

NATIONAL CENTER FOR CONSTRUCTION EDUCATION & RESEARCH (NCCER) PLUMBING LEVEL 1 PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

<https://nccer-plumbinglevel1.examzify.com>



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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 typically the most important information found on an SDS?**
 - A. Product cost and availability
 - B. Ingredients list
 - C. Specific hazards and first-aid information
 - D. Shipping information
- 2. What measurement method is best when the pipe section has fittings threaded on both ends?**
 - A. End-to-end
 - B. Center-center
 - C. Net length
 - D. Overall length
- 3. Where is a building's hot water heater usually located?**
 - A. In the basement away from major fixtures
 - B. As close as possible to the largest number of hot water fixtures
 - C. Near the outdoor water supply line
 - D. In the attic for better heat retention
- 4. When measuring cast-iron hub-and-spigot pipe, what is included in the total length required?**
 - A. Only the length of pipe
 - B. The run plus the insertion length times the number of laying lengths
 - C. The run minus the insertion length
 - D. The length of the fittings only
- 5. What is the most commonly used clamp for vertical support of pipe and tubing?**
 - A. Pipe riser clamp
 - B. Hanger clamp
 - C. Toggle clamp
 - D. C-clamp

- 6. What are common entry points in a DWV system for serious diseases?**
- A. Damaged or faulty vent and traps
 - B. Clogged drain pipes
 - C. Backflow preventers
 - D. Exposed sewer lines
- 7. Which type of level has a movable telescope for measurements in horizontal and vertical planes?**
- A. Laser level
 - B. Surveying level
 - C. Transit level
 - D. Spirit level
- 8. Which of the following factors would inform a decision to use extra strong or double extra strong pipe?**
- A. The aesthetic preference of the installation.
 - B. The pipe will have to withstand strong pressures.
 - C. The size of the fitting needs to be different.
 - D. The material's resistance to corrosion.
- 9. What is the term for water that is reused from laundry and bathtubs?**
- A. Stormwater
 - B. Blackwater
 - C. Graywater
 - D. Potable water
- 10. When joining grooved pipe, the plumber must ensure what?**
- A. No part of the fitting extends beyond the groove.
 - B. Make sure that no part of the gasket extends into the grooves.
 - C. That the groove is properly lubricated.
 - D. The pipe is cut at a 90-degree angle.

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is typically the most important information found on an SDS?

- A. Product cost and availability
- B. Ingredients list
- C. Specific hazards and first-aid information**
- D. Shipping information

The most important information found on a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) is the specific hazards and first-aid information. An SDS is designed to communicate the dangers associated with chemicals and products, providing crucial data that helps ensure the safety of workers and responders. This section includes detailed information about potential health effects, how to manage exposure, and necessary first-aid measures in case of an accident. Understanding the specific hazards associated with a material is vital for making informed decisions about handling, storage, and emergency response. First-aid information is equally important because it provides guidance on immediate actions to take if exposure occurs, which can significantly affect the outcome of an incident. While the ingredients list is important for understanding what makes up a product, knowledge of the specific hazards directly influences safe practices and emergency readiness. Similarly, product cost and availability or shipping information, while relevant for logistical purposes, do not prioritize health and safety concerns in the same way that hazard identification and first-aid protocols do.

2. What measurement method is best when the pipe section has fittings threaded on both ends?

- A. End-to-end
- B. Center-center**
- C. Net length
- D. Overall length

When determining the best measurement method for a pipe section that has fittings threaded on both ends, measuring from center to center is the most accurate approach. This method accounts for the positioning of the fittings, ensuring that you measure from the center point of one fitting to the center point of the other. This measurement technique is particularly useful because it provides a consistent reference point that can lead to better alignment and fit during installation. Using the center-to-center measurement helps avoid potential inaccuracies that could occur if other measurement methods are employed. For instance, measuring from end to end might include additional length due to the fittings themselves, potentially leading to errors in installation. Similarly, net length focuses only on the pipe material without accounting for the fittings, and overall length could also lead to mistakes if not considering the effects of fitting configurations. Center-to-center measurement provides a reliable standard for the installation and ensures that any fittings will align properly when the pipe is installed, which is crucial for maintaining the integrity of the plumbing system.

