

INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE (IRC) PLUMBING PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

**VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

<https://internationalresidentialcode-plumbing.examzify.com>



Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	16

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

- 1. What is the minimum foot head of water required for testing the building sewer by insertion of a test plug?**
 - A. 5
 - B. 10
 - C. 15
 - D. 20

- 2. Which of the following fixtures can legally discharge into a vertical stack?**
 - A. Water softeners
 - B. Sink drains
 - C. Shower drains
 - D. Water closets

- 3. A combination valve must include which of the following to ensure appliance safety?**
 - A. Only pressure relief
 - B. Only temperature relief
 - C. Both pressure and temperature relief
 - D. None of the above

- 4. For a faucet installation, what is the most commonly used supply pipe size?**
 - A. 1/2 inch
 - B. 3/4 inch
 - C. 1 inch
 - D. 2 inch

- 5. What is the minimum pressure rating required for hot water distribution pipe at 180°F?**
 - A. 50 psi
 - B. 75 psi
 - C. 100 psi
 - D. 125 psi

- 6. Piping must be installed in trenches so that it rests on _____.**
- A. concrete blocks
 - B. solid and continuous load bearing support
 - C. soft bedding material
 - D. sand padding
- 7. What is the minimum size trap that can be used for the drainage system of a bathtub?**
- A. 1 inch
 - B. 1.25 inches
 - C. 1.5 inches
 - D. 2 inches
- 8. What type of fixtures should not discharge into the stack?**
- A. Sinks
 - B. Urinals and water closets
 - C. Tubs
 - D. Washing machines
- 9. Burred ends of pipes must be reamed to what specification?**
- A. To the outer bore of the pipe
 - B. To the inner bore of the pipe
 - C. To the full bore of the pipe
 - D. To the half bore of the pipe
- 10. What is the maximum fixture unit capacity for any horizontal fixture branch connected to a 4-inch stack?**
- A. 80 fixture units
 - B. 120 fixture units
 - C. 160 fixture units
 - D. 200 fixture units

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. What is the minimum foot head of water required for testing the building sewer by insertion of a test plug?

- A. 5
- B. 10**
- C. 15
- D. 20

The minimum foot head of water required for testing the building sewer by insertion of a test plug is typically set at 10 feet. This requirement ensures that there is a sufficient hydraulic head to assess the integrity and watertightness of the sewer system. Testing at this level helps to identify any potential leaks or failures in the system that could lead to issues such as backflow or groundwater contamination. Using 10 feet of water creates enough pressure to simulate the conditions the sewer system will experience over time, allowing for an accurate evaluation of its performance. Testing at lower levels may not provide the same level of assurance, as they might not exert enough pressure to reveal minor leaks or weaknesses in the plumbing system.

2. Which of the following fixtures can legally discharge into a vertical stack?

- A. Water softeners
- B. Sink drains
- C. Shower drains
- D. Water closets**

In plumbing systems, the vertical stack is a crucial component for the effective drainage and venting of wastewater. Water closets, commonly known as toilets, are specifically designed to discharge into vertical stacks because they handle the larger volumes of waste and require sufficient drainage capacity. The construction and design of a vertical stack accommodate both the solid and liquid waste expelled from a water closet, ensuring that it can efficiently transport waste to the sewer system without causing blockages. The IRC stipulates that water closets must be connected to a vertical drain stack to maintain proper flow and minimize the risk of backflow. While other fixtures like water softeners, sink drains, and shower drains are essential components of a plumbing system, their discharges generally connect to a branch drain rather than directly to a vertical stack. These fixtures typically handle less volume and different types of waste, making them unsuitable for direct discharge into a vertical stack. Furthermore, the design of these fixtures often requires different drainage considerations, such as proper venting and overflow management, which differ from the requirements for water closets.

3. A combination valve must include which of the following to ensure appliance safety?

- A. Only pressure relief
- B. Only temperature relief
- C. Both pressure and temperature relief**
- D. None of the above

A combination valve is designed to ensure the safe operation of appliances, primarily by addressing both pressure and temperature concerns. This is crucial for preventing conditions that could lead to dangerous situations, such as explosions or equipment failures. In the context of appliances, particularly water heaters, a combination valve integrates both pressure relief and temperature relief functionalities into one unit. The pressure relief feature allows excess pressure to escape, which is vital if the internal pressure exceeds safe limits. At the same time, the temperature relief function is important for releasing excess heat. If the water temperature becomes excessively high, it can result in dangerous steam pressure, which also requires a means of release. This dual functionality provided by a combination valve is essential since many failures in pressured systems can occur due to either excessive pressure, excessive temperature, or a combination of both. Hence, including both pressure and temperature relief mechanisms ensures a higher level of safety for the appliance and its operation. The options that suggest only one type of relief do not adequately address the comprehensive safety requirements necessary for maintaining the operational integrity of the appliance.

4. For a faucet installation, what is the most commonly used supply pipe size?

- A. 1/2 inch**
- B. 3/4 inch
- C. 1 inch
- D. 2 inch

The most commonly used supply pipe size for faucet installations is 1/2 inch. This standard size is widely accepted in residential plumbing because it balances adequate water flow and pressure with practical considerations regarding material cost, weight, and ease of handling. Using 1/2-inch supply lines ensures sufficient water delivery to faucets without requiring excessive pressure, which can lead to problems such as splashing or noise. Additionally, 1/2-inch pipes are compatible with most faucets and fixtures designed for residential applications, making them convenient for plumbers and homeowners alike. Larger pipe sizes such as 3/4 inch or 1 inch are generally reserved for specific applications where higher flow rates are necessary, such as when supplying multiple fixtures at once or in cases involving large appliances. A 2-inch supply pipe is typically not used for faucet installations due to its excessive size and cost, which far exceeds the requirements for most residential faucet needs.

