

REHS/RS Waste Water and Potable Water 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

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- 1. What is the EPA stream water quality rate for fecal coliforms?**
 - A. 1 colony/1 ml**
 - B. 5 colonies/1 ml**
 - C. 2 colonies/1 ml**
 - D. 10 colonies/1 ml**

- 2. How does disinfection work in wastewater treatment?**
 - A. By increasing the water temperature**
 - B. By using chemicals or UV light to kill pathogens**
 - C. By filtering out large particles**
 - D. By adding minerals to the water**

- 3. Why is backflow prevention important?**
 - A. It enhances water temperature**
 - B. It stops contaminated water from flowing back into the drinking supply**
 - C. It reduces the speed of water flow**
 - D. It improves water clarity**

- 4. The traditional absorption field should be laid in trenches not more than how many inches below the ground surface?**
 - A. 12 inches**
 - B. 18 inches**
 - C. 24 inches**
 - D. 30 inches**

- 5. What role does community education play in potable water quality protection?**
 - A. It focuses solely on plumbing techniques**
 - B. It raises awareness about water conservation and protecting resources**
 - C. It mandates monthly testing for all households**
 - D. It is primarily about regulations and compliance**

- 6. What determines the frequency of water sampling?**
- A. Size of the treatment plant**
 - B. Population served**
 - C. Type of water source**
 - D. Seasonal changes**
- 7. What is the primary reason for establishing effluent discharge permits?**
- A. To manage wastewater treatment costs**
 - B. To control health impacts on the population**
 - C. To ensure adequate water flow in treatment plants**
 - D. To maintain ecosystem quality in receiving waters**
- 8. Which of the following describes a challenge posed by pollution in water management?**
- A. It decreases operational costs**
 - B. It ensures adequate water supply**
 - C. It complicates the treatment process**
 - D. It attracts more investment opportunities**
- 9. Which of the following compounds contributes to water hardness?**
- A. Sodium chloride**
 - B. Calcium sulfate**
 - C. Potassium nitrate**
 - D. Chlorine**
- 10. What does BOD stand for in wastewater treatment?**
- A. Biological Organic Demand**
 - B. Biological Oxygen Demand**
 - C. Biochemical Oxidation Demand**
 - D. Biological Oxygen Dilution**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the EPA stream water quality rate for fecal coliforms?

- A. 1 colony/1 ml**
- B. 5 colonies/1 ml**
- C. 2 colonies/1 ml**
- D. 10 colonies/1 ml**

The correct answer highlights that the EPA's standard for stream water quality regarding fecal coliform bacteria is established for assessing water safety, particularly in recreational waters and sources of drinking water. The value of 2 colonies/1 ml is significant as it is a threshold used by environmental and health agencies to identify water safety levels. At this colony count, higher levels of fecal coliforms indicate potential contamination by fecal material from warm-blooded animals, which could pose health risks to humans through exposure or ingestion. This standard is critical for maintaining public health and protecting aquatic environments by ensuring that the water quality is monitored and managed effectively.

2. How does disinfection work in wastewater treatment?

- A. By increasing the water temperature**
- B. By using chemicals or UV light to kill pathogens**
- C. By filtering out large particles**
- D. By adding minerals to the water**

Disinfection in wastewater treatment primarily works by using chemicals or UV light to kill pathogens. This process is essential to ensure that the water is safe for discharge into the environment or for potential reuse. Chemicals such as chlorine, ozone, or hydrogen peroxide can be added to the water to eliminate microorganisms, including bacteria, viruses, and protozoa, which can pose health risks if left untreated. Ultraviolet (UV) light is another effective method of disinfection, where pathogens are exposed to UV light, rendering them inactive and incapable of causing disease. This method is increasingly favored due to its ability to avoid the chemical residues that can remain in water after treatment. Disinfection does not involve increasing the water temperature, filtering out large particles, or adding minerals. Instead, its primary focus is on targeting harmful microorganisms to protect public health and the environment.

