

Texas Wastewater Class B 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. Which type of treatment relies primarily on bacterial action to decompose organic matter?**
 - A. Chemical treatment**
 - B. Physical treatment**
 - C. Aerobic treatment**
 - D. Filtration**
- 2. What is a common voltage for electrical equipment in wastewater treatment?**
 - A. 110 volts**
 - B. 220 or 440 volts**
 - C. 480 volts**
 - D. 240 volts**
- 3. What defines point source discharges?**
 - A. Discharges that are uncontrolled**
 - B. Discharges that come from pipes or ditches that are monitored, controlled, and inspected**
 - C. Discharges with intermittent flows**
 - D. Discharges from agricultural runoff**
- 4. Before entering a manhole, what should operators test for?**
 - A. Only for oxygen levels**
 - B. Hazardous gases and oxygen levels, and ventilate**
 - C. Temperature and humidity**
 - D. pH levels and turbidity**
- 5. How long ago does the BOD test reflect the operation of the plant?**
 - A. A day ago**
 - B. 2 days ago**
 - C. 5 days ago**
 - D. 7 days ago**

- 6. If an activated sludge system displays no aeration, what operational issue should be suspected?**
- A. Excessive sludge wasting**
 - B. Loss of aeration equipment**
 - C. Insufficient oxygen supply**
 - D. Clogged aerators**
- 7. What triggers facultative bacteria to change from aerobic to anaerobic conditions in sludge systems?**
- A. Insufficient Nutrients**
 - B. Excessive Heat**
 - C. Lack of Dissolved Oxygen**
 - D. High pH Levels**
- 8. How are non-point discharges characterized?**
- A. Discharges with constant flow**
 - B. Controlled discharges**
 - C. Discharges with intermittent, dispersed flows having little or no control**
 - D. Industrial discharges**
- 9. During bacterial decomposition of organic materials in wastewater, which gases are primarily produced?**
- A. Ozone, nitrogen, and hydrogen**
 - B. Hydrogen sulfide, carbon dioxide, and methane**
 - C. Ammonia, sulfur dioxide, and chloramine**
 - D. Methanol, ethylene, and acetylene**
- 10. How can the hydraulic loading of a trickling filter be determined?**
- A. Using water temperature and humidity**
 - B. Flow rate and filter area**
 - C. Pump efficiency and filter media type**
 - D. Amount of organic waste**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which type of treatment relies primarily on bacterial action to decompose organic matter?

- A. Chemical treatment**
- B. Physical treatment**
- C. Aerobic treatment**
- D. Filtration**

The choice of aerobic treatment is the correct answer because this method primarily utilizes bacteria in the presence of oxygen to break down organic matter. In aerobic treatment systems, bacteria metabolize the organic constituents in the wastewater, ultimately converting them into carbon dioxide, water, and new cellular biomass. This biological process is crucial for reducing the organic load of wastewater before it is discharged or undergoes further treatment. Chemical treatment, while important in wastewater processing, typically involves the addition of substances that can react chemically with pollutants, rather than relying on biological processes. Physical treatment mainly focuses on the removal of solids through techniques like sedimentation or filtration, which do not involve the decomposition of organic matter through bacterial action. Filtration, on the other hand, is a physical method used to separate particles from liquids and does not utilize bacteria for breaking down organic materials. Therefore, aerobic treatment stands out as the approach fundamentally reliant on the natural biological action of bacteria to decompose organic matter.

2. What is a common voltage for electrical equipment in wastewater treatment?

- A. 110 volts**
- B. 220 or 440 volts**
- C. 480 volts**
- D. 240 volts**

In wastewater treatment facilities, the common voltage for electrical equipment usually falls within the range of 220 to 480 volts. This range is preferred because it effectively powers the various pumps, motors, and other heavy-duty equipment typically used in these systems. The higher voltage levels are generally more efficient for operating large motors, which are essential in a wastewater treatment plant for processes such as aeration, mixing, and pumping. Operating at voltages like 220, 440, or 480 volts minimizes current draw, which reduces the size of the wiring needed and helps prevent overheating or energy loss in the system. Understanding the use of these voltage levels is crucial for ensuring safe and efficient operation of wastewater treatment facilities. Lower voltages such as 110 or 240 volts are generally utilized for smaller equipment or general lighting circuits rather than for the heavy-duty machinery required in this context.

