

SCDHEC Onsite Wastewater Systems (Regulation 61-56) Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of questions,

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Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	6
Answers	9
Explanations	11
Next Steps	17

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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. Don't worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.

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.

7. Use Other Tools

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!

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Questions

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- 1. Which of the following describes a wastewater treatment facility?**
 - A. A system for only treating wastewater**
 - B. A facility that only stores wastewater**
 - C. A publicly or privately owned system that treats storage and manages wastewater**
 - D. A system that only disposes of wastewater**
- 2. How is "site" defined in the context of onsite wastewater system applications?**
 - A. The location of the wastewater treatment plant**
 - B. Any natural area without buildings**
 - C. A plot of land identified in legal documents**
 - D. A community zone designated for development**
- 3. What does the term 'plasticity' refer to in soil analysis?**
 - A. The ability of soil to retain water**
 - B. The degree to which soil can be deformed without breaking**
 - C. The mineral content of the soil**
 - D. The overall fertility of the soil**
- 4. What does industrial process wastewater refer to?**
 - A. Wastewater generated in residential areas**
 - B. Non-domestic wastewater from commercial operations**
 - C. Wastewater treated onsite for reuse**
 - D. Gray water collected from homes**
- 5. What is the lifespan of a permit issued for an onsite wastewater system, once installed and approved?**
 - A. One year from the approval date**
 - B. Indefinitely, as long as the system is operational**
 - C. Five years with possible renewal**
 - D. Until the system is dismantled**

6. The primary goal of a cleaning process in wastewater systems is to?

- A. Test for the efficiency of the treatment system**
- B. Remove and transport septage to a disposal location**
- C. Inspect the system for potential upgrades**
- D. Evaluate the performance of installation**

7. What represents the physical aspect of wastewater characteristics determined by the presence of solids and temperature?

- A. Alkalinity**
- B. Total Suspended Solids (TSS)**
- C. Chlorides**
- D. Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD)**

8. Redoximorphic features in soils are primarily formed through which processes?

- A. Evaporation and translocation**
- B. Reduction, translocation, and oxidation**
- C. Compaction and layering**
- D. Distillation and condensation**

9. Who must design an onsite wastewater system to meet Standard 610?

- A. A licensed plumber**
- B. A Registered Professional Engineer (PE) licensed in South Carolina**
- C. A licensed contractor**
- D. A soil scientist**

10. Which of the following describes alternative infiltration trench products?

- A. Products intended for surface-level wastewater management**
- B. Traditional materials used for all types of trench systems**
- C. Designed to replace aggregate in subsurface infiltration trenches**
- D. Materials that do not require Department approval**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which of the following describes a wastewater treatment facility?

- A. A system for only treating wastewater**
- B. A facility that only stores wastewater**
- C. A publicly or privately owned system that treats storage and manages wastewater**
- D. A system that only disposes of wastewater**

A wastewater treatment facility is best described as a publicly or privately owned system that treats, stores, and manages wastewater. This description encompasses all critical functions of such facilities, which include receiving wastewater, treating it to remove contaminants, and properly managing the processed water to ensure environmental protection and public health. The facility's role is multifaceted; it's not limited to just treatment or disposal. While treatment refers to the processes that remove pollutants, storage and management are also integral components that ensure the effluent is handled appropriately before being released into the environment or reused. This comprehensive approach is necessary for adhering to regulatory standards and protecting water quality. Understanding this concept is essential for anyone working in the field, as it illustrates the complexity and responsibilities involved in wastewater management.

2. How is "site" defined in the context of onsite wastewater system applications?

- A. The location of the wastewater treatment plant**
- B. Any natural area without buildings**
- C. A plot of land identified in legal documents**
- D. A community zone designated for development**

In the context of onsite wastewater system applications, "site" is defined as a plot of land identified in legal documents. This definition is important because it establishes a clear legal boundary for the property where the wastewater system will be installed and maintained. Understanding the definition of "site" is critical for ensuring that wastewater management complies with local regulations and standards, as it determines the specific area under consideration for environmental assessments, permitting, and system design. The other options do not accurately capture the regulatory and legal context necessary for onsite wastewater systems. For instance, the location of a wastewater treatment plant may be relevant for larger systems but does not pertain to an individual onsite system. A natural area without buildings does not necessarily indicate legal ownership or boundary conditions, making it vague and imprecise. Lastly, a community zone designated for development may apply to broader urban planning concepts but lacks the specificity required for individual onsite wastewater systems operating under legal frameworks. Therefore, the correct understanding of "site" is integral to adhering to the regulatory requirements set forth by SCDHEC.

