MAINE JOURNEYMAN PLUMBING 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. Which of the following statements is true about drilled wells?

A. They are shallow and less polluted

B. They have a large cap above ground

C. They are less vulnerable to pollution than shallow wells

D. They primarily supply water for agricultural purposes

2. What is the primary function of a drilled well?

A. To provide a water supply for irrigation

B. To tap into lower aquifers

C. To reduce pressure in plumbing systems

D. To filter pollutants from water

3. Water service to a building primarily involves what?

A. Wastewater removal

B. Stormwater management

C. Supplying fresh water to the distribution system

D. Heating water for use

4. What is the recommended depth for a dug well?

A. 10 feet

B. 20 feet

C. 30 feet

D. 40 feet

5. What is the function of a Reduced Pressure Zone Valve (RPZ)?

A. To increase water pressure

B. To serve a specialized plumbing zone

C. To reduce water temperature

D. To filter contaminants from water

6. What type of material is often used for vent pipes in residential plumbing?

A. Copper or Iron

B. PVC or ABS

C. Galvanized Steel

D. Polyethylene

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7. What does the abbreviation BS stand for in plumbing terminology?

A. Building Stack

B. Building Sewer

C. Building Supply

D. Building System

8. What is the typical pump depth range for a shallow well?

A. 15' to 25'

B. 25' to 35'

C. 35' to 45'

D. 45' to 55'

9. What is the purpose of a backflow prevention device?

A. To increase water flow

B. To prevent the water from freezing

C. To prevent contaminated water from flowing back into the potable water supply

D. To reduce plumbing costs

10. What is the primary role of the portion of piping outside a building?

A. To connect the main water supply to the municipal system

B. To transport wastewater away from the building

C. To distribute water throughout the building

D. To serve as the water service area

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which of the following statements is true about drilled wells?

A. They are shallow and less polluted

B. They have a large cap above ground

C. They are less vulnerable to pollution than shallow wells

D. They primarily supply water for agricultural purposes

The statement that drilled wells are less vulnerable to pollution than shallow wells is accurate because drilled wells typically extend deeper into the ground where the water is more protected from surface contaminants. Shallow wells are more exposed to pollutants from agricultural runoff, septic systems, and other surface-related sources. As drilled wells reach deeper aquifers, they often tap into water that has been filtered by numerous layers of soil and rock, which can provide a natural barrier against pollutants. Additionally, drilled wells are constructed with protective casings that further enhance their resilience against contamination compared to shallow wells. On the other hand, the assertion that drilled wells are shallow and less polluted does not apply since drilled wells are usually deeper than shallow wells. The claim about having a large cap above ground is not universally true, as well construction can vary. The idea that drilled wells primarily supply water for agricultural purposes is misleading, as they are used for various applications including residential and commercial water supply, not just agriculture. Thus, the resistance to pollution in drilled wells is a significant reason the chosen statement is correct.

2. What is the primary function of a drilled well?

A. To provide a water supply for irrigation

B. To tap into lower aquifers

C. To reduce pressure in plumbing systems

D. To filter pollutants from water

The primary function of a drilled well is to tap into lower aquifers. Drilled wells are constructed by boring deep into the earth to access groundwater stored in aquifers, which are geological formations that can store and transmit water. These aquifers are often located at significant depths, depending on the geological conditions of the area. By reaching these lower aquifers, drilled wells can provide a reliable source of water in regions where surface water might be scarce or where the quality of surface water is compromised. This access to deeper, potentially less contaminated water sources is critical for various uses, including residential and agricultural needs. The other options present functions that do not align with the primary purpose of drilled wells. For instance, providing a water supply specifically for irrigation might be a use of the water from a drilled well, but it does not encompass the well's main function of accessing groundwater. Similarly, reducing pressure in plumbing systems is unrelated to the well's purpose; this refers to a plumbing system's regulatory mechanisms rather than the well itself. Lastly, filtering pollutants from water is a process associated with water treatment rather than a direct function of drilled wells. The primary focus of a drilled well is indeed to access the groundwater resources found in lower aquifers.

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3. Water service to a building primarily involves what?

A. Wastewater removal

B. Stormwater management

C. Supplying fresh water to the distribution system

D. Heating water for use

Water service to a building primarily involves supplying fresh water to the distribution system. This is crucial because the primary purpose of a water service line is to transport potable (drinkable) water from a municipal supply or well to the building. This water is essential for various uses such as drinking, cooking, bathing, and cleaning, forming the foundation of a building's water supply infrastructure. In plumbing systems, the fresh water must be delivered through properly installed pipes and fixtures designed to prevent contamination and ensure adequate flow and pressure for the needs of the building's occupants. This aspect of water service is fundamental in ensuring that the building complies with health and safety regulations related to water quality and accessibility. Understanding the role of fresh water supply underscores the importance of reliable plumbing systems and how they contribute to the overall functionality and habitability of a building. Other aspects like wastewater removal, stormwater management, and heating water are significant in their own right but are secondary functions related to the overall plumbing system rather than the primary water service itself.

4. What is the recommended depth for a dug well?

A. 10 feet

B. 20 feet

C. 30 feet

D. 40 feet

The recommended depth for a dug well typically falls around 20 feet. This depth is considered effective because it usually allows the well to access the groundwater, which is generally found at this level in many regions. Additionally, being at this depth helps ensure that the water is less prone to contamination from surface sources, as it is deep enough to provide a buffer from pollutants that can seep from the surface down to the water table. While dug wells can sometimes be deeper or shallower depending on local geological conditions, 20 feet is a commonly accepted standard that balances accessibility to water while minimizing the risk of contamination.