3. Where is a building's hot water heater usually located?

- A. In the basement away from major fixtures
- B. As close as possible to the largest number of hot water fixtures**
- C. Near the outdoor water supply line
- D. In the attic for better heat retention

A building's hot water heater is typically located as close as possible to the largest number of hot water fixtures to maximize efficiency in the distribution of hot water. This strategic placement reduces the amount of time it takes for hot water to reach fixtures, minimizing water waste and ensuring that users have quick access to hot water when needed. Having the water heater close to the fixtures helps to maintain the desired water temperature, enhances user convenience, and can contribute to energy savings by reducing heat loss that occurs as hot water travels through long pipes. Therefore, this approach aligns well with both plumbing best practices and energy efficiency considerations in building design. In contrast, positioning the water heater in the basement or attic may lead to longer pipe runs, which can cause delays in hot water delivery and increased energy consumption. Similarly, placing it near the outdoor water supply line is not practical, as it doesn't facilitate proximity to the fixtures that require hot water.

4. When measuring cast-iron hub-and-spigot pipe, what is included in the total length required?

- A. Only the length of pipe
- B. The run plus the insertion length times the number of laying lengths**
- C. The run minus the insertion length
- D. The length of the fittings only

When measuring cast-iron hub-and-spigot pipe, the total length required includes both the length of the pipe itself and the insertion length multiplied by the number of laying lengths. This is critical in ensuring that the entire system is measured accurately for installation. The run refers to the horizontal or vertical distance that the pipe needs to cover, while the insertion length accounts for the amount of pipe that fits into the hub of the fitting. Since several pipe lengths may be connected through these fittings, the insertion length is significant and must be factored in to determine how much of the pipe will actually be utilized in the installation. Thus, when calculating the total length required, you take into account not just the lengths of the pipes, but also how they join each other, ensuring a precise fit in the overall plumbing system. This thorough approach helps guarantee that there is enough material to complete the project without gaps or deficiencies.

5. What is the most commonly used clamp for vertical support of pipe and tubing?

- A. Pipe riser clamp**
- B. Hanger clamp
- C. Toggle clamp
- D. C-clamp

The most commonly used clamp for vertical support of pipe and tubing is the pipe riser clamp. This type of clamp is specifically designed to secure pipes in a vertical position, providing essential support and stabilization. Pipe riser clamps accommodate various pipe diameters and are typically adjustable, allowing for installation on different sizes of pipe and tubing. Their design ensures that the pipes remain securely in place while also allowing for some movement if necessary, which is important for accommodating thermal expansion or other forces acting on the piping system. In contexts where vertical pipe spacing and structural support are critical, the pipe riser clamp plays a vital role in maintaining the integrity of the installation. This makes it a practical choice for plumbing and piping professionals. The other options, while used in different contexts, do not serve the same purpose as effectively. Hanger clamps are often utilized for horizontal support, toggle clamps are typically used for securing items together in a stationary position rather than for vertical support, and C-clamps are more general-purpose tools that are not specifically made for pipe support applications.

6. What are common entry points in a DWV system for serious diseases?

- A. Damaged or faulty vent and traps**
- B. Clogged drain pipes
- C. Backflow preventers
- D. Exposed sewer lines

Damaged or faulty vents and traps in a Drainage, Waste, and Vent (DWV) system can serve as critical entry points for pathogens that cause serious diseases. Vents are designed to ensure that sewage can flow freely through the system and to allow for the proper ventilation of drainage systems. When these vents are compromised, they may not effectively control sewer gas or odors, creating an environment that could facilitate the entry of harmful microorganisms from waste materials. Similarly, traps are essential for preventing sewer gases from entering living spaces. If a trap is faulty or missing, it can lead to the infiltration of harmful pathogens into the indoor environment, posing serious health risks to occupants. This is particularly concerning in urban or densely populated areas where the potential for contamination is higher. It is important to address any issues with vents and traps promptly to maintain the integrity of the DWV system and safeguard public health. Failing to do so can expose individuals to diseases transmitted through pathogens present in wastewater. Other options like clogged drain pipes and exposed sewer lines can also be problematic, but they do not directly relate to the specific entry points for serious diseases in the same way that damaged vents and traps do.