3. What does the term 'plasticity' refer to in soil analysis?

- A. The ability of soil to retain water
- B. The degree to which soil can be deformed without breaking**
- C. The mineral content of the soil
- D. The overall fertility of the soil

The term 'plasticity' in soil analysis refers specifically to the degree to which soil can be deformed without breaking. This characteristic is crucial when assessing soil behavior under various conditions, particularly in engineering and construction contexts. Soils with high plasticity can be easily molded or shaped and can exhibit significant changes in their volume and consistency when wet or dry. This is particularly important when evaluating soils for potential use in onsite wastewater systems, as the plasticity can influence factors such as drainage capability, compaction, and stability, all of which affect the overall performance of the soil in managing wastewater. Understanding plasticity helps engineers and planners anticipate how soil will react to construction activities, water infiltration, and other environmental factors.

4. What does industrial process wastewater refer to?

- A. Wastewater generated in residential areas
- B. Non-domestic wastewater from commercial operations**
- C. Wastewater treated onsite for reuse
- D. Gray water collected from homes

Industrial process wastewater specifically refers to non-domestic wastewater that originates from industrial processes, manufacturing, or commercial operations. This type of wastewater can include a variety of contaminants resulting from the production activities, such as chemicals, heavy metals, and other hazardous substances used in manufacturing. It is distinct from domestic wastewater, which comes from residential sources and primarily consists of water from toilets, sinks, showers, and similar household activities. Understanding the definition and context of industrial process wastewater is essential as it helps identify the necessary treatment approaches and regulatory standards that apply to such discharges. Proper management of industrial wastewater is crucial to protect environmental public health since it often poses different risks compared to residential wastewater.

5. What is the lifespan of a permit issued for an onsite wastewater system, once installed and approved?

- A. One year from the approval date**
- B. Indefinitely, as long as the system is operational**
- C. Five years with possible renewal**
- D. Until the system is dismantled**

The correct answer is that a permit for an onsite wastewater system is valid indefinitely, as long as the system is operational and complies with the applicable regulations. Permits are typically issued to ensure that the system meets local health and environmental standards at the time of installation. If the system is maintained properly and continues to function without causing environmental harm or failing to meet health regulations, the permit remains valid. This approach encourages owners to keep their systems in good working order and ensures continued compliance with state and local regulations. Renewals or time limits are generally not imposed on properly functioning systems, emphasizing longevity and sustainability in usage. Other options suggest either a limited duration for the permit or conditions for its existence that could mislead owners about their responsibilities. For example, a one-year limit would disregard the importance of ongoing maintenance, while a five-year renewal process might imply a necessity for regular reevaluation that isn't always required if the system remains compliant. Lastly, stating that the permit is valid only until the system is dismantled ignores the essential condition of ongoing operation and compliance.

6. The primary goal of a cleaning process in wastewater systems is to?

- A. Test for the efficiency of the treatment system**
- B. Remove and transport septage to a disposal location**
- C. Inspect the system for potential upgrades**
- D. Evaluate the performance of installation**

The primary goal of a cleaning process in wastewater systems is to remove and transport septage to a disposal location. This step is critical in maintaining the functionality and efficiency of onsite wastewater treatment systems. Over time, solids accumulate in the septic system, which can lead to reduced treatment effectiveness and potential system failures if not addressed. Regular cleaning ensures that these solids, or septage, are efficiently removed from the system before they can cause any environmental or health hazards. While other options may be part of different aspects of wastewater management, the cleaning process specifically focuses on the physical removal of waste. Testing for efficiency, inspecting for upgrades, or evaluating performance can be important practices, but they do not directly address the immediate need for cleaning and maintaining the system's operation. Thus, the answer highlights the essential function of managing waste to ensure the ongoing efficacy and safety of wastewater systems.

7. What represents the physical aspect of wastewater characteristics determined by the presence of solids and temperature?

