CALIFORNIA PIPELINE CONTRACTOR (C-34 LICENSE) 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.

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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!

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Questions

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1. **When PVC pipe is used for irrigation systems, which schedules must be used on the discharge sides and the supply sides of control valves?**

   A. Schedule 20 on discharge; Schedule 40 on supply

   B. Schedule 40 on discharge; Schedule 80 on supply

   C. Schedule 80 on discharge; Schedule 40 on supply

   D. Schedule 40 on both sides

2. **Which set of specifications is correct? Cement per cubic yard, water per gallon, ladder projection, and cleanout angle are:**

   A. 564 lb; 8.33 lb; 24 in; 135°

   B. 500 lb; 8.34 lb; 12 in; 120°

   C. 564 lb; 8.33 lb; 12 in; 135°

   D. 600 lb; 8.0 lb; 24 in; 150°

3. **What is the main purpose of reviewing project plans and specifications before beginning a C-34 pipeline installation?**

   A. To create daily field reports for management.

   B. To identify illegal routes for pipeline.

   C. To understand scope, required materials, methods, tolerances, and testing/inspection requirements.

   D. To schedule crew calendars.

4. **Which type of material would you use as initial backfill for asbestos cement pipe?**

   A. Sand

   B. Gravel

   C. Clay

   D. Concrete

5. **Type DWV copper tube is marked with which stripe color?**

   A. Red

   B. Yellow

   C. Blue

   D. Green

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6. Building sewer cleanouts must be installed at intervals not to exceed how many feet in straight runs?

A. 50 feet

B. 100 feet

C. 150 feet

D. 200 feet

7. The crane signalman signals by tapping his right elbow with his left hand. This means:

A. Use whip line

B. Stop all operations

C. Lower the load

D. Raise the load

8. Which type of test is most commonly used to verify the integrity of a newly installed pipeline before backfilling?

A. Visual inspection

B. Hydrostatic pressure testing (leak test).

C. Smoke testing

D. Electrical continuity test

9. Which material is commonly used for potable water distribution and is a rigid plastic?

A. ABS

B. HDPE

C. Ductile iron

D. PVC.

10. What is the minimum clearance above ground for galvanized pipe?

A. 4 inches

B. 6 inches

C. 8 inches

D. 12 inches

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. When PVC pipe is used for irrigation systems, which schedules must be used on the discharge sides and the supply sides of control valves?

A. Schedule 20 on discharge; Schedule 40 on supply

B. Schedule 40 on discharge; Schedule 80 on supply

C. Schedule 80 on discharge; Schedule 40 on supply

D. Schedule 40 on both sides

The important idea is matching pipe strength to where the stress is highest around a control valve. The supply side (upstream of the valve) is exposed to the full system pressure and potential surges, so using Schedule 80 PVC provides a thicker wall and a higher pressure rating to resist rupture and damage near the valve. The discharge side (downstream) typically sees lower, controlled pressure once water has passed through the valve, so Schedule 40 is sufficient and more cost-effective. Hence, Schedule 80 on the supply side and Schedule 40 on the discharge side.

2. Which set of specifications is correct? Cement per cubic yard, water per gallon, ladder projection, and cleanout angle are:

A. 564 lb; 8.33 lb; 24 in; 135°

B. 500 lb; 8.34 lb; 12 in; 120°

C. 564 lb; 8.33 lb; 12 in; 135°

D. 600 lb; 8.0 lb; 24 in; 150°

In pipeline practice, these specs are standard defaults used for common concrete mixes and trench safety. Cement per cubic yard corresponding to a six-sack mix is 564 pounds, which is a typical target for a strong, durable concrete used in underground work. Water weight per gallon is the density of water, about 8.33 pounds, a reliable figure for calculating water content in mixes. Ladder projection of 24 inches into the trench gives enough reach for safe access and egress, balancing working space and stability. Cleanout angle of 135 degrees is a common elbow orientation that helps maintain proper alignment with the line while providing access for maintenance or cleaning. Taken together, these values reflect conventional, widely used standards in this field.

3. What is the main purpose of reviewing project plans and specifications before beginning a C-34 pipeline installation?

A. To create daily field reports for management.

B. To identify illegal routes for pipeline.

C. To understand scope, required materials, methods, tolerances, and testing/inspection requirements.

D. To schedule crew calendars.

The main purpose is to understand the scope, the materials specified, the construction methods to be used, the allowable tolerances, and the testing and inspection requirements. Reviewing plans and specifications upfront ensures you know exactly what the project intends you to build, which materials you must procure, and which procedures and sequences are approved. It also clarifies the acceptance criteria—how the work will be judged as complete and compliant, including what tests or inspections are required and who performs them. This knowledge guides accurate material takeoffs, proper selection of trenching, bedding, welding, coating, and backfill methods, and helps you plan the workflow, coordinate inspections, and avoid rework or delays. While daily reports and crew scheduling are important project tools, they are not the primary reason for reviewing the plans and specs. Similarly, identifying illegal routes is outside the professional scope of plan review and would be inappropriate.

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4. Which type of material would you use as initial backfill for asbestos cement pipe?

