

MAINE JOURNEYMAN PLUMBING PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

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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 pipe is commonly used for residential water supply lines?**
 - A. PVC piping
 - B. Copper tubing
 - C. Galvanized steel
 - D. ABS piping

- 2. What is the function of the main isolation valve in a plumbing system?**
 - A. To reduce water pressure
 - B. To divert water flow
 - C. To turn off the water supply to the building
 - D. To connect water service to the municipal line

- 3. Which plumbing fixtures usually require a separate vent?**
 - A. Toilets and bathtubs
 - B. Floor drains and sinks
 - C. Showers and washing machines
 - D. Faucets and dishwashers

- 4. What is a common consequence of not having a pressure-reducing valve in a high-pressure system?**
 - A. Increased efficiency
 - B. Less water flow
 - C. Pipes may sustain greater damage
 - D. Quicker installation times

- 5. What is the primary purpose of a vent pipe in a plumbing system?**
 - A. To carry waste away
 - B. To allow air into the plumbing system
 - C. To supply fresh water
 - D. To provide structural support

- 6. Which plumbing term refers specifically to the lowest horizontal portion of a drainage system?**
- A. Stack Vent
 - B. Building Drain
 - C. Fixture Drain
 - D. Waste Stack
- 7. What does "fixture unit" measure in plumbing?**
- A. The total weight of the fixture
 - B. The probable demand for a water supply and drainage of a fixture
 - C. The maximum temperature for the fixture
 - D. The number of fixtures in a plumbing system
- 8. Which type of pipe material is often used for residential water supply lines?**
- A. PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride)
 - B. CPVC (Chlorinated Polyvinyl Chloride)
 - C. PEX (Cross-Linked Polyethylene)
 - D. All of the above
- 9. Which part of the plumbing system extends and goes through the roof?**
- A. Waste Stack
 - B. Stack Vent
 - C. Vent Stack
 - D. Vertical Drain
- 10. How is rainwater classified in terms of mineral content?**
- A. Hard water
 - B. Soft water
 - C. Tap water
 - D. Groundwater

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which type of pipe is commonly used for residential water supply lines?

- A. PVC piping
- B. Copper tubing**
- C. Galvanized steel
- D. ABS piping

Copper tubing is commonly used for residential water supply lines due to its excellent durability and resistance to corrosion. It has been a traditional material in plumbing for many years and is known for its ability to handle high temperatures and pressures, making it suitable for both hot and cold water supply. Copper also has the added benefit of being antimicrobial, which helps reduce the likelihood of bacteria growth within the plumbing system. While options like PVC and ABS piping are often used for drainage systems and not primarily for water supply, and galvanized steel can corrode and lead to water quality issues over time, copper's longevity and reliability make it the preferred choice for delivering potable water in homes. This characteristic is vital for ensuring safe and efficient water supply throughout a residential plumbing system.

2. What is the function of the main isolation valve in a plumbing system?

- A. To reduce water pressure
- B. To divert water flow
- C. To turn off the water supply to the building**
- D. To connect water service to the municipal line

The main isolation valve serves the critical function of turning off the water supply to the entire plumbing system in a building. This is particularly important for maintenance or emergency situations, as it allows the entire water supply to be shut off quickly and effectively, preventing potential damage from leaks or bursts in the plumbing system. When maintenance work needs to be conducted, or if there is a major plumbing failure, the main isolation valve enables plumbers and homeowners to halt the water flow immediately, ensuring safety and minimizing water loss. The other options describe functions that do not pertain to the isolation valve's primary role. Reducing water pressure or diverting water flow involves different types of valves and fittings designed for specific purposes within the system, while connecting water service to the municipal line is tasked to the service entry components rather than the isolation valve itself.

