JOURNEYMAN PLUMBER 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. What is a loop vent designed to serve?

A. Only a single fixture in the basement

B. A vent that serves two or more floor outlet fixtures that are battery wasted

C. To connect to external venting systems

D. A high-capacity vent for restaurants

2. What is the maximum flush volume for a urinal?

A. 2 gallons per minute

B. 1 gallon per minute

C. 0.5 gallons per minute

D. 3 gallons per minute

3. Pumps installed in basements must be mounted at least how many inches above the floor?

A. 12 inches

B. 16 inches

C. 18 inches

D. 24 inches

4. What is the minimum diameter required for a sump pit?

A. 12 inches

B. 16 inches

C. 18 inches

D. 24 inches

5. What is the typical minimum slope for horizontal drain pipes?

A. 1/8 inch per foot

B. 1/4 inch per foot

C. 1/2 inch per foot

D. 3/4 inch per foot

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6. What is the maximum number of fixture units allowed to convey through a 6" building drain?

A. 500 fixture units

B. 750 fixture units

C. 1,000 fixture units

D. 1,250 fixture units

7. Why do we vent fixture traps?

A. To allow for easier cleaning of the plumbing system

B. To prevent loss of a trap seal by siphonage or back pressure

C. To reduce the noise produced by water flow

D. To enhance the aesthetic appearance of plumbing fixtures

8. What is the maximum height for drops made for lavatories?

A. 30 inches

B. 24 inches

C. 36 inches

D. 42 inches

9. What type of plugs do underground WYES and Test Tees use?

A. Plastic plugs

B. Metal plugs

C. Inflatable rubber test plugs

D. Standard rubber plugs

10. The distance between the crown weir and the top of the trap is known as what?

A. Trap Seal

B. Trap Arm

C. Drainage Gap

D. Weir Height

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is a loop vent designed to serve?

A. Only a single fixture in the basement

B. A vent that serves two or more floor outlet fixtures that are battery wasted

C. To connect to external venting systems

D. A high-capacity vent for restaurants

A loop vent is specifically designed to serve multiple floor outlet fixtures that are close together, often in a layout where space constraints or particular plumbing configurations necessitate such a system. The primary function of a loop vent is to ensure that two or more fixtures can share a vent without the need for extensive piping, which helps improve drainage performance and maintain proper air pressure within the drainage system. This is particularly useful when fixtures are located on the same floor or level, allowing the vent to efficiently serve both without the need for separate vent stacks. Loop vents provide both necessary ventilation to the drainage system and help prevent issues such as siphoning, where one fixture can disrupt the flow of another due to pressure differences. The other options do not correctly describe the purpose of a loop vent. For example, serving only a single fixture or being designed specifically for high-capacity needs, such as in restaurants, does not align with the loop vent's application. Similarly, connecting to external venting systems is not the function of a loop vent, as they are more concerned with venting multiple fixtures on the same level rather than external configurations.

2. What is the maximum flush volume for a urinal?

A. 2 gallons per minute

B. 1 gallon per minute

C. 0.5 gallons per minute

D. 3 gallons per minute

The maximum flush volume for a urinal is 1 gallon per minute. This regulation is often set by plumbing codes to promote water conservation and efficiency in restroom facilities. Urinals typically have lower water requirements compared to standard toilets, and modern designs often achieve effective flushing with even less water, thereby utilizing advancements in plumbing technology and design to minimize water waste. Understanding the importance of flush volume is crucial for plumbing professionals, as compliance with local and national regulations not only helps with sustainability efforts but also maintains the performance and hygiene standards expected in public and private restrooms. Moreover, options indicating higher flush volumes reflect older standards that are no longer in alignment with current conservation goals.

3. Pumps installed in basements must be mounted at least how many inches above the floor?

A. 12 inches

B. 16 inches

C. 18 inches

D. 24 inches

Pumps installed in basements are required to be mounted at least 18 inches above the floor to ensure proper operation and to prevent potential flooding. This elevation allows the pump to be above the expected water level during heavy rains or flooding situations, ensuring that the pump can effectively remove water without being submerged. Additionally, this height helps protect the pump from waterborne debris and allows for easier access for maintenance and repairs. The set minimum height also aligns with plumbing codes, which emphasize safety and functionality in the installation of such equipment. Compliance with this requirement not only safeguards the pump but also maintains the integrity of the basement area by reducing the risk of water damage.

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4. What is the minimum diameter required for a sump pit?

A. 12 inches

B. 16 inches

C. 18 inches

D. 24 inches

The minimum diameter required for a sump pit is crucial for ensuring the effective and efficient collection of water, as well as for providing adequate space for the sump pump and any necessary maintenance. A diameter of 18 inches is considered standard because it strikes a balance between being large enough to accommodate the pump and allowing for proper water flow while still fitting within typical space constraints in residential and commercial settings. Having a pit that measures less than this minimum could lead to several operational issues. If the pit is too small, it may become prone to clogging or limit the amount of water it can contain, potentially leading to overflow and ineffective drainage. Thus, the specification of an 18-inch diameter helps to ensure that the sump pit functions correctly while adhering to industry standards and plumbing codes.

5. What is the typical minimum slope for horizontal drain pipes?

A. 1/8 inch per foot

B. 1/4 inch per foot

C. 1/2 inch per foot

D. 3/4 inch per foot

The typical minimum slope for horizontal drain pipes is 1/4 inch per foot. This slope is essential for ensuring that wastewater flows effectively through the pipe by utilizing gravity. Proper drainage helps prevent backup and maintains the efficiency of the plumbing system. When the slope is set at 1/4 inch per foot, it strikes a balance between allowing adequate flow velocity to carry solids and preventing the pipe from clogging. A slope that is too shallow could lead to sediment accumulation, while a slope that is too steep could cause excessive turbulence, potentially trapping air and reducing flow efficiency. Thus, a 1/4 inch per foot slope is recognized as the industry standard for ensuring that drainage systems operate effectively and reliably.

