SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEMS OPERATOR PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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Table of Contents

Copyright 1

Table of Contents 2

Introduction 3

How to Use This Guide 4

Questions 5

Answers 8

Explanations 10

Next Steps 15

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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 type of sewer carries wastewater to the ultimate point of disposal?

A. Storm overflow sewer

B. Outfall sewer

C. Depressed sewer

D. Relief sewer

2. Why are lift stations a significant consideration for cities?

A. They produce electricity

B. They have no maintenance costs

C. They require a major capital investment and operating budget

D. They are rarely used

3. What is used to stop the accidental backflow or reverse flow of wastewater into buildings?

A. Check Valves

B. Gate Valves

C. Air Release Valves

D. Backflow Preventers

4. What is the recommended maximum leakage rate for this type of test?

A. 240 gallons per inch O.D./mile/day of pipe

B. 200 gallons per inch O.D./mile/day of pipe

C. 260 gallons per inch O.D./mile/day of pipe

D. 320 gallons per inch O.D./mile/day of pipe

5. During a water test, the trench is not backfilled and is filled with water to a minimum depth of 18 inches above the pipe. What is this procedure called?

A. Water Test (Infiltration)

B. Procedure for Water Test

C. Air Pressure Test

D. Alignment Testing

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6. During Lamping, what fraction of the pipe circle should be observed vertically and horizontally?

A. One fourth

B. Three fourths

C. Half

D. Full circle

7. What is the purpose of grit removal in preliminary treatment?

A. Removes dissolved solids

B. Sedimentation removes grit

C. Kills pathogens

D. Removes odors

8. Where are manholes installed?

A. Only at major junctions.

B. Only at the ends of lines.

C. At the end of each line; at all changes in grade, size or alignment; at all sewer intersections.

D. At random intervals along the line.

9. Which maintenance type uses condition-monitoring data to predict when a component will fail?

A. Predictive Maintenance

B. Preventative Maintenance

C. Corrective Maintenance

D. Reliability Centered Maintenance

10. What description explains how bearings reduce friction by using smooth balls or rollers that bear the load to allow rotation?

A. Bearing Friction

B. Maintenance of bearings

C. Bearings loads

D. Rolling bearings

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which type of sewer carries wastewater to the ultimate point of disposal?

A. Storm overflow sewer

B. Outfall sewer

C. Depressed sewer

D. Relief sewer

The key idea is understanding the role of each sewer type in moving wastewater to the disposal point. An outfall sewer is the main conduit that takes sanitary wastewater from the city's network and conveys it toward the final disposal point, which is typically the treatment plant or the discharge into a receiving water after treatment. It represents the final leg of conveyance for sewage to be disposed of or treated. Storm overflow sewers are designed to carry stormwater (and sometimes a portion of combined flows during heavy rain) and are not meant for the regular wastewater destined for disposal. Depressed sewers are simply deepened or lower-graded sections used to maintain gravity flow in difficult terrain, not for directing ultimate disposal. Relief sewers provide additional capacity to relieve peak flows in overloaded sections, but again they're about flow management within the network, not the final disposal route. So, the sewer that carries wastewater to the ultimate point of disposal is the outfall sewer.

2. Why are lift stations a significant consideration for cities?

A. They produce electricity

B. They have no maintenance costs

C. They require a major capital investment and operating budget

D. They are rarely used

Lift stations matter because they introduce long-term costs that shape how a city finances and operates its wastewater system. Installing a lift station involves a substantial upfront investment for pumps, electrical and control systems, real estate or enclosure, and the connecting pipes. After that, they run continually, so there are ongoing operating costs for energy, regular maintenance, parts replacement, inspections, alarms, and eventual upgrades as flows grow or equipment wears out. This combination of large capital needs plus ongoing expenses affects rate setting, budget planning, and long-range capital programs. They're essential in places where gravity alone can't move wastewater to treatment facilities, due to hills, street layouts, or high population density. That means lift stations enable reliable service that gravity-only systems can't provide. A failure or undersized station can cause sewer backups, overflows, odors, and environmental harm, which can be costly to fix and disruptive to the public. While some stations may employ energy-saving or recovery features, the fundamental point is the significant investment and ongoing budget required to keep them reliable. They're not rarely used; lift stations are typically operating continuously and are designed with redundancy to protect service during outages.

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3. What is used to stop the accidental backflow or reverse flow of wastewater into buildings?

A. Check Valves

B. Gate Valves

C. Air Release Valves

D. Backflow Preventers

Stopping wastewater from backing up into a building relies on a device that automatically seals the main sewer line when flow reverses. A backflow preventer is designed to detect reverse flow and shut the pathway to the building, creating a barrier that stops sewage from entering even during sewer surges or blockages. It's built to handle the realities of sewer service, including solids, and is typically installed at the building's main connection so it protects the interior from backflow events. A check valve can serve a similar purpose in some piping, but it may be more prone to clogging or failing under heavy wastewater solids and pressure surges, and it might not meet the specific protection requirements of a building's sewer system. A gate valve simply isolates flow in one direction when opened or closed manually or by a lever; it does not respond automatically to backflow. An air release valve mainly vents trapped air to prevent pressure buildup and does not prevent wastewater from flowing backward into the building.

