ON SITE SEWAGE SYSTEMS PRACTICE TEST (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

1. When choosing a pump for a dosing system, which considerations should be taken into account?

A. Quality of sanitary sewage and whether effluent is clear or has solids

B. Static resistance or height to be pumped

C. Friction resistance due to pipe type, diameter and distance pumped

D. All of the above

2. What should the installer do if a boulder is encountered at the elevation where the tank will be placed?

A. Remove the boulder

B. Ignore and proceed

C. Increase tank size

D. Place the tank elsewhere

3. Which point has a lower elevation, given two rod readings 3.5 m and 4.0 m from the same level?

A. The point with rod reading 3.5 m

B. The point with rod reading 4.0 m

C. Both have the same elevation

D. Elevation cannot be determined

4. What is the acceptable range for topsoil thickness in a filter bed installation?

A. 5 cm to 10 cm

B. 15 cm to 30 cm

C. 25 cm to 40 cm

D. 40 cm to 60 cm

5. Select a possible reason that could cause sanitary sewage to flow through a plumbing fixture into a building.

A. A blockage in the system

B. A malfunction of the leaching bed

C. A blocked vent pipe

D. A broken water main

6. Whose responsibility is it to provide for the design of a Class 4 sewage system?

A. The Owner Of The Property

B. The Agent Of The Property Owner

C. The City Regulatory Authority

D. The On-Site Installer

7. Which soil condition would preclude installing a bed?

A. Bed installed in soils with a T-time of less than 1 min/cm

B. T-time greater than 50 min/cm

C. Bed installed more than 1 meter from the high groundwater table

D. Bed installed in sandy soil with good drainage

8. Under certain conditions, which waste may go into a Class 1 system?

A. Biodegradable kitchen wastes (under certain conditions)

B. Human body waste

C. Non-biodegradable plastics

D. Hazardous chemicals

9. Which of the following systems can accept both human waste and greywater waste?

A. A Class 2 System

B. A Class 5 System

C. A Class 3 System

D. A Class 4 System

10. Which statement best reflects the importance of soil structure identification during subsoil examination?

A. It provides a pathway for liquids to move down through the soil mass

B. It determines surface color

C. It measures soil moisture at depth

D. It assesses crop suitability

Answers

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

Explanations

1. When choosing a pump for a dosing system, which considerations should be taken into account?

A. Quality of sanitary sewage and whether effluent is clear or has solids

B. Static resistance or height to be pumped

C. Friction resistance due to pipe type, diameter and distance pumped

D. All of the above

When selecting a dosing pump for wastewater, start by understanding what you're pumping, how far you must push it, and what the piping system will resist along the way. If the effluent contains solids or fibrous material, you need a pump designed to handle solids without clogging or excessive wear—this means choosing a model with a robust, non-clogging design and appropriate seals for the environment. The amount you must lift the liquid, i.e., the static head, sets the minimum pressure the pump must overcome at the discharge. If the line runs uphill, has many fittings, or requires overcoming downstream pressure, the pump needs enough head capacity to maintain the desired dosing rate against that resistance. Finally, friction losses from the piping—affected by pipe length, diameter, material, and fittings—add extra head that the pump must overcome to deliver the set flow. Longer runs, smaller diameters, and more bends increase these losses, altering the required pump performance and energy use. These factors interact to define the actual operating point of the pump, so you must consider solids handling, static head, and friction losses together to ensure reliable, accurate dosing. That's why all of these considerations are essential.

2. What should the installer do if a boulder is encountered at the elevation where the tank will be placed?

A. Remove the boulder

B. Ignore and proceed

C. Increase tank size

D. Place the tank elsewhere

When placing a septic tank, it must sit on a flat, solid, well-prepared base. A boulder at the planned elevation would prevent full contact with the soil and keeping the base level, which can cause uneven support, gaps, and settlement. That kind of instability can stress the tank, crack joints, or lead to leaks once backfilled. The proper action is to remove the boulder so the tank can rest on a smooth, level surface and be correctly bedded and backfilled. If moving the rock isn't possible, you'd have to reconsider the site or installation plan, but removing the obstruction is the standard approach.

3. Which point has a lower elevation, given two rod readings 3.5 m and 4.0 m from the same level?

A. The point with rod reading 3.5 m

B. The point with rod reading 4.0 m

C. Both have the same elevation

D. Elevation cannot be determined

When you measure from the same level with a fixed instrument height, the rod reading is the amount the point falls below the line of sight. The point's elevation equals the height of the instrument above the reference level minus the rod reading. Because the instrument height is the same for both points, a larger rod reading means a smaller elevation. For example, if the line of sight is at 5.0 m above the reference, a rod reading of 3.5 m gives an elevation of 5.0 − 3.5 = 1.5 m, while a rod reading of 4.0 m gives an elevation of 5.0 − 4.0 = 1.0 m. The point with the 4.0 m reading is lower in elevation. So the point with the higher rod reading has the lower elevation.

4. What is the acceptable range for topsoil thickness in a filter bed installation?

A. 5 cm to 10 cm

B. 15 cm to 30 cm

C. 25 cm to 40 cm

D. 40 cm to 60 cm

Topsoil depth over a filter bed is about providing a healthy root zone and surface protection without hindering the flow of water through the filtration media. The soil layer needs to be deep enough for grass or other vegetation to establish, help prevent erosion, and contribute to filtration and evapotranspiration. If the topsoil is too shallow, there won't be enough root coverage, increasing erosion risk and surface instability. If it's too deep, the thicker organic layer can impede percolation and promote clogging of the underlying filter media, and it also makes maintenance more difficult. The range of fifteen to thirty centimeters gives a good balance: ample rooting and protective cover while still allowing proper infiltration through the sand or gravel beneath. This depth is commonly specified in on-site wastewater guidelines for filter beds. In practice, aim for fifteen to thirty centimeters of well-prepared topsoil.

