Pesticide Applicator Training: General Standards SP39-W Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide

Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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. The portion of a spray pattern that overlaps with the adjoining spray is called:

A. Overlap

B. Nozzle spacing

C. Spray height

D. Pattern matching

2. Which type of weeds have parallel-veined leaves?

A. Grass-like Weeds

B. Grass Weeds

C. Annuals

D. Biennials

3. In the event of a spill, what is the second step to take?

A. Stop the spill

B. Attend to the injured (using PPE)

C. Confine the spill

D. Contact the proper authorities

4. What is the general term for any chemical used to destroy, prevent, or control any form of life declared to be a pest?

A. Pesticide

B. Herbicide

C. Insecticide

D. Fungicide

5. In the Triple Rinsing Procedure, after the initial drain, the container is refilled with water to what fraction?

A. 1/4-1/3

B. 1/2

C. 3/4

D. Full

6. What is the equation to determine GPM given GPA, MPH, and width W?

A. GPM = GPA × MPH × W

B. GPM = [GPA × MPH × W] × 5,940

C. GPM = [GPA × MPH × W] / 5,940

D. GPM = [GPA × MPH × W] / 5,000

7. Which symptom indicates severe poisoning?

A. Fatigue

B. Headache

C. Severe Contraction Of Pupils, Muscle Twitching, Difficulty Breathing

D. Dizziness

8. Persistent pesticides remain sufficiently active to kill pests for days, weeks, or months after application. What is this class called?

A. Systemic Pesticides

B. Residual Pesticides

C. Contact Pesticides

D. Non-Selective Pesticides

9. First aid procedure for oral pesticide poisoning is to:

A. Flush Eyeball With Water

B. Get Into Fresh Air

C. Wash With Soap And Water

D. Drink At Least One Quart Of Milk Or Water

10. NOT listed as a problem associated with pesticide drift?

A. Improved Pest Control

B. Non-Target Damage

C. Poor Pest Control

D. Negative Outcomes

Answers

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

Explanations

1. The portion of a spray pattern that overlaps with the adjoining spray is called:

A. Overlap

B. Nozzle spacing

C. Spray height

D. Pattern matching

Overlap is the part where two adjacent spray patterns meet. This shared region between passes helps ensure continuous, uniform coverage across the target area and reduces gaps. If there isn't enough overlap, gaps can form; if there's too much overlap, you may over-apply in the same spot. The other terms describe setup factors—how far apart the nozzles are, how high the spray is above the target—which influence whether overlap occurs, but they aren't the term for the overlapping portion itself.

2. Which type of weeds have parallel-veined leaves?

A. Grass-like Weeds

B. Grass Weeds

C. Annuals

D. Biennials

Leaves with parallel veins are a hallmark of grasses, which are monocots. In these plants, the veins run in the same direction along the leaf, creating a parallel pattern rather than forming a netlike network. Grass weeds—true grasses—display this parallel venation, making them the correct choice when asked which type has parallel-veined leaves. The other options describe life cycles or broader categories rather than leaf structure, so they don't specifically indicate venation patterns. Grass-like weeds can be monocots and resemble grasses, but the term is less precise for identifying leaf venation, while annuals and biennials refer to how long the plant lives, not leaf arrangement. Examples of grass weeds include crabgrass, foxtail, and Bermuda grass, all of which show parallel-veined leaves.

3. In the event of a spill, what is the second step to take?

A. Stop the spill

B. Attend to the injured (using PPE)

C. Confine the spill

D. Contact the proper authorities

When a spill happens, the first priority is safety for people involved. If you can do so safely, stop the source of the spill to prevent more pesticide from spreading. After ensuring the area is under control, the next step is to attend to anyone who is injured, using PPE to protect yourself and the injured person from further exposure. Putting on gloves, eye protection, and appropriate protective clothing or a respirator as needed allows you to provide first aid without increasing your own risk. Prompt care for injured individuals is essential, and you should seek medical help as required while continuing to manage the spill safely. After urgent medical needs are addressed, you can proceed with confining the spill, notifying authorities, and carrying out cleanup according to procedures.

4. What is the general term for any chemical used to destroy, prevent, or control any form of life declared to be a pest?

A. Pesticide

B. Herbicide

C. Insecticide

D. Fungicide

The main idea is that there is a single umbrella term for any chemical used to destroy, prevent, or control pests. That term is pesticide. Pests include a wide range of organisms, such as weeds, insects, and fungi, so the broad category must cover all of them. Specific examples—herbicide, insecticide, and fungicide—are types of pesticides that target particular groups: herbs kill plants (weeds), insecticides kill insects, and fungicides kill fungi. Recognizing this broad-to-narrow relationship helps you see why pesticide is the best answer.

