

OSSF DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE (DR) 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

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- 1. Who is the official inspector of a new OSSF referred to as?**
 - A. Project supervisor
 - B. Installation technician
 - C. Designated representative
 - D. Site manager
- 2. What is the approximate gallon capacity of a septic tank with a working volume of 31 cubic feet?**
 - A. 100 gallons
 - B. 150 gallons
 - C. 232 gallons
 - D. 300 gallons
- 3. Which horizon is used for determining the depth of soil evaluation pits if it is shallower?**
 - A. Topsoil horizon
 - B. Restrictive horizon
 - C. Subsoil horizon
 - D. Ancillary horizon
- 4. Should the first compartment of a septic tank be smaller than the second compartment?**
 - A. True
 - B. False
 - C. Only if it is used for a grinder
 - D. Only in certain situations
- 5. Protozoa may cause which of the following diseases?**
 - A. Amoeba dysentery and Giardiasis
 - B. Tuberculosis and pneumonia
 - C. Malaria and yellow fever
 - D. Cholera and typhoid

- 6. What term is used to describe microorganisms that cause disease?**
- A. Microbes
 - B. Bacteria
 - C. Pathogens
 - D. Viruses
- 7. What is the purpose of the Notice of Approval (NOA) issued by the permitting agency?**
- A. Indicates new regulations
 - B. Confirms permit denial
 - C. Allows the system to operate
 - D. Indicates approval of design plans only
- 8. What is the expected volume of wastewater in gallons per day from an older (pre-1990) three-bedroom mobile home?**
- A. 200 gallons
 - B. 250 gallons
 - C. 300 gallons
 - D. 350 gallons
- 9. What is the volume of a drainfield that is 50 feet by 90 feet and covered with sand loam averaging 15 inches?**
- A. 150 cubic yards
 - B. 208.3 cubic yards
 - C. 250 cubic yards
 - D. 300 cubic yards
- 10. Which type of septic tank arrangement is permitted under the guidelines?**
- A. Two single-compartment tanks
 - B. A single properly sized compartment
 - C. Any design as long as it's above ground
 - D. Only tanks made from specified materials

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Who is the official inspector of a new OSSF referred to as?

- A. Project supervisor
- B. Installation technician
- C. Designated representative**
- D. Site manager

The official inspector of a new On-Site Sewage Facility (OSSF) is referred to as the Designated Representative. This individual plays a crucial role in ensuring that the installation and operation of the OSSF comply with local regulations and standards. The Designated Representative is typically tasked with overseeing the inspection process, including evaluating the system's design, functionality, and adherence to safety protocols. This designation involves a deep understanding of health regulations and technical specifications related to sewage management, which is vital for protecting public health and the environment. While other roles such as project supervisors, installation technicians, or site managers may have specific responsibilities in the construction or management of the OSSF, they do not carry the official authority or designation associated with inspections or regulatory compliance required for an OSSF installation. The emphasis on the Designated Representative highlights the importance of having a qualified individual accountable for oversight in these critical systems.

2. What is the approximate gallon capacity of a septic tank with a working volume of 31 cubic feet?

- A. 100 gallons
- B. 150 gallons
- C. 232 gallons**
- D. 300 gallons

To determine the gallon capacity of a septic tank with a working volume of 31 cubic feet, we need to understand the conversion between cubic feet and gallons. One cubic foot is equivalent to approximately 7.48 gallons. To find the total capacity in gallons, multiply the volume in cubic feet by the conversion factor: $31 \text{ cubic feet} \times 7.48 \text{ gallons per cubic foot} = \text{approximately } 231.84 \text{ gallons}$. This value rounds to 232 gallons, which makes this choice the approximate gallon capacity of the septic tank. Understanding this conversion is essential for assessing the correct size and capacity of septic systems, and this knowledge is critical for maintaining proper wastewater management standards.

