

RESOURCE CONSERVATION RECOVERY ACT (RCRA) PRACTICE EXAM (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. What is the purpose of a RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI)?**
 - A. A plan to estimate cleanup costs.
 - B. A routine site safety inspection.
 - C. A detailed investigation to determine whether releases have occurred and where.
 - D. Regulation of waste handling procedures.
- 2. Which items are included on Form 8700-22?**
 - A. Name, address, phone number of generator
 - B. Identification of waste stream and its quantity
 - C. Both A and B
 - D. Transportation route details
- 3. What is the accumulation time for an SQG, and how can distance to a treatment, storage, or disposal facility affect it?**
 - A. 90 days
 - B. 180 days; extension to 270 days if the TSD is 200 miles away
 - C. 365 days
 - D. 540 days
- 4. What does WAP stand for?**
 - A. Waste Allocation Plan
 - B. Waste Analysis Protocol
 - C. Waste Analysis Plan
 - D. Waste Accessibility Plan
- 5. Where should records of waste determinations be kept?**
 - A. In the facility's payroll records.
 - B. In a private external file not accessible to inspectors.
 - C. In the corporate headquarters archive.
 - D. On file at the facility, accessible for inspections.

- 6. What are the main lists used to identify hazardous wastes under RCRA?**
- A. A-listed wastes, B-listed wastes, C-listed wastes, and D-listed wastes.
 - B. RCRA-listed, CERCLA-listed, TSCA-listed, and EPCRA-listed.
 - C. F-list, G-list, H-list, I-list.
 - D. F-listed wastes, K-listed wastes, P-listed wastes, and U-listed wastes.
- 7. In RCRA terminology, which type of facility is the destination in the cradle-to-grave flow where treatment, storage, and disposal occur?**
- A. EPA regional office
 - B. Generator
 - C. Transporter
 - D. TSD facility
- 8. Which organization may authorize a state's implementation of the RCRA program?**
- A. OSHA
 - B. FDA
 - C. The Department of Agriculture
 - D. The Environmental Protection Agency
- 9. Which act introduced cradle-to-grave management of hazardous waste?**
- A. Clean Air Act
 - B. Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
 - C. Clean Water Act
 - D. CERCLA
- 10. F-listed wastes are generated by which sources?**
- A. Specific industries only
 - B. Non-specific sources (any company in any industry)
 - C. Household sources
 - D. Biological waste streams

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the purpose of a RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI)?

- A. A plan to estimate cleanup costs.
- B. A routine site safety inspection.
- C. A detailed investigation to determine whether releases have occurred and where.**
- D. Regulation of waste handling procedures.

The essential idea is that a RCRA Facility Investigation is a focused, detailed look to confirm whether hazardous waste releases have occurred at a facility, and to determine where those releases are and how extensive they are. This investigation collects site history, analyzes contamination in soils, groundwater, surface water, and sometimes air, and maps the spatial extent of any release. The goal is to establish if contamination exists, its sources, and how far it has spread so that the proper corrective actions can be planned and designed. It's not a cost-planning exercise, which would come later to estimate cleanup costs, nor a routine safety inspection, which focuses on current safety practices rather than historical releases, and it's not about regulating waste handling procedures, which is about compliance and permits rather than investigating releases.

2. Which items are included on Form 8700-22?

- A. Name, address, phone number of generator
- B. Identification of waste stream and its quantity
- C. Both A and B**
- D. Transportation route details

Form 8700-22 is used to capture basic information about hazardous waste from the generator. It requires the generator's name, address, and phone number so regulators know who is responsible and how to contact them. It also asks for the waste stream identification and the quantity, showing exactly what waste is being produced and in what amount. Transportation route details aren't part of this form; those details belong on the hazardous waste manifest and related transportation documents. So the form collects who is generating and what waste and how much, which is why both pieces of information are part of it.

3. What is the accumulation time for an SQG, and how can distance to a treatment, storage, or disposal facility affect it?

- A. 90 days
- B. 180 days; extension to 270 days if the TSD is 200 miles away**
- C. 365 days
- D. 540 days

Small Quantity Generators may accumulate hazardous waste on-site for up to 180 days. If the treatment, storage, or disposal facility is more than 200 miles away, that limit can be extended to 270 days. This provision reduces the need for frequent transport when a distant TSDF is involved while still ensuring proper on-site management of waste. The other time frames don't apply to SQGs: 90 days is the limit for Large Quantity Generators, and 365 or 540 days exceed the regulatory allowances for SQG accumulation.

4. What does WAP stand for?

- A. Waste Allocation Plan
- B. Waste Analysis Protocol
- C. Waste Analysis Plan**
- D. Waste Accessibility Plan

WAP stands for Waste Analysis Plan, and the main idea is that this document tells a facility how it will characterize its wastes to determine whether they are hazardous. In RCRA practice, accurately identifying hazardous waste is essential, so the plan lays out the methods for sampling, the analytical tests to run, QA/QC procedures, how often analyses are performed, and how results are recorded and used to assign waste codes. This ensures a consistent, compliant approach to waste determination across the facility. Other terms aren't the standard requirement in this context: a Waste Allocation Plan suggests distributing or assigning waste in a way that isn't about characterization; a Waste Analysis Protocol is similar in idea but not the typical term used in RCRA practice; a Waste Accessibility Plan would address access rather than the chemical characterization of waste.

