RESOURCE CONSERVATION RECOVERY ACT (RCRA) 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. D003 corresponds to which hazardous waste characteristic?

A. Reactive.

B. Ignitable.

C. Corrosive.

D. Toxic.

2. What does a Closure Plan explain?

A. Outlines long-term expansion investments.

B. Defines waste hauling routes.

C. Lists current employees.

D. Explains how remaining waste on site will be managed after closure, how it will be cleaned, and identifies the professional engineer who will certify the site is clean.

3. What is the purpose of the TCLP testing procedure?

A. A method to measure ignition

B. A method for packaging

C. A method to extract constituents to simulate landfill leaching

D. A method to test disposal cost

4. Ignitability in hazardous waste is defined by which regulatory provision?

A. 40 CFR 261.22

B. 40 CFR 261.21

C. 40 CFR 261.23

D. 40 CFR 261.24

5. Which set of hazardous waste characteristics is used to identify hazardous waste under 40 CFR 261?

A. Flammable, Reactive, Corrosive, and Toxic.

B. Ignitable (D001), Corrosive (D002), Reactive (D003), and Toxic (D004–D043).

C. Ignitable, Corrosive, Reactive, and Non-hazardous.

D. Ignitable, Corrosive, Reactive, and Toxic (D004–D043).

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6. P-listed and U-listed wastes and how they differ?

A. P-listed wastes are acutely hazardous wastes; U-listed wastes are hazardous but not acutely hazardous; both are federally listed.

B. P-listed wastes are household wastes; U-listed wastes are never hazardous.

C. P-listed and U-listed wastes are the same.

D. P-listed wastes are only for pharmaceuticals.

7. What is the accumulation time rule for a CEG?

A. 270 days

B. Unlimited time until reaching 1000 kg

C. 180 days

D. 90 days

8. If hazardous waste does not meet LDR treatment standards prior to land disposal, what is the result?

A. Disposal is prohibited.

B. Disposal is allowed with landfill operator approval.

C. Disposal is allowed if diluted.

D. Disposal is allowed at small rural landfills.

9. Where can you find authoritative guidance for RCRA compliance?

A. EPA's RCRA website, state environmental agencies, and the RCRAInfo system.

B. Local newspapers.

C. International treaties.

D. Company internal policies.

10. The TSD facility citation under RCRA is found at which CFR?

A. 40 CFR 262

B. 40 CFR 263

C. 40 CFR 261

D. 40 CFR 264

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. D003 corresponds to which hazardous waste characteristic?

A. Reactive.

B. Ignitable.

C. Corrosive.

D. Toxic.

Reactive is the hazardous waste characteristic defined for wastes that can undergo violent reactions, explode, or generate toxic gases under normal storage, handling, or in contact with other substances. D003 identifies these reactive wastes because the concern is the potential for a dangerous chemical reaction, not just flammability, acidity, or toxicity. For example, wastes that release hydrogen cyanide or hydrogen sulfide when disturbed or acids-reactive materials that can detonate upon heat, shock, or friction fall into this category. Ignitable involves fuels that burn easily (flash point concerns), corrosive covers acids or bases that corrode metals or pit materials, and the toxic characteristic relates to a material's potential to cause harm through leakage of contaminants (often assessed by the TCLP). D003 specifically targets the reactivity aspect, which is why it's the correct designation for a reactive waste.

2. What does a Closure Plan explain?

A. Outlines long-term expansion investments.

B. Defines waste hauling routes.

C. Lists current employees.

D. Explains how remaining waste on site will be managed after closure, how it will be cleaned, and identifies the professional engineer who will certify the site is clean.

This question tests what a Closure Plan covers in RCRA hazardous waste facility requirements. A Closure Plan explains how any waste remaining on site will be handled after closure, how the site will be cleaned or decontaminated, and who will certify that the cleanup is complete. It typically designates a professional engineer responsible for the certification, ensuring an independent, qualified assessment that the site meets cleanup standards before closure is finalized. This focus on post-closure waste management, decontamination, and engineer certification is what makes it the best choice. Other options describe activities tied to ongoing operations, future development, or personnel lists, none of which address how a site is cleaned up and certified at closure.

3. What is the purpose of the TCLP testing procedure?

A. A method to measure ignition

B. A method for packaging

C. A method to extract constituents to simulate landfill leaching

D. A method to test disposal cost

TCLP is used to determine whether a waste could release hazardous chemicals when it ends up in a landfill. It mimics landfill conditions by grinding the waste with an acidic leachant (an acetic acid solution) and agitating it for about 18 hours, producing a leachate that is then analyzed for regulated toxic constituents. If the concentrations exceed regulatory limits, the waste is classified as hazardous under RCRA's toxicity characteristic. This testing purposefully focuses on leaching potential, not ignition, packaging, or disposal cost.

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4. Ignitability in hazardous waste is defined by which regulatory provision?

A. 40 CFR 261.22

B. 40 CFR 261.21

C. 40 CFR 261.23

D. 40 CFR 261.24

Ignitability as a hazardous waste characteristic is defined by 40 CFR 261.21. This provision establishes that a waste is ignitable if it has a flash point below 60°C (140°F), determined by standard flash-point test methods. This criterion identifies fire hazards in waste, triggering hazardous waste management requirements for storage, handling, and disposal. The other characteristics—corrosivity, reactivity, and toxicity—are governed by their own provisions, so ignitability is distinguished from those other properties by this specific regulation.