3. What defines point source discharges?

- A. Discharges that are uncontrolled
- B. Discharges that come from pipes or ditches that are monitored, controlled, and inspected**
- C. Discharges with intermittent flows
- D. Discharges from agricultural runoff

Point source discharges are specifically defined as contaminants released from a discrete and identifiable source, such as pipes or ditches. The distinguishing features of point source discharges are that they are typically monitored, controlled, and inspected, which helps in ensuring compliance with environmental regulations. This categorization allows for more effective management and regulation since the sources can be precisely located and measured, facilitating enforcement of pollution control measures. On the other hand, uncontrolled discharges, intermittent flows, and agricultural runoff do not fit the formal definition of point sources. Uncontrolled discharges may arise from various sources without specific control measures in place, while intermittent flows refer to discharges that do not occur consistently. Agricultural runoff is associated with non-point source pollution, where contaminants originate from broad areas rather than a specific point.

4. Before entering a manhole, what should operators test for?

- A. Only for oxygen levels
- B. Hazardous gases and oxygen levels, and ventilate**
- C. Temperature and humidity
- D. pH levels and turbidity

The correct answer emphasizes the importance of safety when entering confined spaces like manholes. Operators must test for hazardous gases and oxygen levels because these areas can contain toxic gases that may pose serious health risks or create life-threatening situations. Ventilating the space is crucial to ensure that any harmful gases are dissipated and that there is an adequate supply of breathable air, thereby reducing the risk of accidents and ensuring the safety of personnel. Testing only for oxygen levels, while important, does not account for other potentially dangerous gases that could be present. Factors such as temperature and humidity, though they can affect working conditions, are not the primary concerns compared to the immediate dangers posed by gas exposure. Similarly, pH levels and turbidity are related to wastewater characteristics but are not relevant safety indicators for confined spaces. This distinction highlights the critical nature of ensuring a safe working environment when accessing potentially hazardous areas.

5. How long ago does the BOD test reflect the operation of the plant?

- A. A day ago**
- B. 2 days ago**
- C. 5 days ago**
- D. 7 days ago**

The BOD (Biochemical Oxygen Demand) test measures the amount of oxygen that microorganisms will consume while decomposing organic matter in a water sample over a specific period, typically five days at 20 degrees Celsius. This period is standardized, meaning that the BOD test is indicative of the organic loading and operational effectiveness of the wastewater treatment plant as it was five days prior to the actual test. Therefore, the correct answer reflects the fact that BOD values show the conditions of the plant based on data collected five days earlier.

6. If an activated sludge system displays no aeration, what operational issue should be suspected?

- A. Excessive sludge wasting**
- B. Loss of aeration equipment**
- C. Insufficient oxygen supply**
- D. Clogged aerators**

The ideal functioning of an activated sludge system relies heavily on the presence of adequate aeration, as this process is essential for maintaining the necessary dissolved oxygen levels that support the metabolic activity of microorganisms. If there is no aeration, it can lead to insufficient oxygen supply, which directly impacts the health and functionality of the biological community in the system. Without sufficient oxygen, microorganisms cannot effectively break down organic matter, ultimately leading to a decline in water quality and treatment efficiency. While there may be other factors to consider, such as clogged aerators or issues with the aeration equipment, the primary and most immediate concern when aeration is absent is the failure to provide enough oxygen to sustain biological processes.

