

SGLA LARE GRADING, DRAINAGE AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT 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 stage of grading operation is characterized by the desired landform being approximately reached?**
 - A. Final Grade
 - B. Rough Grade
 - C. Intermediate Grade
 - D. Fine Grade
- 2. What term refers to material that is imported to a site for construction purposes?**
 - A. Borrow
 - B. Fill
 - C. Sump
 - D. Caisson
- 3. What is the main purpose of a sediment basin?**
 - A. To increase water flow
 - B. To filter pollutants
 - C. To allow sediment to settle out
 - D. To provide irrigation
- 4. What structure helps to regulate water levels and provide flood protection in retention ponds?**
 - A. Flow Control Structure
 - B. Principal Spillway
 - C. Emergency Outlet
 - D. Retention Dam
- 5. What are fiber rolls made of?**
 - A. Concrete and sand
 - B. Prefabricated biodegradable materials such as straw and wood excelsior
 - C. Plastic tubing and mesh
 - D. Natural fibers only

- 6. What is the purpose of a detention basin?**
- A. To permanently store stormwater
 - B. To temporarily store storm runoff
 - C. To improve water quality
 - D. To provide recreational space
- 7. What is meant by a 'lift' in the context of site engineering?**
- A. A single layer of compacted soil
 - B. A type of drainage feature
 - C. A method of planting trees
 - D. A structure for retaining water
- 8. What is the term for the portion of a hydrograph where the flow rate decreases after reaching its peak?**
- A. Inflation Limb
 - B. Rising Limb
 - C. Recession Limb
 - D. Peak Flow
- 9. What is a layout plan primarily used for in site engineering?**
- A. To show elevation changes
 - B. To dimensionally locate site elements
 - C. To indicate drainage patterns
 - D. To plan utility pathways
- 10. Which of the following describes soil water that is held tightly to soil particles?**
- A. Free water
 - B. Hygroscopic water
 - C. Capillary water
 - D. Geosynthetics

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What stage of grading operation is characterized by the desired landform being approximately reached?

- A. Final Grade
- B. Rough Grade**
- C. Intermediate Grade
- D. Fine Grade

The correct answer is the stage characterized by the desired landform being approximately reached is known as the Rough Grade. At this phase of grading, the major contours and elevations of the site have been established, laying the groundwork for the finer adjustments to come. The Rough Grade involves moving large volumes of earth to achieve the general layout of the site without focusing on the precise details. The other stages, such as Final Grade and Fine Grade, occur later in the grading process, where finer adjustments and surface treatments are performed to ensure that the landform meets the design specifications exactly. The Final Grade is the stage where all grading work is completed, and the site is ready for landscaping or construction, whereas Fine Grade is the step that usually follows Rough Grade and focuses on achieving the detailed contours and elevations—fine-tuning the surface for final landscaping or construction.

2. What term refers to material that is imported to a site for construction purposes?

- A. Borrow**
- B. Fill
- C. Sump
- D. Caisson

The term that refers to material that is imported to a construction site is commonly known as "borrow." This term specifically denotes soil or other materials that are extracted from one location (often referred to as the borrow pit) and transported to another location for use in construction projects, such as grading or filling. In grading processes, "borrow" is essential because it provides the necessary material to achieve the required site elevation, enhance drainage, or create a stable foundation for structures. It is particularly important when the native soil on site is insufficient for these needs. Understanding the distinction between 'borrow' and other categories like 'fill' is crucial. While 'fill' generally refers to the material used to raise the ground level on a site, it does not specify the source. Therefore, 'borrow' specifically highlights the act of importing material from an external location. This precision in terminology is vital for effective communication in construction and landscape architecture.

3. What is the main purpose of a sediment basin?

- A. To increase water flow
- B. To filter pollutants
- C. To allow sediment to settle out**
- D. To provide irrigation

The primary function of a sediment basin is to allow sediment to settle out of the water before it leaves the site. These basins are designed to slow down the water flow, which helps facilitate the sedimentation process. When surface runoff enters a sediment basin, the decrease in velocity allows suspended particles to settle to the bottom due to gravity. This is crucial for erosion control and maintaining water quality, as it helps prevent sediment-laden water from entering nearby water bodies, which can cause ecological damage and degradation of water quality. While filtering pollutants may occur as a secondary benefit when sediment settles, the main and most critical purpose remains the removal of sediment from the water column. Hence, sediment basins are an essential component in stormwater management practices.

4. What structure helps to regulate water levels and provide flood protection in retention ponds?

- A. Flow Control Structure
- B. Principal Spillway**
- C. Emergency Outlet
- D. Retention Dam

The principal spillway is the correct structure that helps to regulate water levels and provide flood protection in retention ponds. This structure is designed to manage the outflow of water from the pond, facilitating the controlled release of water during periods of heavy rainfall or runoff. By doing so, it helps maintain an appropriate water level within the pond, preventing overtopping and ensuring the overall integrity of the flood management system. The principal spillway often includes features that allow for the gradual release of water, minimizing erosion and downstream flooding. It is specifically engineered to handle the flow of water while maintaining a balance with the input from stormwater runoff. In contrast, a flow control structure may assist in directing or modifying the flow of water but does not necessarily serve the specific multipurpose role of the principal spillway. The emergency outlet is designed mainly as a backup system to handle overflow situations when the primary spillway is overwhelmed. A retention dam typically refers to the embankment that forms the pond itself rather than the management system for regulating water levels. Each of these other structures has its specific functions, but they do not completely embody the primary regulatory role of the principal spillway in managing retention pond water levels.

