COMMERCIAL SEPTIC SYSTEM INSTALLER 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. True or False: The walls and bottom of poured-in-place septic tanks must be reinforced.

A. True

B. False

C. Only the walls need reinforcement

D. Only the bottoms need reinforcement

2. How much reserve capacity must dosing tanks using pumps have?

A. One week's flow

B. Two days' flow

C. One day's flow

D. Three days' flow

3. What is the minimum size for a grease trap allowable in Georgia?

A. 75 gallons

B. 100 gallons

C. 125 gallons

D. 150 gallons

4. What is the minimum size requirement for a commercial septic tank based on daily flow?

A. 500 gallons

B. 750 gallons

C. 1,000 gallons

D. 1,500 gallons

5. What is one benefit of using a dosing device in a septic system?

A. It increases water usage

B. It aids in even distribution of effluent

C. It reduces pumping frequency

D. It lowers construction costs

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6. What is the purpose of shoring devices in deep trenches?

A. To provide electrical support

B. To reinforce walls for safety

C. To install drainage systems

D. To enhance aesthetic appeal

7. Which of the following materials should never be disposed of in a septic system?

A. Biodegradable items

B. Grease and non-biodegradable items

C. Paper products

D. Food waste

8. How does a septic tank primarily function?

A. It filters water through membranes

B. It separates solids from liquids through sedimentation

C. It aerates wastewater to promote evaporation

D. It chemically treats effluent

9. What is the purpose of a holding tank in septic systems?

A. To permanently store wastewater for treatment

B. To temporarily store wastewater where a conventional system is unfeasible

C. To treat wastewater on-site

D. To increase water pressure in the system

10. Which code must all electrical components for sewage systems adhere to?

A. National Fire Protection Association Code

B. National Plumbing Code

C. National Electrical Code

D. International Building Code

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. True or False: The walls and bottom of poured-in-place septic tanks must be reinforced.

A. True

B. False

C. Only the walls need reinforcement

D. Only the bottoms need reinforcement

The correct answer is that the walls and bottom of poured-in-place septic tanks must be reinforced. This is essential to ensure the structural integrity and durability of the tank. Poured-in-place tanks are typically made from concrete, which, while strong in compression, can be vulnerable to tensile stresses and cracking if not properly reinforced. Reinforcement provides additional support, helping to maintain the shape and strength of the tank under soil pressure and external loads. Without adequate reinforcement, the tank could fail, leading to leaks or structural collapse, which could pose significant environmental hazards. Though some options may suggest that only specific parts of the tank require reinforcement, it is standard practice to reinforce both the walls and the bottom to ensure comprehensive strength throughout the structure. This practice also helps in prolonging the lifespan of the septic system and in maintaining proper function.

2. How much reserve capacity must dosing tanks using pumps have?

A. One week's flow

B. Two days' flow

C. One day's flow

D. Three days' flow

The requirement for reserve capacity in dosing tanks using pumps is set to ensure that there is enough stored wastewater to maintain system function during times when the pump is not operating, such as during maintenance or power outages. Having a reserve capacity of one day's flow allows for a sufficient buffer, ensuring that the system can handle variations in flow and any potential malfunctions without causing backups or overflow. A reserve of one day's flow is generally viewed as adequate to accommodate typical fluctuations in the system's usage while providing time for service interventions, irregular peak flows, or emergencies without disrupting the overall function of the septic system. This helps maintain environmental safety and regulatory compliance.

3. What is the minimum size for a grease trap allowable in Georgia?

A. 75 gallons

B. 100 gallons

C. 125 gallons

D. 150 gallons

In Georgia, the minimum size for a grease trap is established to effectively manage and capture grease and oils produced by food service operations, thus preventing them from entering the septic system and causing blockages or environmental issues. A grease trap of 125 gallons is specified to accommodate the volume of waste produced, ensuring adequate retention time for grease separation from wastewater. This capacity helps maintain the efficiency of both the grease trap and the overall wastewater treatment system. The requirement for a 125-gallon grease trap ensures that it can handle the anticipated flow and fat content typical in commercial kitchen operations, thereby reducing the risk of maintenance issues and enhancing the longevity of the plumbing system. By setting the minimum at this size, regulatory bodies aim to promote better sanitation practices while minimizing the potential for grease-related problems in sewer systems and septic tanks.

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4. What is the minimum size requirement for a commercial septic tank based on daily flow?

A. 500 gallons

B. 750 gallons

C. 1,000 gallons

D. 1,500 gallons

The minimum size requirement for a commercial septic tank is determined by the daily flow of wastewater that the facility generates. In most regulations, a septic tank must be able to adequately handle the anticipated volume of wastewater while allowing for proper settling and anaerobic digestion of solids. For many commercial applications, a minimum tank size of 1,000 gallons is commonly stipulated. This size ensures that there is sufficient capacity to manage the volume produced by businesses that typically have higher water usage compared to residential facilities. The larger capacity helps to prevent overloading the system, which can lead to ineffective treatment or system failure. Furthermore, having a tank with this minimum size allows for the necessary retention time for solids to settle and for bacteria to break down organic matter effectively, promoting a healthier environment for the leach field and reducing the potential for overflow or back-ups. Proper sizing is critical to the longevity and functionality of the septic system, and meeting or exceeding the minimum requirement assists in compliance with local health regulations.