7. Which type of level has a movable telescope for measurements in horizontal and vertical planes?

- A. Laser level
- B. Surveying level
- C. Transit level**
- D. Spirit level

The type of level that features a movable telescope for taking measurements in both horizontal and vertical planes is the transit level. This tool is specifically designed for surveying and construction, allowing users to accurately determine and transfer elevations and distances. The transit level enables professionals to sight a target, either on the same plane or at a different height, by adjusting the telescope. This capability is crucial in laying out structures, grading land, and ensuring that construction is level across different areas. While laser levels, surveying levels, and spirit levels have their specific functions, they do not offer the same versatility in horizontal and vertical measurement through the use of a movable telescope. A laser level projects a laser beam for distance measurements and doesn't involve a telescope mechanism. A surveying level, while used for elevations, does not allow the same level of angular measurement as a transit level. A spirit level, known for its simplicity, merely indicates levelness using a bubble in a liquid-filled tube without the capability for precise measurements across multiple planes. Therefore, the transit level stands out as the most suitable instrument for the described functionality.

8. Which of the following factors would inform a decision to use extra strong or double extra strong pipe?

- A. The aesthetic preference of the installation.
- B. The pipe will have to withstand strong pressures.**
- C. The size of the fitting needs to be different.
- D. The material's resistance to corrosion.

Using extra strong or double extra strong pipe is primarily informed by the need for the pipe to withstand strong pressures. This type of pipe is specifically designed for high-pressure applications and is engineered to handle greater stress compared to standard piping options. In scenarios where there is a high risk of pressure surges or if the system is expected to operate under consistently high pressures, selecting a pipe that can endure these conditions is crucial to ensure safety and functionality. While aesthetic preferences, fitting sizes, and corrosion resistance are important considerations in plumbing, they do not directly dictate the need for stronger pipe materials in the same way that the ability to withstand pressure does. Instead, they relate to other aspects of plumbing systems, such as visual appeal, compatibility with existing components, and material longevity under environmental conditions. The requirement to manage pressure is a fundamental factor that influences the choice of piping materials in various applications, making it a key consideration when selecting the appropriate pipe strength.

9. What is the term for water that is reused from laundry and bathtubs?

- A. Stormwater
- B. Blackwater
- C. Graywater**
- D. Potable water

Graywater refers to the relatively clean wastewater generated from domestic activities such as laundry, bathing, and dishwashing. This water can be reused for certain purposes, especially in irrigation and non-potable applications. The term specifically describes water that does not contain significant levels of contaminants compared to other forms of wastewater, which makes it suitable for certain types of recycling. Stormwater, on the other hand, is precipitation that flows over surfaces and into waterways, and is not linked to household activities. Blackwater refers to wastewater containing human feces and urine, typically from toilets, and is unsuitable for reuse without extensive treatment. Potable water is water that is safe for human consumption, treated and free from harmful contaminants, and is not related to the recycling context of laundry or bathtubs. Graywater is, therefore, the correct term for the specific reuse of water from laundry and bathtubs.

10. When joining grooved pipe, the plumber must ensure what?

- A. No part of the fitting extends beyond the groove.
- B. Make sure that no part of the gasket extends into the grooves.**
- C. That the groove is properly lubricated.
- D. The pipe is cut at a 90-degree angle.

When joining grooved pipe, it is essential for the plumber to ensure that no part of the gasket extends into the grooves. This is crucial because if the gasket extends into the groove area, it can prevent a proper seal from being formed when the pipe is connected. A proper seal is necessary to maintain pressure within the pipe and to prevent leaks. The gasket is designed to fit securely within the space provided by the groove, allowing for an effective joint that can handle the intended application's pressures and conditions. This focus on the placement of the gasket ensures that the assembly functions correctly and safely. It helps to avoid potential issues, such as the gasket being pinched or damaged during installation, which can lead to failure of the joint later on. Proper installation techniques ensure the longevity and reliability of the piping system.

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://nccer-plumbinglevel1.examzify.com>

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

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