

InterNACHI Plumbing 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. What is the lowest pipe in a drainage system called?**
 - A. Building drain**
 - B. Collection pipe**
 - C. Soil pipe**
 - D. Drain trap**

- 2. What should any vent terminal be positioned in relation to an opening?**
 - A. At least 5 feet horizontally away**
 - B. At least 10 feet horizontally away**
 - C. At least 15 feet horizontally away**
 - D. Close to the opening**

- 3. Hot water is defined as water at what temperature or higher?**
 - A. 100° F**
 - B. 110° F**
 - C. 120° F**
 - D. 130° F**

- 4. Why is it important for the vent pipe to be above the snowline?**
 - A. To avoid blockages**
 - B. To improve aesthetics**
 - C. To reduce noise**
 - D. To increase resistance**

- 5. What should the width of a shower entry be to ensure accessibility?**
 - A. 24 inches**
 - B. 22 inches**
 - C. 20 inches**
 - D. 18 inches**

- 6. Access should be provided to which type of valves in plumbing?**
- A. Only manual valves**
 - B. Only automatic valves**
 - C. All air-admittance valves**
 - D. Only those with special access panels**
- 7. Where do gases escape in a sanitary drainage system?**
- A. Toilet**
 - B. A vent stack**
 - C. Drain basin**
 - D. Manhole**
- 8. What does not fall under the scope of plumbing inspections according to standard practices?**
- A. Home's plumbing layout**
 - B. Historical plumbing standards**
 - C. Code compliance assessment**
 - D. Water pressure testing**
- 9. If mechanical drain stoppers are missing or not working properly, how should inspectors report them?**
- A. As functioning properly**
 - B. As in need of repair**
 - C. As optional features**
 - D. As part of routine maintenance**
- 10. Which strategy can be employed to prevent water hammer in plumbing systems?**
- A. Removing air chambers**
 - B. Installing pressure gauges**
 - C. Using expansion tanks**
 - D. Reinforcing pipes**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the lowest pipe in a drainage system called?

- A. Building drain**
- B. Collection pipe**
- C. Soil pipe**
- D. Drain trap**

The lowest pipe in a drainage system is referred to as the building drain. This component plays a crucial role in the plumbing system as it is responsible for collecting wastewater from various fixtures within the building and directing it to the municipal sewer or a private sewage treatment facility. Being the lowest point, the building drain is designed to ensure proper flow by utilizing gravity, preventing backflow and ensuring efficient drainage. The building drain typically connects to the main sewer line, allowing for the safe removal of wastewater. Its design and proper installation are critical in preventing blockages and ensuring that the drainage system functions effectively. Understanding this concept helps in grasping how plumbing systems are organized and the importance of each component within the drainage network.

2. What should any vent terminal be positioned in relation to an opening?

- A. At least 5 feet horizontally away**
- B. At least 10 feet horizontally away**
- C. At least 15 feet horizontally away**
- D. Close to the opening**

The requirement for proper placement of vent terminals is critical for ensuring the safe and effective operation of plumbing systems. Vent terminals must be positioned at least 10 feet horizontally away from any opening in a building to prevent the backflow of potentially harmful sewer gases into the living space. This distance is established to minimize the risk of these gases entering through windows, doors, or other openings, as they can pose serious health hazards. Additionally, having adequate separation helps ensure that the venting system operates correctly, allowing for the safe release of air and gases from the plumbing system, thus avoiding pressure imbalances that could lead to drainage issues. On the other hand, positioning a vent terminal closer to an opening could lead to undesirable conditions, such as the entry of sewer gas or a foul odor into a home, compromising indoor air quality and requiring corrective measures. Therefore, maintaining this specified distance is essential for maintaining a safe and healthy living environment.

3. Hot water is defined as water at what temperature or higher?

- A. 100° F**
- B. 110° F**
- C. 120° F**
- D. 130° F**

Hot water is typically defined as water that is at least 110° F or higher. This temperature is significant because it is considered warm enough for most household tasks without posing an undue risk of burns or scalding, especially for vulnerable individuals such as children or the elderly. In plumbing and various safety codes, temperatures below 110° F are often classified as warm, while temperatures above this mark transition to what is commonly referred to as "hot." This definition helps in setting standards for water heater thermostats and ensuring that the water delivered to taps is comfortable and safe for typical uses like bathing and cleaning. Understanding this threshold is fundamental for both plumbing systems and personal safety in residential settings.

4. Why is it important for the vent pipe to be above the snowline?

- A. To avoid blockages**
- B. To improve aesthetics**
- C. To reduce noise**
- D. To increase resistance**

It is important for the vent pipe to be above the snowline primarily to avoid blockages. When vent pipes are situated below the snowline, they become vulnerable to being covered by snow during winter storms. This can lead to a situation where the vent is obstructed, preventing proper airflow and creating pressure imbalances within the plumbing system. Proper ventilation is essential in a plumbing system as it allows sewer gases to escape and maintains the necessary pressure for the drainage system to function effectively. If blockages occur, it can result in backups and potentially hazardous conditions due to the buildup of sewer gases. Therefore, ensuring that vent pipes are positioned above the snowline is a crucial consideration in plumbing design to maintain system functionality and safety.