6. What is the maximum number of fixture units allowed to convey through a 6" building drain?

A. 500 fixture units

B. 750 fixture units

C. 1,000 fixture units

D. 1,250 fixture units

In plumbing design, fixture units are a way to quantify the probability of fixtures being used simultaneously. This measurement helps in determining the appropriate size of drain pipes, ensuring they can handle peak loads effectively without causing backups. For a 6-inch building drain, plumbing codes and standards—such as those outlined in the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) and the International Plumbing Code (IPC)—set forth specific guidelines regarding the maximum allowable fixture units. According to these standards, a 6-inch building drain can generally accommodate up to 1,000 fixture units. This capacity is based on factors such as the diameter of the drain pipe and the expected flow rates from various fixtures connected to the system. Understanding this allows plumbers to design drainage systems that are not only compliant with codes but also efficient and reliable in handling wastewater. The significance of accurately assessing fixture units cannot be overstated, as it directly impacts the performance and longevity of the plumbing system. Therefore, 1,000 fixture units is the correct maximum for a 6-inch building drain, reflecting the need for adequate drainage without risk of overflow or blockage during peak usage periods.

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7. Why do we vent fixture traps?

A. To allow for easier cleaning of the plumbing system

B. To prevent loss of a trap seal by siphonage or back pressure

C. To reduce the noise produced by water flow

D. To enhance the aesthetic appearance of plumbing fixtures

Venting fixture traps is crucial primarily to prevent the loss of a trap seal, which can occur due to siphonage or back pressure. The trap seal is the water that sits in the bend of the trap, creating a barrier to prevent sewer gases from entering the living space. When water flows rapidly down a drain, it can create a vacuum effect that pulls the water out of the trap, allowing harmful gases to escape. By venting, you provide air to the system, which helps to equalize the pressure above the water in the trap, thereby maintaining the seal. The design of venting systems ensures that air can flow freely in and out of the plumbing system, reducing the chances of siphonage, which can happen if traps are too deep or if the drainage system is poorly designed. Proper venting also helps mitigate back pressure, which can occur due to blockages or changes in flow, again protecting the trap seal against loss. The other options do not accurately capture the primary function of venting. While cleaning is important for maintaining a plumbing system, venting does not directly facilitate that process. Noise reduction may be a beneficial side effect of better venting, but it is not its primary purpose. Additionally, aesthetic considerations, while relevant

8. What is the maximum height for drops made for lavatories?

A. 30 inches

B. 24 inches

C. 36 inches

D. 42 inches

The maximum height for drops made for lavatories is established to ensure proper drainage and functionality within plumbing systems. A drop refers to the vertical distance that waste water must travel in a plumbing system. When it comes to lavatories, a maximum of 30 inches is set to prevent potential drainage issues which can occur if the drop is too high. At heights greater than this, the potential for problems such as slow drainage or even clogging increases, as the force of gravity alone may not be sufficient to ensure that waste water effectively travels down the pipes without obstruction. Keeping the drop height within this limit helps maintain an efficient flow and minimizes the risk of backups or other plumbing complications. Understanding the regulations around drop heights is fundamental for plumbers, as adhering to these guidelines ensures that plumbing installations are both safe and effective in their operation.

9. What type of plugs do underground WYES and Test Tees use?

A. Plastic plugs

B. Metal plugs

C. Inflatable rubber test plugs

D. Standard rubber plugs

Underground WYES and test tees commonly utilize inflatable rubber test plugs due to their unique design and functionality. These plugs are specifically engineered to create a tight seal within pipelines, which is crucial for testing and maintaining the integrity of the installation. Their inflatable nature allows for easy insertion and removal, enabling plumbers to efficiently perform pressure tests or blockages in the system without major disruptions. These plugs expand when inflated, ensuring they fit snugly within the piping. This is especially important in underground applications, where robustness and reliability are needed to prevent leaks during testing procedures. The use of inflatable rubber test plugs provides better adaptability to various pipe sizes and shapes compared to other types of plugs, making them a preferred choice in the plumbing trade.

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10. The distance between the crown weir and the top of the trap is known as what?

A. Trap Seal

B. Trap Arm

C. Drainage Gap

D. Weir Height

The distance between the crown weir and the top of the trap is referred to as the trap seal. The trap seal plays an essential role in plumbing systems, serving as a barrier to prevent sewer gases from entering the living spaces of a building. By maintaining a certain level of water within the trap, the trap seal effectively blocks these gases while still allowing wastewater to flow through the drainage system. This measurement is critical in design considerations for plumbing fixtures. If the trap seal is too low due to evaporation or siphoning, it can lead to undesirable odors and possible contamination of the indoor environment. Therefore, understanding the significance of the trap seal and the proper maintenance of plumbing fixtures helps ensure the effective operation of drainage systems. The other terms mentioned, such as trap arm and weir height, refer to different aspects of plumbing systems. The trap arm refers to the horizontal component that connects the trap to the drainage system, while weir height pertains to the specific point in a weir that measures water flow, which is unrelated to the function of the trap seal. The drainage gap, although it may be a plausible term, does not specifically describe the measurement between the crown weir and the top of the trap.

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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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