

NEW SOUTH WALES EXCAVATOR LICENCE PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



Prepare with structure. Pass with confidence



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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 should you do if you notice a bulge forming in a machine's hydraulic hose?**
 - A. Continue operating the machine
 - B. Stop operating, tag the machine and replace the hose
 - C. Report it to your supervisor and keep using the machine
 - D. Ignore it and check it later
- 2. Who should be contacted to determine the location of underground services?**
 - A. The local government office
 - B. The site supervisor
 - C. The safety officer
 - D. One of the excavation employees
- 3. What type of line should you be aware of when planning a travel route for an excavator?**
 - A. High-speed internet lines
 - B. Overhead power lines
 - C. Television cable lines
 - D. Communication data lines
- 4. What percentage of broken wires within a specified area would require a wire rope sling to be discarded?**
 - A. 5%
 - B. 10%
 - C. 15%
 - D. 20%
- 5. How can you calculate the cubic capacity of an excavator's bucket?**
 - A. Height x Width x Length
 - B. LxWxHt
 - C. LxWxHt / 2
 - D. (LxW)/Ht

- 6. When driving forward, how high should the excavator bucket be kept above the ground?**
- A. High enough to provide ground clearance
 - B. At seat height for visibility
 - C. As high as possible to avoid obstacles
 - D. At least 1 meter above ground level
- 7. How would you measure the tension on the tracks of an excavator?**
- A. Using a straight edge from roller to driver wheel and measuring distance
 - B. Using only your eyes
 - C. By feel, without any tools
 - D. Measuring randomly along the track
- 8. What is one thing you should never assume when operating heavy machinery like an excavator?**
- A. You always have clear visibility
 - B. The machine is in perfect working condition
 - C. There are no hazards in the work area
 - D. All operators are trained
- 9. During excavation near a construction site, what precaution ensures safety?**
- A. Keeping the excavator running at all times
 - B. Ensuring the path of travel is clear
 - C. Only working during daylight hours
 - D. Using bright colored construction cones
- 10. What is the recommended safety practice when using lifting chains?**
- A. Always use the maximum load capacity
 - B. Regularly inspect the chain for wear
 - C. Use chains of different grades together
 - D. Rely exclusively on visual assessments

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What should you do if you notice a bulge forming in a machine's hydraulic hose?

- A. Continue operating the machine
- B. Stop operating, tag the machine and replace the hose**
- C. Report it to your supervisor and keep using the machine
- D. Ignore it and check it later

When a bulge forms in a machine's hydraulic hose, it is a significant sign of potential failure. Hydraulic hoses are under high pressure, and any deformation, such as a bulge, could lead to a catastrophic failure, which can result in hydraulic fluid spraying out, posing risks to both the operator and nearby personnel, as well as increasing the likelihood of machine damage. Stopping the operation of the machine immediately is critical because continued use increases the risk of the hose bursting. By tagging the machine, you ensure that no one else inadvertently uses it while the defect is present, safeguarding everyone on site. The next step of replacing the hose is essential because a compromised hose cannot be repaired and must be replaced to restore safety and functionality to the machine. This approach reflects best practices in workplace safety and maintenance protocols. Addressing issues like this immediately contributes to a safer work environment and prevents further complications that could arise from neglecting hydraulic problems.

2. Who should be contacted to determine the location of underground services?

- A. The local government office
- B. The site supervisor**
- C. The safety officer
- D. One of the excavation employees

Contacting the site supervisor to determine the location of underground services is crucial because the site supervisor holds the responsibility for overseeing operations on the site and ensuring that safety protocols are followed. They typically have access to relevant site plans and documentation indicating the presence of underground utilities such as gas, water, electricity, and sewage lines. By coordinating with the site supervisor, excavators can obtain accurate and specific information on the location of these services, helping to prevent accidents, service disruptions, and potential hazards to workers and the public. The other choices do not have the same level of authority or access to vital information regarding underground services. Local government offices may have general information but may not provide immediate or specific details relevant to the exact site operation. A safety officer, while important for maintaining safety measures, may not have the technical knowledge about underground services, and an excavation employee may not possess the requisite training or have access to up-to-date site plans that detail these utilities. Therefore, the site supervisor is the most appropriate contact for this purpose.