5. What is one benefit of using a dosing device in a septic system?

A. It increases water usage

B. It aids in even distribution of effluent

C. It reduces pumping frequency

D. It lowers construction costs

Using a dosing device in a septic system primarily promotes the even distribution of effluent. By doing so, it ensures that the wastewater is spread uniformly across the drain field or leach field. This is crucial for the effective treatment of effluent as it allows for adequate absorption and reduces the risk of overloading any single area of the field. An even distribution helps maintain the soil's ability to treat the effluent, ultimately improving the overall efficiency and lifespan of the septic system. Additionally, by dispersing the effluent evenly, these devices can help prevent soil saturation and create a more balanced environment for microbial activity, which is essential for breaking down the waste. This uniform distribution plays a significant role in minimizing potential problems like system backups or failures, and it contributes to the overall health of the septic system.

6. What is the purpose of shoring devices in deep trenches?

A. To provide electrical support

B. To reinforce walls for safety

C. To install drainage systems

D. To enhance aesthetic appeal

Shoring devices play a crucial role in ensuring safety when working in deep trenches by reinforcing the walls and preventing cave-ins. When trenches are excavated, the risk of soil collapse increases, especially in deeper digs where the surrounding soil can become unstable. Shoring devices, which may include various types of support structures like lateral braces or vertical supports, are employed to stabilize the trench walls and protect workers from potential hazards. The implementation of these devices is vital in adhering to safety regulations and in providing a safe working environment, thereby reducing the risk of accidents and injuries. The other options do not pertain to the primary function of shoring devices. For instance, providing electrical support does not relate to trench safety and instead may pertain to utilities. Installing drainage systems can be part of trench work but is a separate process from the shoring itself. Enhancing aesthetic appeal is not relevant to the purpose of shoring, which is focused solely on safety and structural integrity during excavation work.

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7. Which of the following materials should never be disposed of in a septic system?

A. Biodegradable items

B. Grease and non-biodegradable items

C. Paper products

D. Food waste

The disposal of materials in a septic system is crucial to maintaining its functionality and longevity. Grease and non-biodegradable items should never be disposed of in a septic system because they can cause significant damage to the system. Grease solidifies in the tank and pipes, leading to clogs and reducing the efficiency of the system. Non-biodegradable items, such as plastics, sanitary products, and other similar materials, do not break down and can accumulate, causing blockages that disrupt the flow of waste and may even require costly repairs. In contrast, biodegradable items, when broken down properly, can be managed by the septic system's natural bacteria. Paper products, while they should be used cautiously, are generally acceptable because they are biodegradable. Food waste can be problematic if disposed of in large quantities, but small amounts can typically break down in the system as well. Therefore, it's essential to avoid putting grease and non-biodegradable materials into a septic system to ensure its proper operation and to prevent costly maintenance issues.

8. How does a septic tank primarily function?

A. It filters water through membranes

B. It separates solids from liquids through sedimentation

C. It aerates wastewater to promote evaporation

D. It chemically treats effluent

A septic tank primarily functions by separating solids from liquids through the process of sedimentation. When wastewater enters the tank, it becomes a mixture of solids, liquids, and gases. The design of the septic tank allows for the heavier solid particles to settle at the bottom, forming a sludge layer. Lighter materials, such as grease and oils, float to the top, creating a scum layer. This stratification occurs naturally due to the differences in density among the various components of the wastewater. The purpose of this separation is to ensure that the liquids, now relatively clear, can flow out of the tank and into the drainage field or leach field for further treatment and dispersal into the soil. This sedimentation process is crucial as it helps prevent the clogging of the next stages of the system and minimizes the environmental impact. The other options describe processes that do not capture the primary function of a septic tank. Membrane filtration and chemical treatment are not primary functions of a septic system, as these processes are typically associated with advanced treatment systems rather than conventional septic tanks. Similarly, while aeration can occur in some septic systems, promoting evaporation is not a main function of traditional septic tanks, which focus mainly on the separation of solids and liquids for effective management

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9. What is the purpose of a holding tank in septic systems?

A. To permanently store wastewater for treatment

B. To temporarily store wastewater where a conventional system is unfeasible

C. To treat wastewater on-site

D. To increase water pressure in the system

The purpose of a holding tank in septic systems is primarily to temporarily store wastewater in situations where a conventional septic system is not feasible due to specific site conditions. This can include properties with inadequate soil for absorption, high groundwater levels, or physical limitations such as space constraints. Holding tanks are designed to collect and hold wastewater until it can be transported for proper treatment, typically to a treatment facility or a designated disposal area. They are crucial in areas where traditional septic systems can't function effectively, ensuring that wastewater is managed in a way that protects public health and the environment. The other options do not correctly describe the function of a holding tank. For instance, holding tanks do not provide permanent storage or treatment of wastewater, nor do they play a role in increasing water pressure within the system. Their main function is focused on temporary storage to manage wastewater until it can be properly treated or disposed of.

10. Which code must all electrical components for sewage systems adhere to?

A. National Fire Protection Association Code

B. National Plumbing Code

C. National Electrical Code

D. International Building Code

The correct response is grounded in the critical role the National Electrical Code (NEC) plays in ensuring safety and proper operation of electrical components in sewage systems. The NEC outlines the standards required for the installation of electrical wiring and equipment, emphasizing safety from potential hazards such as electrical shock, fire, and equipment failure. When it comes to sewage systems, various components need electrical power for operation, including pumps, alarms, and control panels. These components must conform to NEC standards to ensure they can safely withstand the damp and potentially corrosive environments often associated with wastewater handling. Adhering to these codes not only protects the personnel who work with or around these systems but also ensures the effectiveness and longevity of the installation. While the National Fire Protection Association Code deals with fire safety aspects more broadly and the National Plumbing Code addresses plumbing system standards, including some elements related to sewage systems, it is the National Electrical Code that specifically governs the electrical aspects. The International Building Code, while important for general construction and building standards, does not focus on the specific electrical requirements necessary for sewage systems. This specialization of the NEC is why it is the applicable standard for electrical components in these applications.

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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:

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

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