5. Where should records of waste determinations be kept?

- A. In the facility's payroll records.
- B. In a private external file not accessible to inspectors.
- C. In the corporate headquarters archive.
- D. On file at the facility, accessible for inspections.**

Records of waste determinations must be kept at the facility where the waste is generated or managed so they're readily accessible to inspectors during an on-site review. This on-site location ensures regulators can quickly verify how a waste was classified and that the determination is documented for the required period. Storing the records in payroll files, private off-site locations, or corporate archives would hinder access and is not consistent with regulatory expectations. The key is having the documentation available where the waste is handled, with appropriate retention duration in mind (usually several years).

6. What are the main lists used to identify hazardous wastes under RCRA?

- A. A-listed wastes, B-listed wastes, C-listed wastes, and D-listed wastes.
- B. RCRA-listed, CERCLA-listed, TSCA-listed, and EPCRA-listed.
- C. F-list, G-list, H-list, I-list.
- D. F-listed wastes, K-listed wastes, P-listed wastes, and U-listed wastes.**

The main concept is that RCRA identifies hazardous wastes using four specific EPA-listed waste categories. These listed wastes are considered hazardous simply because they appear on these lists, regardless of their actual chemical characteristics. The four lists are: - F-list: wastes from non-specific sources, such as spent solvents. - K-list: wastes from specific industries or manufacturing processes. - P-list and U-list: discarded commercial chemical products that become wastes; P-list items are acutely hazardous, while U-list items are hazardous but typically less acutely dangerous. Understanding these lists helps explain why a waste is classified as hazardous under RCRA: if its waste stream matches any item on these lists, it is regulated as hazardous waste. The other options reference programs or categories that aren't the four RCRA listed-waste lists.

7. In RCRA terminology, which type of facility is the destination in the cradle-to-grave flow where treatment, storage, and disposal occur?

- A. EPA regional office
- B. Generator
- C. Transporter

D. TSD facility

In RCRA, hazardous waste is managed from generation to disposal in a cradle-to-grave system, and the place where treatment, storage, and disposal actually occur is the TSD facility. A generator creates the waste and must handle it properly until it's transferred, a transporter moves the waste between facilities, and the destination where the waste is treated to reduce hazard, safely stored, or finally disposed of is the treatment, storage, and disposal facility. EPA regional offices supervise compliance and permitting, but they're not the site where the waste is treated, stored, or disposed.

8. Which organization may authorize a state's implementation of the RCRA program?

- A. OSHA
- B. FDA
- C. The Department of Agriculture

D. The Environmental Protection Agency

Environmental protection agencies are the ones with the authority to approve and oversee a state's RCRA program. The federal Environmental Protection Agency sets the federal standards for hazardous waste management and then authorizes states to run their own programs in compliance with those standards. Once a state's program is authorized, it enforces RCRA requirements within that state and is held to the federal minimums (and sometimes more stringent state rules). The other agencies listed—OSHA (workplace safety), FDA (foods and drugs), and the Department of Agriculture (agriculture policy)—do not have authority to authorize or oversee state RCRA programs.

9. Which act introduced cradle-to-grave management of hazardous waste?

- A. Clean Air Act
- B. Resource Conservation and Recovery Act**
- C. Clean Water Act
- D. CERCLA

Cradle-to-grave waste management means tracking hazardous waste from the moment it's generated through its transport, treatment, storage, and final disposal. This approach requires strict controls at every stage, including a manifest system that documents the waste's journey and a permitting framework for facilities that treat, store, or dispose of hazardous waste. The act that established this comprehensive, end-to-end management is the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. It creates generators' responsibilities to properly identify and handle hazardous waste, sets rules for storage and shipping, and provides enforcement to ensure compliance, all aimed at preventing releases and protecting human health and the environment. In contrast, the Clean Air Act focuses on controlling air pollutants, the Clean Water Act targets discharges into bodies of water, and CERCLA (Superfund) concentrates on cleaning up existing contaminated sites and funding those responses. None of those establish the systematic, end-to-end management of hazardous waste from creation to disposal in the same integrated way as RCRA.

10. F-listed wastes are generated by which sources?

- A. Specific industries only
- B. Non-specific sources (any company in any industry)**
- C. Household sources
- D. Biological waste streams

F-listed wastes are non-specific source wastes, meaning they come from common industrial processes and can be generated by many different types of companies across various industries. This broad origin is why these wastes aren't tied to a single industry; many operations—such as degreasing or solvent use—across different sectors produce the same general waste stream. The option describing them as arising only from one industry would be incorrect because the same processes occur in numerous businesses. Household sources aren't involved in F-lists since these wastes come from commercial and industrial activities, not homes. Biological waste streams aren't categorized as F-listed wastes either, as they fall under different regulatory classifications.

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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://rcra.examzify.com>

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

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