

Septic License Practice Exam (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

- 1. What type of maintenance is necessary after installing a new septic system?**
 - A. Periodic replacement of the entire system.**
 - B. Regular inspections, proper usage, and initial monitoring of system performance.**
 - C. Monthly pumping of the tank.**
 - D. Only cleaning the filters annually.**
- 2. What standard must perforated pipes used for gravity flow systems meet?**
 - A. ASTM-F810 and ASTM-F405**
 - B. ASTM-F900 and ASTM-F500**
 - C. ISO-9001 Standards**
 - D. National Pipe Standards**
- 3. What is the minimum weight required for manhole riser lids according to septic system regulations?**
 - A. 20 pounds**
 - B. 30 pounds**
 - C. 40 pounds**
 - D. 50 pounds**
- 4. What is the purpose of water leveling devices in septic systems?**
 - A. To regulate temperature**
 - B. To ensure equal flow and level distribution**
 - C. To measure soil moisture**
 - D. To detect pipe leaks**
- 5. What might be the cause of a failing lateral line in a shallow gravel trench system?**
 - A. Accumulation of tree roots**
 - B. Improper soil type**
 - C. Shift in the distribution box**
 - D. Heavy rainfall**

- 6. Should gutter downspouts be directed toward a lateral field?**
- A. Yes, they help with drainage**
 - B. No, they can cause system failure**
 - C. Only if properly managed**
 - D. Only during dry season**
- 7. How often should a septic tank be pumped?**
- A. Once a year**
 - B. Every 3 to 5 years, depending on usage and tank size**
 - C. Every month**
 - D. Every 7 to 10 years**
- 8. How does climate affect septic system performance?**
- A. It does not have any significant impact.**
 - B. Cold weather can slow down bacteria activity, while excessive rainfall can saturate the drain field.**
 - C. High temperatures increase the efficiency of the system.**
 - D. Humidity levels are crucial for system operation.**
- 9. What is a characteristic of septic system failure?**
- A. Consistent septic system maintenance**
 - B. Pooling sewage, drainage issues, or strong odors in the area**
 - C. Efficient wastewater treatment**
 - D. Regularly scheduled inspections**
- 10. How does heavy rainfall potentially affect a septic system?**
- A. It raises the tank level, causing overflow**
 - B. It can enhance soil filtration**
 - C. It has no effect on the system**
 - D. It ensures better microbial activity**

Answers

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1. B
2. A
3. C
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 type of maintenance is necessary after installing a new septic system?

A. Periodic replacement of the entire system.

B. Regular inspections, proper usage, and initial monitoring of system performance.

C. Monthly pumping of the tank.

D. Only cleaning the filters annually.

The necessary maintenance after installing a new septic system includes regular inspections, proper usage, and initial monitoring of system performance. This is important to ensure that the septic system functions properly and efficiently over time. Regular inspections can help identify any potential issues before they become serious problems, allowing for timely interventions that can extend the lifespan of the system. Proper usage is equally important, as improper disposal of waste products can lead to system overloads or clogs. Monitoring system performance, especially in the early stages after installation, helps to ascertain that everything is operating as expected and can highlight any irregularities that may develop. While pumping the tank and cleaning filters may be part of overall maintenance, these activities are typically not done monthly, and the replacement of the entire system is not a maintenance activity; it's a last-resort action that indicates major failure. Thus, focusing on inspections and monitoring is key for the health and longevity of a new septic system.

2. What standard must perforated pipes used for gravity flow systems meet?

A. ASTM-F810 and ASTM-F405

B. ASTM-F900 and ASTM-F500

C. ISO-9001 Standards

D. National Pipe Standards

Perforated pipes that are employed in gravity flow septic systems must conform to specific standards to ensure their performance and durability. The standard specified in the correct answer, ASTM-F810 and ASTM-F405, addresses the quality and performance requirements for plastic perforated pipes, which are commonly used in drainage applications, including septic leach fields. ASTM-F810 outlines the specifications for solid and perforated pipe intended for gravity drainage systems, ensuring that these pipes can handle the required hydraulic conditions and soil pressures. ASTM-F405 focuses on the standards for the dimensions and performance criteria of the pipe, providing guidance on their manufacturing and installation to ensure functionality in septic systems. By adhering to these standards, the materials utilized in these systems are guaranteed to be reliable and effective, thereby promoting the longevity of the septic system and preventing potential failures or environmental contamination. Using pipes that meet these standards contributes to the overall efficiency and safety of wastewater management in residential and commercial properties.