- A. Alkalinity**
- B. Total Suspended Solids (TSS)**
- C. Chlorides**
- D. Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD)**

Total Suspended Solids (TSS) is a critical measure that reflects the physical aspect of wastewater characteristics, primarily through the presence of solids suspended in the water. TSS quantifies the amount of particulate matter that is not dissolved in the wastewater, which can settle at the bottom of a container when the water is allowed to stand undisturbed. This measure is essential for understanding water quality and the effectiveness of treatment processes, as high levels of suspended solids can indicate pollution and affect the clarity and quality of the wastewater. The presence of solids in wastewater can lead to various issues, including reduced oxygen levels in the water and hindered treatment processes. Additionally, temperature plays a role in wastewater treatment and can influence the solubility of solids and the efficiency of biological treatment processes. Since TSS directly correlates with the solids component of wastewater, it accurately represents the physical characteristics sought in this question, distinguishing it from other options that pertain to different water quality parameters.

8. Redoximorphic features in soils are primarily formed through which processes?

- A. Evaporation and translocation**
- B. Reduction, translocation, and oxidation**
- C. Compaction and layering**
- D. Distillation and condensation**

Redoximorphic features in soils are primarily associated with the processes of reduction, translocation, and oxidation. These features are indicators of soil saturation and changing moisture conditions, often found in wetland soils or areas with fluctuating water tables. Reduction occurs in anaerobic (low oxygen) conditions, leading to the destruction of iron and manganese oxides, which can impart a gray or bluish color to the soil matrix. This process is crucial because it influences the overall chemistry and structure of the soil. Translocation refers to the movement of dissolved substances or minerals within the soil profile, which can occur as water moves through the soil. During periods of saturation, elements such as iron can be leached out from the surface layers and redeposited, creating distinct color patterns known as redox features (i.e., mottling and streaking). Oxidation, conversely, tends to occur when soils are aerated and oxygen is present. This process reinstates the iron oxides after they have been reduced, contributing to soil color development when the water table falls. Together, these processes reflect the dynamic interactions between water presence, soil chemistry, and microbial activity, making them essential for understanding soil formation and function in various landscapes.

9. Who must design an onsite wastewater system to meet Standard 610?

- A. A licensed plumber
- B. A Registered Professional Engineer (PE) licensed in South Carolina**
- C. A licensed contractor
- D. A soil scientist

The requirement for a design to meet Standard 610 is set to ensure that onsite wastewater systems are developed with the appropriate level of technical knowledge and expertise. A Registered Professional Engineer (PE) licensed in South Carolina possesses the necessary education, training, and experience to understand and apply the engineering principles involved in designing these systems. They are equipped to analyze soil conditions, hydrology, and system requirements in accordance with regulatory standards, which is crucial for ensuring the system functions correctly and safely. This professional designation signifies that the engineer is not only knowledgeable but has also passed rigorous examinations and meets continuing education requirements, thus reaffirming their capability to design complex systems like those for wastewater management. In contrast, while licensed plumbers, contractors, and soil scientists may have valuable skills and knowledge, they do not necessarily have the same comprehensive engineering background required to meet the specific standards set forth for the design of onsite wastewater systems in this context. This distinction is critical for complying with regulatory frameworks and ensuring public health and environmental safety.

10. Which of the following describes alternative infiltration trench products?

- A. Products intended for surface-level wastewater management
- B. Traditional materials used for all types of trench systems
- C. Designed to replace aggregate in subsurface infiltration trenches**
- D. Materials that do not require Department approval

The selection of the answer highlighting that alternative infiltration trench products are designed to replace aggregate in subsurface infiltration trenches is grounded in the purpose and functionality of these products. Alternative infiltration trench systems are developed to provide efficient drainage and wastewater treatment by mimicking the function of traditional aggregate, but often using advanced materials or structural designs. These alternatives can enhance characteristics such as infiltration rates, clog resistance, and the overall effectiveness of the treatment process, addressing limitations that conventional aggregate might present. By replacing aggregate, these products can lead to improved performance in limited spaces or soils with specific challenges, thereby fulfilling a crucial role in modern onsite wastewater management systems. In contrast, while other options mention surface-level management, traditional materials, or lack of approval requirements, none accurately encapsulate the primary function and benefit of alternative infiltration trench products. Specifically, surface-level management typically does not address subsurface infiltration needs, traditional materials do not account for innovative alternatives, and the requirement for Department approval is critical to ensure compliance with regulatory standards, thus making those choices less applicable.

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://scdhecreg6156.examzify.com>

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

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