

# NICET LEVEL 3 INSPECTION, TESTING, AND MAINTENANCE (ITM) OF WATER-BASED SYSTEMS PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

## STUDY GUIDE



## SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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<https://nicetlevel3itmofwaterbasedsys.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. For standpipe testing, which design requirements should be used?**
  - A. The design requirements at the time of installation
  - B. The design requirements of NFPA 14 (2010)
  - C. 500 gpm at 65 psi
  - D. 500 gpm at 100 psi
- 2. Which scenario best describes a confined space that requires safety precautions when entry is made?**
  - A. Open field
  - B. Elevated platform with guardrails
  - C. Tanks and valve pits where entry is limited
  - D. Public hallway
- 3. If the maximum system pressure exceeds 150 psi, the hydrostatic test pressure must be at least how many psi above the maximum?**
  - A. 50 psi above maximum
  - B. 200 psi
  - C. 75 psi
  - D. 100 psi
- 4. How often shall stand pipes with hose stations equipped with pressure reducing valves be tested?**
  - A. Every 3 years
  - B. Every 5 years
  - C. Every 7 years
  - D. Every 10 years
- 5. Which item is NOT part of the three conditions verified during a monthly external inspection of preaction and deluge valves?**
  - A. Electrical components are in service
  - B. Trim valves are in the proper on and off positions
  - C. Valve seat is not leaking
  - D. Valve is lubricated

- 6. How frequently shall the gauge monitoring the supervisory air pressure, if provided, be inspected to verify that normal pressure is being maintained?**
- A. Daily
  - B. Weekly
  - C. Monthly
  - D. Annually
- 7. How often should exterior painted or insulated surfaces of tanks or their supporting structures be inspected?**
- A. Quarterly
  - B. Semi-annually
  - C. Annual
  - D. Every Two years
- 8. Which standard is commonly referenced for fire sprinkler system design and testing?**
- A. Authorities Having Jurisdiction guidelines.
  - B. Insurance underwriters guidelines.
  - C. NFPA 14
  - D. Manufacturer guidelines
- 9. Underground mains flow tests are required at what interval?**
- A. Annually
  - B. Every three years
  - C. Every five years
  - D. Only when repaired
- 10. During an annual pump test, what percentage of the alarm devices shall be activated?**
- A. 50%.
  - B. 75%.
  - C. All alarms associated with the fire pump.
  - D. Only the number the owner requested

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. For standpipe testing, which design requirements should be used?**

**A. The design requirements at the time of installation**

B. The design requirements of NFPA 14 (2010)

C. 500 gpm at 65 psi

D. 500 gpm at 100 psi

*Standpipe testing should verify the system against the design criteria that existed when it was installed. The test needs to reflect what was actually built, with the components, layout, and performance expectations approved in the project documents at the time of installation. While NFPA 14 provides overall guidelines and may influence current practices, the acceptance test is governed by the design requirements that were in place when the system was installed. If the system was designed for a specific flow and pressure, the test should verify that those exact conditions are met. Relying on a later edition's numbers or on a fixed, universal value (like a particular gpm/psi combination) without tying it to the installed design would not accurately assess the as-built system. If changes are made later, they should be designed and re-tested to the new design criteria with appropriate approvals.*

**2. Which scenario best describes a confined space that requires safety precautions when entry is made?**

A. Open field

B. Elevated platform with guardrails

**C. Tanks and valve pits where entry is limited**

D. Public hallway

*A space is considered confined if it has limited means of entry or exit and isn't designed for regular occupancy. It becomes permit-required when there are actual or potential hazards, such as toxic or oxygen-deficient atmospheres, engulfment risks, or hazardous energy. Tanks and valve pits fit this description because they are small, access is restricted, and the space can contain dangerous atmospheres or hazards that could injure someone who enters. Because of these risks, entering such spaces requires safety precautions like isolating energy sources, testing the air, ventilating, monitoring for hazards, using appropriate PPE, and having a written permit and a standby person with rescue capabilities. The other scenarios don't fit the definition of a confined space requiring entry precautions. An open field is not enclosed and has unrestricted entry and exit. An elevated platform with guardrails is a surfaced workspace where entry is straightforward and not limited, and a public hallway is an unobstructed passage designed for regular movement. In those cases, the typical confined-space precautions aren't required unless a specific hazard is present.*

**3. If the maximum system pressure exceeds 150 psi, the hydrostatic test pressure must be at least how many psi above the maximum?**

**A. 50 psi above maximum**

B. 200 psi

C. 75 psi

D. 100 psi

*Hydrostatic testing uses a pressure higher than normal operating pressure to reveal leaks and weaknesses in the piping. When the system's maximum pressure exceeds 150 psi, the rule requires the test pressure to be at least 50 psi higher than that maximum. This creates a safety margin to ensure the system can withstand a pressure rise without failing, without applying excessive stress. For example, if the maximum operating pressure is 180 psi, the hydrostatic test pressure must be at least 230 psi. The 50 psi margin is the minimum required, so any test pressure must be at least 50 psi above the maximum.*