A. Sand

B. Gravel

C. Clay

D. Concrete

The goal is to protect a brittle pipe by providing a soft, uniform cushion directly around it during the first backfill, so loads are spread evenly and the pipe isn't subjected to sharp point loads or movement as the trench settles. Sand is the best choice because its fine grains fill gaps around the pipe, cushion it from footing and equipment, and compact smoothly to create a stable, even support layer. This helps prevent cracks or damage to the asbestos cement pipe as the trench settles or is loaded. Gravel is too coarse and can create voids or concentrated loads that press on the pipe. Clay can swell or shrink with moisture changes, leading to movement or pressure on the pipe. Concrete is too rigid and would transfer stresses directly to the pipe, increasing the risk of cracking.

5. Type DWV copper tube is marked with which stripe color?

A. Red

B. Yellow

C. Blue

D. Green

Copper tubing uses color-coded stripes to show the intended service. For drainage, waste, and vent (DWV) applications, the tube is marked with a yellow stripe. This quick visual cue helps you distinguish DWV tubing from potable-water tubing, which uses other color markings (for example, green, blue, or red stripe codes correspond to different potable-water tube types). Using the correct DWV tube ensures it's appropriate for waste and venting and meets code requirements, since DWV tubing can have different specifications than drinking-water copper. So, the yellow stripe identifies DWV copper tube.

6. Building sewer cleanouts must be installed at intervals not to exceed how many feet in straight runs?

A. 50 feet

B. 100 feet

C. 150 feet

D. 200 feet

Cleanouts are installed to provide access for cleaning and removing blockages in the building sewer. To keep maintenance practical, codes limit how far apart cleanouts can be placed in straight runs so you can reach the line with standard cleaning tools. In straight sections, the maximum allowed distance between cleanouts is 100 feet. If runs were longer, you'd risk an inaccessible section that you can't effectively clean from a single cleanout. That's why 100 feet is the expected interval. Shorter distances would add unnecessary cleanouts, while longer distances would not meet the code requirement.

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7. The crane signalman signals by tapping his right elbow with his left hand. This means:

A. Use whip line

B. Stop all operations

C. Lower the load

D. Raise the load

Crane signaling relies on standardized gestures so the operator can move the load safely and precisely. Tapping the right elbow with the left hand is a specific signal that instructs the operator to use the whip line—the secondary, slower hoist line used for fine control rather than the main hoist. This is important when you need careful, controlled movements or precision positioning, such as near structures or in tight spaces. So, this gesture communicates switching to the whip line for the lift. Other signals control general actions like raising or lowering, but this particular elbow touch is reserved for calling for the whip line.

8. Which type of test is most commonly used to verify the integrity of a newly installed pipeline before backfilling?

A. Visual inspection

B. Hydrostatic pressure testing (leak test).

C. Smoke testing

D. Electrical continuity test

Verifying a newly installed pipeline before backfilling focuses on proving the line can hold pressure without leaking, which confirms the joints and fittings are sound. The hydrostatic pressure test fills the pipe with water and pressurizes it to a specified test pressure, then monitors for any pressure loss over a set period. If the pressure stays stable, the line is watertight and ready for burial; if it drops, leaks or weak joints are indicated and must be repaired before backfilling. This method is used before burial because locating and repairing leaks after the trench is filled is much more difficult and disruptive. Visual inspection can miss hidden leaks or internal defects. Smoke testing is typically used for certain sewer systems to locate leaks by introducing smoke, not for standard buried pipelines. An electrical continuity test checks conductors, not the pipe's mechanical integrity.

9. Which material is commonly used for potable water distribution and is a rigid plastic?

A. ABS

B. HDPE

C. Ductile iron

D. PVC.

For potable water distribution, the material must be approved for drinking water, resist corrosion, and be suitable for reliable jointing and installation. A rigid plastic that fits this well is PVC. PVC, or polyvinyl chloride, is stiff enough to form durable underground mains and service lines while remaining lightweight. It resists corrosion from potable water and typical additives, and its smooth interior reduces friction losses, helping maintain pressure. Joints are made with solvent cement, creating watertight, long-lasting connections. PVC comes in standard wall thicknesses to meet different pressure ratings, making it versatile for various pipe diameters. It is commonly approved for drinking water systems, especially for cold-water distribution. For hot water, CPVC is used instead, but that's a different, heat-rated plastic. Other options—HDPE is flexible, ABS is used in some systems but not as standard for potable water in many codes, and ductile iron is metal, not plastic—so PVC best fits the description of a rigid plastic used for potable water distribution.

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10. What is the minimum clearance above ground for galvanized pipe?

A. 4 inches

B. 6 inches

C. 8 inches

D. 12 inches

The key idea is protecting exterior galvanized piping from ground moisture and physical damage while keeping it accessible for inspection. Six inches above finished grade provides a safe buffer: it keeps the pipe out of direct contact with soil, reduces corrosion risk from moisture and chemicals in the soil, and makes maintenance or replacement easier. If the pipe sits closer to or in contact with the ground (like four inches), it is more prone to corrosion, damage from digging or rocks, and harder to inspect. While deeper or higher placements (eight or twelve inches) might be used in specific situations, the minimum standard called for in this context is six inches.

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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://pipelinec34.examzify.com

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

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