5. What is the minimum pressure rating required for hot water distribution pipe at 180°F?

- A. 50 psi
- B. 75 psi
- C. 100 psi**
- D. 125 psi

The minimum pressure rating required for hot water distribution pipe at 180°F is indeed 100 psi. This rating is significant because it ensures that the piping system can safely handle both the temperature and pressure of the hot water without risking failure or leaks. Hot water distribution systems are subjected to thermal expansion and increased pressure as water heats up. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) establish these guidelines to maintain the integrity and safety of plumbing systems. A pressure rating of 100 psi at 180°F is considered reliable for standard residential applications, thus protecting against potential failures that could occur at higher temperatures. While lower pressure ratings may suffice for colder water or less demanding applications, they do not meet the necessary standards for hot water distribution, where pressure and temperature can combine to create risks if they are not properly accounted for. Thus, the correct choice reflects the minimum standard to ensure a safe plumbing environment when handling hot water.

6. Piping must be installed in trenches so that it rests on ____.

- A. concrete blocks
- B. solid and continuous load bearing support**
- C. soft bedding material
- D. sand padding

Piping should be installed in trenches so that it rests on solid and continuous load-bearing support to ensure the integrity and longevity of the plumbing system. This requirement is vital because solid support helps to prevent movement or sagging of the pipes, which can lead to leaks or breakage over time. Proper support minimizes potential stress on fittings and joints, maintaining the system's overall stability and performance. In contrast, opting for concrete blocks, soft bedding material, or sand padding may not provide the same level of stability and support that is necessary for the longevity of the piping system. Concrete blocks can lead to uneven support, while soft bedding materials and sand can compress over time, potentially causing the pipes to sag. This could result in misalignment, increased wear, and the risk of failure in the plumbing infrastructure, emphasizing the importance of using solid, continuous load-bearing material.

7. What is the minimum size trap that can be used for the drainage system of a bathtub?

- A. 1 inch
- B. 1.25 inches
- C. 1.5 inches**
- D. 2 inches

The minimum size trap that can be used for the drainage system of a bathtub is 1.5 inches. This size requirement is established in the International Residential Code (IRC) to ensure proper drainage and prevent issues such as clogs or inadequate flow. A trap that is too small may not accommodate the volume of water discharged from the bathtub, especially during draining, potentially leading to backups or slow drainage. The 1.5-inch diameter trap effectively balances the need for sufficient drainage capacity while also fitting the standard plumbing practices used in residential construction. This size also aligns with the requirement for trap size when considering the typical flow rates associated with bathtubs and helps maintain a functional plumbing system.

8. What type of fixtures should not discharge into the stack?

- A. Sinks
- B. Urinals and water closets**
- C. Tubs
- D. Washing machines

The most appropriate choice for fixtures that should not discharge into the stack is urinals and water closets. In plumbing systems, a stack is primarily designed to carry waste and vent gases from fixtures. Both urinals and water closets are specifically intended for discharging human waste, which necessitates that they are connected to a properly designed waste system that minimizes the potential for clogs and maximizes effective drainage. In contrast, sinks, tubs, and washing machines can discharge into the stack since they typically handle lesser waste types such as gray water, which does not carry the same level of solid waste or create blockages that could hinder the stack's primary function. Moreover, connecting urinals and water closets to the stack could lead to issues such as improper venting, allowing harmful sewer gases to enter the living space or creating drainage problems. Therefore, regulations and codes emphasize separate drainage systems for these types of fixtures to maintain proper sanitation and plumbing function.

9. Burred ends of pipes must be reamed to what specification?

- A. To the outer bore of the pipe
- B. To the inner bore of the pipe
- C. To the full bore of the pipe**
- D. To the half bore of the pipe

Reaming the burred ends of pipes to the full bore of the pipe is essential for ensuring that the pipes maintain smooth flow characteristics and minimize the potential for blockages or turbulence. This specification allows for the maximum internal diameter to be restored, which is critical for optimizing water flow and reducing pressure loss in the plumbing system. Properly reamed pipe ends facilitate the installation of fittings and connections, leading to a watertight and leak-free joint. Additionally, achieving a full bore helps prevent the accumulation of debris or sediment inside the pipe, which can occur if the bore is not sufficient. It ensures that the integrity and functionality of the plumbing system are upheld throughout its lifespan. Choosing to ream to the outer or inner bore would not address the potential issues related to flow efficiency or joint integrity, while reaming to the half bore would significantly restrict the flow, potentially leading to system inefficiencies or clogging. Thus, maintaining the full bore is the appropriate practice as per plumbing standards.

10. What is the maximum fixture unit capacity for any horizontal fixture branch connected to a 4-inch stack?

- A. 80 fixture units
- B. 120 fixture units
- C. 160 fixture units**
- D. 200 fixture units

For a horizontal fixture branch connected to a 4-inch stack, the maximum fixture unit capacity is established according to the International Residential Code (IRC) guidelines. The code specifies that a 4-inch vertical stack can support a certain number of fixture units based on its pipe diameter and the type of system being used. In this case, referring to the code tables, a 4-inch stack is generally assigned a capacity of 160 fixture units when dealing with horizontal branches. This figure takes into account the ability of the stack to handle drainage effectively without risking interference or obstruction from the fixtures branching off. It's important to remember that the system must maintain proper flow and venting to avoid issues like clogs or backflow, which underscores the significance of adhering to the specified limits set forth in the IRC. Therefore, the capacity of 160 fixture units for a 4-inch stack is designed to ensure safe and efficient plumbing operation within these parameters.

SAMPLE

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://internationalresidentialcode-plumbing.examzify.com>

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

SAMPLE