid construction, which does not provide the necessary openings for distribution and infiltration that perforated materials do. Choosing the correct type of piping is crucial for the efficiency and functionality of a septic system, ensuring that it operates effectively and minimizes environmental impact.

2. Which method of discharge is NOT allowed for Class II effluent from aerobic systems?

- A. Subsurface seepage system**
- B. Sand filter**
- C. Surface discharge**
- D. None of the above**

The method of discharge that is not allowed for Class II effluent from aerobic systems is surface discharge. Class II effluent typically refers to wastewater that has been treated to a level that allows it to be used for certain non-potable applications, but still requires specific handling to ensure public health and environmental safety. Surface discharge involves releasing effluent directly onto the surface of the ground or into bodies of water, which poses significant risks of contamination to groundwater and natural water bodies. This method can lead to pollution and health hazards, especially in areas where water sources are in close proximity to human activity. In contrast, subsurface seepage systems and sand filters are designed to further treat or manage effluent below the surface, reducing the risk of contamination and allowing for safer absorption into the soil. These methods utilize natural filtration processes, making them compliant with regulations and suitable for the discharge of Class II effluent.

3. Which systems can precede a peat filter system?

- A. Septic tank and holding tank
- B. Septic tank, Imhoff tank, and aeration tank**
- C. Septic tank and injection wells
- D. Septic tank and sand filters

A peat filter system is a type of advanced treatment system used for wastewater, particularly suitable for areas where soil conditions do not adequately support traditional septic systems. To ensure that the peat filter functions effectively, it typically relies on a pre-treatment phase to prepare the effluent. The septic tank serves as a primary treatment vessel that allows solids to settle and begins the process of anaerobic digestion of organic material. The Imhoff tank, similar to a septic tank, combines sedimentation and digestion to treat sewage and is particularly useful in reducing the volume of sludge produced. An aeration tank provides further treatment through the introduction of air, promoting aerobic digestion where microorganisms break down organic matter more efficiently. All these systems can effectively reduce the organic load and suspended solids of the wastewater before it reaches the peat filter. This pre-treatment ensures that the peat filter can work optimally since it is designed for higher quality effluent. The added processes of the Imhoff tank and aeration tank can enhance the treatment levels, making the effluent more suitable for the peat filter's criteria compared to less intensive pre-treatment options. In contrast, other options present alternatives that might not provide the same level of effective pre-treatment. For instance, a holding tank does not actively treat wastewater and simply stores

4. What is the minimum dosing volume required in relation to the pipe volume of the dosing network?

- A. 3 times
- B. 4 times
- C. 5 times**
- D. 6 times

The minimum dosing volume required for a dosing network is crucial for ensuring that the effluent is effectively distributed throughout the system. According to best practices and guidelines, the dosing volume should be at least five times the volume of the pipe network. This larger volume helps to ensure that the effluent is adequately pushed through the entire distribution network, allowing for even dispersal into the drainage field. Having a dosing volume of five times the pipe volume also aids in preventing issues such as clogging and allows for better aeration of the effluent, which is essential for proper treatment. The dosing system effectively works by providing sufficient pressure and flow to distribute the waste evenly, so the ratio of the dosing volume to the pipe volume supports the optimal functioning of the septic system. This fivefold requirement is a standard guideline that ensures the longevity and effectiveness of the septic system, thus making it a critical consideration in the design and installation of septic systems.

5. Where does a peat filter system typically discharge effluent?

- A. Into the main sewer line**
- B. Above ground**
- C. Subsurface**
- D. Into surface waters**

A peat filter system is designed to treat wastewater before it is discharged, and typically, the treated effluent from this system is discharged subsurface. This method is beneficial as it allows the effluent to percolate through the soil, promoting further natural treatment and filtration. Discharging subsurface helps to minimize the risk of surface water contamination and is compliant with environmental regulations aimed at protecting nearby water sources. The approach of discharging effluent into the ground rather than above ground or directly into surface waters is preferred due to the additional treatment processes that occur in the soil, which provide an extra layer of filtration and can greatly reduce pathogens and contaminants. It also prevents odors and aesthetics associated with exposed wastewater. Additionally, routing effluent into the main sewer line would generally not be applicable for most septic systems, particularly those that rely on peat filtration.

6. True or False: The bedding material for the collection lines in a recirculating sand filter is the same as in a regular sand filter.