3. Which horizon is used for determining the depth of soil evaluation pits if it is shallower?

- A. Topsoil horizon
- B. Restrictive horizon**
- C. Subsoil horizon
- D. Ancillary horizon

The correct choice for determining the depth of soil evaluation pits when they are shallower is the restrictive horizon. This horizon is significant because it denotes layers in the soil profile that may impede water movement or root growth, effectively limiting the depth to which soil evaluations can be accurately performed. When evaluating soil, particularly for agricultural or construction purposes, it's essential to recognize and assess any restrictive horizons, as they can substantially influence drainage, nutrient availability, and the overall suitability of the soil for specific uses. The topsoil horizon typically contains the most organic matter and is crucial for plant growth, but it does not indicate limitations in the profile. The subsoil horizon, located beneath the topsoil, may still contain valuable nutrients but often has different physical or chemical characteristics that might not necessarily restrict depth evaluation. Ancillary horizons refer to layers that may not have a significant impact on the primary soil characteristics being assessed for evaluation. Thus, assessing the restrictive horizon is crucial for understanding the limitations of soil depth and making informed decisions based on the evaluation findings.

4. Should the first compartment of a septic tank be smaller than the second compartment?

- A. True
- B. False**
- C. Only if it is used for a grinder
- D. Only in certain situations

The design of a septic tank typically consists of two compartments, and the first compartment is generally larger than the second compartment. The primary function of the first compartment is to allow for the initial separation of solids from liquids, promoting anaerobic digestion and settling. This compartment needs to have adequate space to accommodate the incoming wastewater and to facilitate the settling of solids effectively. A larger first compartment is crucial because it provides the necessary volume for sedimentation and allows for the retention time needed for proper treatment. The second compartment, while still important, serves mainly to further treat the effluent and separate remaining solids and scum. Hence, the first compartment's size is designed to handle the bulk of solids and encourage microbial activity, making it essential for it to be larger than the second compartment. In summary, the first compartment of a septic tank should not be smaller than the second compartment because it serves a key role in the initial treatment process by allowing for adequate solids separation, which is vital for the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the septic system.

5. Protozoa may cause which of the following diseases?

A. Amoeba dysentery and Giardiasis

B. Tuberculosis and pneumonia

C. Malaria and yellow fever

D. Cholera and typhoid

Protozoa are single-celled organisms that can cause a variety of diseases in humans. Amoeba dysentery, also known as amoebic dysentery or *Entamoeba histolytica* infection, is caused by a protozoan and leads to severe intestinal issues, including diarrhea and abdominal pain. Giardiasis, caused by the protozoan *Giardia lamblia*, results in symptoms such as diarrhea, gas, and cramps, impacting the gastrointestinal tract. The other options include diseases caused by different pathogens. Tuberculosis and pneumonia are primarily caused by bacterial infections, not protozoan infections. Malaria, while caused by a protozoan (specifically the *Plasmodium* species), is paired with yellow fever, which is a viral infection, making that option partially correct, but not exclusively about protozoa. Cholera and typhoid are both caused by bacteria, namely *Vibrio cholerae* and *Salmonella typhi*, respectively. Thus, the diseases listed in the correct choice are specifically linked to protozoan infections.

6. What term is used to describe microorganisms that cause disease?

A. Microbes

B. Bacteria

C. Pathogens

D. Viruses

The term that is used to describe microorganisms that cause disease is "pathogens." Pathogens include a variety of organisms such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites that can lead to diseases in their hosts. Identifying these agents as pathogens helps differentiate them from other types of microbes that may not be harmful or that may even be beneficial to health, such as certain bacteria involved in digestion. While "microbes" is a broad term that encompasses all microscopic organisms, including those that are harmless or beneficial, it does not specifically indicate disease-causing organisms. "Bacteria" and "viruses" are specific types of pathogens, but they are subsets within the broader category of pathogens. Hence, referring to them collectively as pathogens is the most accurate way to describe organisms that are known to cause disease.

