Kentucky Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) Practice Test (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. **Which type of well is usually not a dependable source of water supply?**

   A. Dug wells

   B. Drilled wells

   C. Bored wells

   D. Artisan wells

2. **Prior to the 19th Century, what was the common term for the belief that foul air caused infections?**

   A. Contagion

   B. Miasma

   C. Germ Theory

   D. Pathogen Hypothesis

3. **Which water testing indicator would be used to assess free chlorine levels?**

   A. Phenol Red

   B. DPD

   C. Litmus

   D. pH Indicator

4. **It is estimated that rats cause how much damage in economic terms each year?**

   A. Five hundred million

   B. One billion

   C. Two billion

   D. Three billion

5. **What is the recommended pH range for swimming pools?**

   A. 7.0-7.2

   B. 7.4-7.6

   C. 7.6-7.8

   D. 6.8-7.2

6. What was John Snow's contribution to public health during the cholera epidemics?

A. Developed vaccines for cholera

B. Promoted improved sanitation practices

C. Identified the source of the outbreak

D. Wrote the first medical textbook

7. What is the liquid depth range for facultative ponds?

A. 2-5 feet

B. 3-8 feet

C. 6-10 feet

D. 8-12 feet

8. What is the most effective way to prevent mosquito breeding?

A. Keep windows closed

B. Drain standing water or put it in motion

C. Use mosquito repellent outside

D. Set up mosquito traps

9. Where is the most effective location to place a radon detector in a school?

A. Upper-level classroom

B. Ground-level classroom

C. Basement

D. Outside the building

10. What animal is most commonly associated with transmitting Salmonella?

A. Chickens

B. Turtles

C. Ducks

D. Macaws

Answers

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

Explanations

1. Which type of well is usually not a dependable source of water supply?

A. Dug wells

B. Drilled wells

C. Bored wells

D. Artisan wells

Dug wells are typically not considered a dependable source of water supply due to several factors related to their construction and the nature of their water source. Dug wells are excavated by hand or machine and are generally wider and shallower than drilled or bored wells. This construction method makes them more susceptible to contamination from surface runoff, especially if they are not properly capped or protected. Additionally, dug wells often rely on the water table, which can fluctuate with seasonal changes or drought conditions, leading to periods of water scarcity. Their open design also allows debris, pathogens, and pollutants to enter the well more easily compared to drilled or bored wells, which are typically constructed to a greater depth and provide more protection against contamination. In contrast, drilled wells (which are deeper and lined with casing) and artisan wells (which tap pressurized aquifers) tend to provide more reliable and cleaner water supplies, making dug wells less favorable for consistent water access.

2. Prior to the 19th Century, what was the common term for the belief that foul air caused infections?

A. Contagion

B. Miasma

C. Germ Theory

D. Pathogen Hypothesis

The belief that foul air or "bad air" was responsible for causing diseases is commonly referred to as the miasma theory. This concept suggests that diseases, particularly those affecting the lungs or causing fevers, were caused by unpleasant odors emanating from decomposing organic matter or other environmental sources. Miasma was thought to be a poisonous vapor that could lead to infections and illnesses by merely inhaling the contaminated air. The miasma theory dominated medical thinking for many centuries, influencing public health approaches and urban planning, as efforts were made to improve air quality and manage waste to prevent the spread of disease. This understanding persisted until the advent of germ theory in the late 19th century, which shifted the focus from environmental factors to microorganisms as the actual causative agents of disease. In contrast, contagion refers to the idea that diseases can be transmitted from one individual to another, germ theory posits that specific germs cause specific diseases, and the pathogen hypothesis is a more modern concept aligned with germ theory, focusing on understanding how different pathogens interact with hosts.

3. Which water testing indicator would be used to assess free chlorine levels?

A. Phenol Red

B. DPD

C. Litmus

D. pH Indicator

The choice of DPD (N,N-diethyl-p-phenylenediamine) as the indicator for assessing free chlorine levels is appropriate due to its specific chemical reaction with chlorine. When DPD is added to a water sample containing free chlorine, it changes color based on the concentration of chlorine present. This colorimetric method allows for the quantification of free chlorine levels, making it a reliable indicator in water testing for disinfectant effectiveness in swimming pools and drinking water supplies. Other indicators, while useful for different purposes, do not specifically measure free chlorine levels. For instance, Phenol Red is primarily utilized for measuring pH levels, Litmus is a general pH indicator, and a pH Indicator measures acidity or alkalinity but does not provide direct information about chlorine concentration. Therefore, DPD's specificity and sensitivity make it the ideal choice for assessing free chlorine levels in water testing scenarios.

4. It is estimated that rats cause how much damage in economic terms each year?

A. Five hundred million

B. One billion

C. Two billion

D. Three billion

The estimation that rats cause one billion dollars in economic damage each year stems from the significant impact these rodents have on agriculture, infrastructure, and public health. This figure encompasses various aspects such as the destruction of crops, contamination of food supplies, and the costs associated with pest control efforts. Rats are known to reproduce rapidly, and their presence can lead to extensive property damage as they gnaw on wires, wood, and insulation. In agricultural settings, they can severely impact yields by consuming grains and spreading diseases that can harm livestock. The economic analyses reflect these multifaceted impacts, as they quantify not just direct destruction but also the indirect costs related to health risks and control measures. Understanding this value is crucial for public health officials and policymakers in order to allocate resources effectively for pest management programs and preventive measures against rodent infestations.