- A. True**
- B. False**
- C. Only in specific conditions**
- D. Only when permitted**

The statement is true because both recirculating sand filters and regular sand filters use similar bedding materials for their collection lines. In both systems, the bedding material typically consists of sand or gravel that provides a suitable environment for the filtration process to occur. This bedding not only supports the proper drainage and flow of wastewater but also helps in the treatment process by promoting microbial activity that breaks down contaminants. While the specific requirements and configurations may differ between types of sand filters due to varying operational mechanisms and designs, the essential function of the bedding material remains largely the same. It is crucial for establishing an effective filtration medium that can adequately treat wastewater in both systems. Therefore, the two types of filters fundamentally rely on similar bedding materials to achieve their intended function.

7. How often should aerobic treatment units be evaluated?

- A. Once a year
- B. Every six months**
- C. Once every two years
- D. Quarterly

Aerobic treatment units (ATUs) are designed to treat wastewater through aerobic processes that involve the presence of oxygen. These systems require regular maintenance and evaluation to ensure they function efficiently and to prevent potential system failures. Evaluating ATUs every six months is considered a best practice as it allows for early detection of any issues and ensures that the oxygen levels, microbial activity, and overall system health are properly monitored. Regular evaluations also help in adjusting conditions as needed based on system performance. Evaluating these units too infrequently, such as once a year or once every two years, may not detect issues in time, leading to more significant problems down the line. On the other hand, quarterly evaluations might be seen as excessive and could lead to unnecessary expense and labor, depending on the specific operational conditions of the unit. Therefore, evaluating aerobic treatment units every six months strikes a balance between thorough monitoring and practical management. This interval supports optimal system performance while avoiding the risks associated with both more extended periods and overly frequent evaluations.

8. How far should the concrete pad for a sanitary dump station extend around the drain?

- A. At least 1 foot
- B. At least 2 feet**
- C. At least 3 feet
- D. At least 4 feet

The concrete pad for a sanitary dump station is crucial for ensuring that any spills or leaks from the waste tank are contained and do not contaminate the surrounding area. Extending the pad at least two feet around the drain provides a sufficient barrier, allowing for easy cleaning and maintenance while also minimizing the chance of contaminants reaching the soil or water sources. This distance also helps to accommodate any potential splashes during the dumping process, ensuring that the sanitary dump station functions efficiently and safely. Choosing a distance less than two feet may not provide adequate protection or containment, while extending the pad beyond two feet, such as three or four feet, could be unnecessarily excessive in most situations. Hence, the two-foot extension strikes a balance between functionality and resource efficiency, aligning with best practices for installation and safety in septic systems.

9. What is the appropriate material to cover the distribution line in a gravel system?

- A. Soil only
- B. Coarse gravel**
- C. Sand
- D. Clay

The appropriate material to cover the distribution line in a gravel system is coarse gravel. This choice is correct because coarse gravel allows for adequate drainage and aeration, which are crucial for the effective operation of the septic system. It provides a structure that supports the distribution lines while preventing soil from clogging the lines. The gaps between the gravel particles facilitate the passage of effluent from the distribution line into the surrounding soil, promoting proper treatment and preventing system failure. Using soil only would impede drainage and could lead to system overload, while sand, though it might initially seem suitable, can compact over time and restrict water flow. Clay is not appropriate either, as it has low permeability and would trap effluent, leading to potential backups and system failure. Thus, coarse gravel ensures that wastewater is properly treated by allowing it to disperse evenly into the soil.

10. What is the recommended depth for sand filter media in a raised filter bed?

- A. 20 inches
- B. 25 inches
- C. 30 inches**
- D. 35 inches

The recommended depth for sand filter media in a raised filter bed is typically around 30 inches. This depth is important because it provides sufficient volume for effective filtration while allowing for adequate contact time between the wastewater and the sand. The 30-inch depth helps to optimize the treatment of effluent by ensuring that particulates are trapped and treated as they pass through the media. Additionally, this depth supports proper aerobic conditions, which are crucial for the biological processes that break down contaminants in the wastewater. When designing a raised filter bed, maintaining an appropriate depth such as 30 inches is essential to achieve the desired treatment efficiency and to comply with septic system regulations. Too shallow a depth may hinder performance and lead to issues with clogging or inadequate treatment, while excessive depth might complicate maintenance and drainage. Hence, the standard of 30 inches strikes a balance between effective waste management and practical construction considerations.

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://ilsepticinstallers.examzify.com>

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

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