WASHINGTON DC 3RD CLASS BOILER 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. What is the circumference of a circle with a 26 inch diameter?

A. 81.64 inches

B. 82.0 inches

C. 80.0 inches

D. 78.5 inches

2. What is the cross-sectional area constant used in the 2" pipe GPM calculation?

A. 0.7854

B. 3.1416

C. 1.5708

D. 4.7124

3. What is the primary function of the compressor in a refrigeration system?

A. To raise the refrigerant pressure, enabling circulation through the system

B. To cool the refrigerant

C. To absorb heat from the space

D. To release heat to the surroundings

4. A duplex reciprocating pump has a bore of 10 inches, a stroke of 6 inches, runs at 120 rpm, and slip of 4%. What is the approximate capacity in gallons per minute?

A. 470 gpm

B. 350 gpm

C. 600 gpm

D. 480 gpm

5. The heart of a refrigeration system is the _____

A. Compressor

B. Condenser

C. Evaporator

D. Metering device

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6. Given a pump efficiency of 70%, delivering 1500 GPM against a 1000 ft head, what is the required motor horsepower?

A. 540.91 HP

B. 400 HP

C. 600 HP

D. 800 HP

7. What are the two main types of controls?

A. Discrete and Analog

B. Digital and Analog

C. Continuous and Discrete

D. Binary and Analog

8. Where is high temperature vapor found?

A. At the discharge of the compressor or condenser

B. In the feedwater heater

C. In the economizer

D. In the condensate pump

9. What is the likely cause of high excess in a condensate return tank with temperature up to 20 degrees above normal?

A. Steam traps are stuck open

B. Condensate pump failure

C. Boiler feedwater shortage

D. Air leak in piping

10. How often should you check the Low Water Fuel Cut Off?

A. Once per shift

B. Once per day

C. Every hour

D. Only during startup

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the circumference of a circle with a 26 inch diameter?

A. 81.64 inches

B. 82.0 inches

C. 80.0 inches

D. 78.5 inches

The main idea is that circumference is proportional to the diameter, given by C = πd. With a diameter of 26 inches, the circumference is 26π. Using π ≈ 3.14 gives 26 × 3.14 = 81.64 inches. If you use a more exact π, you'd get about 81.68 inches, but many quick calculations use 3.14, which yields the 81.64 value. That's why this option matches the common rounding. Other numbers would require a noticeably different π value or rounding.

2. What is the cross-sectional area constant used in the 2" pipe GPM calculation?

A. 0.7854

B. 3.1416

C. 1.5708

D. 4.7124

The key idea is that the cross-sectional area of a circular pipe is A = (pi/4) D^2. The constant you multiply D^2 by is pi/4, which equals about 0.7854. So for a 2-inch pipe, you use 0.7854 × (2^2) = 0.7854 × 4 = 3.1416 square inches, which matches pi r^2 with r = 1 inch. Therefore, the cross-sectional area constant used in the 2" pipe GPM calculation is 0.7854. The other numbers (3.1416, 1.5708, 4.7124) are pi or related fractions, not the constant in the A = (pi/4) D^2 form.

3. What is the primary function of the compressor in a refrigeration system?

A. To raise the refrigerant pressure, enabling circulation through the system

B. To cool the refrigerant

C. To absorb heat from the space

D. To release heat to the surroundings

Raising the refrigerant pressure to drive circulation through the loop is the fundamental job of the compressor. By taking the low pressure, low temperature vapor that comes from the evaporator and compressing it, the compressor creates high pressure, high temperature vapor that can move through the system to the condenser. This pressure and temperature increase is what makes the refrigerant able to release heat in the condenser and then be expanded back to a low pressure state to absorb heat again in the evaporator. The other functions—absorbing heat from the space in the evaporator, and releasing heat to the surroundings in the condenser—are handled by those respective components, not by the compressor.

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4. A duplex reciprocating pump has a bore of 10 inches, a stroke of 6 inches, runs at 120 rpm, and slip of 4%. What is the approximate capacity in gallons per minute?

