

NORTH CAROLINA PLUMBING PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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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. A permit is not required for ____.**
 - A. replacement of a water heater
 - B. rearrangement of valves or pipes
 - C. replacement of a concealed vent pipe
 - D. repairing of leaks in pipes, valves, or fixtures
- 2. What material is typically used for drain piping in severe weather areas?**
 - A. PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride)
 - B. Copper
 - C. Steel
 - D. Polypropylene
- 3. What does "lead-free" signify in plumbing products?**
 - A. It indicates a higher quality material
 - B. It signifies compliance with regulations to prevent lead contamination
 - C. It denotes a longer lifespan for the product
 - D. It allows for increased pressure tolerance
- 4. Existing plumbing systems must be brought into compliance with the IPC if the system is ____.**
 - A. repaired
 - B. added on to
 - C. a hazard to property
 - D. nonconforming
- 5. Under what condition may the code official allow a temporary connection to the utility source?**
 - A. Pending the outcome of an appeal
 - B. For a period not exceeding 60 days
 - C. For construction purposes
 - D. For testing plumbing systems

- 6. What action is taken if a permit holder does not call for required inspections?**
- A. They are fined
 - B. The permit is revoked
 - C. No action is taken
 - D. Extension of the permit is granted
- 7. What is the primary function of a trap in a plumbing system?**
- A. To allow water to flow freely
 - B. To prevent sewer gases from entering the building
 - C. To filter solid waste
 - D. To store excess water
- 8. Which code regulates piping materials that are exposed in plenums?**
- A. IFC
 - B. IFGC
 - C. IMC
 - D. IPC
- 9. Where the bedding for piping installed in a trench consists of backfill, _____ is an approved material.**
- A. loose soil free from rocks or frozen material
 - B. sandy clay
 - C. fine gravel
 - D. organic silty clay
- 10. What is the purpose of a drainage system expansion joint?**
- A. To enhance the flow of wastewater
 - B. To accommodate movement and prevent cracking from thermal expansion
 - C. To provide a place for water to pool
 - D. To reduce noise from flowing water

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. A permit is not required for ____.

- A. replacement of a water heater
- B. rearrangement of valves or pipes
- C. replacement of a concealed vent pipe
- D. repairing of leaks in pipes, valves, or fixtures**

The correct choice highlights that a permit is not required for the repair of leaks in pipes, valves, or fixtures. This is because leak repairs are typically considered routine maintenance rather than alterations that would modify the overall plumbing system or its capacity. Permits are generally required for work that involves significant changes to plumbing structures, such as relocating fixtures, altering existing lines, or installing new systems—which could impact building safety and code compliance. In contrast, activities like the replacement of a water heater, rearranging valves or pipes, and replacing a concealed vent pipe involve more substantial changes to the plumbing system. These types of work can affect the system's overall integrity and functionality, thus requiring a permit to ensure that the modifications meet the necessary building codes and safety standards.

2. What material is typically used for drain piping in severe weather areas?

- A. PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride)**
- B. Copper
- C. Steel
- D. Polypropylene

Using PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride) for drain piping in severe weather areas is a common practice due to its excellent resistance to corrosion, moisture, and various environmental factors. PVC is lightweight, easy to install, and has a high strength-to-weight ratio, which makes it capable of withstanding heavy rain, flooding, and even freezing conditions, which can occur in severe weather. One of the critical advantages of PVC is that it does not rust or corrode like metal pipes, which can deteriorate over time when exposed to harsh weather conditions. Furthermore, PVC pipes are flexible and can handle ground movement better than rigid piping systems, reducing the likelihood of breakage in extreme conditions. In contrast, while copper is resistant to corrosion, it can be susceptible to freezing and may not perform as well in terms of weight and flexibility compared to PVC. Steel pipes, although strong and durable, can rust when exposed to moisture and require protective coatings to function effectively in severe weather, thereby increasing maintenance needs. Polypropylene is also an option, but it may not be as widely used or recognized for drainage applications as PVC due to its cost and availability. Overall, PVC's unique properties make it a preferred choice for drain piping in regions that experience severe weather conditions.

