

PLUMBING TIER 1 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. What should be done if a water pipe freezes?**
 - A. Use open flames to thaw it
 - B. Gradually thaw the pipe with heat
 - C. Replace the pipe immediately
 - D. Insulate it with foam
- 2. Which valves are used to control the flow of gases and liquids during gas fitting?**
 - A. Gate valves
 - B. Check valves
 - C. Ball valves
 - D. Globe valves
- 3. What is the most common cause of low water pressure?**
 - A. Water temperature
 - B. Pipe leaks or clogs
 - C. Pump malfunction
 - D. Insufficient water supply
- 4. What type of fitting is referred to as "test tee(s)"?**
 - A. I and II
 - B. II and V
 - C. I and V
 - D. III and IV
- 5. What role does a pressure gauge serve in a plumbing system?**
 - A. To regulate water flow
 - B. To adjust water temperature
 - C. To measure the water pressure in the system
 - D. To detect pipe leaks

6. The number of students for any continuing education class shall be limited to no more than _____ people.
- A. 50
 - B. 49
 - C. 45
 - D. 40
7. What does the design of a trap in plumbing specifically address?
- A. Water purification
 - B. Separation of living spaces from sewage
 - C. Heat retention in pipes
 - D. Pressure stabilization
8. What is the typical fall for a drain line?
- A. 1 inch per foot
 - B. $\frac{1}{4}$ inch per foot
 - C. $\frac{1}{2}$ inch per foot
 - D. $\frac{3}{4}$ inch per foot
9. What keeps a check valve open in a piping system?
- A. Weight of the disc mechanism
 - B. Pressure in the line
 - C. Gravity
 - D. Manual operation
10. What must be the location of the nozzle in a drinking fountain relative to the fountain?
- A. Above the flood level rim
 - B. Below the flood level rim
 - C. At the bottom of the fountain
 - D. At the top of the fountain

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What should be done if a water pipe freezes?

- A. Use open flames to thaw it
- B. Gradually thaw the pipe with heat**
- C. Replace the pipe immediately
- D. Insulate it with foam

Gradually thawing a frozen water pipe with heat is the appropriate course of action because it minimizes the risk of causing damage to the pipe or the surrounding structures. When a pipe freezes, the water inside expands, creating significant pressure that could potentially lead to a rupture. Applying heat evenly and gradually allows the ice to melt without creating rapid changes in temperature, which can stress the material of the pipe and lead to fractures. Using an open flame to thaw the pipe is dangerous, as it poses a fire hazard and can quickly damage piping materials, especially those made from plastic. Simply replacing the pipe may not address the underlying issue that caused it to freeze and is often unnecessary if the pipe can be repaired. Insulating the pipe may help prevent future freezing, but it does not resolve the immediate problem of a frozen pipe. Gradual thawing ensures safety and preserves the pipe's integrity while restoring water flow effectively.

2. Which valves are used to control the flow of gases and liquids during gas fitting?

- A. Gate valves
- B. Check valves
- C. Ball valves**
- D. Globe valves

The selection of ball valves as the correct answer is based on their specific functionality and advantages in controlling the flow of gases and liquids. Ball valves are highly effective for this purpose because they provide a straightforward on/off control with minimal resistance to flow. This design incorporates a spherical closure element that rotates within the body of the valve. When the valve is fully open, the ball aligns with the flow direction, allowing for a smooth passage of the medium, resulting in very little pressure drop. Additionally, ball valves are favored for their durability and reliability, making them suitable for various applications where tight seals and long service life are crucial. They are often used in high-pressure situations and with both gas and liquid mediums, as they effectively prevent leaks when closed. In contrast, other valve types have different primary functions. For instance, gate valves are typically used in applications where a straight-line flow of fluid with minimal restriction is necessary; however, they do not provide precise flow control. Check valves are designed to prevent backflow, meaning they allow fluid to flow in one direction only, rather than regulating flow. Globe valves are more commonly used for throttling purposes and controlling flow rates, but they can create more resistance and are not as efficient as ball valves for quick shut-off applications.

3. What is the most common cause of low water pressure?

- A. Water temperature
- B. Pipe leaks or clogs**
- C. Pump malfunction
- D. Insufficient water supply

Low water pressure in plumbing systems is frequently attributed to pipe leaks or clogs. When either of these issues arises, they create a blockage or a reduction in the effective flow of water through the plumbing system. Leaks can occur due to corrosion, physical damage, or deterioration of the pipe material over time. When water escapes from a pipe, it reduces the overall volume available for delivery, thereby diminishing water pressure. Clogs, on the other hand, can result from various factors such as a buildup of mineral deposits, debris, or even tree roots infiltrating pipes. This accumulation restricts the flow of water, which can also lead to noticeable drops in water pressure. While other factors such as water temperature and pump malfunction can influence water pressure, they are not as common as pipe leaks or clogs. Insufficient water supply can cause low pressure but is often a symptom of other issues, rather than a common primary cause. Therefore, addressing leaks and clogs is a critical first step in troubleshooting low water pressure in a plumbing system.

4. What type of fitting is referred to as "test tee(s)"?

- A. I and II
- B. II and V**
- C. I and V
- D. III and IV

Test tees are fittings specifically designed to facilitate the testing of drainage systems. They typically incorporate a cleanout feature, allowing for easy access to the interior of the pipe for maintenance and inspection purposes. The design of these fittings often includes a horizontal branch, which makes it convenient to connect testing equipment, such as pressure gauges or other devices necessary for evaluating the performance of the drainage system. In this context, the reference to "I and V," "II and V," "I and II," and "III and IV" relates to different types of fittings categorized in the plumbing trade. The correct pairs are determined based on their functionality and design characteristics associated with testing. The right answer connects the specified fittings that serve the designated purpose of testing drainage systems, highlighting their importance in ensuring the plumbing system operates effectively and meets the required codes and standards for performance and safety. This understanding is crucial for professionals in the plumbing field as it emphasizes the practical application of these fittings in real-world scenarios.

