

REHS/RS WASTE WATER AND POTABLE WATER PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

<https://rehsrswastewaterpotablewater.examzify.com>



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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 standard for fecal coliform?**
 - A. 1 colony per 1 ml
 - B. 2 colonies per 1 ml
 - C. 5 colonies per 1 ml
 - D. 10 colonies per 1 ml
- 2. Which residential feature can increase the load on a septic system?**
 - A. Garden irrigation
 - B. High-efficiency appliances
 - C. Additional bathrooms
 - D. Low-water use fixtures
- 3. 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
- 4. Ozone is effective against which of the following contaminants?**
 - A. Heavy metals and salts
 - B. Amoebic cysts, bacteria, and viruses
 - C. chlorinated hydrocarbons
 - D. Suspended solids and sediment
- 5. How does nutrient removal affect wastewater treatment efficiency?**
 - A. It makes treatment more costly
 - B. It has no impact on treatment efficiency
 - C. It prevents eutrophication and improves overall efficiency
 - D. It simplifies the treatment process
- 6. In environmental assessments, extension of existing utilities is preferred because it:**
 - A. Reduces overall costs and environmental impact
 - B. Eliminates the need for permits
 - C. Assures maximum land development
 - D. Requires less regulatory oversight

- 7. Which of the following indicates high levels of organic pollution in water?**
- A. High TSS levels
 - B. High BOD levels
 - C. High pH levels
 - D. High coliform levels
- 8. Where can low-pressure, vacuum, and cluster systems be effectively used?**
- A. Only in flat, urban areas
 - B. Where soil is unsuitable for septic tanks
 - C. In areas with ample groundwater
 - D. Only in residential areas
- 9. What is a crucial factor in ensuring the quality of water resources?**
- A. Limited monitoring of water resources
 - B. Abundant natural resources
 - C. Rigorous testing for quality standards
 - D. Adapting to fluctuating demands
- 10. Are pharmaceuticals successfully removed by a wastewater treatment plant?**
- A. Yes, completely
 - B. Only liquid kinds
 - C. No, neither solid or liquid kinds
 - D. Yes, but only in large quantities

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the EPA stream water quality standard for fecal coliform?

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

The EPA stream water quality standard for fecal coliform is set at a threshold to help ensure safe water practices and protect public health, especially in areas where water is used for recreation or as a drinking water source. The correct standard, which is 2 colonies per 1 ml, is established based on the understanding that higher concentrations of fecal coliform bacteria can indicate the presence of harmful pathogens, suggesting that the water may be contaminated with fecal matter from animals or humans. Maintaining this standard helps mitigate the risk of waterborne diseases. When fecal coliform levels exceed this threshold, it prompts further investigation and possible remediation efforts to address the source of contamination, thereby maintaining water quality and safety for human use. In terms of the incorrect options, lower colony counts would not reflect the necessary concern for public health, while higher counts would breach the standard set by the EPA, indicating unacceptable levels of contamination. Therefore, understanding the implications of the 2 colonies per 1 ml standard is critical for environmental monitoring and public safety.

2. Which residential feature can increase the load on a septic system?

- A. Garden irrigation
- B. High-efficiency appliances
- C. Additional bathrooms**
- D. Low-water use fixtures

The presence of additional bathrooms in a residential setting can significantly increase the load on a septic system. This is because each bathroom typically includes fixtures such as sinks, toilets, showers, and bathtubs, all of which contribute to the overall wastewater generated by the household. When a home adds more bathrooms, the consumption of water rises, leading to a larger volume of wastewater entering the septic system. An increase in wastewater can overwhelm the septic system, especially if it is not designed to handle the additional flow. This might lead to issues such as inefficiencies in treatment, reduced functionality, or even system failure if the capacity is exceeded. Therefore, understanding the impact of household features, such as multiple bathrooms, on septic systems is vital for proper maintenance and management of wastewater. In contrast, features like garden irrigation or high-efficiency appliances generally contribute to a more controlled use of water, and low-water use fixtures can even help reduce the load on a septic system by minimizing the volume of wastewater produced. Thus, the correct answer highlights the importance of recognizing how increased water sources in a home can affect septic system operations.