5. Select a possible reason that could cause sanitary sewage to flow through a plumbing fixture into a building.

A. A blockage in the system

B. A malfunction of the leaching bed

C. A blocked vent pipe

D. A broken water main

When the sewer line is blocked, wastewater cannot leave the building as intended and pressure builds behind the blockage. That buildup pushes the sewage back through the connected plumbing fixtures, causing it to appear inside the building. The traps in the fixtures are designed to stop sewer gases, but they can be overwhelmed when a main line backs up, leading to sewage appearing in the fixture or overflowing. Other issues can cause drainage problems, but they don't create this direct backflow path. A septic leaching bed problem affects underground disposal and may lead to surface or odor issues rather than backflow into interior fixtures. A blocked vent pipe mainly causes slow drainage and gurgling rather than a full backflow of sewage. A broken water main disrupts water supply, not the sewer line, so it doesn't directly cause sewage to flow back into the building.

6. Whose responsibility is it to provide for the design of a Class 4 sewage system?

A. The Owner Of The Property

B. The Agent Of The Property Owner

C. The City Regulatory Authority

D. The On-Site Installer

The main idea is that the property owner is the one who must ensure a proper design is provided for a Class 4 sewage system. The owner is responsible for initiating the project, securing a qualified designer or engineer to prepare a plan that meets local codes and site conditions, and delivering that design for permitting and installation. While a designer or agent can handle the work on the owner's behalf, the ultimate responsibility—and liability for compliance—lies with the owner who owns the property and finances the system. The regulatory authority reviews and approves the design, but does not create it, and the on-site installer carries out the work according to the approved plan rather than designing it.

7. Which soil condition would preclude installing a bed?

A. Bed installed in soils with a T-time of less than 1 min/cm

B. T-time greater than 50 min/cm

C. Bed installed more than 1 meter from the high groundwater table

D. Bed installed in sandy soil with good drainage

Soil percolation rate, or T-time, shows how quickly the soil will absorb effluent. For a septic bed to function properly, the effluent needs enough contact time with the soil to be filtered and treated by soil organisms. If the T-time is extremely fast—less than 1 minute per centimeter—the water passes through too quickly for adequate treatment, increasing the risk of contaminants reaching groundwater. That condition would preclude installing a bed. By comparison, a very slow T-time (like greater than 50 min/cm) signals poor drainage and would require a different design, but isn't automatically disqualifying on its own with the right adjustments. Being more than a meter away from the high groundwater table and having sandy, well-drained soil are favorable conditions and support installation, not preclusion.

8. Under certain conditions, which waste may go into a Class 1 system?

A. Biodegradable kitchen wastes (under certain conditions)

B. Human body waste

C. Non-biodegradable plastics

D. Hazardous chemicals

A Class 1 system is designed to receive wastewater that the treatment bacteria can handle without being harmed or overwhelmed. Biodegradable kitchen wastes fit this idea because they are organic and can be broken down by the system's microbial action, as long as the amount is within the system's design limits and the waste isn't contaminated with grease, oils, or non-biodegradable materials. Under those controlled conditions, they won't persist as solids or disrupt the digestion process. Non-biodegradable plastics don't break down, so they can clog pipes and fill the leach field, making them unsuitable for a Class 1 system. Hazardous chemicals can kill the beneficial bacteria in the tank and may contaminate groundwater, so they must never be discharged into these systems. Human body waste is part of typical household wastewater, but the question highlights the scenarios where kitchen waste might be allowed under specific limits; the key idea is distinguishing biodegradable, manageable waste from materials that won't decompose or will cause harm.

9. Which of the following systems can accept both human waste and greywater waste?

A. A Class 2 System

B. A Class 5 System

C. A Class 3 System

D. A Class 4 System

A Class 5 System is designed to handle the full domestic wastewater load, meaning it can treat both blackwater (toilet waste) and greywater (sink, shower, laundry water) in one integrated system. That capability is what makes it the correct choice for a setup that generates both types of waste. Other system types are typically limited to greywater only or are intended for special, smaller, or more limited scenarios, so they wouldn't accommodate the combination of toilet waste and greywater in a single system.

10. Which statement best reflects the importance of soil structure identification during subsoil examination?

A. It provides a pathway for liquids to move down through the soil mass

B. It determines surface color

C. It measures soil moisture at depth

D. It assesses crop suitability

Understanding how soil structure affects water movement in the subsoil is essential. Soil structure controls the size and connectivity of pore spaces, creating pathways that liquids can follow as they move downward. When you identify the subsoil structure, you're assessing how well water can infiltrate and drain, how quickly it can percolate, and how easily upward or downward flow might occur under different conditions. This directly explains why the ability of liquids to move down through the soil mass is the best reflection of its importance in subsoil examination. Surface color tells you about surface processes and mineral content rather than drainage pathways; measuring moisture at depth is something you determine from tests, not from structure identification itself; and crop suitability depends on many factors, with drainage and rooting conditions influenced by structure being only one part of the picture.

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://onsitesewagesys.examzify.com

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