3. What type of line should you be aware of when planning a travel route for an excavator?

- A. High-speed internet lines
- B. Overhead power lines**
- C. Television cable lines
- D. Communication data lines

When planning a travel route for an excavator, being aware of overhead power lines is critical for ensuring safety and compliance with regulations. Overhead power lines can pose significant hazards, as they can be electrified and cause serious injuries or fatalities if struck. It is essential to maintain safe distances and have a clear understanding of the heights of the excavator and the load being transported. Additionally, utility companies often have specific guidelines and requirements for working near power lines, which might include securing permits or notifying the utility company before commencing work in their vicinity. By identifying the location of overhead power lines during the planning phase, operators can better mitigate risks and avoid accidents during excavation operations. While high-speed internet lines, television cable lines, and communication data lines can also be important to consider, they typically do not carry the same level of risk as overhead power lines do.

4. What percentage of broken wires within a specified area would require a wire rope sling to be discarded?

- A. 5%
- B. 10%**
- C. 15%
- D. 20%

A wire rope sling is a critical piece of equipment used in lifting and securing loads. The maintenance and safety standards for these slings are set by regulations to ensure their reliability and to minimize the risk of failure during use. When assessing the condition of wire rope slings, one key indicator of their integrity is the number of broken wires within a designated area. The standard stipulates that if 10% or more of the total number of wires in a specified length of a wire rope sling are found to be broken, the sling should be taken out of service and discarded. This threshold is based on the understanding that a certain level of wire integrity is necessary for safe operation. Beyond this 10% limit, the structural capability of the sling may be compromised, significantly increasing the risk of accidents and failures. Choosing a lower percentage, such as 5%, would not adequately account for the acceptable wear and tear that occurs in the normal use of these slings. On the other hand, higher percentages like 15% or 20% would also pose significant safety risks that do not align with established guidelines for safe lifting operations. Therefore, maintaining the standard of 10% broken wires ensures that equipment meets safety requirements and protects both personnel and property during lifting activities

5. How can you calculate the cubic capacity of an excavator's bucket?

- A. Height x Width x Length
- B. $L \times W \times Ht$
- C. $L \times W \times Ht / 2$**
- D. $(L \times W) / Ht$

To calculate the cubic capacity of an excavator's bucket, the most accurate approach involves multiplying the length, width, and height of the bucket. In this case, the correct formula would be the product of these three dimensions or $L \times W \times H$. The cubic capacity represents the volume of material that the bucket can hold, which is essential for tasks such as excavation and loading. This formula is based on the concept of volume in three-dimensional space, where the units of measurement (typically in meters or feet) should be consistent. While some of the other options may incorporate length, width, and height, they do not provide the correct method for determining volume. For instance, dividing the product of L , W , and H by 2 or modifying it in other ways does not accurately represent the total volume capacity; it instead implies a modified or incorrect measurement. The cuboidal shape of most excavator buckets allows for straightforward volume calculation without any adjustments or divisions. Understanding this calculation is vital for operators, as it ensures they choose the appropriate bucket size for their excavation needs, leading to more efficient operation and productivity on job sites.

6. When driving forward, how high should the excavator bucket be kept above the ground?

- A. High enough to provide ground clearance**
- B. At seat height for visibility
- C. As high as possible to avoid obstacles
- D. At least 1 meter above ground level

Keeping the excavator bucket high enough to provide ground clearance is essential for safe operation while driving forward. This practice minimizes the risk of the bucket making contact with the ground or any obstacles, which can lead to equipment damage, operational accidents, or injuries. A bucket that is too low can catch on uneven surfaces or debris, potentially destabilizing the machine. Maintaining a safe height also enhances visibility for the operator, allowing for better awareness of the surroundings and preventing collisions with obstacles in the work area. It's important to find the right balance; while the bucket should be elevated for safety, it must not be excessively high, which could obscure the operator's line of sight. While keeping the bucket at seat height might assist visibility to some extent, it may not be sufficient for ground clearance depending on the terrain. Raising the bucket as high as possible could create other safety concerns, such as tipping or loss of control. Lastly, specifying a set distance like one meter above the ground doesn't account for varying ground conditions and situations where practical adjustments are necessary. Thus, ensuring adequate ground clearance is the most flexible, safe, and practical approach.