5. What are fiber rolls made of?

- A. Concrete and sand
- B. Prefabricated biodegradable materials such as straw and wood excelsior**
- C. Plastic tubing and mesh
- D. Natural fibers only

Fiber rolls are made of prefabricated biodegradable materials such as straw and wood excelsior. This composition allows fiber rolls to provide effective erosion control and sedimentation management in various applications. The biodegradable nature of these materials ensures that they can decompose naturally over time, reducing long-term environmental impact while still providing immediate benefits in stabilizing soil and encouraging vegetation growth. Fiber rolls are often used in conjunction with other erosion control solutions, enhancing their effectiveness. By utilizing organic materials, they blend well into the natural environment and support sustainable practices in grading, drainage, and stormwater management. The other options do not accurately represent the typical composition of fiber rolls. Concrete and sand, for instance, refer more to rigid structures like retaining walls, while plastic tubing and mesh are generally used in other types of erosion control products and may not offer the same ecological benefits. Natural fibers only would limit the potential for effective applications, as the inclusion of materials like straw and wood excelsior provides advantages in both water absorption and soil compatibility.

6. What is the purpose of a detention basin?

- A. To permanently store stormwater
- B. To temporarily store storm runoff**
- C. To improve water quality
- D. To provide recreational space

The primary purpose of a detention basin is to temporarily store storm runoff. These basins are designed to collect excess rainwater and allow it to gradually drain out at a controlled rate. This helps to mitigate flooding, protect downstream waterways from sudden surges of water, and manage stormwater flow during and immediately after rain events. By temporarily holding water, detention basins assist in reducing the peak flow rates that can lead to erosion and other negative impacts on the surrounding environment. While detention basins can contribute indirectly to improving water quality by allowing sediment and pollutants to settle before the water is released, their primary function is focused on the temporary storage aspect. The other options, such as permanent storage or providing recreational space, are not the main characteristics of detention basins, which are specifically engineered for controlling storm runoff dynamics.

7. What is meant by a 'lift' in the context of site engineering?

- A. A single layer of compacted soil**
- B. A type of drainage feature
- C. A method of planting trees
- D. A structure for retaining water

In site engineering, the term 'lift' refers specifically to a single layer of compacted soil. When soil is being graded or prepared for construction, it is often placed in layers, known as lifts, which are subsequently compacted to achieve the desired density and stability. Each lift is typically of a certain thickness, and the process of compacting each layer helps to ensure that the foundation or base for structures is solid and can support the weight of buildings or other loads placed on it. The concept of lifts is crucial for ensuring proper drainage and load-bearing capacity, as inadequate compaction may lead to settling, erosion, or other issues later on. Effective lift construction also plays a key role in managing stormwater and preventing water accumulation, as it influences the movement of water through the soil profile. In this context, the other options do not accurately reflect the definition of a 'lift' in site engineering. Drainage features, planting methods, and water retaining structures are all distinct concepts that involve different engineering principles and practices. Understanding lifts is fundamental for engineers and landscape architects as they work on grading and drainage projects.

8. What is the term for the portion of a hydrograph where the flow rate decreases after reaching its peak?

- A. Inflation Limb
- B. Rising Limb
- C. Recession Limb**
- D. Peak Flow

The portion of a hydrograph where the flow rate decreases after reaching its peak is known as the Recession Limb. This term describes the decline in river discharge following the peak flow event, which typically occurs after a rainfall event or snowmelt has concluded. During this phase, the water levels gradually decrease as runoff and contributions from the watershed diminish, and the flow stabilizes. Understanding the hydrograph is vital for managing stormwater and floodplain planning since it helps in predicting how long water will remain elevated in a river or stream. Recognizing the characteristics of the recession limb aids engineers and planners in making informed decisions about infrastructure design and flood management strategies.

9. What is a layout plan primarily used for in site engineering?

- A. To show elevation changes
- B. To dimensionally locate site elements**
- C. To indicate drainage patterns
- D. To plan utility pathways

A layout plan is primarily used to dimensionally locate site elements, which means it provides an accurate representation of the arrangement of features within a site. This includes important aspects such as buildings, roads, pathways, landscaping, and other infrastructure components. By accurately dimensioning these elements, the layout plan ensures that everything fits within the designated area according to the design specifications and zoning requirements. This level of detail is crucial for coordinating the many different facets of a project and for communicating with all parties involved, including engineers, architects, contractors, and regulatory agencies. A precise layout facilitates efficient construction practices, helps prevent conflicts between various site elements, and enhances overall project management. While elevation changes, drainage patterns, and utility pathways are indeed essential components of site engineering, they are typically represented in other types of plans or sections. Instead, the layout plan focuses on spatial relationships and dimensions, making it an essential starting point for any site development project.

10. Which of the following describes soil water that is held tightly to soil particles?

- A. Free water
- B. Hygroscopic water**
- C. Capillary water
- D. Geosynthetics

The correct answer is the type of soil water known as hygroscopic water. This form of water is held tightly to soil particles due to the adhesive forces between water molecules and the surface of the soil particles. Hygroscopic water is usually found as a thin film surrounding the soil grains, which makes it unavailable for plant uptake because it is held too strongly for roots to extract. In contrast, free water refers to water that exists in the larger pores of the soil and can move freely through gravitational force, making it available for drainage and plant use. Capillary water occupies the spaces between soil particles and is held by capillary forces, allowing for easy access by plant roots. Geosynthetics are synthetic materials used in various civil engineering applications, not a form of soil water. Understanding the distinction between these different types of soil water is crucial for effective water management in grading and drainage practices, as it impacts both water availability to plants and the design of drainage systems.

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://sglarestormwatermgmt.examzify.com>

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

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