7. What is the purpose of the Notice of Approval (NOA) issued by the permitting agency?

A. Indicates new regulations

B. Confirms permit denial

C. Allows the system to operate

D. Indicates approval of design plans only

The purpose of the Notice of Approval (NOA) issued by the permitting agency is to allow a system to operate. This document signifies that the permitting agency has reviewed and approved the design of a system, indicating that it meets necessary regulations and safety standards. Once the NOA is issued, it provides official acknowledgment that the system can be permitted for use, ensuring compliance with local health and safety regulations. Regarding the other options, while some may relate to regulatory processes, they do not capture the essential role of the NOA. For instance, it does not indicate new regulations or confirm a permit denial; instead, it represents approval and enables the system to be put into operation. Additionally, while the NOA does confirm the approval of design plans, its primary function goes beyond just indicating approval regarding design—it grants permission for the system's operational use as well.

8. What is the expected volume of wastewater in gallons per day from an older (pre-1990) three-bedroom mobile home?

- A. 200 gallons
- B. 250 gallons
- C. 300 gallons**
- D. 350 gallons

The expected volume of wastewater produced by an older three-bedroom mobile home, particularly one constructed before 1990, is influenced by several factors, including household size, water usage habits, and design standards prevalent at that time. Typically, for mobile homes of that era, the average wastewater generation can be estimated around 300 gallons per day. This figure accounts for the general practices and fixtures installed historically in older mobile homes, which may have lower efficiency compared to modern standards. As a baseline, a three-bedroom home will generally produce more wastewater due to the number of occupants and higher water usage for activities such as bathing, cooking, and cleaning. Additional convenience items, appliances, and fixtures in newer designs have improved efficiency and reduced wastewater outputs, but those benefits would not apply to homes built before the 1990s. Therefore, 300 gallons is a reasonable estimation reflecting the historical water usage patterns typical of older mobile homes.

9. What is the volume of a drainfield that is 50 feet by 90 feet and covered with sand loam averaging 15 inches?

- A. 150 cubic yards
- B. 208.3 cubic yards**
- C. 250 cubic yards
- D. 300 cubic yards

*To determine the volume of a drainfield that measures 50 feet by 90 feet and has a thickness of 15 inches, it's essential to convert all measurements to the same unit and then use the volume formula for a rectangular prism, which is length times width times height. First, convert the dimensions: - The area is calculated by multiplying the length and width: $50 \text{ feet} \times 90 \text{ feet} = 4500 \text{ square feet}$. Next, convert the depth of 15 inches to feet, since there are 12 inches in a foot: $15 \text{ inches} / 12 = 1.25 \text{ feet}$. Now, you can find the volume: - Volume = Area * Depth = $4500 \text{ square feet} \times 1.25 \text{ feet} = 5625 \text{ cubic feet}$. To convert cubic feet to cubic yards (since there are 27 cubic feet in a cubic yard): $5625 \text{ cubic feet} / 27 = \text{approximately } 208.33 \text{ cubic yards}$. Thus, the correct answer indicating the volume of the drainfield is approximately 208.3 cubic yards. This reasoning aligns with the correct answer and demonstrates the necessary calculations and conversions needed to arrive at the solution.*

10. Which type of septic tank arrangement is permitted under the guidelines?

- A. Two single-compartment tanks
- B. A single properly sized compartment**
- C. Any design as long as it's above ground
- D. Only tanks made from specified materials

The choice of a single properly sized compartment aligns with the guidelines for septic tank arrangements, as it emphasizes the importance of design efficiency and proper waste management. A single compartment tank, when appropriately sized according to the expected load, can effectively treat and store wastewater, ensuring that the effluent is adequately processed before being released into the drain field. This arrangement typically simplifies maintenance and management, as it provides a straightforward method for waste processing. Proper sizing is crucial to prevent overflows and promote effective decomposition of organic matter by anaerobic bacteria, which is essential for reducing environmental impacts and maintaining system functionality. Other options present arrangements or conditions that either do not meet standard requirements or may introduce complications. For instance, two single-compartment tanks can lead to redundancy but may not optimize the treatment process as effectively as a properly sized single compartment. Tanks situated above ground do not inherently constitute acceptable design criteria and may pose risks if not designed to specific engineering and regulatory standards. Similarly, restricting tanks to only specific materials could limit options without enhancing the system's performance or safety.

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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://ossfdesignatedrep.examzify.com>

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

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