New South Wales Excavator Licence Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide

Everything you need from our exam experts!

Table of Contents

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. Don't worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.

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.

7. Use Other Tools

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. What safety measures must be implemented when inspecting under a raised attachment?

A. Using a safety helmet

B. Chocks, blocks or safety bars

C. Wearing reflective clothing

D. Using mirrors for visibility

2. Which of these areas should an excavator not be parked near?

A. Offices and staff areas

B. Entrances and exits

C. Near storage areas

D. Restrooms

3. What effect does a choker hitch around a square load have on the Safe Working Load (SWL) for the sling?

A. Increases the SWL by 50%

B. Reduces the SWL/WLL by 50%

C. Increases the SWL/WLL by 25%

D. No effect on the SWL/WLL

4. What should you do before reversing an excavator?

A. Check the rear camera

B. Look back over both shoulders and sound the horn

C. Only rely on mirrors

D. Continue reversing without checking

5. What should you do if you have never used the excavator before?

A. Start operating it without any further preparation

B. Familiarize yourself with the controls by reading the operator's manual

C. Ask another operator to guide you

D. Look for online tutorials

6. What is the minimum diameter of a tag line that should be used to control loads?

A. Not less than 16mm

B. At least 20mm

C. Minimum of 12mm

D. 15mm is acceptable

7. What is a necessary precaution when lowering pipes into a trench where a person is present?

A. Ensure the person is directly under the load

B. Lower the pipes quickly to avoid accidents

C. Ensure the person is standing well clear of the load

D. Instruct the person to hold the pipe steady

8. What is the recommended position for the excavator bucket after parking?

A. Raised at an angle

B. Ground level with the cutting edge touching

C. Elevated to prevent damage

D. In a vertical position

9. What is one of the hazards that must be checked on a work site before operating an excavator?

A. Historical landmarks

B. Water sources and wildlife

C. Overhead service lines

D. Typical weather conditions

10. What is the rule of thumb formula to calculate the SWL of wire rope based on its diameter?

A. Diameter in mm squared x 8

B. Diameter in mm x 4

C. Diameter in mm squared x 10

D. Diameter in mm x 2

Answers

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

Explanations

1. What safety measures must be implemented when inspecting under a raised attachment?

A. Using a safety helmet

B. Chocks, blocks or safety bars

C. Wearing reflective clothing

D. Using mirrors for visibility

When inspecting under a raised attachment, implementing chocks, blocks, or safety bars is crucial for ensuring the safety of the operator and anyone in the vicinity. These devices provide essential stability and support for the raised component, preventing accidental lowering or movement that could pose serious risk during the inspection process. Using chocks or blocks effectively stabilizes the machinery, ensuring that it stays in the raised position and does not shift unexpectedly. Safety bars further enhance this stability by offering an additional level of security, which helps to mitigate potential hazards associated with working underneath heavy equipment. This practice is vital for maintaining a safe working environment and protecting workers from injury. While using a safety helmet, wearing reflective clothing, and utilizing mirrors for visibility are important safety practices in construction and excavation work, they do not specifically address the dangers associated with inspecting under a raised attachment. The primary concern in this scenario is the risk of unintended movement of the equipment, which makes the use of chocks, blocks, or safety bars the correct measure in this context.

2. Which of these areas should an excavator not be parked near?

A. Offices and staff areas

B. Entrances and exits

C. Near storage areas

D. Restrooms

An excavator should not be parked near entrances and exits because this area is critical for the safe movement of people and vehicles. Parking an excavator in these locations can obstruct pathways, posing significant risks of accidents or collisions. Clear access to these areas is essential for ensuring emergency services can enter and exit swiftly, and for maintaining the flow of foot and vehicle traffic without disruption. Areas such as offices and staff areas, storage areas, and restrooms may also present certain safety or operational considerations, but they are not as critical in terms of movement and access as entrances and exits. Ensuring clear pathways at entry and exit points is paramount for overall site safety and operational efficiency.

3. What effect does a choker hitch around a square load have on the Safe Working Load (SWL) for the sling?

A. Increases the SWL by 50%

B. Reduces the SWL/WLL by 50%

C. Increases the SWL/WLL by 25%

D. No effect on the SWL/WLL

A choker hitch reduces the Safe Working Load (SWL) or Working Load Limit (WLL) of a sling when used around a square load. This reduction occurs because the way the hitch is configured creates additional angles and stresses in the sling, which can weaken its capacity to carry the load safely. In a choker hitch, the sling is looped around the load and then fed back through itself, creating a secure hold but also introducing a configuration that places more stress on the sling material. This added stress means that the effective lifting capacity is reduced compared to a straight-up lift with a vertical hitch. The general guideline in rigging is that using a choker hitch, especially on blocky or angular loads, leads to a decrease in the SWL/WLL, often cited as a reduction of about 50%. Understanding this principle is crucial for ensuring safety during lifting operations. Proper rigging techniques and an awareness of how different hitches impact the SWL are vital components of safe lifting practices in excavator operation and other heavy lifting scenarios.

4. What should you do before reversing an excavator?

A. Check the rear camera

B. Look back over both shoulders and sound the horn

C. Only rely on mirrors

D. Continue reversing without checking

Before reversing an excavator, the most effective safety measure is to look back over both shoulders and sound the horn. This action ensures that the operator is fully aware of their surroundings, as visual checks provide a comprehensive view of the area directly behind the machine. This crucial step helps identify any potential hazards, including people, obstacles, or other equipment that may not be visible through mirrors or cameras alone. Sounding the horn serves as an additional safety precaution, alerting nearby workers and individuals in the vicinity that the excavator is about to move, thereby minimizing the risk of accidents. Relying solely on mirrors or cameras cannot substitute for a thorough situational awareness that comes from physically looking around. By engaging in this comprehensive safety protocol, operators enhance workplace safety and effectively reduce the likelihood of collisions or accidents while operating heavy machinery.

