

NORTH CAROLINA CERTIFIED APPLICATOR TERMITE 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 layer of a tree is responsible for secondary growth?**
 - A. Cambium
 - B. Heartwood
 - C. Sapwood
 - D. Phloem

- 2. Inspecting joints is crucial when searching for termites in what area of a building?**
 - A. External walls
 - B. Foundation
 - C. Wood flooring
 - D. Roof

- 3. Which area is commonly checked for termite activity next to kitchens and bathrooms?**
 - A. Siding
 - B. Earth-to-wood contact
 - C. Roof eaves
 - D. Windows

- 4. What is cellulose?**
 - A. A type of mineral used in construction
 - B. An organic compound that makes up the cell wall of plants
 - C. A synthetic chemical used in pest control
 - D. A form of sugar synthesized by animals

- 5. What type of wood is most susceptible to termite damage?**
 - A. Pressure-treated wood
 - B. Kiln-dried wood
 - C. Moist wood
 - D. Painted wood

- 6. Which two types of slabs are typically equipped with perimeter expansion joints?**
- A. Floating and Supported
 - B. Reinforced and Unreinforced
 - C. Concrete and Asphalt
 - D. Wood and Composite
- 7. Which group of trees is characterized by having needles and cones?**
- A. Broadleaf
 - B. Deciduous
 - C. Coniferous
 - D. Both hardwood and softwood
- 8. What should be done if termite activity is found during an inspection?**
- A. A thorough cleaning of the area
 - B. An appropriate treatment plan should be developed and implemented
 - C. Immediate evacuation of the building
 - D. Only monitoring the situation for future actions
- 9. What is 'termite baiting' primarily used for?**
- A. Monitoring termite activity
 - B. Eliminating entire termite colonies
 - C. Preventing new infestations
 - D. Repairing damaged wood
- 10. What is the recommended treatment method when encountering backfilled soil in a trench?**
- A. Ground rod treatment
 - B. Vertical drilling
 - C. Horizontal treatment
 - D. Using chemical foam

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which layer of a tree is responsible for secondary growth?

- A. Cambium**
- B. Heartwood
- C. Sapwood
- D. Phloem

The cambium layer of a tree plays a crucial role in secondary growth, which is the increase in the girth of a tree or plant. The cambium is a thin layer of meristematic cells located between the xylem (wood) and phloem (the layer that transports nutrients). It is in this layer that cell division occurs, leading to the production of new xylem cells towards the inside and new phloem cells towards the outside. As the cambium produces new cells, it allows the tree to grow in thickness, supporting increased structural stability and nutrient transport. This is essential for trees as they age, allowing them to support greater weight and withstand environmental stresses. While heartwood, sapwood, and phloem have important functions in a tree's growth and sustainability, they do not contribute to secondary growth in the same way the cambium does. Heartwood comprises the dense inner part of the tree, providing stability but is no longer involved in transporting nutrients or water. Sapwood is the living outer layer of the xylem, involved in the transport of water; however, it is the cambium that is specifically responsible for the secondary growth process. Phloem serves to transport nutrients from the leaves to

2. Inspecting joints is crucial when searching for termites in what area of a building?

- A. External walls
- B. Foundation
- C. Wood flooring**
- D. Roof

Inspecting joints is particularly important when searching for termites in wood flooring due to the construction and functional characteristics of flooring systems. Wood flooring often includes various joints between planks, where moisture can accumulate and wood is structurally supportive. These areas create potential entry points for termites, as they can exploit the joints to access the wood beneath, particularly if these joints are not sealed properly or if the flooring is otherwise compromised. Termites are attracted to wood that shows signs of moisture or deterioration, making floor joints an essential focal point during inspections. If there is any previous water damage or insufficient ventilation, these joints might have been weakened, increasing the risk of infestation. A thorough inspection of joints can uncover early signs of termite activity, such as droppings or damaged wood, and aid in taking timely preventive or corrective measures. In contrast, while external walls, foundations, and roofs can indeed also harbor termites or show signs of infestation, the specific mention of joints makes wood flooring the most pertinent area for focused inspection during termite evaluations.