3. Which plumbing fixtures usually require a separate vent?

- A. Toilets and bathtubs
- B. Floor drains and sinks**
- C. Showers and washing machines
- D. Faucets and dishwashers

Separate venting for plumbing fixtures is crucial for maintaining proper drainage and preventing sewer gases from entering the living space. Floor drains and sinks often require individual venting due to their specific wastewater management needs. Floor drains are typically installed in basements or areas prone to water accumulation, and they need a vent to function effectively. This is because the drain must be able to maintain a proper air pressure in the drainage system, allowing wastewater to flow freely without creating a vacuum that could hinder drainage. Sinks, on the other hand, have a more complex drainage system that can trap air and create siphoning effects. A separate vent helps ensure that air can enter the drainage system, preventing slow drainage and potential backups. This venting requirement helps to accommodate for the varying flow rates and potential blockages in the system, ensuring that both floor drains and sinks operate efficiently. Together, the unique features and functions of floor drains and sinks justify the need for separate venting systems in order to ensure optimal performance and compliance with plumbing codes.

4. What is a common consequence of not having a pressure-reducing valve in a high-pressure system?

- A. Increased efficiency
- B. Less water flow
- C. Pipes may sustain greater damage**
- D. Quicker installation times

In a high-pressure plumbing system, the absence of a pressure-reducing valve can lead to significant issues, most notably the potential for pipes to sustain greater damage. High pressure can cause excessive stress on the plumbing infrastructure, resulting in leaks, bursts, or even complete failure of pipes and fittings. This is because many plumbing components are designed to operate within specific pressure ranges, and exceeding these limits can compromise their integrity. Pressure-reducing valves serve to maintain safe operating pressures by lowering incoming water pressure to a manageable level. This not only protects the plumbing system from the adverse effects of high pressure but also ensures the longevity and reliability of the system. Without such a mechanism, components may degrade faster, leading to costly repairs and safety hazards due to leaks or bursts. While other options like increased efficiency, less water flow, or quicker installation times might imply some advantages, they do not directly address the critical issues associated with high pressure in plumbing systems. The primary concern remains the potential damage to the pipes, which underscores the importance of utilizing pressure-reducing valves in maintaining system integrity.

5. What is the primary purpose of a vent pipe in a plumbing system?

- A. To carry waste away
- B. To allow air into the plumbing system**
- C. To supply fresh water
- D. To provide structural support

The primary purpose of a vent pipe in a plumbing system is to allow air into the plumbing system. Vent pipes are crucial because they help maintain neutral air pressure within the drainage system. This air flow is essential to prevent the creation of a vacuum that could hinder the proper flow of wastewater through the pipes. When a fixture, such as a sink or toilet, is emptied, it creates a negative pressure that needs to be balanced by air entering through the vent pipe, ensuring that the water can drain freely and effectively. Furthermore, vent pipes also serve to release sewer gases safely out of the plumbing system and into the atmosphere, preventing these potentially harmful gases from entering the living spaces of a building. This connection between the vent pipes and the overall functionality of a plumbing system highlights their importance beyond just allowing air in; they also contribute significantly to the safety and efficiency of the system.

6. Which plumbing term refers specifically to the lowest horizontal portion of a drainage system?

- A. Stack Vent
- B. Building Drain**
- C. Fixture Drain
- D. Waste Stack

The correct answer is the term that specifically describes the lowest horizontal portion of a drainage system. In plumbing terminology, the "Building Drain" is defined as the part of the drainage system that collects wastewater from various plumbing fixtures and conveys it to the point of disposal, typically leading to the sewer line or septic system. This section is crucial as it is the main horizontal run that gathers effluent from all the vertical stacks and fixtures in a building. The significance of this term lies in its role in effectively managing and directing wastewater away from the building, thereby preventing potential wastewater backup and ensuring proper sanitation. The Building Drain is foundational to the drainage system, as it connects to lateral lines that ultimately lead to the public sewer or treatment facilities. In contrast, other terms refer to different components within the drainage system. For example, a Stack Vent refers to the vertical component that allows for the venting of gases and air from the drainage system, while a Fixture Drain pertains to the drainage that connects directly to individual plumbing fixtures. A Waste Stack denotes the vertical pipe that transports waste from toilets or other fixtures, but it does not represent the horizontal section of the drainage system itself. Thus, the specific definition of the Building Drain fits the question perfectly.