3. 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.

4. Ozone is effective against which of the following contaminants?

- A. Heavy metals and salts
- B. Amoebic cysts, bacteria, and viruses**
- C. chlorinated hydrocarbons
- D. Suspended solids and sediment

Ozone is a powerful oxidizing agent that is particularly effective at inactivating pathogens such as bacteria, viruses, and amoebic cysts in water. Its strong oxidizing properties enable it to disrupt the cell walls of microorganisms, leading to their inactivation or destruction. This makes ozone an excellent choice for disinfection in both wastewater and potable water treatment processes. While other contaminants like heavy metals and salts, chlorinated hydrocarbons, and suspended solids can be addressed through different water treatment methods, they do not have the same susceptibility to ozone as microbial contaminants. Heavy metals require removal techniques such as precipitation or ion exchange, while suspended solids and sediment are typically managed through filtration or sedimentation processes. Chlorinated hydrocarbons may require advanced oxidation or other chemical methods for effective removal. Thus, option B correctly identifies the types of contaminants that ozone effectively targets in water treatment.

5. How does nutrient removal affect wastewater treatment efficiency?

- A. It makes treatment more costly
- B. It has no impact on treatment efficiency
- C. It prevents eutrophication and improves overall efficiency**
- D. It simplifies the treatment process

Nutrient removal plays a crucial role in enhancing wastewater treatment efficiency, particularly in preventing eutrophication in receiving water bodies. When wastewater is treated without adequate nutrient removal, excess nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus can lead to the proliferation of algae in water bodies. This process, known as eutrophication, can severely degrade water quality, deplete oxygen levels, and harm aquatic ecosystems. By effectively removing these nutrients from wastewater, treatment systems help prevent the over-enrichment of water bodies. This not only improves the health of aquatic environments but also decreases the need for additional treatments to address the consequences of nutrient overload, thus improving the efficiency of the overall treatment system. In essence, nutrient removal contributes to a more sustainable and effective approach in wastewater management, ensuring that treated effluent does not adversely impact the waterways into which it is discharged.

6. In environmental assessments, extension of existing utilities is preferred because it:

- A. Reduces overall costs and environmental impact**
- B. Eliminates the need for permits
- C. Assures maximum land development
- D. Requires less regulatory oversight

The preference for extending existing utilities in environmental assessments fundamentally stems from its potential to reduce both costs and environmental impact. When existing utility infrastructure—such as water, sewer, and electricity—is extended rather than building new systems from scratch, the financial burden on local governments and developers diminishes significantly. This approach often leads to decreased construction expenses and durations since established routes are utilized, and existing infrastructure can be expanded rather than completely developed anew. Moreover, when extending utilities, there is typically less environmental disruption compared to establishing new lines in untouched areas. This helps mitigate habitat destruction, reduce soil disturbance, and limit other negative impacts on local ecosystems. By harnessing the existing network, the overall environmental footprint of development projects is minimized, aligning with sustainable development principles. While the other choices—elimination of permits, assurance of maximum land development potential, and reduced regulatory oversight—might seem advantageous, they do not encapsulate the principal reasons behind the preference for extending existing utilities. Regulatory frameworks still require adherence, and land development potential is not guaranteed by merely extending utilities. Therefore, the key benefit lies in the dual aspects of cost savings and reduced environmental consequences associated with such extensions.