5. What is the recommended pH range for swimming pools?

A. 7.0-7.2

B. 7.4-7.6

C. 7.6-7.8

D. 6.8-7.2

The recommended pH range for swimming pools is 7.4 to 7.6. This range is ideal because it is close to the natural pH of human skin and eyes, which helps to minimize irritation for swimmers. Maintaining the pH within this range also enhances the effectiveness of chlorine, which is commonly used for disinfection in swimming pools. When the pH is balanced, it prevents the water from becoming too acidic or too alkaline, which can lead to corrosion of pool equipment or scale formation, both of which can compromise water quality and system performance. Additionally, a stable pH level contributes to the overall comfort of swimmers and helps maintain clear and safe water conditions.

6. What was John Snow's contribution to public health during the cholera epidemics?

A. Developed vaccines for cholera

B. Promoted improved sanitation practices

C. Identified the source of the outbreak

D. Wrote the first medical textbook

John Snow's contribution to public health during the cholera epidemics is primarily recognized for identifying the source of outbreaks, specifically through his investigation during the 1854 Broad Street cholera outbreak in London. Snow famously mapped cases of cholera and noticed a clustering of cases around a particular public water pump on Broad Street. His meticulous data gathering and analysis led him to hypothesize that contaminated water, rather than miasma or "bad air," was the cause of cholera transmission. This groundbreaking work laid the foundation for modern epidemiology and demonstrated the importance of clean water and sanitation in controlling disease outbreaks. By pinpointing the water source, Snow not only helped to resolve that specific outbreak but also shifted public health policies toward improving urban sanitation and understanding disease spread through environmental factors. His approach exemplified the use of data in epidemiology and the need for public health interventions based on scientific evidence.

7. What is the liquid depth range for facultative ponds?

A. 2-5 feet

B. 3-8 feet

C. 6-10 feet

D. 8-12 feet

Facultative ponds are designed to treat wastewater through aerobic and anaerobic processes. They typically have a depth range that optimizes these biological processes while allowing for effective sedimentation and treatment of organic material. The liquid depth of 3-8 feet is ideal for these ponds because it provides sufficient volume for maintenance of aerobic conditions at the surface while allowing the presence of anaerobic conditions deeper down. This depth allows for proper mixing of effluents, promotes healthy microbial activity, and ensures that the treatment processes function effectively. In addition, the specified range helps manage temperature variations, as deeper bodies of water can maintain more stable temperatures, which is critical for biological processes. Shallower ponds may not offer the same level of treatment efficiency, while deeper depths can lead to complications such as poor organic matter treatment and reduced sunlight penetration, impacting the photosynthetic activity of algae and other microorganisms crucial for effective pond function.

8. What is the most effective way to prevent mosquito breeding?

A. Keep windows closed

B. Drain standing water or put it in motion

C. Use mosquito repellent outside

D. Set up mosquito traps

The most effective way to prevent mosquito breeding is to drain standing water or put it in motion. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in stagnant water, where the larvae can develop into adults. By eliminating standing water from areas such as bird baths, clogged gutters, old tires, and any containers that can hold water, you significantly reduce potential breeding sites. Moreover, introducing motion to water can prevent mosquitoes from laying eggs because they prefer calm water for breeding. While keeping windows closed can help prevent adult mosquitoes from entering homes, it does not address the issue of breeding grounds. Using mosquito repellent outdoors is beneficial for individual protection but does not prevent mosquitoes from breeding. Similarly, while mosquito traps can capture adult mosquitoes, they do not reduce the breeding habitat, making them less effective in addressing the root cause of the problem. Therefore, managing the water sources is essential in mosquito control efforts.

9. Where is the most effective location to place a radon detector in a school?

A. Upper-level classroom

B. Ground-level classroom

C. Basement

D. Outside the building

Placing a radon detector in a ground-level classroom is the most effective option due to the nature of radon gas and how it infiltrates buildings. Radon is a colorless, odorless gas that originates from the natural decay of uranium in soil and rock, and it typically enters buildings through cracks in floors, walls, and other openings. Ground-level spaces in buildings, including schools, are often points of entry for radon as the gas rises from the ground. Since classrooms on the upper levels are farther from the ground, they are less likely to have elevated radon levels compared to areas closer to the source of radon emanation. Additionally, placing a detector in the basement could seem logical, given that basements often experience higher concentrations of radon. However, while basements are important spaces to monitor, classrooms at ground level where students spend most of their time provide a more direct assessment of the air quality that affects the health and safety of the occupants during the school day. Outside the building is not a viable option for detecting radon levels that directly affect indoor air quality, as radon is primarily a concern when it accumulates inside a building rather than in the outdoor environment.

10. What animal is most commonly associated with transmitting Salmonella?

A. Chickens

B. Turtles

C. Ducks

D. Macaws

The most commonly associated animal with transmitting Salmonella is, indeed, chickens. Chickens and other birds, particularly poultry, are known carriers of Salmonella bacteria. This is primarily due to their living conditions, which can foster the growth of these pathogens, as well as practices in poultry production where contamination of the egg-laying environment can occur. Salmonella can be present in the intestines of healthy chickens, and it can also be transmitted through their droppings. When proper food handling and cooking techniques are not followed, this bacteria can be transferred to humans, leading to foodborne illness. While turtles can also transmit Salmonella, they are less commonly associated with the infection compared to chickens. Turtles have been highlighted in the context of Salmonella transmission, particularly in pet scenarios, but the broader and more frequent outbreaks linked to food and agriculture are predominantly from poultry products. Ducks and macaws do carry the risk, but again, their association with human cases of Salmonella is not as significant as that of chickens. In summary, chickens are recognized as the leading source of Salmonella transmission to humans, making them a key focus for public health initiatives aimed at controlling foodborne illnesses.

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://kentuckyrehs.examzify.com

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