3. What does "lead-free" signify in plumbing products?

- A. It indicates a higher quality material
- B. It signifies compliance with regulations to prevent lead contamination**
- C. It denotes a longer lifespan for the product
- D. It allows for increased pressure tolerance

The term "lead-free" in plumbing products primarily signifies compliance with regulations aimed at preventing lead contamination in drinking water. This designation assures consumers and plumbing professionals that the materials used in these products, such as pipes, fittings, and fixtures, do not contain a harmful level of lead, as defined by federal and state standards. The importance of lead-free materials is rooted in public health concerns. Exposure to lead can cause serious health issues, especially in children, which is why regulations like the Safe Drinking Water Act and various state-level initiatives mandate that plumbing materials used for drinking water conveyance must meet specific lead content limits. By ensuring that plumbing products are labeled lead-free, manufacturers demonstrate their commitment to safety and compliance with these regulations. The other options touch on different aspects of plumbing products but do not accurately capture the significance of "lead-free." Quality, lifespan, and pressure tolerance relate to different attributes of plumbing materials rather than the critical public health focus of lead content regulation.

4. Existing plumbing systems must be brought into compliance with the IPC if the system is ____.

- A. repaired
- B. added on to
- C. a hazard to property**
- D. nonconforming

The correct answer highlights that an existing plumbing system must be brought into compliance with the International Plumbing Code (IPC) if the system poses a hazard to property. This requirement ensures that any plumbing system that presents risks to safety, health, or property is updated and brought up to current standards to mitigate potential dangers. When a plumbing system is identified as a hazard, whether due to outdated materials, improper installation, or deterioration, addressing the issue in line with current code requirements is crucial. This ensures the safety of inhabitants, protection of the property, and compliance with legal standards. Bringing a hazardous plumbing system into compliance not only rectifies immediate risks but also promotes the overall integrity and reliability of the plumbing infrastructure. This reflects a commitment to maintaining safety and compliance with established plumbing practices as stipulated in the IPC.

5. Under what condition may the code official allow a temporary connection to the utility source?

- A. Pending the outcome of an appeal
- B. For a period not exceeding 60 days
- C. For construction purposes

D. For testing plumbing systems

The code official may allow a temporary connection to the utility source primarily for testing plumbing systems. This is important because testing ensures that all components are functioning correctly, helping identify any leaks or failures before the system is fully operational. Testing is a critical step to ensure safety and compliance with building codes, as it verifies that the plumbing installation meets the required standards. Temporary connections for testing purposes are carefully regulated to maintain the integrity of the system and ensure public health and safety while construction or installation processes are underway. Test connections must be done under controlled conditions to prevent any adverse effects on the utility system or surrounding environment. This rationale affirms the need for strict adherence to plumbing codes and helps ensure that the plumbing system will operate safely and efficiently once it is permanently connected and in use.

6. What action is taken if a permit holder does not call for required inspections?

- A. They are fined
- B. The permit is revoked**
- C. No action is taken
- D. Extension of the permit is granted

When a permit holder fails to call for required inspections, the appropriate action is to revoke the permit. This measure ensures enforcement of safety and regulatory standards. Regular inspections are a critical part of the construction and plumbing process, as they help to ensure that all work being performed complies with established codes and safety regulations. If a permit holder does not request the necessary inspections, it indicates a disregard for these essential checks, which can lead to unsafe conditions and potential violations of building codes. Revoking the permit acts as a consequence for non-compliance, preventing further work under that permit until adherence to the inspection requirements is achieved. This action ultimately seeks to uphold public safety and maintain the integrity of the plumbing industry. The other choices do not accurately reflect the protocol in such situations. Fines, while a common punitive measure in other contexts, do not typically apply directly in this scenario. Granting an extension to the permit would not address the core issue of non-compliance, and taking no action would undermine the authority of the permitting process designed to ensure safety and compliance.

