

NGWA AUGERING AND MONITORING WELL 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 of the following is true about tremie piping?**
 - A. It introduces air pockets during grouting
 - B. It is used to grout from the bottom of the hole without air pockets
 - C. It is used for drilling boreholes
 - D. It seals the borehole after installation
- 2. Which action is most directly tied to preventing cross-contamination during drilling operations?**
 - A. Installed with great care to avoid contamination from the drilling process
 - B. Using the cheapest protective covers available
 - C. Ignoring decontamination procedures
 - D. Breaching well caps during drilling
- 3. In groundwater monitoring, what does the term hydraulic head combine?**
 - A. Water level elevation
 - B. Water temperature
 - C. Water salinity
 - D. Turbidity
- 4. In the installation sequence for a shallow monitoring well, which step is typically last?**
 - A. Drill borehole with auger.
 - B. Install casing and screen.
 - C. Backfill around the screen with sand.
 - D. Install surface seal and headworks.
- 5. Which information should be included in the driller's log for monitoring well construction?**
 - A. Depth to bedrock
 - B. Odors from cuttings
 - C. Depth to water
 - D. Loss of drilling fluid

- 6. What document defines what is to be accomplished on a project?**
- A. Project Charter
 - B. Scope of Work
 - C. Statement of Work
 - D. Requirements Document
- 7. What is the primary purpose of a groundwater monitoring well in environmental investigations?**
- A. To obtain representative groundwater samples and monitor hydraulic conditions without undue disturbance to the aquifer.
 - B. To store groundwater for later use.
 - C. To measure surface water infiltration only.
 - D. To provide decorative feature.
- 8. Tremie pipe or line is a device, usually a small diameter pipe or hose, that performs the following functions...**
- A. Delivers drilling mud to surface
 - B. Provides drainage for the borehole
 - C. Allows pressure grouting from the bottom without air pockets
 - D. Allows air pockets in the grout
- 9. In drilling operations at a hazardous waste site, the exclusion zone is defined as what?**
- A. the area on-site that is potentially contaminated and where workers must wear PPE as stipulated in the site specific health and safety plan
 - B. the radius around the drilling site outside the site boundary
 - C. the region outside the exclusion boundary
 - D. the vertical interval of contamination
- 10. Which information is not typically a recorded item during monitor well development?**
- A. Water level before development
 - B. Time of day development started
 - C. Clarity of water before development
 - D. Water level after development

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which of the following is true about tremie piping?

- A. It introduces air pockets during grouting
- B. It is used to grout from the bottom of the hole without air pockets**
- C. It is used for drilling boreholes
- D. It seals the borehole after installation

Tremie piping is a method for placing grout from the bottom of a borehole or trench so that the grout fills voids from the lowest point upward without trapping air. The tremie tube stays submerged in the grout and is lowered to the bottom; grout is pumped through the tube, pushing water and any air ahead of it and forming a continuous grout column as you raise the tube. This bottom-up placement prevents air pockets and segregation that can occur if grout is introduced from the top, especially in wet or groundwater conditions. It's specifically a grout placement technique, not a drilling method, and it's not used to seal a borehole after installation.

2. Which action is most directly tied to preventing cross-contamination during drilling operations?

- A. Installed with great care to avoid contamination from the drilling process**
- B. Using the cheapest protective covers available
- C. Ignoring decontamination procedures
- D. Breaching well caps during drilling

Preventing cross-contamination during drilling is all about keeping contaminants out from the start by handling and installing things with strict cleanliness and containment. When equipment, barriers, and protective coverings are installed with great care, you minimize pathways for contaminants to move into the borehole, well, or surrounding environment. This means ensuring seals and casings are intact, coverings are clean and properly positioned, and any drilling fluids or cuttings are managed so they don't contact uncontaminated materials. Following careful installation and handling directly reduces the chance that surface or drilling-related contaminants enter the system. Choices that rely on cheaper protection, skip decontamination, or create openings—like breaching well caps—would raise, not lower, contamination risk.

3. In groundwater monitoring, what does the term hydraulic head combine?

- A. Water level elevation**
- B. Water temperature
- C. Water salinity
- D. Turbidity

Hydraulic head is a measure of the total energy per unit weight that drives groundwater flow. It combines elevation head—which is the energy associated with the vertical position of the water—and pressure head, which comes from the fluid pressure within the aquifer. In many groundwater monitoring contexts, the hydraulic head is effectively represented by the water level elevation in the well, because the height of the water column reflects the combined energy components, including the pressure head. Therefore, water level elevation is the aspect most directly linked to hydraulic head in practical measurements. Water temperature, salinity, and turbidity describe water quality, not the energy potential that governs flow, so they don't comprise hydraulic head.

4. In the installation sequence for a shallow monitoring well, which step is typically last?

- A. Drill borehole with auger.
- B. Install casing and screen.
- C. Backfill around the screen with sand.

D. Install surface seal and headworks.

The final step is installing the surface seal and headworks. After drilling the borehole, placing the casing and screen, and backfilling the annulus around the screen with filter material (like sand) to support the screen and create a proper filter zone, you close the well at the surface. The surface seal is applied at the top to prevent surface water and contaminants from moving down the borehole and to stabilize the upper portion of the well. The headworks—such as the protective cap, vent, and access fittings—are then installed to create a safe, functional entry point for sampling and monitoring while keeping the seal and inner well components protected. Because these elements seal and protect the bore at the ground surface, they are placed after everything beneath the surface has been constructed and stabilized. The earlier steps provide the structural and filtration setup that makes the surface sealing and headworks possible and effective.