5. Which set of hazardous waste characteristics is used to identify hazardous waste under 40 CFR 261?

A. Flammable, Reactive, Corrosive, and Toxic.

B. Ignitable (D001), Corrosive (D002), Reactive (D003), and Toxic (D004–D043).

C. Ignitable, Corrosive, Reactive, and Non-hazardous.

D. Ignitable, Corrosive, Reactive, and Toxic (D004–D043).

Under RCRA, hazardous waste is identified by four characteristics: ignitable, corrosive, reactive, and toxic. Each characteristic has its regulatory code: ignitable is D001, corrosive is D002, reactive is D003, and the toxicity characteristic covers wastes with toxic constituents listed from D004 through D043 (via TCLP). So the set that matches 40 CFR 261 is the one that names all four characteristics with their proper codes: Ignitable (D001), Corrosive (D002), Reactive (D003), and Toxic (D004–D043). The other options miss the precise regulatory terms or codes (for example, using Flammable instead of Ignitable, or omitting the exact D-numbers), or in one case includes a non-hazardous category, which doesn't align with how hazardous waste is identified under the CFR.

6. P-listed and U-listed wastes and how they differ?

A. P-listed wastes are acutely hazardous wastes; U-listed wastes are hazardous but not acutely hazardous; both are federally listed.

B. P-listed wastes are household wastes; U-listed wastes are never hazardous.

C. P-listed and U-listed wastes are the same.

D. P-listed wastes are only for pharmaceuticals.

Under RCRA, P-listed and U-listed wastes are both federally listed hazardous wastes, specifically drawn from discarded commercial chemical products and certain laboratory or related materials. The essential difference is acute toxicity. P-listed wastes are acutely hazardous, meaning they pose a significant hazard even from short-term exposure. U-listed wastes are hazardous as well, but they are not acutely hazardous. Because both lists are federal, wastes on either list are regulated as hazardous waste when discarded, with corresponding requirements for handling, storage, and disposal. These lists are not about household waste (which is generally exempt) and aren't identical to each other; the P-list is defined by acute hazard, while the U-list covers other toxic hazards without that acute designation.

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7. What is the accumulation time rule for a CEG?

A. 270 days

B. Unlimited time until reaching 1000 kg

C. 180 days

D. 90 days

For hazardous waste, generator categories drive how long you can hold waste on-site. A Conditionally Exempt Generator has no fixed on-site time limit like 90, 180, or 270 days. Instead, you can accumulate hazardous waste indefinitely as long as the total amount on-site does not exceed 1,000 kilograms. If the on-site amount approaches or reaches 1,000 kg, you'd need to reclassify (or manage shipments) under the higher-quantity rules. That's why the best answer is unlimited time until reaching 1,000 kg. The other timeframes apply to other generator categories (LQG/SQG) and not to a CEG.

8. If hazardous waste does not meet LDR treatment standards prior to land disposal, what is the result?

A. Disposal is prohibited.

B. Disposal is allowed with landfill operator approval.

C. Disposal is allowed if diluted.

D. Disposal is allowed at small rural landfills.

Hazardous waste must be treated to meet specific LDR standards before it can be disposed of in a land-based unit. If the waste hasn't been treated to meet those standards, disposal is not allowed. The rule is in place to reduce the potential for hazardous constituents to migrate from disposal sites into soil and groundwater. Practically, that means you'd need to treat the waste to meet the LDR standards or send it to a facility that can treat it to those standards before disposal. Options like getting landfill operator approval, diluting the waste, or disposing at a small rural landfill do not override the LDR requirement.

9. Where can you find authoritative guidance for RCRA compliance?

A. EPA's RCRA website, state environmental agencies, and the RCRAInfo system.

B. Local newspapers.

C. International treaties.

D. Company internal policies.

Authoritative guidance for RCRA compliance comes from official regulatory sources, not informal channels. The EPA's RCRA website is the primary hub for the federal regulations, permitting requirements, compliance assistance, and links to official guidance and training materials. State environmental agencies administer and interpret RCRA programs at the state level, providing state-specific rules, permit guidance, and local contacts. The RCRAInfo system is EPA's online portal that stores facility data, hazardous waste manifests, inspections, enforcement actions, and compliance histories, which you need to understand a facility's regulatory status and required actions. Together, these sources give the most reliable, current information for meeting RCRA requirements. Local newspapers, international treaties, and company internal policies don't provide the official or comprehensive guidance needed for compliance.

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10. The TSD facility citation under RCRA is found at which CFR?

A. 40 CFR 262

B. 40 CFR 263

C. 40 CFR 261

D. 40 CFR 264

The standards for TSD (treatment, storage, and disposal) facilities are in 40 CFR Part 264. This part sets the requirements for owners and operators of hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities (permitted facilities), including operating standards, permit requirements, contingency plans, groundwater monitoring, closure, and post-closure care. Interim-status facilities (those not yet permitted) fall under Part 265, but the specific citation for TSD facility standards is Part 264. The other parts cover generators (Part 262), hazardous waste definitions (Part 261), and transporters (Part 263), which do not establish the TSD facility standards.

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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://rcra.examzify.com

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

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