

US EPA MODEL LEAD INSPECTOR PRACTICE TEST (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. CDC stands for which organization?**
 - A. Center for Disease Control and Prevention
 - B. Center for Disease Control
 - C. Centers for Disease Control
 - D. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- 2. What is the level of concern in water for lead expressed in parts per billion?**
 - A. 5 ppb
 - B. 15 ppb or 15 ug/L
 - C. 50 ppb
 - D. 100 ppb
- 3. Which statement about sources of lead in soil is correct?**
 - A. Chipped paint, gas
 - B. New mulch
 - C. Gravel only
 - D. Soil moisture only
- 4. EBL stands for?**
 - A. Elevated Blood Lead
 - B. Elevated Blood Level
 - C. Exposed Blood Lead
 - D. Environmental Blood Lead
- 5. For most adults, the major exposure route to lead is which?**
 - A. Inhalation in the workplace
 - B. Ingestion of contaminated water
 - C. Skin absorption
 - D. Ingestion of soil
- 6. What percent does 600 ppm correspond to?**
 - A. 0.06%
 - B. 0.006%
 - C. 0.6%
 - D. 6%

7. Which housing is considered target housing?

- A. All housing built before 1978 except those built for the elderly & disability or studios.
- B. All housing built before 1978 except those built for the elderly and disabled or studios.
- C. Housing built after 1980
- D. All housing built after 1978

8. PHAs and IHAs must abate lead-based paint in pre-1978 family developments that meet which thresholds?

- A. Lead-based paint in pre-1978 family developments equal to or greater than 1.0 mg/cm² using XRF, or 0.5% (5000 ppm) using lab methods
- B. Lead-based paint in pre-1978 family developments equal to or greater than 2.0 mg/cm² using XRF
- C. Lead-based paint in pre-1978 family developments equal to or greater than 0.1 mg/cm² using XRF, or 0.05% by weight
- D. Lead-based paint in pre-1978 family developments equal to or greater than 1.5 mg/cm² using XRF

9. What is the permissible exposure limit (PEL) for lead in air?

- A. 25 µg/m³
- B. 75 µg/m³
- C. 50 µg/m³
- D. 100 µg/m³

10. PVC stands for which term?

- A. Public Housing Agency
- B. Quality Assurance
- C. Pigment Volume Concentration
- D. Volatile Organic Compound

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. CDC stands for which organization?

- A. Center for Disease Control and Prevention
- B. Center for Disease Control
- C. Centers for Disease Control
- D. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

The idea behind this question is knowing the official full name that the acronym represents. The correct expansion is Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It uses Centers (plural) for Disease Control and Prevention, in that exact order, with Prevention as the last word. The other options mix singular versus plural or omit the final word, so they don't match the agency's official title. This name is the U.S. federal agency under the Department of Health and Human Services focused on protecting public health and preventing disease.

2. What is the level of concern in water for lead expressed in parts per billion?

- A. 5 ppb
- B. 15 ppb or 15 ug/L**
- C. 50 ppb
- D. 100 ppb

The level of concern for lead in drinking water is defined by an action level of 15 ppb under the Lead and Copper Rule. This means that when lead concentrations exceed 15 parts per billion in a significant portion of taps, the water system must take steps to reduce lead exposure, such as optimizing corrosion control, public education, and lead service line replacement. For water, 15 ppb is the same as 15 µg/L, since 1 ppb roughly equals 1 µg/L in dilute solutions. So, 15 ppb (or 15 µg/L) is the threshold that triggers required protective actions. Other values are not the EPA action level used to determine when those steps are needed.

3. Which statement about sources of lead in soil is correct?

- A. Chipped paint, gas**
- B. New mulch
- C. Gravel only
- D. Soil moisture only

Lead in soil mainly comes from older uses of lead-containing products, particularly lead-based paint and leaded gasoline. When exterior paint on homes chips or flakes, the lead in that paint can shed dust and chips that settle into the surrounding soil. Historically, gasoline with tetraethyl lead released lead into the air, and that lead settled into soils along streets, driveways, and near homes. New mulch doesn't introduce lead, and gravel doesn't inherently add lead to soil; moisture in soil isn't a source of lead itself, it only affects how lead moves once it's in the soil. So the statement that chipped paint and gas are sources best captures the common, historical ways lead gets into soil.

4. EBL stands for?

- A. Elevated Blood Lead**
- B. Elevated Blood Level
- C. Exposed Blood Lead
- D. Environmental Blood Lead

EBL stands for Elevated Blood Lead. This label is used in EPA guidance to indicate that a child has lead in their blood at a higher-than-normal level and requires follow-up. The form Elevated Blood Lead Level would typically be abbreviated EBLL, which is why the acronym EBL corresponds to Elevated Blood Lead rather than including the word "Level."