7. How would you measure the tension on the tracks of an excavator?

- A. Using a straight edge from roller to driver wheel and measuring distance
- B. Using only your eyes
- C. By feel, without any tools
- D. Measuring randomly along the track

Measuring the tension on the tracks of an excavator is a critical process for ensuring the machine operates efficiently and safely. The correct method involves using a straight edge positioned from the roller to the driver wheel, allowing for an accurate assessment of the distance between these components. This technique provides a clear and measurable way to ascertain whether the tracks are appropriately tensioned. Maintaining the correct track tension is essential as it affects not only performance but also the longevity of the machine's components. Using only your eyes or relying on feel without any tools does not provide an accurate or reliable measurement. These methods lack precision and can lead to misjudgments regarding the condition of the tracks. Randomly measuring along the track also fails to focus on the specific points that are crucial for tension assessment, potentially overlooking critical issues. Therefore, the straight edge method is the established approach for measuring tension accurately.

8. What is one thing you should never assume when operating heavy machinery like an excavator?

- A. You always have clear visibility
- B. The machine is in perfect working condition
- C. There are no hazards in the work area
- D. All operators are trained

When operating heavy machinery such as an excavator, it is crucial to never assume that there are no hazards in the work area. This assumption can lead to serious accidents or injuries, as hazards might not always be visible or readily identifiable. There could be underground utilities, unstable ground conditions, debris, or other unexpected obstacles that could pose risks to the operator and others nearby. By maintaining an awareness of potential hazards and conducting thorough site assessments, operators can take necessary precautions to minimize risks. This proactive approach emphasizes the importance of safety in heavy machinery operation, ensuring that all potential threats are identified and addressed before and during the operation of the machine. Taking the time to evaluate the work environment helps create a safer workspace and fosters responsible machine operation.

9. During excavation near a construction site, what precaution ensures safety?

- A. Keeping the excavator running at all times
- B. Ensuring the path of travel is clear**
- C. Only working during daylight hours
- D. Using bright colored construction cones

Ensuring the path of travel is clear is a crucial safety precaution during excavation activities. This practice minimizes the risk of accidents and injuries, as it allows the operator and workers on the site to navigate safely around the excavator and other equipment. A clear path reduces the chances of stumbling or colliding with obstacles, thereby enhancing the overall safety of the work environment. While working during daylight hours and using bright-colored construction cones are also safety practices, they do not directly address the immediate risks associated with the movement of machinery and personnel in the active work zone as effectively as keeping the path clear does. Having the excavator running constantly may even introduce more hazards, such as increased noise, fuel consumption, and the risk of accidents if not managed properly. Thus, maintaining a clear path is essential for operational safety.

10. What is the recommended safety practice when using lifting chains?

- A. Always use the maximum load capacity
- B. Regularly inspect the chain for wear**
- C. Use chains of different grades together
- D. Rely exclusively on visual assessments

Regularly inspecting the chain for wear is crucial to ensure safety when using lifting chains. Chains can experience stress and fatigue over time, leading to potential hazards if any wear or damage is present. By routinely checking for signs of wear, such as elongation, corrosion, or deformation, operators can identify issues before they lead to failures during lifting operations. Proper inspection not only helps maintain the lifting equipment in good working condition but also significantly reduces the risk of accidents and injuries on the job site. It's important to follow established inspection protocols and timelines to ensure that lifting chains are always operating safely and effectively, as chains that are worn or damaged can compromise the entire lifting operation.

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!

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