NEW MEXICO GENERAL PESTICIDE PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE

SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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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. Under what condition should vomiting be induced after swallowing a pesticide?

A. Only if the label instructs to do so

B. Always

C. Never

D. If the person is conscious

2. Why is the pesticide label considered the legal authority for use?

A. Because product labeling is legally binding; follow label directions as written.

B. Because it is for training purposes.

C. Because it is a suggestion by the manufacturer.

D. Because it is required only for certain pests.

3. Which formulation combines many characteristics of emulsifiable concentrates and wettable powders, with AI impregnated on a substance such as clay and ground to a very fine powder suspended in a small amount of liquid?

A. Flowables (F)/ Liquids (L)

B. Wettable Powders

C. Water-dispersible Granules (WDG) or Dry Flowables (DF)

D. Dusts

4. Which signal word is used for pesticides that are highly toxic and may cause death from small exposure?

A. Danger-Poison

B. Danger

C. Warning

D. Caution

5. If you accidentally contaminate non-target surfaces with pesticide, what should you do first?

A. Ignore it and continue application.

B. Decontaminate affected areas following label instructions and wash exposed skin; remove contaminated clothing.

C. Only wash hands; ignore surfaces.

D. Vacuum the area.

6. If a respirator does not fit properly, what is likely to occur?

A. Air can leak around the face

B. The filter lasts longer

C. It becomes lighter

D. It becomes quieter

7. Which agency is the State Lead Agency for pesticides and has authority over the distribution and use of all pesticides in the state?

A. NMDA

B. NM Environment Department

C. NM Department of Health

D. NM Department of Public Safety

8. An _____ formulation usually contains a liquid active ingredient, one or more petroleum-based solvents; most contain between 25% and 75% AI, and are among the most versatile formulations.

A. Emulsifiable Concentrates (EC or E)

B. Emulsions (EO)

C. Wettable Powders (WP)

D. Water-based Solutions (WS)

9. Which herbicide is associated with irritation of skin and mucous membranes and symptoms such as vomiting, headaches, diarrhea, and confusion?

A. 2,4-D

B. Atrazine

C. Glyphosate

D. Dicamba

10. Many which two categories of pesticides cause dermatitis?

A. Herbicides, fungicides

B. Insecticides, rodenticides

C. Fungicides, insecticides

D. Herbicides, insecticides

Answers

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

Explanations

1. Under what condition should vomiting be induced after swallowing a pesticide?

A. Only if the label instructs to do so

B. Always

C. Never

D. If the person is conscious

First aid after swallowing a pesticide is to follow the product label. The label tells exactly what to do for that specific chemical, including whether vomiting should be induced and how to do it safely. Some pesticides are corrosive or petroleum-based, and forcing someone to vomit can damage the mouth or esophagus or cause the person to choke or inhale the contents. Other products may instruct not to induce vomiting at all because it could make the situation worse. So there isn't a universal rule like always or never or just because the person is conscious—the correct action depends on the label. If the label says vomiting is advised, follow that guidance precisely and seek medical help or contact poison control; if it does not, do not induce vomiting and instead provide other first aid as directed and monitor the person.

2. Why is the pesticide label considered the legal authority for use?

A. Because product labeling is legally binding; follow label directions as written.

B. Because it is for training purposes.

C. Because it is a suggestion by the manufacturer.

D. Because it is required only for certain pests.

Pesticide labels are the legal authority because they are the official use directions mandated by law. The label outlines exactly how the product may be used: which crops or sites it can be applied to, which pests it targets, the proper rates, timing, application methods, required equipment, and any protective gear or restrictions. When you follow the label, you're applying the product in a way that has been reviewed for safety and effectiveness, and you're compliant with the law. If you use the product in a way not stated on the label, you're operating outside the permitted uses, which can bring legal penalties and create risks to people, wildlife, and the environment. Training or manufacturer suggestions do not override the label, and the label applies to all users, not just for certain pests.

3. Which formulation combines many characteristics of emulsifiable concentrates and wettable powders, with AI impregnated on a substance such as clay and ground to a very fine powder suspended in a small amount of liquid?

A. Flowables (F)/ Liquids (L)

B. Wettable Powders

C. Water-dispersible Granules (WDG) or Dry Flowables (DF)

D. Dusts

Flowables operate as a suspension of very fine solid particles in a liquid carrier. The active ingredient is first impregnated onto an inert carrier such as clay, then ground to a fine powder and suspended in a small amount of liquid to produce a pourable concentrate. This design gives you a product you can apply as a liquid spray, while the active remains as solid particles, similar to a wettable powder, which helps with stability and handling compared to loose powders. Wettable powders are simply dry powders that disperse in water and can be dusty, not premixed in a small-volume suspension. Water-dispersible granules or dry flowables are granules that must be dispersed in water to form a suspension, typically in a larger volume, not a pre-mixed small-volume suspension. Dusts are dry powders used directly as a dust and do not form a liquid suspension.

4. Which signal word is used for pesticides that are highly toxic and may cause death from small exposure?

A. Danger-Poison

B. Danger

C. Warning

D. Caution

Signal words on pesticide labels convey how dangerous a product is and what precautions are needed. The most severe label is Danger-Poison, which means the pesticide is extremely toxic and a tiny exposure could be fatal. Seeing this word pair tells you to take the strictest precautions: use full protective gear, avoid any skin contact or inhalation, work in well-ventilated areas, prevent spills and drift, and seek urgent medical help if exposure occurs. The other terms indicate progressively lower levels of hazard—Danger without the Poisson tag signals high toxicity but not necessarily fatal from a small exposure, Warning signals moderate hazard, and Caution indicates only a slight hazard. So, for a product that could cause death from small exposure, the Danger-Poison label is the best, because it communicates the highest risk and the strongest safety requirements.