5. What should you do if you have never used the excavator before?

A. Start operating it without any further preparation

B. Familiarize yourself with the controls by reading the operator's manual

C. Ask another operator to guide you

D. Look for online tutorials

Familiarizing yourself with the controls by reading the operator's manual is crucial when you have never used an excavator before. The operator's manual provides specific information about the machine's functions, safety precautions, and operational procedures. Understanding the controls is essential for safe operation and efficient use of the equipment. It helps you become acquainted with the layout and functionality of the controls, which can promote better handling and reduce the risk of accidents. Reading the manual also enhances your knowledge of the specific model you are working with, as different excavators can have varying characteristics and features. This preparatory step is a responsible way to ensure you can operate the excavator safely and effectively.

6. What is the minimum diameter of a tag line that should be used to control loads?

A. Not less than 16mm

B. At least 20mm

C. Minimum of 12mm

D. 15mm is acceptable

The minimum diameter of a tag line that should be used to control loads is a critical safety measure. A tag line serves as a means to manage and guide loads safely during lifting operations, ensuring that workers can maintain a safe distance from potentially hazardous movements. A diameter of not less than 16mm is recommended because it provides enough strength and durability to withstand the forces exerted on the line during the handling of heavy loads. This specification helps to prevent the tag line from breaking or becoming ineffective when subjected to the tension created by controlling a load, especially in dynamic work environments. Choosing a line with a diameter smaller than 16mm may compromise safety and control, posing risks not only to the operators handling the load but also to other personnel on-site. Therefore, this specification is put in place to enhance safety protocols in excavation and lifting operations.

7. What is a necessary precaution when lowering pipes into a trench where a person is present?

A. Ensure the person is directly under the load

B. Lower the pipes quickly to avoid accidents

C. Ensure the person is standing well clear of the load

D. Instruct the person to hold the pipe steady

When lowering pipes into a trench where a person is present, ensuring that the person is standing well clear of the load is crucial for safety. This precaution helps to prevent injury from falling objects or unforeseen movements of the load during the lowering process. The risk of accidents increases significantly when individuals are too close to the operation, as equipment can sometimes malfunction or the load can shift unexpectedly. By maintaining a safe distance, the individual avoids exposure to falling debris or other hazards associated with the operation of equipment. This approach aligns with safe work practices and regulations aimed at protecting workers' health and safety on site. It emphasizes the importance of risk assessment and situational awareness when conducting tasks that involve heavy lifting or lowering operations where personnel may be in the vicinity.

8. What is the recommended position for the excavator bucket after parking?

A. Raised at an angle

B. Ground level with the cutting edge touching

C. Elevated to prevent damage

D. In a vertical position

The recommended position for the excavator bucket after parking is ground level with the cutting edge touching. This position ensures that the bucket is stable and minimizes the risk of accidentally causing damage to the bucket, the excavator, or the surrounding environment. Setting the bucket to ground level allows for better stability and can help distribute the weight of the excavator more evenly. This practice is also important for safety, as it prevents the possibility of the bucket inadvertently falling or moving due to shifting ground or other factors. Additionally, having the cutting edge touching the ground can prevent unnecessary wear on the bucket and its components, which can extend the life of the equipment. Other positions, such as raising the bucket at an angle or elevating it, could create instability and pose safety risks. Keeping it in a vertical position might be impractical and could lead to tipping hazards. Therefore, maintaining the bucket in a position where it is flat against the ground with the cutting edge touching is ideal for both safety and equipment care.

9. What is one of the hazards that must be checked on a work site before operating an excavator?

A. Historical landmarks

B. Water sources and wildlife

C. Overhead service lines

D. Typical weather conditions

Checking for overhead service lines is critical before operating an excavator due to the potential hazards they present. Overhead power lines, communication cables, and other utilities can create significant risks if contact occurs during excavation activities. The machinery's height and the operator's line of sight might obstruct visibility, leading to the danger of electrocution or damaging essential infrastructure. Ensuring that these lines are identified and properly marked allows operators to maintain a safe distance and implement precautionary measures to prevent accidents. While the other factors may also be relevant to overall site safety, they do not pose the immediate and significant risk associated with working near overhead service lines, which can lead to severe injuries or fatalities. Recognizing and mitigating the dangers associated with overhead lines is a fundamental safety practice in excavation work.

10. What is the rule of thumb formula to calculate the SWL of wire rope based on its diameter?

A. Diameter in mm squared x 8

B. Diameter in mm x 4

C. Diameter in mm squared x 10

D. Diameter in mm x 2

The formula to calculate the Safe Working Load (SWL) of wire rope based on its diameter utilizes the diameter in millimeters squared and then multiplies that value by a constant. In this case, the correct method applies the diameter in millimeters squared multiplied by 8. This approach derives from the general understanding of wire rope properties, where SWL is often estimated based on the cross-sectional area of the rope. Squaring the diameter gives the area in square millimeters, which is a key factor in determining how much load the wire rope can safely handle. Multiplying by 8 provides a standard factor that takes into account the material properties and safety considerations relevant to wire rope usage. The other options either misapply the relationship between diameter and load or use incorrect multipliers that do not accurately represent the typical safe working load calculations for wire rope.

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://nswexcavatorlicense.examzify.com

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