**4. How often shall stand pipes with hose stations equipped with pressure reducing valves be tested?**

- A. Every 3 years
- B. Every 5 years**
- C. Every 7 years
- D. Every 10 years

*Standpipes with hose stations use a pressure reducing valve to keep the hose outlet pressure within safe and usable limits. Because the valve's internal components can wear or drift over time, a periodic check is needed to confirm it still reduces pressure to the intended level during flow and that it seals properly when not in use. Testing on a five-year cycle verifies the valve's performance, including measuring inlet and outlet pressures under flow, ensuring the correct downstream pressure is achieved, and checking for leaks or improper operation. This interval reflects a balance between ensuring reliable operation of the pressure-regulating device and keeping maintenance manageable; more frequent checks are generally not required unless your local code or the system's risk profile calls for it.*

**5. Which item is NOT part of the three conditions verified during a monthly external inspection of preaction and deluge valves?**

- A. Electrical components are in service
- B. Trim valves are in the proper on and off positions
- C. Valve seat is not leaking
- D. Valve is lubricated**

*During monthly external inspections of preaction and deluge valves, the focus is on confirming external indicators and conditions that affect safe and reliable operation, not on performing lubrication. The three checks typically include verifying that electrical components are in service (so supervisory and alarm circuits are functioning), ensuring trim valves are in the proper on and off positions (so the system's control valves are in expected states), and confirming that the valve seat is not leaking (external leakage could indicate a problem with sealing or packing). Lubrication, however, is a maintenance action that usually requires disassembly and the use of approved lubricants; it is not part of the routine monthly external inspection.*

**6. How frequently shall the gauge monitoring the supervisory air pressure, if provided, be inspected to verify that normal pressure is being maintained?**

- A. Daily
- B. Weekly
- C. Monthly**
- D. Annually

*Regular verification of the supervisory air pressure gauge is needed to ensure the charged supervisory line stays within its normal range. If the pressure drops, the system may not signal correctly or could lose its readiness to operate, and small leaks or regulator faults can go unnoticed. Monthly inspection strikes a practical balance: it catches gradual pressure losses without the excessive effort of daily checks or the risk of missing issues with yearly checks. Keeping the gauge readable and accessible helps ensure any deviation from normal pressure is detected promptly, preserving the reliability of the supervisory function.*

**7. How often should exterior painted or insulated surfaces of tanks or their supporting structures be inspected?**

- A. Quarterly
- B. Semi-annually
- C. Annual**
- D. Every Two years

*Regular inspection of exterior painted or insulated surfaces on tanks and their supporting structures is done on an annual basis to catch coating deterioration and insulation issues before they lead to corrosion or heat transfer problems. The coatings and insulation protect the metal from weather, moisture, and temperature changes; over time these layers can blister, peel, or absorb moisture, allowing corrosion to start or insulation to lose effectiveness. A yearly check provides a practical, cost-effective schedule to identify chipped paint, rust spots, damaged insulation, and any exposed or compromised areas, so repairs, repainting, or re-coating can be planned promptly. More frequent checks (quarterly or semi-annual) aren't typically required for routine exterior surfaces and add unnecessary cost and labor, while waiting two years or more increases the risk of unchecked deterioration. If the environment is especially harsh, higher frequency might be used, but the standard baseline is annual.*

**8. Which standard is commonly referenced for fire sprinkler system design and testing?**

- A. Authorities Having Jurisdiction guidelines.
- B. Insurance underwriters guidelines.
- C. NFPA 14**
- D. Manufacturer guidelines

*Standards from NFPA set the accepted way to design, install, test, and maintain water-based fire protection systems. NFPA 14 is the standard for standpipe and hose systems, which are a core component of many sprinkler arrangements. Because these piping networks and their testing procedures are crucial to ensuring water is delivered where needed, this standard is commonly referenced in both the design and testing phases of fire protection projects. The other options aren't formal design/testing standards: general AHJ guidelines are regulatory but not a technical standard, manufacturer guidelines vary by product, and insurance guidelines don't provide the comprehensive design requirements. So NFPA 14 is the most typical reference in this context.*

**9. Underground mains flow tests are required at what interval?**

- A. Annually
- B. Every three years
- C. Every five years**
- D. Only when repaired

*Underground mains flow tests are done to verify that the primary water supply to the system can deliver enough water with adequate pressure and to catch gradual issues like pipe obstructions, leaks, or valve misconfigurations in the main. Because the underground main and the public supply don't typically change rapidly, a longer interval is appropriate. A five-year interval provides a balance between catching longer-term deterioration and keeping the testing workload reasonable. Annual checks cover ongoing operational readiness and components, not the comprehensive flow test of the underground main. Waiting only after repairs would miss proactive detection of issues that could affect performance. So five years is the correct interval.*

**10. During an annual pump test, what percentage of the alarm devices shall be activated?**

A. 50%.

B. 75%.

C. All alarms associated with the fire pump.

D. Only the number the owner requested

*During an annual fire pump test, every alarm device connected to the pump must be activated. The aim is to verify the entire signaling and annunciation chain works when the pump starts, so occupants and responders are notified no matter which part of the system is triggered. Activating only a subset would leave portions of the alarm system untested and a fault could go unnoticed. So the standard requires that all alarms associated with the fire pump are actuated, including local audible/visual alarms and any remote monitoring or building fire alarm connections. The owner's chosen subset or any partial activation does not satisfy this requirement.*

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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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://nicetlevel3itmofwaterbasedsys.examzify.com>

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

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