5. What is the function of a Reduced Pressure Zone Valve (RPZ)?

A. To increase water pressure

B. To serve a specialized plumbing zone

C. To reduce water temperature

D. To filter contaminants from water

The function of a Reduced Pressure Zone Valve (RPZ) is primarily to protect the public water supply from contamination due to backflow events. This device works by maintaining a specific pressure differential between the water supply and the zone it serves, ensuring that any potential contaminants do not reverse flow into the potable water system. By maintaining this pressure differential, the RPZ creates a barrier against backflow, which is critical in preventing pollutants from entering the drinking water supply. Therefore, while the answer suggests that the RPZ serves a specialized plumbing zone, it is important to understand that its primary role relates to backflow prevention, ensuring that clean water remains uncontaminated. The concept of a "specialized plumbing zone" here can relate to areas where potential cross-connections with non-potable systems might occur, making the RPZ indispensable in those situations. In contrast, increasing water pressure, reducing temperature, or filtering contaminants are not primary functions of an RPZ valve. Its operation is solely focused on maintaining a safe and secure supply of potable water.

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6. What type of material is often used for vent pipes in residential plumbing?

A. Copper or Iron

B. PVC or ABS

C. Galvanized Steel

D. Polyethylene

PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride) and ABS (Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene) are commonly used materials for vent pipes in residential plumbing due to their properties that make them suitable for this purpose. Both materials are lightweight, easy to install, and resist corrosion, which is important in preventing deterioration over time. PVC is particularly popular because it has a smooth inner surface that helps reduce friction and maintain proper airflow through the vent system. It is also less expensive than some metal alternatives and does not require special fittings, which simplifies the installation process. ABS provides similar benefits with slightly different chemical resistance properties, making it a viable option as well. The other materials listed are less common for vent piping. Copper and iron can be used for other plumbing applications, but they are heavier and more costly, making them less practical for venting. Galvanized steel can also rust and corrode over time, which can hinder its effectiveness in plumbing systems. Polyethylene, while flexible and useful for certain types of piping applications, is generally not used for venting due to its lower heat resistance compared to PVC and ABS.

7. What does the abbreviation BS stand for in plumbing terminology?

A. Building Stack

B. Building Sewer

C. Building Supply

D. Building System

The abbreviation BS in plumbing terminology stands for Building Sewer. This term refers specifically to the part of the plumbing system that carries wastewater away from a building before it connects to the main sewer line or septic system. The Building Sewer is crucial because it serves as the long-term pathway for waste material to exit the structure safely and efficiently. Understanding this terminology is essential for professionals in plumbing, as it relates directly to the design, maintenance, and compliance with local plumbing codes. By knowing that BS refers to Building Sewer, one can better grasp discussions regarding waste management and drainage systems in both residential and commercial plumbing applications.

8. What is the typical pump depth range for a shallow well?

A. 15' to 25'

B. 25' to 35'

C. 35' to 45'

D. 45' to 55'

The typical pump depth range for a shallow well is generally considered to be between 25 to 35 feet. Shallow wells are designed to draw water from relatively close to the surface, making them more accessible and easier to maintain than deeper wells. These wells typically tap into the water table, which is usually found at depths less than 35 feet in many geographic areas. Understanding the depth range is crucial for effective well installation and pump selection. If a pump is installed too deep for a shallow well, it may not function properly nor provide efficient water extraction. This specific depth range allows for optimal performance and longevity of the pump, ensuring that it can effectively deliver water without the risk of running dry or incurring damage from being submerged too deeply. In the context of the choices presented, other depth ranges provided are indicative of deep wells, which rely on submersible pumps designed for much greater depths and pressures. The shallow well range specifically reflects the unique characteristics and requirements of shallow well systems.

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9. What is the purpose of a backflow prevention device?

A. To increase water flow

B. To prevent the water from freezing

C. To prevent contaminated water from flowing back into the potable water supply

D. To reduce plumbing costs

The purpose of a backflow prevention device is to prevent contaminated water from flowing back into the potable water supply. This is essential for maintaining the safety and quality of drinking water. Backflow can occur when there is a difference in pressure within the plumbing system, allowing potentially harmful substances from waste systems, irrigation systems, or industrial processes to reverse flow and enter the clean water supply. By installing a backflow prevention device, the risk of contamination is mitigated, thereby protecting public health and ensuring that the potable water remains safe for consumption.

10. What is the primary role of the portion of piping outside a building?

A. To connect the main water supply to the municipal system

B. To transport wastewater away from the building

C. To distribute water throughout the building

D. To serve as the water service area

The primary role of the portion of piping outside a building being described as the water service area is to facilitate the connection between the building's plumbing system and the municipal water supply. This section includes all the components necessary to ensure that potable water can flow into the building for its various needs. It acts as the point where the public water supply connects to the private plumbing system of the building, allowing users to access clean and safe water. In this context, the piping outside is critical for maintaining water quality and ensuring proper service delivery, which is fundamental for any plumbing system. It must comply with local codes and regulations, ensuring that it is installed correctly to avoid contamination or leaks. Understanding the function of the water service area is essential for anyone working in plumbing, as it highlights the importance of proper connections and maintenance in safeguarding public health.

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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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