5. For most adults, the major exposure route to lead is which?

- A. Inhalation in the workplace**
- B. Ingestion of contaminated water
- C. Skin absorption
- D. Ingestion of soil

Lead exposure depends on the situation, but for adults working with lead, the air around them becomes the main route of exposure. When lead is released as dust or fumes in industrial settings, inhaling those particles or vapors delivers lead directly into the bloodstream through the lungs, often giving a larger and faster dose than swallowing lead-contaminated material. The lungs absorb a significant portion of inhaled lead, which is why inhalation in the workplace is the dominant exposure pathway for active workers. Other routes exist but are typically less important in this context. Skin absorption of lead is minimal, since intact skin is a poor entry point. In the general population outside of work—through contaminated dust, soil, water, or food—ingestion becomes more relevant, but among adults with occupational exposure, inhalation in the workplace is the primary route.

6. What percent does 600 ppm correspond to?

- A. 0.06%**
- B. 0.006%
- C. 0.6%
- D. 6%

600 ppm means 600 parts per 1,000,000. To convert to percent, divide by 10,000 (or convert to decimal first and then to percent). $600 / 10,000 = 0.06\%$, or equivalently $600 / 1,000,000 = 0.0006$, times $100\% = 0.06\%$. So 600 ppm equals 0.06%. For reference, 0.6% would be 6,000 ppm, 0.006% would be 60 ppm, and 6% would be 60,000 ppm.

7. Which housing is considered target housing?

- A. All housing built before 1978 except those built for the elderly & disability or studios.
- B. All housing built before 1978 except those built for the elderly and disabled or studios.
- C. Housing built after 1980
- D. All housing built after 1978

Target housing is housing built before 1978, since lead-based paint was commonly used prior to that year. However, two types are not considered target housing: units designed for occupancy by elderly people or by individuals with disabilities, and studio apartments (one-room units). The option that says all housing built before 1978 except those built for the elderly and disabled or studios reflects this definition, making it the best answer. Housing built after 1978 wouldn't be target housing because lead paint was no longer used.

8. PHAs and IHAs must abate lead-based paint in pre-1978 family developments that meet which thresholds?

- A. Lead-based paint in pre-1978 family developments equal to or greater than 1.0 mg/cm² using XRF, or 0.5% (5000 ppm) using lab methods
- B. Lead-based paint in pre-1978 family developments equal to or greater than 2.0 mg/cm² using XRF
- C. Lead-based paint in pre-1978 family developments equal to or greater than 0.1 mg/cm² using XRF, or 0.05% by weight
- D. Lead-based paint in pre-1978 family developments equal to or greater than 1.5 mg/cm² using XRF

The threshold that triggers abatement for PHAs and IHAs looks at lead in two ways to catch hazards both in the field and in the lab. If XRF testing shows a surface concentration of lead at or above 1.0 mg per square centimeter, that surface must be abated. If lab analysis of paint samples shows lead at 0.5% by weight (which is 5000 parts per million) or more, abatement is also required. Using either method ensures a significant lead exposure risk is addressed. This combination matters because XRF is a quick field screen, while lab results provide a precise confirmatory measure. The values given—1.0 mg/cm² by XRF or 0.5% lead by weight in lab tests—are the thresholds that mean action is needed to protect residents, especially children. Other options propose thresholds that are higher or lower, or rely on only one testing method, and do not align with these standard trigger levels.

9. What is the permissible exposure limit (PEL) for lead in air?

- A. 25 µg/m³
- B. 75 µg/m³
- C. 50 µg/m³
- D. 100 µg/m³

Lead in workplace air is limited by a permissible exposure limit that is defined as an eight-hour time-weighted average. The PEL for lead is 50 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m³). This means the average concentration a worker is exposed to over an entire 8-hour shift should not exceed 50 µg/m³. If exposures approach or exceed this limit, the employer must take steps to reduce them through controls, work practices, or protective equipment. There is also an action level (lower than the PEL) that triggers monitoring and program requirements, and a short-term limit for brief spikes, but the PEL itself—the measure used to judge compliance over a full shift—is 50 µg/m³. The other listed values are not the PEL.

10. PVC stands for which term?

- A. Public Housing Agency
- B. Quality Assurance
- C. Pigment Volume Concentration**
- D. Volatile Organic Compound

In paint chemistry, PVC stands for Pigment Volume Concentration. It is the fraction of the dry film that is pigment solids, defined as the volume of pigment solids divided by the total solids in the dry film, usually expressed as a percentage. This measure helps predict how the paint will perform: a higher PVC means more pigment relative to binder, which generally improves hiding power and color depth but can weaken film strength if the binder is too scarce. A lower PVC means more binder relative to pigment, which can yield a tougher film but poorer opacity. The other terms listed—Public Housing Agency, Quality Assurance, and Volatile Organic Compound—are unrelated to the meaning of PVC in paint formulation, which is why Pigment Volume Concentration is the correct term.

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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://usepamodelleadinspec.examzify.com>

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

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