5. What should the width of a shower entry be to ensure accessibility?

- A. 24 inches
- B. 22 inches**
- C. 20 inches
- D. 18 inches

For ensuring accessibility, particularly in compliance with guidelines like those set out in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the width of a shower entry should typically be at least 36 inches. However, in the context of this question, the most accommodating width provided among the choices—22 inches—would be the best option available. A width of 22 inches allows for easier entry than smaller measurements, which may pose challenges for individuals with mobility devices or other needs. While it may not fully meet the ideal standards found in broader accessibility guidelines, it does provide a reasonable compromise for accommodating a variety of users within the constraints of the options given. Therefore, selecting 22 inches is a more favorable choice than the narrower widths listed.

6. Access should be provided to which type of valves in plumbing?

- A. Only manual valves
- B. Only automatic valves
- C. All air-admittance valves**
- D. Only those with special access panels

Access should be provided to all air-admittance valves because these valves play a critical role in maintaining proper ventilation in plumbing systems. Air-admittance valves allow air to enter the drainage system to prevent vacuum formation, which can obstruct the flow of wastewater. Proper access ensures that these valves can be inspected, maintained, and replaced as needed without significant difficulty. Regular access to air-admittance valves is essential for ensuring they function correctly, preventing issues such as sewer gas backflow or system blockages. Unlike other types of valves, which may have varying access requirements based on their function, air-admittance valves specifically require maintenance to ensure the plumbing system operates safely and effectively. Providing access promotes compliance with plumbing codes and standards, which often mandate that these valves are not enclosed where they cannot be addressed easily.

7. Where do gases escape in a sanitary drainage system?

- A. Toilet
- B. A vent stack**
- C. Drain basin
- D. Manhole

In a sanitary drainage system, gases escape primarily through a vent stack. The vent stack is specifically designed to allow sewer gases to vent outside and enable the equalization of pressure within the drainage system. This is crucial for maintaining the flow of wastewater, as it prevents suction that can lead to slow drainage or the potential for traps to be drained of water, which can allow foul odors to enter the living spaces. The vent stack extends above the roofline of a building, ensuring that the gases disperse safely away from the structure. This not only contributes to the overall health and safety of the interior environment but also helps prevent issues such as the backflow of odors. Other components, such as toilets, drain basins, or manholes, do not serve the primary function of allowing gases to escape in the same efficient and controlled manner as the vent stack does. Toilets and drain basins are designed for the discharge of wastewater, while manholes provide access for maintenance but are not a dedicated pathway for venting gases.

8. What does not fall under the scope of plumbing inspections according to standard practices?

- A. Home's plumbing layout
- B. Historical plumbing standards**
- C. Code compliance assessment
- D. Water pressure testing

The choice regarding historical plumbing standards does not fall under the standard practices of plumbing inspections primarily because plumbing inspections focus on the current state and functionality of the plumbing system rather than its historical context. Inspections aim to assess the existing plumbing layout, check for code compliance with current regulations, and evaluate components like water pressure to ensure they meet safety and operational standards. Understanding the plumbing layout is crucial, as it helps in diagnosing issues related to drain, waste, and vent systems, ensuring that everything functions as intended without any leaks or improper connections. Furthermore, assessing code compliance is essential to guarantee that the plumbing adheres to local, state, and national codes, ensuring the safety and health of residents. Similarly, water pressure testing is vital for determining whether the system operates correctly and delivers adequate supply throughout the home. In contrast, while historical plumbing standards may provide context or insight into how plumbing has evolved, they are not a directly actionable part of current inspection practices, which are concerned with present-day conditions and compliance.

9. If mechanical drain stoppers are missing or not working properly, how should inspectors report them?

- A. As functioning properly**
- B. As in need of repair**
- C. As optional features**
- D. As part of routine maintenance**

When conducting a plumbing inspection, it is essential to accurately assess the condition of all components, including mechanical drain stoppers. If these stoppers are missing or fail to operate as intended, it indicates a deficiency that requires attention. Reporting them as in need of repair accurately reflects their status and alerts the homeowner or potential buyer to the necessity of fixing these components to ensure proper drainage and functionality in the plumbing system. This approach reinforces the inspector's role in highlighting issues that could lead to further complications, such as water damage or unpleasant odors if drains cannot be effectively sealed. Properly noting the condition of mechanical drain stoppers is critical for maintaining the operational integrity of the plumbing system and ensuring that all fixtures function correctly. This emphasis on accountability and thoroughness in inspections helps promote overall safety and efficiency in the home's plumbing system.

10. Which strategy can be employed to prevent water hammer in plumbing systems?

- A. Removing air chambers**
- B. Installing pressure gauges**
- C. Using expansion tanks**
- D. Reinforcing pipes**

Using expansion tanks is a highly effective strategy to prevent water hammer in plumbing systems. Water hammer occurs when there is a sudden change in the flow of water, typically when a valve closes quickly, causing a shockwave that creates a loud banging noise. Expansion tanks are designed to absorb the shock and cushion the flow of water, thereby reducing the pressure fluctuations that can lead to water hammer. They contain a membrane that separates air from water, allowing the tank to expand and contract as water pressure changes. This functionality helps to stabilize the entire plumbing system, minimizing the impact of rapid water movement and preventing the loud noises associated with water hammer. In contrast, options like removing air chambers do not address the root cause of the problem effectively, and while installing pressure gauges or reinforcing pipes might help monitor or stabilize a system under certain conditions, they do not fundamentally mitigate the shock waves created by sudden valve actions. Thus, employing expansion tanks is a proactive measure that directly targets the issue of water hammer.

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://internachiplumbing.examzify.com>

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

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