5. In the Triple Rinsing Procedure, after the initial drain, the container is refilled with water to what fraction?

A. 1/4-1/3

B. 1/2

C. 3/4

D. Full

Rinse volume in triple rinsing is kept small but effective, so residues are removed through repeated cycles rather than one large rinse. After the initial drain, you refill the container with water to about one-quarter to one-third of its capacity. This amount provides enough liquid to loosen and carry residues when you agitate, while keeping rinse water manageable to handle and dispose of. You then repeat the rinse two more times, each time refilling to the same fraction. Using larger amounts, like half, three-quarters, or filling to full, wastes water and can make disposal harder, while a smaller amount wouldn't adequately rinse residues over multiple cycles.

6. What is the equation to determine GPM given GPA, MPH, and width W?

A. GPM = GPA × MPH × W

B. GPM = [GPA × MPH × W] × 5,940

C. GPM = [GPA × MPH × W] / 5,940

D. GPM = [GPA × MPH × W] / 5,000

GPM is found by taking how much water you apply per acre and pairing it with how much area you sweep each minute. The area covered per minute depends on your spray width and your travel speed. When the width is in inches and speed is in miles per hour, the area swept per minute in acres simplifies to (width in inches × speed in mph) divided by 5,940. Multiply that by gallons per acre to convert to gallons per minute. So the formula becomes GPM = GPA × MPH × W / 5,940. For example, if GPA is 8 gal/acre, MPH is 4, and width is 20 inches, GPM = 8 × 4 × 20 / 5,940 ≈ 0.108 gal/min. The other forms either omit the division by 5,940 or use a different constant, which would misrepresent the unit conversions between inches, mph, acres, and gallons.

7. Which symptom indicates severe poisoning?

A. Fatigue

B. Headache

C. Severe Contraction Of Pupils, Muscle Twitching, Difficulty Breathing

D. Dizziness

Severe poisoning shows itself when the nervous system is overwhelmed and the person also struggles to breathe. The combination of pinpoint pupils, muscle twitching, and trouble breathing is a clear signal of high-level pesticide exposure affecting both the muscarinic and nicotinic parts of the nervous system, plus the respiratory system. Pinpoint pupils come from parasympathetic overstimulation, muscle twitching reflects skeletal muscle stimulation, and difficulty breathing indicates bronchoconstriction and possible respiratory weakness. This set of signs means a life-threatening situation requiring immediate medical help. In contrast, fatigue, headache, and dizziness can occur with many situations and don't alone indicate severe poisoning. If safe to do so, move the person to fresh air, remove contaminated clothing, and seek emergency assistance right away.

8. Persistent pesticides remain sufficiently active to kill pests for days, weeks, or months after application. What is this class called?

A. Systemic Pesticides

B. Residual Pesticides

C. Contact Pesticides

D. Non-Selective Pesticides

The idea here is pesticides that keep working long after they're applied, providing ongoing pest control. Pesticides with residual activity remain active on treated surfaces, in soil, or on plant parts for days, weeks, or even months, so pests that encounter them later are still affected. This lingering effect is what defines them as residual pesticides. This differs from systemic pesticides, which are absorbed and moved inside the plant to protect against pests that feed on it, rather than staying on a surface to kill pests later. Contact pesticides kill pests through direct contact at the time of application and often have shorter lasting effects. Non-selective refers to broad pest range, not how long the product remains active.

9. First aid procedure for oral pesticide poisoning is to:

A. Flush Eyeball With Water

B. Get Into Fresh Air

C. Wash With Soap And Water

D. Drink At Least One Quart Of Milk Or Water

When someone swallows a pesticide, the immediate goal is to dilute it in the stomach to slow absorption and reduce damage while you seek professional help. Giving a drink, such as water or milk, helps dilute the chemical and can help move it through the stomach more slowly, buying time until medical treatment can be provided. Do this only if the person is conscious, able to swallow, and not vomiting. Avoid forcing fluids if there's a risk of choking or if the person is unconscious, and call poison control or emergency services for guidance. The other options correspond to exposures from different routes (eye exposure, inhalation, skin contact) and don't address ingestion.

10. NOT listed as a problem associated with pesticide drift?

A. Improved Pest Control

B. Non-Target Damage

C. Poor Pest Control

D. Negative Outcomes

Pesticide drift refers to the unintentional movement of pesticide away from the target area, often caused by wind, nozzle size, spray pressure, and weather conditions. This movement creates real problems: it can cause non-target damage to nearby crops, landscapes, pets, wildlife, or people; it can result in poor pest control on the intended site because some of the product misses the target; and it can lead to negative outcomes such as environmental contamination, health risks, and regulatory or economic consequences. Because drift is about causing issues rather than improving outcomes, an option that describes improved pest control does not fit as a problem caused by drift. That's why it's the correct choice for "NOT listed as a problem associated with pesticide drift."

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://pesticideapptrainingsp39w.examzify.com

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