5. What role does a pressure gauge serve in a plumbing system?

- A. To regulate water flow
- B. To adjust water temperature
- C. To measure the water pressure in the system**
- D. To detect pipe leaks

A pressure gauge serves a crucial function in a plumbing system by providing a measurement of the water pressure within that system. This measurement is essential for ensuring that the plumbing operates effectively and safely. By monitoring the pressure, plumbers can determine whether the system is functioning within its designed specifications; for instance, if the pressure is too high, it may cause stress on pipes and fixtures, leading to potential damage or leaks. Conversely, if the pressure is too low, it might indicate problems such as clogs or leaks that could affect water supply and performance. The gauge helps in diagnosing issues related to water flow, as appropriate water pressure is key to delivering water to fixtures and appliances as intended. Maintaining the correct pressure is thus vital for the overall efficiency and longevity of the plumbing system.

6. The number of students for any continuing education class shall be limited to no more than _____ people.

- A. 50
- B. 49**
- C. 45
- D. 40

The correct answer is based on regulations or guidelines that often stipulate a specific maximum number of participants allowed in continuing education classes to ensure effective learning and instructor management. Limiting the number of students to 49 people helps to maintain a conducive learning environment where instructors can provide adequate attention and support to each student. This limit also encourages participation and interaction, making it easier for educators to facilitate discussions and address individual questions or concerns. Policies for education class sizes typically aim to balance accessibility for students with the need for quality instruction. Setting the maximum at 49 instead of a round number like 50 can be a strategic choice to create an easier control on logistics, such as seating, resources, and classroom management, ensuring that every student can be accommodated comfortably without compromising the class's quality. While other options suggest different numbers for maximum participants, adhering to 49 likely reflects specific regulatory standards or best practices established in educational environments. This approach maintains high educational standards and promotes a more effective learning experience.

7. What does the design of a trap in plumbing specifically address?

- A. Water purification
- B. Separation of living spaces from sewage**
- C. Heat retention in pipes
- D. Pressure stabilization

The design of a trap in plumbing specifically addresses the separation of living spaces from sewage. Traps are crucial components in drainage systems as they hold a small amount of water, which creates a seal that prevents sewer gases from entering the living environment. This water barrier is essential for maintaining indoor air quality and ensures that potentially harmful sewer gases, which can include methane and hydrogen sulfide, do not escape into homes or buildings. In addition to their primary function of blocking gas, traps also help in trapping debris and preventing larger particles from moving further into the plumbing system, thereby reducing the risk of clogs. Overall, the function of traps is fundamental in providing a sanitary plumbing system that safeguards inhabitants from exposure to harmful sewer conditions.

8. What is the typical fall for a drain line?

- A. 1 inch per foot
- B. ¼ inch per foot**
- C. ½ inch per foot
- D. ¾ inch per foot

The typical fall for a drain line is ¼ inch per foot. This standard allows for proper drainage by ensuring that wastewater flows effectively toward the sewer or septic system without creating excessive slope, which can lead to problems such as air pockets and reduced flow. A fall of ¼ inch per foot balances the needs for adequate flow and pressure without being so steep that it accelerates the flow too much and causes solids to remain in the line. Other options represent slopes that are either too steep or not steep enough for efficient drainage. A steeper slope, such as 1 inch per foot or ¾ inch per foot, can lead to solids being washed away too quickly, preventing them from being carried through the system effectively. Conversely, a less steep slope, like ½ inch per foot, may not allow for sufficient gravity assistance to evacuate wastewater properly. Therefore, the recommended ¼ inch per foot fall is optimal for maintaining a functional and efficient plumbing drain system.

9. What keeps a check valve open in a piping system?

- A. Weight of the disc mechanism
- B. Pressure in the line**
- C. Gravity
- D. Manual operation

In a piping system, the operation of a check valve primarily relies on pressure in the line. The check valve is designed to allow fluid to flow in one direction while preventing backflow. The disc mechanism within the valve is kept open by the pressure of the fluid flowing through the pipe. When the fluid pressure is sufficient, it pushes the disc away from the seat allowing the flow to pass through the valve. When fluid stops flowing or flows in the reverse direction, the pressure in the line decreases, causing the disc to return to its seated position and close off the flow, thus preventing backflow. This automatic response to pressure changes is what defines the functionality of a check valve in a piping system. Other options, like gravity, weight of the disc, or manual operation, do not dictate the operation of a check valve. Gravity may play a role in specific valve designs, but it is not the primary factor in all instances. Manual operation is not typical for check valves, which are intended to operate automatically based on fluid flow.

10. What must be the location of the nozzle in a drinking fountain relative to the fountain?

- A. Above the flood level rim**
- B. Below the flood level rim
- C. At the bottom of the fountain
- D. At the top of the fountain

The nozzle of a drinking fountain must be located above the flood level rim. This positioning is crucial for preventing contamination. By placing the nozzle at this height, the potential for backflow of water into the fountain from the nozzle is minimized. This arrangement ensures that any water flowing from the nozzle into the fountain is directed downwards, reducing the risk of splashing water contaminating the drinking source. Furthermore, maintaining the nozzle's height above the flood level rim allows the area around the fountain to remain safe and sanitary, promoting hygiene and public health. In contrast, positioning the nozzle below the flood level rim would increase the risk of contamination. It could create situations where water could flow back into the system, leading to possible health hazards. Similarly, placing the nozzle at the bottom or top of the fountain does not conform with safety and health standards established for drinking water equipment, which prioritize accessibility and cleanliness.

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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