7. What does "fixture unit" measure in plumbing?

- A. The total weight of the fixture
- B. The probable demand for a water supply and drainage of a fixture**
- C. The maximum temperature for the fixture
- D. The number of fixtures in a plumbing system

A "fixture unit" is a key concept in plumbing that quantifies the probable demand for a water supply and drainage from a plumbing fixture. This measurement is essential for designing plumbing systems, as it allows plumbers and engineers to assess the expected flow and drainage requirements for a particular fixture under typical usage conditions. The fixture unit system takes into account various factors such as the type of fixture, the frequency of use, and the peak demand periods, providing a reliable means to evaluate how much water each fixture will likely require. This approach helps in sizing pipes, selecting pumps, and ensuring that the plumbing system can effectively handle the expected load without overloading or underperforming. By focusing on the probable demand rather than just the physical characteristics or quantity of fixtures, plumbing professionals can ensure that systems are both efficient and functional, leading to effective water management in residential and commercial buildings.

8. Which type of pipe material is often used for residential water supply lines?

- A. PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride)
- B. CPVC (Chlorinated Polyvinyl Chloride)
- C. PEX (Cross-Linked Polyethylene)
- D. All of the above**

The correct answer encompasses all mentioned materials because each has specific advantages that make them suitable for residential water supply lines. PVC is widely used in plumbing primarily for drainage and venting systems, but it is not typically approved for hot water applications, which can limit its use for water supply lines. CPVC is an extension of PVC that has been treated to withstand higher temperatures, making it a viable option for hot and cold water supply. PEX has gained immense popularity in residential plumbing due to its flexibility, resistance to scale and chlorine, and ease of installation. It can be snaked into walls and around corners without the use of fittings, which reduces the potential for leaks. Since all three materials—PVC, CPVC, and PEX—serve different purposes and have specific applications within residential plumbing, the most comprehensive choice is that they can all be used in various capacities for residential water supply lines.

9. Which part of the plumbing system extends and goes through the roof?

- A. Waste Stack
- B. Stack Vent**
- C. Vent Stack
- D. Vertical Drain

The stack vent is the segment of the plumbing system that extends through the roof. This component plays a crucial role in maintaining proper drainage and waste management within the plumbing system. It allows air to enter the waste drainage system, ensuring that waste can flow freely and preventing any vacuum that could cause issues such as slow drainage or gurgling sounds in the plumbing. The stack vent typically connects to the vertical waste stack, which carries wastewater down from various fixtures in the building. By extending above the roofline, the stack vent is designed to expel sewer gases safely away from the building, helping to maintain a healthy indoor environment. In essence, the stack vent is vital for the functioning and safety of the plumbing system, as it not only facilitates proper drainage but also ensures that harmful gases do not enter living spaces.

10. How is rainwater classified in terms of mineral content?

- A. Hard water
- B. Soft water**
- C. Tap water
- D. Groundwater

Rainwater is classified as soft water due to its low mineral content. The process of rain formation involves the evaporation of water, which leaves behind minerals and impurities. As rain falls, it can dissolve certain gases from the atmosphere, like carbon dioxide, resulting in slightly acidic water, but it does not typically carry a high concentration of minerals or salts that would classify it as hard water. Soft water is characterized by low concentrations of calcium and magnesium, which are the two primary minerals found in hard water. Since rainwater is essentially distilled from its original source, it has very little of these minerals, making it soft. This property makes rainwater particularly useful for various applications such as irrigation and washing, where the presence of hard minerals could lead to scaling or soap scum. In contrast, tap water is treated and may contain various minerals, while groundwater is often mineral-rich, typically classified as hard due to the dissolution of minerals as it moves through soil and rock.

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://mejourneymanplumbing.examzify.com>

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

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