7. What is the primary function of a trap in a plumbing system?

- A. To allow water to flow freely
- B. To prevent sewer gases from entering the building**
- C. To filter solid waste
- D. To store excess water

The primary function of a trap in a plumbing system is to prevent sewer gases from entering the building. Traps are specifically designed to hold a small amount of water which acts as a barrier between the sewer system and the living spaces of a building. When the trap is filled with water, it effectively seals off the opening to the drain, ensuring that no harmful gases or unpleasant odors can escape into the home. This function is critical for maintaining sanitary conditions within a building and for the overall health and comfort of its occupants. The water in the trap needs to be periodically replenished, which typically occurs when fixtures are used regularly. If a fixture is rarely used, the water in the trap can evaporate, leading to the possibility of sewer gas infiltrating the living space. Understanding the role of traps can help in diagnosing plumbing issues, such as unpleasant odors in the home, and underscores the importance of maintaining proper plumbing fixtures to ensure they function correctly.

8. Which code regulates piping materials that are exposed in plenums?

- A. IFC
- B. IFGC
- C. IMC**
- D. IPC

The International Mechanical Code (IMC) regulates piping materials that are exposed in plenums. Plenums are spaces used for air circulation in heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems and are critical to ensuring safe and efficient airflow within buildings. The IMC specifically addresses the materials and methods of installation for various types of mechanical systems, including those involving critical areas like plenums. This means that the code outlines the specifications for piping, indicating which materials are acceptable and safe to use in these areas to prevent potential hazards, including fire risk and the release of harmful substances. By adhering to the guidelines established by the IMC, plumbers and HVAC professionals ensure compliance with safety standards that protect building occupants and the integrity of the building's air distribution system.

9. Where the bedding for piping installed in a trench consists of backfill, _____ is an approved material.

- A. loose soil free from rocks or frozen material
- B. sandy clay
- C. fine gravel**
- D. organic silty clay

The correct answer identifies fine gravel as an approved material for bedding in trenches where the bedding for piping consists of backfill. Fine gravel is preferred because it provides excellent drainage and support for the piping. It helps to mitigate potential shifting or settling of the pipe due to soil movement, ensuring a more stable installation. Fine gravel can also contribute to reducing the potential for pipe damage caused by freeze-thaw cycles, as it allows for better water drainage, preventing the pooling of water around the pipes. Additionally, it possesses a good balance of stability and flexibility, which is essential in maintaining the integrity of the piping system over time, especially in variable soil conditions. In comparison, other materials like loose soil free from rocks or frozen material may not offer the same level of support and can shift easily, leading to possible misalignment or damage of the pipes. Similarly, sandy clay and organic silty clay can retain moisture, which can be problematic as they expand or contract with moisture changes, creating an unstable bedding environment for the pipes. Thus, fine gravel stands out as the best choice in this scenario.

10. What is the purpose of a drainage system expansion joint?

- A. To enhance the flow of wastewater
- B. To accommodate movement and prevent cracking from thermal expansion**
- C. To provide a place for water to pool
- D. To reduce noise from flowing water

A drainage system expansion joint is specifically designed to accommodate movement in piping due to thermal expansion and contraction. When temperature changes occur, materials can expand or contract, which may lead to stress and eventual cracking if there is no allowance for movement. The use of expansion joints helps to maintain the integrity of the drainage system by ensuring there is flexibility built into the joints, allowing the system to adapt to internal and external pressures. This is essential to prevent damage and maintain proper functionality over time, particularly in environments with varying temperatures. The other options describe functions that do not accurately match the primary role of an expansion joint; for example, enhancing the flow of wastewater focuses on hydraulic performance rather than structural integrity, while pooling water and noise reduction pertain to different design elements and considerations outside the function of an expansion joint.

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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://ncplumbing.examzify.com>

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

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