4. What is the recommended maximum leakage rate for this type of test?

A. 240 gallons per inch O.D./mile/day of pipe

B. 200 gallons per inch O.D./mile/day of pipe

C. 260 gallons per inch O.D./mile/day of pipe

D. 320 gallons per inch O.D./mile/day of pipe

The key idea is understanding how leakage is measured in a sewer test and why it's scaled per inch of pipe diameter and per mile of length. In practice, leakage allowances are given as gallons per inch of outside diameter per mile per day so you can compare different pipe sizes and lengths on an equal footing. For this test type, the recommended maximum is 240 gallons per inch of outside diameter per mile per day. That means, for every inch of pipe diameter over each mile of line, you're allowed to lose up to 240 gallons per day during the test. For example, a 12-inch pipe used for 2 miles would have a permitted leakage of 240 × 12 × 2 = 5,760 gallons per day. If the test shows more leakage than that, it would exceed the standard limit and indicate a problem with joints or material. The other numbers aren't the standard allowance used in this context, which is why 240 is the best choice.

5. During a water test, the trench is not backfilled and is filled with water to a minimum depth of 18 inches above the pipe. What is this procedure called?

A. Water Test (Infiltration)

B. Procedure for Water Test

C. Air Pressure Test

D. Alignment Testing

The situation describes using water to pressurize the installed pipe and joints to check for leaks, with the trench left open so the water head can act on the system. Filling the trench to a minimum depth of 18 inches above the pipe provides a specific hydrostatic head to reveal leaks, and keeping the trench unbackfilled ensures this pressure is maintained during the test. When a test is described in terms of the method or steps you're following, the label that fits best is the one that names the procedure for performing a water test. The other options don't match: an air pressure test uses air, alignment testing isn't about pressure testing, and a Water Test (Infiltration) describes the test's purpose rather than the procedural label. So this is the Procedure for Water Test.

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6. During Lamping, what fraction of the pipe circle should be observed vertically and horizontally?

A. One fourth

B. Three fourths

C. Half

D. Full circle

Lamping is a quick visual check of the pipe interior by shining a light into the sewer and inspecting the wall surfaces for defects. Because the light only reveals a portion of the wall at a time, you scan the circumference by moving and angling the lamp. You should be able to observe about three quarters of the pipe circle in both vertical and horizontal directions. This level of coverage gives a thorough view of the walls—enough to spot cracks, corrosion, or buildup—without being impractical to perform in a single pass. Observing only a small portion, like a quarter, would leave most of the surface unseen, while aiming for a full circle in one position isn't feasible due to lighting and geometry.

7. What is the purpose of grit removal in preliminary treatment?

A. Removes dissolved solids

B. Sedimentation removes grit

C. Kills pathogens

D. Removes odors

Grit removal focuses on getting rid of heavy inorganic particles that can cause problems later in the treatment process. In preliminary treatment, wastewater passes through a grit chamber where dense particles like sand, gravel, and grit settle to the bottom by gravity. By removing these particles early, you protect pumps, screens, and piping from abrasion and reduce deposits that could interfere with downstream treatment steps. This is why the correct idea is that grit is removed by sedimentation in a grit chamber. Dissolved solids aren't removed by this step because grit removal targets physical, settleable particles, not dissolved materials. Pathogens are addressed by disinfection later in the process, and odors are controlled by dedicated odor management steps, not grit removal.

8. Where are manholes installed?

A. Only at major junctions.

B. Only at the ends of lines.

C. At the end of each line; at all changes in grade, size or alignment; at all sewer intersections.

D. At random intervals along the line.

Manholes are access points for cleaning, inspection, and maintenance of the sewer line. You place them where crews will need to reach the sewer—at the end of each line to service the terminal, at every change in grade, size, or alignment to access transitions and note changes in flow, and at all sewer intersections so branches can be reached from multiple directions. This setup keeps the system maintainable and allows timely cleaning and inspection along the entire path. If you only put manholes at major junctions, you'd miss important access points along long or transitional sections. If you only put them at the ends, you'd miss changes in diameter or grade and many intersections. Putting them at random intervals wouldn't guarantee access where it's most needed.

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9. Which maintenance type uses condition-monitoring data to predict when a component will fail?

A. Predictive Maintenance

B. Preventative Maintenance

C. Corrective Maintenance

D. Reliability Centered Maintenance

This question hinges on using data from real-time or recent observations to forecast when a component will fail and schedule maintenance just before that happens. That approach is the essence of predictive maintenance: you monitor conditions—like vibration, temperature, oil quality, wear measurements—and use those signals to estimate remaining useful life and trigger a service before a failure occurs. Preventative maintenance, by contrast, follows a fixed schedule or usage-based interval without regard to current condition. Corrective maintenance is performed after a failure has occurred. Reliability Centered Maintenance is a broader decision framework for selecting maintenance tasks to ensure system function, which can include predictive elements but isn't defined by using condition data to predict failures.

10. What description explains how bearings reduce friction by using smooth balls or rollers that bear the load to allow rotation?

A. Bearing Friction

B. Maintenance of bearings

C. Bearings loads

D. Rolling bearings

The key idea is how moving with rolling contact lowers friction. Bearings that use smooth balls or rollers between inner and outer races carry the load while allowing rotation. Because the load is carried by rolling elements, the contact between surfaces involves rolling rather than sliding, which greatly reduces friction and lets parts rotate more freely. That's exactly what rolling bearings describe. The phrase about maintenance focuses on servicing, not the mechanism of friction reduction, and the other options don't capture the way rolling elements enable rotation.

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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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