

# SGLA LARE Grading, Drainage and Stormwater Management 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

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- 1. What does the acronym SCS stand for in hydrological practices?**
  - A. Soil Conservation Society**
  - B. Soil Control System**
  - C. Soil Conservation Service**
  - D. Soil Cover Standards**
  
- 2. What method involves laying live branch cuttings in a crisscross fashion on soil lifts?**
  - A. Brush layering**
  - B. Channeling**
  - C. Compaction**
  - D. Caisson**
  
- 3. Which of the following best defines "porosity" in context to materials used in drainage?**
  - A. Capacity to hold water**
  - B. Containment of pollutants**
  - C. Presence of small openings for liquid passage**
  - D. Resistance to water flow**
  
- 4. What term describes a conduit specifically utilized for carrying rainwater?**
  - A. Drainage pipe**
  - B. Storm sewer**
  - C. Watercourse**
  - D. Channel**
  
- 5. What is the term for the interception and removal of groundwater or surface water by artificial or natural means?**
  - A. Drainage**
  - B. Infiltration**
  - C. Flooding**
  - D. Runoff**

- 6. What are vegetative cuttings in landscaping?**
- A. Seeds that can grow into new plants**
  - B. Branches that will root when inserted into the ground**
  - C. Leaves that can clone a plant**
  - D. Flowers used for ornamental purposes**
- 7. Which of the following best defines a drainage area?**
- A. An area inundated by floodwaters**
  - B. The land that drains into a particular water body**
  - C. The area with impermeable surfaces**
  - D. None of the above**
- 8. What method uses live, woody vegetative cuttings to improve slope stability?**
- A. Slope stabilization**
  - B. Soil bioengineering**
  - C. Planting**
  - D. Erosion control**
- 9. Which type of drainage system is filled with coarse aggregate and may include a perforated pipe?**
- A. Gabion**
  - B. French drain**
  - C. Filter strip**
  - D. Grade - Finish**
- 10. What is the primary purpose of a monument sign?**
- A. To direct traffic flow**
  - B. To provide an address for emergency access**
  - C. To display company logos**
  - D. To promote local events**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What does the acronym SCS stand for in hydrological practices?**

- A. Soil Conservation Society**
- B. Soil Control System**
- C. Soil Conservation Service**
- D. Soil Cover Standards**

The acronym SCS stands for Soil Conservation Service. This agency was established in the United States to address issues related to soil erosion and conservation, ultimately focusing on promoting sustainable land management practices. The SCS played a critical role in developing methodologies for soil and water conservation, including the use of hydrological models that are still referenced today. Understanding the relevance of the Soil Conservation Service is essential for professionals working in grading, drainage, and stormwater management, as it lays the groundwork for many contemporary practices aimed at mitigating soil erosion and managing stormwater effectively. The other options do not accurately represent the historical context or functions of the agency. The Soil Conservation Society did exist but is not directly linked to the formal practices and models associated with hydrological concerns. Soil Control System and Soil Cover Standards do not refer to recognized agencies or significant practices in the field of hydrology, which further solidifies the correctness of the Soil Conservation Service as the appropriate choice.

**2. What method involves laying live branch cuttings in a crisscross fashion on soil lifts?**

- A. Brush layering**
- B. Channeling**
- C. Compaction**
- D. Caisson**

The method of laying live branch cuttings in a crisscross fashion on soil lifts is known as brush layering. This technique is commonly used in soil stabilization and vegetation establishment, particularly for structures like embankments or to prevent erosion on slopes. In brush layering, live cuttings, typically of native species, are inserted into the soil lifts to establish a living layer that not only helps bind the soil but also promotes rooting and plant growth over time. The crisscross pattern helps create a more interlocked structure, enhancing the stability and effectiveness of the method in terms of soil retention and promoting healthy plant communities. This method is particularly advantageous in scenarios where traditional planting might be difficult, as it uses existing materials (cuttings) that can root and thrive in the new environment. It also contributes to ecological benefits by enhancing biodiversity and supporting local flora.

**3. Which of the following best defines "porosity" in context to materials used in drainage?**

**A. Capacity to hold water**

**B. Containment of pollutants**

**C. Presence of small openings for liquid passage**

**D. Resistance to water flow**

The best definition of "porosity" in the context of materials used in drainage is the presence of small openings for liquid passage. Porosity refers to the ratio of the volume of voids (spaces) in a material to its total volume. These voids allow fluids, such as water, to flow through the material. In drainage systems, materials with high porosity effectively facilitate the movement of water, promoting efficient drainage and ensuring that excess water can be managed properly. This characteristic is crucial for applications where water infiltration and drainage management are needed, allowing for the prevention of flooding and erosion. Thus, understanding porosity helps in selecting appropriate materials for drainage applications, as those with optimal porosity can reduce surface runoff and enhance groundwater recharge.

**4. What term describes a conduit specifically utilized for carrying rainwater?**

**A. Drainage pipe**

**B. Storm sewer**

**C. Watercourse**

**D. Channel**

The term that specifically describes a conduit utilized for carrying rainwater is the storm sewer. Storm sewers are designed to manage and transport excess rainwater and surface runoff away from impervious surfaces such as roads and buildings, directing it toward treatment facilities or natural water bodies to prevent flooding and erosion. Storm sewers differ from general drainage pipes, which may be used for various types of water, including sanitary sewer systems or groundwater, and are not exclusively intended for rainwater. A watercourse refers more broadly to any natural or artificial passage for water, such as rivers and streams, and does not specifically denote a constructed system for stormwater management. Similarly, channels are open ditches or constructed forms for directing water flow but do not inherently imply the management of rainwater in urban settings as storm sewers do. Thus, storm sewer is the most precise term for a system primarily designed to carry away rainwater and manage stormwater runoff.