3. Why is backflow prevention important?

- A. It enhances water temperature
- B. It stops contaminated water from flowing back into the drinking supply**
- C. It reduces the speed of water flow
- D. It improves water clarity

Backflow prevention is critically important because it protects the drinking water supply from contamination. The primary role of backflow prevention devices is to ensure that water does not flow backwards into the main water supply, especially from sources that may contain harmful contaminants or pollutants. This is particularly vital in situations where there may be a drop in water pressure, which could allow water from non-potable sources—like irrigation systems, industrial processes, or even sewage systems—to reverse flow and potentially introduce harmful bacteria, chemicals, or other hazardous substances into the drinking water supply. Ensuring a clean and safe water source is essential for public health and safety, which is why effective backflow prevention measures are mandated in many regulations and plumbing codes.

4. The traditional absorption field should be laid in trenches not more than how many inches below the ground surface?

- A. 12 inches
- B. 18 inches
- C. 24 inches**
- D. 30 inches

The traditional absorption field, often referred to in the context of a septic system, is designed to filter and treat wastewater as it percolates through the soil. Installing absorption trenches at the correct depth is crucial for ensuring proper functionality and avoiding issues related to wastewater treatment. The correct answer indicates that trenches should not be laid more than 24 inches below the ground surface. This depth allows for adequate aeration and contact between the effluent and soil, which are essential for the biological treatment processes that take place in an absorption field. When trenches are too deep, it can hinder the natural treatment processes, as well as reduce the amount of oxygen available to the bacteria responsible for breaking down waste. Furthermore, deeper trenches could lead to insufficient drainage and higher chances of system failure. In summary, maintaining trenches at a maximum depth of 24 inches supports effective wastewater treatment and helps prevent complications that could arise from improper installation depth.

5. What role does community education play in potable water quality protection?

- A. It focuses solely on plumbing techniques**
- B. It raises awareness about water conservation and protecting resources**
- C. It mandates monthly testing for all households**
- D. It is primarily about regulations and compliance**

Community education plays a crucial role in potable water quality protection by raising awareness about water conservation and the importance of protecting water resources. This educational effort helps individuals understand the impact of their actions on water quality, encouraging practices that safeguard both drinking water and the broader environment. By teaching community members about the sources of pollution, the significance of protecting natural water bodies, and techniques to conserve water, they become proactive stewards of their local water resources. Additionally, a well-informed community is more likely to engage in sustainable practices, report concerns about water quality, and comply with existing regulations out of a sense of responsibility and understanding. This collective awareness and action can significantly contribute to the overall protection and improvement of potable water quality within the community.

6. What determines the frequency of water sampling?

- A. Size of the treatment plant**
- B. Population served**
- C. Type of water source**
- D. Seasonal changes**

The frequency of water sampling is primarily determined by the population served. This is because larger populations typically require more frequent monitoring to ensure safe drinking water. The rationale behind this is that a larger population increases the demand for water and, correspondingly, the complexities involved in maintaining water quality. Efficiently managing the water supply, detecting contaminants, and ensuring compliance with health regulations necessitates a systematic sampling approach that aligns with the population size. In addition, more extensive populations often lead to diverse sources and systems within the water distribution network, which can introduce various risks for contamination. Therefore, an increase in the population served typically correlates with stricter health guidelines and regulations that dictate more frequent testing schedules. While other factors, such as the size of the treatment plant, the type of water source, and seasonal changes, may influence water quality and safety, they are secondary to the primary factor of population size when determining sampling frequency.