5. Which information should be included in the driller's log for monitoring well construction?

- A. Depth to bedrock
- B. Odors from cuttings
- C. Depth to water**
- D. Loss of drilling fluid

The main idea is that the driller's log should capture where groundwater is encountered and how the water table behaves during construction. Depth to water is recorded because it tells you exactly how far below the surface the water-bearing zone sits at each stage of drilling, which directly informs how deeply you place casing and screens and how you seal the borehole to prevent returns or contamination. It also provides a baseline for future pumping tests and for understanding the well's potential yield. Other observations like odors from cuttings, depth to bedrock, or loss of drilling fluid can be noted, but they don't directly indicate the groundwater level and its pressure conditions, which is why depth to water is the most critical piece of information to include for monitoring well construction.

6. What document defines what is to be accomplished on a project?

- A. Project Charter
- B. Scope of Work
- C. Statement of Work**
- D. Requirements Document

The main idea here is capturing exactly what will be delivered and how it will be accomplished. The Statement of Work does that by laying out the specific work to be performed, the deliverables, the acceptance criteria, the schedule, and responsibilities. It translates project goals into concrete tasks and measurable outcomes, and it often serves as the contractual basis for the work with a vendor or contractor. The project charter gives authorization and high-level objectives, not the detailed work plan. The scope of work describes the tasks to be performed but may not include the full contractual details or acceptance criteria that define "done." The requirements document lists needs and constraints but doesn't specify the actual work to be completed. So, the document that defines what is to be accomplished on a project is the Statement of Work.

7. What is the primary purpose of a groundwater monitoring well in environmental investigations?

- A. To obtain representative groundwater samples and monitor hydraulic conditions without undue disturbance to the aquifer.**
- B. To store groundwater for later use.
- C. To measure surface water infiltration only.
- D. To provide decorative feature.

Groundwater monitoring wells are used to sample water from the saturated zone and to observe how groundwater moves over time. The main purpose is to obtain representative groundwater samples and monitor hydraulic conditions without undue disturbance to the aquifer. This means designing and using the well so that samples reflect the formation water (not altered by the borehole or pumping) and employing proper purging and sampling methods to avoid bias. It also involves measuring water levels to determine hydraulic head and gradient, which reveals flow directions and helps assess potential contaminant transport. Together, these practices establish baseline conditions, reveal trends, and help delineate plumes without perturbing the aquifer. Other options don't fit because storing water for later use is a supply-well function, and measuring surface water infiltration or decorative use are outside the monitoring well's purpose.

8. Tremie pipe or line is a device, usually a small diameter pipe or hose, that performs the following functions...

- A. Delivers drilling mud to surface
- B. Provides drainage for the borehole
- C. Allows pressure grouting from the bottom without air pockets**
- D. Allows air pockets in the grout

Tremie placement is about getting grout or concrete to the bottom of a borehole or underwater space without trapping air or water in the mix. The tremie pipe acts as a conduit that stays submerged as grout is pumped down and flows out at the bottom. Because the end of the tremie remains below the grout surface, water from the surrounding environment is pushed away and the grout forms a continuous column from the bottom up. This prevents air pockets and segregation, producing a solid, watertight fill. The function described captures this bottom-up, air-free placement. The other options describe functions not associated with tremies: handling drilling mud, providing drainage, or allowing air pockets—which would undermine the integrity of the grout.

9. In drilling operations at a hazardous waste site, the exclusion zone is defined as what?

- A. the area on-site that is potentially contaminated and where workers must wear PPE as stipulated in the site specific health and safety plan**
- B. the radius around the drilling site outside the site boundary
- C. the region outside the exclusion boundary
- D. the vertical interval of contamination

The exclusion zone in hazardous waste site drilling is the on-site area that may be contaminated and where workers must wear PPE and follow protections as specified in the site-specific health and safety plan. This zone is defined to control access and protect workers from exposure, based on the anticipated contaminants and activities at the site. It is an on-site boundary, not a radius outside the site boundary, and it isn't a vertical interval of contamination. The PPE and procedures are specified in the site's health and safety plan, which governs how this zone is implemented.

10. Which information is not typically a recorded item during monitor well development?

- A. Water level before development
- B. Time of day development started**
- C. Clarity of water before development
- D. Water level after development

In monitor well development, the records focus on how the aquifer and well performance respond to the development steps. The key items are hydraulic and water-quality changes that indicate the well is being cleaned up and will yield properly. Measuring water level before development gives a baseline of the aquifer's static condition. Measuring water level after development shows the drawdown and how quickly the aquifer recovers, which helps assess the effectiveness of the development. Observing the water's clarity (turbidity) is another crucial record, since high turbidity indicates suspended sediments and loss of screen performance; noting clarity before and during or after development helps gauge improvement. The exact time of day when development started, while sometimes recorded for miscellaneous field notes, is not essential to interpreting the success of the development work. The purpose is to capture how the well responds hydraulically and visually in terms water quality, not the clock time. Therefore, the time of day development started is not typically a recorded item.

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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://ngwaaugeringmonitoringwell.examzify.com>

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

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