3. What is the minimum weight required for manhole riser lids according to septic system regulations?

- A. 20 pounds**
- B. 30 pounds**
- C. 40 pounds**
- D. 50 pounds**

The correct answer reflects the regulation stipulating that manhole riser lids must have a minimum weight of 40 pounds to ensure that they are sufficiently durable and secure. This weight requirement helps prevent accidental dislodging and undermines the risk of unauthorized access, which could lead to safety hazards or contamination of the septic system. A lid that meets or exceeds this weight threshold provides reassurance against environmental factors such as flooding and heavy debris, ensuring that it remains in place and maintaining the integrity of the septic tank. Lighter lids, such as those weighing 20, 30, or even 50 pounds, would fail to provide the necessary level of protection and security as dictated by the regulations, potentially increasing risks in septic system management. Therefore, the 40-pound specification is crucial for effective septic system operation and safety in both residential and commercial settings.

4. What is the purpose of water leveling devices in septic systems?

- A. To regulate temperature**
- B. To ensure equal flow and level distribution**
- C. To measure soil moisture**
- D. To detect pipe leaks**

The purpose of water leveling devices in septic systems is to ensure equal flow and level distribution. These devices play a critical role in maintaining a balanced operation of the system by evenly distributing wastewater throughout the drain field. This equality in flow and level helps to prevent overloading of certain areas, which could lead to localized saturation, system failure, and contamination of groundwater. By managing the flow effectively, water leveling devices help optimize the treatment processes within the septic system. They ensure that the wastewater is treated uniformly in the soil, allowing for adequate filtration and absorption. This not only prolongs the lifespan of the septic system but also protects the environment by preventing the potential flooding of effluent in specific areas, which can cause harm to local ecosystems.

5. What might be the cause of a failing lateral line in a shallow gravel trench system?

- A. Accumulation of tree roots**
- B. Improper soil type**
- C. Shift in the distribution box**
- D. Heavy rainfall**

A failing lateral line in a shallow gravel trench system can occur due to various factors that disrupt its functionality. In this case, a shift in the distribution box is a significant cause of failure. The distribution box is responsible for evenly distributing effluent from the septic tank to the lateral lines. If it shifts, the distribution of wastewater can become unbalanced, leading to areas of the lateral line being over-saturated while others may not receive enough effluent. This can result in backup and ultimately failure of the lateral lines. In contrast, while tree root accumulation, improper soil type, and heavy rainfall can all negatively impact the performance of a septic system, they are not specifically related to the immediate function of the distribution box like the shift is. Tree roots may invade lines and cause blockages, improper soil can inhibit drainage, and heavy rainfall can lead to inundated systems, but these situations do not directly concern the operational integrity that stems from the position and function of the distribution box.

6. Should gutter downspouts be directed toward a lateral field?

- A. Yes, they help with drainage**
- B. No, they can cause system failure**
- C. Only if properly managed**
- D. Only during dry season**

Gutter downspouts should not be directed toward a lateral field because they can introduce excessive water to the septic system, potentially leading to system failure. The lateral field is designed to handle a specific amount of effluent from the septic tank; when additional water from downspouts is directed there, it can saturate the soil and overwhelm the system's ability to treat the effluent. This can result in poor drainage, backing up of sewage, and other complications that compromise the functionality of the septic system and pose environmental health risks. Managing water drainage is crucial to ensure that the septic system operates effectively, emphasizing the importance of directing rainwater away from the lateral field to maintain its integrity and prevent operational failures.