**5. What is the term for the interception and removal of groundwater or surface water by artificial or natural means?**

- A. Drainage**
- B. Infiltration**
- C. Flooding**
- D. Runoff**

The term for the interception and removal of groundwater or surface water by artificial or natural means is drainage. This process is crucial in managing excess water from precipitation, preventing waterlogging, and controlling stormwater. Drainage systems can be engineered, such as ditches, pipes, or retention basins, or they may exist in a natural state, like wetlands. Infiltration refers to the process by which water seeps into the ground from the surface, which is different from drainage as it involves water entering the soil rather than being removed. Flooding describes an overflow of water onto land that is usually dry and is generally undesirable, while runoff refers to water flow that occurs when the soil is saturated or impervious surfaces prevent water from being absorbed; it does not directly address the removal of water. Understanding drainage is essential for effective stormwater management and preventing potential issues related to excess water.

**6. What are vegetative cuttings in landscaping?**

- A. Seeds that can grow into new plants**
- B. Branches that will root when inserted into the ground**
- C. Leaves that can clone a plant**
- D. Flowers used for ornamental purposes**

Vegetative cuttings in landscaping refer to branches or stems that can develop roots when placed into the soil or another growing medium. This method of propagation takes advantage of a plant's ability to regenerate. When a cutting is made, it should ideally include a section of a stem with one or more nodes, which are the points from which roots can develop. These cuttings can efficiently produce new, genetically identical plants without the need for seeds, making them a popular choice in horticulture and landscaping for maintaining specific plant characteristics. In contrast, seeds represent a different method of propagation that involves germination and growth from reproductive parts of plants. Leaves, while they can sometimes be used in propagation through techniques like leaf cuttings, do not typically root as readily as stem cuttings. Additionally, flowers serve aesthetic purposes and do not play a role in the propagation of plants. This understanding highlights the unique role that vegetative cuttings have in plant propagation practices.

**7. Which of the following best defines a drainage area?**

- A. An area inundated by floodwaters**
- B. The land that drains into a particular water body**
- C. The area with impermeable surfaces**
- D. None of the above**

The definition of a drainage area encompasses the land that contributes surface water to a specific water body, such as a river, lake, or stream. This area collects rainwater and snowmelt, guiding it through various pathways, including overland flow, stream channels, and underground flow, towards the designated water body. Understanding the characteristics and boundaries of a drainage area is critical for effective stormwater management, as it influences both the quantity and quality of water entering the receiving bodies. In contrast, the other choices do not accurately capture the essence of a drainage area. The first option refers to areas affected by temporary flooding rather than the broader concept of all land that contributes to a water body's hydrology. The third option focuses specifically on impermeable surfaces, which may influence drainage patterns but do not constitute the entirety of a drainage area. Therefore, the most accurate and comprehensive definition is that of the land draining into a particular water body.

**8. What method uses live, woody vegetative cuttings to improve slope stability?**

- A. Slope stabilization**
- B. Soil bioengineering**
- C. Planting**
- D. Erosion control**

The use of live, woody vegetative cuttings to improve slope stability falls under soil bioengineering. This method integrates living plant materials and engineering techniques to create resilient and stable structures. By using the natural characteristics of the plants, such as root growth and the ability to absorb water, soil bioengineering helps to reinforce slopes, reduce erosion, and enhance the overall stability of the landscape. These vegetative cuttings can establish roots in the soil, promoting further growth and providing an effective means of anchoring the soil, ultimately reducing the risk of landslides or slope failure. While slope stabilization is a related concept, it may not specifically involve the use of live plant materials. Planting, though pertinent, generally refers to the act of placing plants into the soil without emphasizing the engineering aspects that come with soil bioengineering. Erosion control is a broader term that encompasses various techniques for preventing soil loss, which may or may not involve the strategic use of vegetative cuttings. Therefore, soil bioengineering specifically highlights the method of utilizing live, woody cuttings to enhance stability through vegetation.

**9. Which type of drainage system is filled with coarse aggregate and may include a perforated pipe?**

**A. Gabion**

**B. French drain**

**C. Filter strip**

**D. Grade - Finish**

The French drain is a type of drainage system that consists of a trench filled with coarse aggregate, commonly gravel, which allows water to flow through while filtering out debris. The inclusion of a perforated pipe at the bottom of the trench is a key characteristic that aids in the efficient capture and removal of excess groundwater. This design facilitates the directed flow of water away from areas prone to flooding, ensuring proper drainage and helping to prevent water accumulation that can lead to erosion or damage to structures. In contrast, gabions consist of wire mesh cages filled with stones, primarily used for erosion control or bank stabilization, which does not align with the drainage function being asked about. A filter strip is a vegetated area designed to treat runoff water, working mainly through biological and physical processes, rather than providing a designed drainage channel like the French drain. Grade finish refers to the final surface contour of a landscape or construction site and does not relate to a specific drainage system. Understanding the distinct purposes and designs of these systems highlights why the French drain is the correct answer.

**10. What is the primary purpose of a monument sign?**

**A. To direct traffic flow**

**B. To provide an address for emergency access**

**C. To display company logos**

**D. To promote local events**

The primary purpose of a monument sign is to provide an address for emergency access. These signs typically feature the building number alongside a clear display of the business's name or logo. This is particularly important not only for visitors but also for emergency services who need to quickly locate a building in case of a fire or medical emergency. While directing traffic flow, displaying company logos, and promoting local events are all valid functions of signage, they do not encapsulate the essential role of a monument sign in ensuring safe and efficient access for emergency responders. The prominence of an address on a monument sign can greatly enhance visibility and improve response times during critical situations, making it a functional and vital element in urban design and safety planning.

## 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://sglalarestormwatermgmt.examzify.com>**

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

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