7. Which of the following indicates high levels of organic pollution in water?

- A. High TSS levels
- B. High BOD levels**
- C. High pH levels
- D. High coliform levels

High BOD levels indicate a significant amount of organic pollution in water. Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) measures the amount of dissolved oxygen that microorganisms will consume while decomposing organic matter in water. Therefore, a high BOD value reflects a higher presence of organic pollutants, as it signifies a greater demand for oxygen needed for breakdown processes. This is critical because the oxygen availability in water is essential for aquatic life; excessive organic pollution can lead to oxygen depletion, resulting in harm to fish and other aquatic organisms. In contrast, while high total suspended solids (TSS) can indicate pollution, it does not specifically measure organic matter. Similarly, elevated pH levels typically relate to alkalinity and do not directly indicate organic pollution, nor do high coliform levels, which primarily assess fecal contamination rather than organic matter presence. Thus, high BOD is the most accurate indicator of organic pollution in water.

8. Where can low-pressure, vacuum, and cluster systems be effectively used?

- A. Only in flat, urban areas
- B. Where soil is unsuitable for septic tanks**
- C. In areas with ample groundwater
- D. Only in residential areas

Low-pressure, vacuum, and cluster systems are particularly effective where the soil conditions are inadequate for traditional septic systems. This is because these alternative systems are designed to operate in scenarios where soil does not have the proper texture or permeability to treat wastewater effectively. For example, in clay soils that retain water or sandy soils that allow too quick of a drainage, conventional septic systems may fail to operate correctly. By utilizing these alternative systems, wastewater can be collected and transported to a centralized treatment location or distributed through a series of low-pressure lines. This method allows for proper treatment even in unfavorable soil conditions. It also minimizes the environmental impact and maximizes the efficiency of wastewater management in areas where conventional septic systems would not suffice. The other options do not accurately reflect the key strengths of low-pressure, vacuum, and cluster systems, as these systems are designed specifically to handle situations that would otherwise be problematic for traditional septic systems.

9. What is a crucial factor in ensuring the quality of water resources?

- A. Limited monitoring of water resources
- B. Abundant natural resources
- C. Rigorous testing for quality standards**
- D. Adapting to fluctuating demands

Rigorous testing for quality standards is essential for ensuring the quality of water resources because it systematically assesses the water for a variety of contaminants and parameters that affect its safety and usability. This testing helps to identify pollutants, pathogens, and other harmful substances that could pose risks to public health or the environment. Additionally, adhering to established quality standards ensures compliance with regulatory requirements and supports effective management of water resources. By conducting regular and thorough testing, potential issues can be detected early, allowing for timely interventions to address any contamination or degradation of the water quality. This proactive approach plays a vital role in safeguarding human health and maintaining ecological balance while promoting the sustainable use of water resources. Therefore, rigorous testing is a foundational element in maintaining the integrity and safety of water supplies.

10. Are pharmaceuticals successfully removed by a wastewater treatment plant?

- A. Yes, completely
- B. Only liquid kinds
- C. No, neither solid or liquid kinds**
- D. Yes, but only in large quantities

Pharmaceuticals are complex compounds that can be challenging to remove from wastewater using conventional treatment methods. While treatment plants are designed to reduce organic and inorganic materials, they often struggle with the complete removal of pharmaceutical contaminants. Many treatment processes, including biological treatment, may not effectively break down certain pharmaceutical substances, leading to their persistence in the effluent. Research indicates that while some pharmaceuticals can be reduced in concentration through standard wastewater treatment processes, complete removal is not typically achieved. This means that a significant proportion of these substances can still be present in treated wastewater, especially in the case of more resistant compounds. Therefore, the notion that neither solid nor liquid pharmaceuticals are successfully removed aligns with the understanding that wastewater treatment facilities do not have comprehensive processes specifically tailored for the variety of pharmaceutical compounds found in wastewater. Options that suggest complete removal or address only certain states of matter (liquid or solid) do not reflect the evidence that confirms the ongoing presence of these compounds in treated effluent. The choice indicating only large quantities also inaccurately suggests variability in closure that does not universally apply across different treatment plants. Hence, the accurate understanding is that wastewater treatment plants often do not adequately remove pharmaceuticals from both solid and liquid forms present in wastewater.

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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