5. If you accidentally contaminate non-target surfaces with pesticide, what should you do first?

A. Ignore it and continue application.

B. Decontaminate affected areas following label instructions and wash exposed skin; remove contaminated clothing.

C. Only wash hands; ignore surfaces.

D. Vacuum the area.

Immediate decontamination and removing contaminated clothing is the first step when a pesticide contaminates non-target surfaces. This minimizes exposure by stopping residues from spreading to skin or other surfaces and preventing secondary exposure. The best action is to decontaminate affected areas following the product label instructions and wash any exposed skin while taking off contaminated clothing. Following the label ensures you use the approved cleaners and procedures for that product, protecting you and others. Washing skin promptly reduces dermal absorption, and removing contaminated clothing eliminates a major ongoing source of exposure. Cleaning up as directed also helps prevent environmental contamination and keeps the area safe for others who might touch those surfaces later. The other options miss essential steps: ignoring contamination leaves residues that can cause harm; only washing hands leaves surfaces and clothing unchecked; vacuuming is not a reliable decontamination method and can spread residues unless the label allows it.

6. If a respirator does not fit properly, what is likely to occur?

A. Air can leak around the face

B. The filter lasts longer

C. It becomes lighter

D. It becomes quieter

A respirator works by pulling inhaled air through its filter, but only if it seals tightly against the face. When the fit isn't proper, air leaks around the edges instead of passing through the filter material. Those gaps let contaminated air bypass the filter, so you're still exposed to pesticides even while wearing the respirator. The other effects—air becoming lighter or quieter, or the filter lasting longer—don't reflect how protection works, because the key issue is the seal. To maintain protection, ensure a snug fit with the right size and perform a fit check and strap adjustments as needed.

7. Which agency is the State Lead Agency for pesticides and has authority over the distribution and use of all pesticides in the state?

A. NMDA

B. NM Environment Department

C. NM Department of Health

D. NM Department of Public Safety

Pesticide regulation at the state level in New Mexico is led by the Department of Agriculture. This agency has the authority to register pesticide products for use in the state, certify and license pesticide applicators, and enforce state pesticide laws, including ensuring products are used according to label directions. It coordinates with federal oversight, but it is the primary authority over how pesticides are distributed and used within New Mexico. The Environment Department, Health Department, and Public Safety handle other related duties, such as environmental protection and public health concerns, but they do not oversee all pesticide distribution and use. Therefore, the New Mexico Department of Agriculture is the correct agency.

8. An _____ formulation usually contains a liquid active ingredient, one or more petroleum-based solvents; most contain between 25% and 75% AI, and are among the most versatile formulations.

A. Emulsifiable Concentrates (EC or E)

B. Emulsions (EO)

C. Wettable Powders (WP)

D. Water-based Solutions (WS)

Emulsifiable Concentrates are liquid pesticide formulations that dissolve or suspend a liquid active ingredient in petroleum-based solvents. They typically contain about 25% to 75% active ingredient, with emulsifiers and solvents making up the rest. When you mix an EC with water, it forms a stable emulsion that spreads well and covers surfaces evenly. This combination—a liquid AI, solvent system, and the ability to generate an effective emulsion on dilution—offers great versatility across different crops, pests, and spray conditions, which is why this type is considered highly versatile. Other options are not a liquid concentrate with petroleum solvents: emulsions are already emulsified, wettable powders are dry solids that must be wetted and suspended, and water-based solutions are dissolved in water without the solvent system that provides the same flexibility.

9. Which herbicide is associated with irritation of skin and mucous membranes and symptoms such as vomiting, headaches, diarrhea, and confusion?

A. 2,4-D

B. Atrazine

C. Glyphosate

D. Dicamba

Irritation of skin and mucous membranes, along with vomiting, headaches, diarrhea, and confusion, points to acute exposure effects seen with certain phenoxy herbicides. The herbicide in question is 2,4-D. It's a commonly used phenoxy herbicide, and both skin contact and inhalation can cause irritation of the skin and mucous membranes. If it gets into the body, it can lead to systemic symptoms such as vomiting, diarrhea, headaches, and confusion due to its effects after absorption. Other herbicides listed have different primary hazard profiles. They may irritate skin or eyes or cause GI upset, but the combination of mucous membrane irritation with CNS symptoms like confusion is most characteristic of 2,4-D exposure.

10. Many which two categories of pesticides cause dermatitis?

A. Herbicides, fungicides

B. Insecticides, rodenticides

C. Fungicides, insecticides

D. Herbicides, insecticides

Dermatitis from pesticides happens when the skin is exposed to irritants or sensitizers in the formulations, especially during mixing, loading, applying, or cleaning equipment. Among pesticide types, herbicides and fungicides are most often linked to skin irritation and allergic-like dermatitis because their formulations frequently include solvents, surfactants, or other ingredients that irritate or sensitize the skin. Some common fungicides themselves and the additives in herbicide products can provoke contact dermatitis, making these two categories the ones most associated with this issue. While insecticides and rodenticides can also cause skin irritation in some cases, the typical dermatitis often reported in this context points to herbicides and fungicides, so precautions like wearing protective gloves, long sleeves, and washing exposed skin promptly are especially important when handling these products.

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://nmgeneralpest.examzify.com

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