7. How often should a septic tank be pumped?

- A. Once a year
- B. Every 3 to 5 years, depending on usage and tank size**
- C. Every month
- D. Every 7 to 10 years

Pumping a septic tank every 3 to 5 years is often recommended because this timeframe effectively balances the accumulation of solids and the overall health of the septic system. The frequency of pumping can vary based on factors such as tank size, the number of inhabitants in a household, and the volume of wastewater generated. For instance, a larger tank serving a household with more occupants might fill up more quickly and require more frequent pumping, while a smaller household may manage with the lower end of the recommended range. By adhering to this guideline, homeowners can prevent overflows, backups, and the potential failure of the septic system, which can lead to costly repairs and environmental issues. Periodic pumping allows for proper maintenance of the system, ensuring that it functions efficiently and reducing the likelihood of malfunctions that could arise from excessive buildup of sludge and scum. This proactive approach promotes the longevity of the septic system and is key for sustainable wastewater management.

8. How does climate affect septic system performance?

- A. It does not have any significant impact.
- B. Cold weather can slow down bacteria activity, while excessive rainfall can saturate the drain field.**
- C. High temperatures increase the efficiency of the system.
- D. Humidity levels are crucial for system operation.

Climate significantly influences septic system performance, particularly through variations in temperature and precipitation. Cold weather is known to reduce the activity of the bacteria responsible for breaking down waste in the septic tank. When temperatures drop, the biological processes that bacteria facilitate slow, which can lead to inefficiencies in waste decomposition within the system. Additionally, excessive rainfall can lead to saturation of the drain field. When the soil becomes overly saturated, it cannot absorb more water, which can cause the septic system to back up or fail. Effective functioning of a septic system relies on proper drainage and soil absorption; hence, prolonged saturation can lead to surface runoff, environmental contamination, or malfunctions of the system. While other climate factors like high temperatures and humidity levels can have some effect, they do not have the same direct and substantial impact on septic system performance as cold weather and excessive rainfall do. Therefore, understanding how both low temperatures and heavy precipitation can affect septic systems is critical for maintaining their effectiveness and preventing potential system failures.

9. What is a characteristic of septic system failure?

- A. Consistent septic system maintenance
- B. Pooling sewage, drainage issues, or strong odors in the area**
- C. Efficient wastewater treatment
- D. Regularly scheduled inspections

Pooling sewage, drainage issues, or strong odors in the area are clear indicators of septic system failure. When a septic system is functioning properly, it effectively treats and absorbs wastewater, preventing any visible surface discharge or unpleasant smells from the system. If you notice these symptoms, it typically signifies that the septic system is overloaded, has a blockage, or the drainage field has become saturated and ineffective. Such conditions can lead to the release of untreated sewage, posing health risks and environmental hazards. In contrast, consistent maintenance, efficient wastewater treatment, and regular inspections are all practices that contribute to the longevity and proper functioning of a septic system. Their presence indicates care and vigilance but do not describe failure. Therefore, symptoms like pooling sewage and strong odors directly point to problems and signal a need for immediate attention and potential remedial action.

10. How does heavy rainfall potentially affect a septic system?

- A. It raises the tank level, causing overflow**
- B. It can enhance soil filtration
- C. It has no effect on the system
- D. It ensures better microbial activity

Heavy rainfall can significantly impact a septic system primarily by raising the water level in the tank, which can lead to overflow. When the soil around the septic system becomes saturated from excessive rain, the absorption capacity of the soil decreases. As more water enters the septic tank from household wastewater, the tank can become full more quickly than normal and may not be able to effectively treat waste. This situation can result in untreated wastewater being pushed back into the system, potentially causing it to overflow. Understanding how heavy rainfall affects septic systems is crucial for proper maintenance and operation. It's important to regularly monitor the system, especially during periods of heavy rain, to prevent issues like backup or failure in the system's ability to process waste properly.

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://septiclicense.examzify.com>

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