3. Which area is commonly checked for termite activity next to kitchens and bathrooms?

- A. Siding
- B. Earth-to-wood contact**
- C. Roof eaves
- D. Windows

The area commonly checked for termite activity next to kitchens and bathrooms is earth-to-wood contact. This is because termites thrive in environments where they can easily access wood, particularly in areas where wooden structures are in direct contact with the ground. Such contact creates a conducive environment for termite infestation, as it allows moisture retention and shelter for termites, further increasing the risk of damage. Kitchens and bathrooms are typically areas with higher humidity levels, making adjacent earth-to-wood contact points even more attractive to termites. Inspecting these areas is crucial for early detection and to prevent extensive damage to the structure. While siding, roof eaves, and windows are also areas of concern for termite inspection, they are not as critical as earth-to-wood contact in the context of immediate risk associated with kitchens and bathrooms. These other locations may require attention but do not present the same level of vulnerability as earth-to-wood contact, where termites can gain access to the wood structure without obstruction.

4. What is cellulose?

- A. A type of mineral used in construction
- B. An organic compound that makes up the cell wall of plants**
- C. A synthetic chemical used in pest control
- D. A form of sugar synthesized by animals

Cellulose is indeed an organic compound that constitutes the primary structural component of the cell walls in plants. This polysaccharide is composed of long chains of glucose molecules linked together, providing rigidity and strength to plant cells. Its presence is crucial for plant structure, growth, and functionality. In the context of pest control, understanding cellulose is particularly relevant because it serves as a significant food source for certain pests, including termites. These insects have developed specialized enzymes to break down cellulose, allowing them to utilize this abundant organic material as a primary nutrient source. The other options do not accurately represent cellulose; minerals are inorganic and not related to the organic composition of plant cell walls, synthetic chemicals are typically man-made and serve entirely different purposes, and animals do not synthesize cellulose as it is specific to plant biology.

5. What type of wood is most susceptible to termite damage?

- A. Pressure-treated wood
- B. Kiln-dried wood
- C. Moist wood**
- D. Painted wood

The correct answer is that moist wood is the type most susceptible to termite damage. Termites are attracted to wood that has high moisture content because it provides a conducive environment for feeding and nesting. When wood becomes damp, whether due to water intrusion, decay, or lack of ventilation, it becomes more appealing to termites. They thrive in environments that are moist and warm, as these conditions not only help in breaking down the wood more easily but also support their biological needs for moisture. In contrast, pressure-treated wood undergoes a process that includes the infusion of preservatives to help protect it from insects and decay, making it less likely to succumb to termite infestations. Similarly, kiln-dried wood has had its moisture removed, which reduces its attractiveness to termites. Finally, painted wood is less likely to be targeted because the paint acts as a barrier, though it is important to note that if the paint is damaged or worn away, the underlying wood can then become susceptible. Therefore, moist wood stands out as the most vulnerable option to termite damage due to the favorable conditions it creates for termite activity.

6. Which two types of slabs are typically equipped with perimeter expansion joints?

- A. Floating and Supported**
- B. Reinforced and Unreinforced
- C. Concrete and Asphalt
- D. Wood and Composite

The correct response identifies floating and supported slabs as the two types typically equipped with perimeter expansion joints, and understanding the characteristics of these slabs clarifies why this answer is appropriate. Floating slabs are designed to move independently of the structures they are connected to, which means they require expansion joints to accommodate shifts due to thermal expansion and contraction. These joints help prevent cracking and structural damage by allowing the slab to expand and contract without being restrained. Supported slabs, on the other hand, are generally anchored to a structure and experience similar thermal and moisture-related movements. The inclusion of expansion joints in supported slabs is vital, as they help manage these movements without compromising the integrity of the slab. In contrast, the other types listed do not typically incorporate perimeter expansion joints in the same way. Reinforced and unreinforced slabs are generally categorized based on whether they have rebar or mesh for added tensile strength, but they do not specifically relate to the requirement for expansion joints. Concrete and asphalt do pertain to materials and might involve different considerations, but this terminology does not focus on the specific characteristics of slabs regarding movements. Wood and composite materials, while relevant in different contexts of construction, do not pertain to slab types that are commonly associated with expansion joints. Thus, the focus