7. What triggers facultative bacteria to change from aerobic to anaerobic conditions in sludge systems?

- A. Insufficient Nutrients**
- B. Excessive Heat**
- C. Lack of Dissolved Oxygen**
- D. High pH Levels**

Facultative bacteria are capable of existing in both aerobic and anaerobic environments, allowing them to adapt to varying conditions. The correct choice pertains to the lack of dissolved oxygen, which is crucial for aerobic processes. When dissolved oxygen levels drop significantly, the aerobic conditions cannot be maintained, prompting facultative bacteria to switch to anaerobic metabolism. In this state, they continue to decompose organic matter, but through fermentation or other anaerobic processes, resulting in different end products compared to aerobic respiration. The other options, while potentially impactful to the microbial environment, do not directly trigger the shift from aerobic to anaerobic conditions. Insufficient nutrients may inhibit bacterial growth but doesn't necessarily induce a change in metabolic processes. Excessive heat could affect the viability of the bacteria, but it doesn't directly influence the oxygen availability that prompts the anaerobic metabolic switch. High pH levels can affect microbial activity as well, but again, they are not a direct trigger for changing the bacterial environment from aerobic to anaerobic.

8. How are non-point discharges characterized?

- A. Discharges with constant flow**
- B. Controlled discharges**
- C. Discharges with intermittent, dispersed flows having little or no control**
- D. Industrial discharges**

Non-point discharges are characterized by their diffuse nature, lacking a single identifiable source or discharge point. They typically result from rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground, picking up pollutants from various surfaces before entering waterways. This means the flows are often intermittent and dispersed, rather than being consistent or concentrated. Unlike point source discharges, which have a fixed point of origin and can be monitored and controlled, non-point discharges are much more challenging to predict and manage. They arise from multiple sources, such as agricultural runoff, urban landscape, and forested areas, contributing to the overall pollution load in water bodies without a distinct entry point. This makes option C the most accurate characterization of non-point discharges, highlighting their uncontrolled and variable nature.

9. During bacterial decomposition of organic materials in wastewater, which gases are primarily produced?

- A. Ozone, nitrogen, and hydrogen**
- B. Hydrogen sulfide, carbon dioxide, and methane**
- C. Ammonia, sulfur dioxide, and chloramine**
- D. Methanol, ethylene, and acetylene**

The selection of hydrogen sulfide, carbon dioxide, and methane as the primary gases produced during bacterial decomposition of organic materials in wastewater is accurate. This process, which primarily involves anaerobic bacteria, breaks down organic matter in the absence of oxygen, leading to the production of these specific gases. Hydrogen sulfide is notable for its characteristic odor of rotten eggs and is a result of the breakdown of sulfur-containing organic compounds. Carbon dioxide is a common byproduct of respiration and fermentation processes. Methane, which is a significant greenhouse gas, is produced as an end product of the anaerobic digestion of organic matter, particularly in settings like septic tanks and landfills. The other options contain gases that are either not primary products of the bacterial decomposition process or are related to different chemical reactions. For example, ozone is not typically produced in significant quantities during the natural processes of decomposition and is more related to atmospheric or engineered processes. Similarly, ammonia does arise in some instances, but sulfur dioxide and chloramine are not predominantly formed during organic matter decomposition in wastewater. Lastly, the presence of methanol, ethylene, and acetylene would be unusual in this context, as they are not typical gaseous outputs of the decomposition of organic material but rather associated with other chemical processes.

10. How can the hydraulic loading of a trickling filter be determined?

- A. Using water temperature and humidity**
- B. Flow rate and filter area**
- C. Pump efficiency and filter media type**
- D. Amount of organic waste**

The hydraulic loading of a trickling filter is determined by the ratio of the flow rate of wastewater that is being treated to the surface area of the filter. This is crucial because it helps assess the performance and operational efficiency of the filter. The hydraulic loading indicates how much wastewater the filter can effectively handle, which is essential for ensuring that the biological treatment process remains effective and that there is adequate contact between the wastewater and the microbial biofilm on the filter media. The flow rate represents how much wastewater is entering the filter per unit time, and the filter area indicates the total surface area available for treatment. By dividing the flow rate by the filter area, you obtain a value that helps determine if the trickling filter is being operated within optimal parameters. Other aspects, such as water temperature, humidity, pump efficiency, filter media type, and the amount of organic waste, play roles in the overall treatment process but do not directly determine hydraulic loading. Thus, they are not relevant for calculating this specific parameter. Understanding hydraulic loading is vital for managing a trickling filter system effectively.

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://texaswastewaterclassb.examzify.com>

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