7. What is the primary reason for establishing effluent discharge permits?

- A. To manage wastewater treatment costs**
- B. To control health impacts on the population**
- C. To ensure adequate water flow in treatment plants**
- D. To maintain ecosystem quality in receiving waters**

Establishing effluent discharge permits is fundamentally linked to maintaining ecosystem quality in receiving waters. These permits set regulatory limits on the amount and type of pollutants that can be discharged into water bodies. The primary purpose is to protect the surrounding aquatic environment by ensuring that the quality of water in rivers, lakes, and oceans is not significantly degraded by wastewater effluent. When treated wastewater is released back into the environment, it can affect the health of aquatic ecosystems. This includes impacts on fish populations, plant life, and overall biodiversity. By enforcing strict standards on the concentration of harmful substances, effluent discharge permits help prevent ecological harm, promoting a balanced and healthy ecosystem. This regulatory framework is crucial for sustaining long-term environmental health and ensuring that natural water bodies can support both wildlife and human activities. Understanding this aspect emphasizes the importance of protecting natural resources and public health through effective wastewater management practices.

8. Which of the following describes a challenge posed by pollution in water management?

- A. It decreases operational costs**
- B. It ensures adequate water supply**
- C. It complicates the treatment process**
- D. It attracts more investment opportunities**

Pollution in water management significantly complicates the treatment process, making it a critical challenge for water quality management. When water becomes polluted, it may contain a variety of contaminants such as chemicals, heavy metals, pathogens, and other harmful substances. These pollutants require advanced treatment methods to remove or neutralize them before the water can be deemed safe for human consumption or environmental discharge. The presence of these contaminants can lead to increased operational complexity, necessitating the use of specialized filtration systems, chemical treatments, or biological processes that may not be required for cleaner water sources. Treatment facilities must invest in more robust technologies, which can lead to higher operational costs and extended treatment times. Additionally, ensuring that treated water meets safety regulations becomes more challenging, as coalitions of different pollutants can interact in unpredictable ways, complicating the efficacy of standard treatment protocols. In contrast, other options suggest benefits or favorable conditions. For instance, decreased operational costs and adequate water supply are not typically associated with polluted water sources, as managing contaminated water generally increases costs and complicates availability. Similarly, while some investments might be attracted to addressing pollution, the challenges it creates often necessitate more funding and resources rather than presenting new opportunities. Thus, the significance of pollution in complicating the treatment process is

9. Which of the following compounds contributes to water hardness?

- A. Sodium chloride**
- B. Calcium sulfate**
- C. Potassium nitrate**
- D. Chlorine**

Water hardness primarily results from the presence of dissolved minerals, particularly calcium and magnesium ions. Calcium sulfate is one such compound that contributes to water hardness because it dissociates in water to release calcium ions. These calcium ions are one of the key factors that define water hardness. Hard water can lead to various issues, such as scale buildup in pipes and appliances, which can affect their efficiency and lifespan. It also interacts with soaps and detergents, making them less effective. By understanding the role of compounds like calcium sulfate in contributing to water hardness, one can better manage water quality and address issues associated with hard water. While sodium chloride, potassium nitrate, and chlorine are important chemicals used in various contexts (such as water treatment or food preservation), they do not significantly contribute to the hardness of water as they do not release calcium or magnesium ions when dissolved.

10. What does BOD stand for in wastewater treatment?

- A. Biological Organic Demand**
- B. Biological Oxygen Demand**
- C. Biochemical Oxidation Demand**
- D. Biological Oxygen Dilution**

BOD stands for Biological Oxygen Demand, which is a key parameter used in wastewater treatment. It measures the amount of oxygen that microorganisms will consume while decomposing organic matter in the water. This measurement is vital for understanding the impact of wastewater on the environment; a high BOD indicates a higher level of organic pollution, which can deplete oxygen in receiving waters, harming aquatic life. Biological Oxygen Demand is important for determining the efficiency of wastewater treatment processes. Treatment facilities aim to reduce BOD levels before effluent is released into the environment to ensure that the ecological balance in water bodies is maintained. Understanding BOD helps operators manage treatment processes more effectively, ensuring compliance with environmental regulations and protecting aquatic ecosystems.

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://rehsrswastewaterpotablewater.examzify.com>

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

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