7. Which group of trees is characterized by having needles and cones?

- A. Broadleaf
- B. Deciduous
- C. Coniferous**
- D. Both hardwood and softwood

The correct answer, which refers to the group of trees that possesses needles and cones, is indeed coniferous trees. Conifers are known for their distinctive needle-like leaves, which are adapted to reduce water loss, making them well-suited for various climates. This adaptation is particularly beneficial in environments where water may not be readily available. Additionally, coniferous trees produce cones, which serve as their reproductive structures. Male cones release pollen, while female cones contain seeds that can grow into new trees. This life cycle, along with their evergreen nature, allows conifers to maintain foliage year-round, contributing to their unique ecological role. The other options refer to different categories of trees. Broadleaf trees typically have wide, flat leaves rather than needles, while deciduous trees lose their leaves in the fall, which is not characteristic of conifers. The reference to both hardwood and softwood includes a broader classification of trees but does not specifically denote the presence of needles and cones found in conifers. Therefore, coniferous trees are the only group that specifically embodies the defining traits of needles and cones.

8. What should be done if termite activity is found during an inspection?

- A. A thorough cleaning of the area
- B. An appropriate treatment plan should be developed and implemented**
- C. Immediate evacuation of the building
- D. Only monitoring the situation for future actions

When termite activity is identified during an inspection, developing and implementing an appropriate treatment plan is essential. This step ensures that the infestation is addressed promptly and effectively, minimizing potential damage to the structure. A well-structured treatment plan may include various methods such as chemical treatments, bait systems, or structural repairs, tailored to the specific circumstances of the infestation. Addressing the issue immediately through a treatment plan not only safeguards the integrity of the property but also protects the investment of the homeowner or building management. Moreover, a reliable treatment plan often involves consultation with trained professionals who can assess the severity of the infestation, ensuring that the chosen methods are both effective and compliant with local regulations and safety standards. In contrast, while a thorough cleaning of the area might seem beneficial, it does not address the underlying problem of the termite infestation. Immediate evacuation of the building may be unnecessary unless there is a severe risk to health and safety, and merely monitoring the situation without taking action can lead to worsening damage over time. Therefore, formulating and executing a treatment plan is the most proactive and responsible approach when termite activity is discovered.

9. What is 'termite baiting' primarily used for?

- A. Monitoring termite activity
- B. Eliminating entire termite colonies**
- C. Preventing new infestations
- D. Repairing damaged wood

Termite baiting is primarily a method employed to eliminate entire termite colonies. This approach involves strategically placing bait stations around a property, which attract termites. These stations contain a slow-acting insecticide that is ingested by the termites, allowing them to carry the toxicant back to their colony. As the bait is shared among the colony members, it leads to a reduction in the population and helps in achieving complete colony elimination over time. While monitoring termite activity is an important aspect of pest management, especially when determining the presence and extent of an infestation, it is not the primary function of termite baiting. Additionally, preventing new infestations generally involves different preventative measures, such as physical barriers and proper landscaping, rather than reliance on baiting alone. Lastly, repairing damaged wood falls under the category of remediation after an infestation has been detected, which does not directly relate to the function of baiting. Therefore, the primary focus of termite baiting on eliminating colonies makes it a vital component in managing termite infestations effectively.

10. What is the recommended treatment method when encountering backfilled soil in a trench?

- A. Ground rod treatment**
- B. Vertical drilling
- C. Horizontal treatment
- D. Using chemical foam

When encountering backfilled soil in a trench, the recommended treatment method is ground rod treatment. This method is particularly effective for treating areas where the soil has been disturbed or replaced, as is common with backfilled trenches. Ground rod treatment involves inserting chemical treatments directly into the soil through rods, which helps to ensure that the termiticide reaches the required depth and treats the soil adequately around and beneath the backfill. This approach allows for the direct application of treatment in areas that might be otherwise difficult to reach or saturate effectively with liquid applications due to the compaction of backfilled soil. Other methods, such as vertical drilling or horizontal treatment, can also be utilized in some scenarios, but they may not be as effective in ensuring thorough distribution of the chemical in backfilled areas. Using chemical foam could be beneficial in certain situations, usually around voids or inaccessible spaces, but it is not the primary or recommended method for treating backfilled soil in a trench. Thus, ground rod treatment stands out as the best practice in this context.

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:

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

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