A. 470 gpm

B. 350 gpm

C. 600 gpm

D. 480 gpm

Capacity comes from how much water the two pumping units push per minute, adjusted for slip and converted to gallons. Compute the piston area from the bore: radius is 5 inches, so A = πr^2 = π(5)^2 ≈ 78.54 square inches. The displacement per stroke for one cylinder is A × stroke = 78.54 × 6 ≈ 471.24 cubic inches. A duplex pump has two cylinders delivering, so the theoretical volume per revolution is 2 × 471.24 ≈ 942.48 cubic inches. At 120 rpm, the theoretical discharge is 942.48 × 120 ≈ 113,100 cubic inches per minute. Convert to gallons (1 gal = 231 in^3): 113,100 / 231 ≈ 489 gallons per minute. Slip reduces actual flow by 4%, so multiply by 0.96: 489 × 0.96 ≈ 470 gallons per minute. Therefore, the approximate capacity is about 470 gpm.

5. The heart of a refrigeration system is the _____

A. Compressor

B. Condenser

C. Evaporator

D. Metering device

The heart of a refrigeration system is the compressor, because it provides the mechanical work that drives the entire cycle. It draws low-pressure, low-temperature vapor from the evaporator and compresses it into a high-pressure, high-temperature vapor. This high-pressure refrigerant then moves to the condenser to release heat, becomes a liquid, passes through the metering device to drop its pressure, and returns to the evaporator to absorb heat again. The compressor's ability to create and sustain the pressure difference is what keeps the refrigerant circulating and the system cycling. The other components—condenser, evaporator, and metering device—are essential for heat transfer and flow control, but they don't by themselves move the refrigerant through the cycle without the compressor.

6. Given a pump efficiency of 70%, delivering 1500 GPM against a 1000 ft head, what is the required motor horsepower?

A. 540.91 HP

B. 400 HP

C. 600 HP

D. 800 HP

To size the motor for a pump you convert the known flow and head into hydraulic power, then account for the pump's efficiency because you lose some power in the pump itself. The hydraulic power in horsepower is given by (GPM × head in feet) / 3960. Since the pump is only 70% efficient, the motor must supply more power: HP_motor = hydraulic HP / 0.70, which is the same as (GPM × head) / (3960 × 0.70). Plugging in the numbers: (1500 × 1000) / (3960 × 0.70) = 1,500,000 / 2,772 ≈ 540.9 HP. So about 541 HP is needed, which matches the closest option (around 541 HP). The reason the other options don't fit is they would imply a much higher or lower motor power for the given flow, head, and efficiency.

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7. What are the two main types of controls?

A. Discrete and Analog

B. Digital and Analog

C. Continuous and Discrete

D. Binary and Analog

The main idea here is that control signals come in two broad styles: analog and discrete. Analog control provides a continuous range of values, so the output can vary smoothly and proportionally—think of a valve position or fuel flow that can be dialed in to any setting within its range. Discrete control, on the other hand, switches between specific states—on or off, or a few fixed steps—used for binary actions, sequencing, or safety interlocks. In boiler systems, analog control allows fine modulation of things like burner output or feedwater flow, giving a precise response to changing conditions. Discrete control handles actions that must be either fully engaged or disengaged, such as safety interlocks or a shutdown signal. Modern setups often use a combination: analog for proportional control and discrete for logic and safety. Digital control is essentially a form of discrete control implemented in a digital system, but the fundamental distinction the question emphasizes is between a continuously varying (analog) control signal and a stepwise (discrete) control signal, hence the two main types are analog and discrete.

8. Where is high temperature vapor found?

A. At the discharge of the compressor or condenser

B. In the feedwater heater

C. In the economizer

D. In the condensate pump

High-temperature vapor is produced where work is added to the fluid, which is right at the discharge of the compressor. When gas is compressed, its temperature rises due to the energy put into it by the compressor. That exit point carries the hottest vapor in the loop, before it is cooled or condensed downstream. The condenser's job is to remove heat and turn vapor into liquid, so you wouldn't describe the condenser discharge as containing high-temperature vapor. The feedwater heater, economizer, and condensate pump involve heating water or handling liquid condensate rather than containing the hottest vapor.

9. What is the likely cause of high excess in a condensate return tank with temperature up to 20 degrees above normal?

A. Steam traps are stuck open

B. Condensate pump failure

C. Boiler feedwater shortage

D. Air leak in piping

Hot condensate in the return line is being heated by live steam that shouldn't be there. Steam traps are supposed to separate condensate from steam and allow the condensate to return while keeping steam from backflowing into the condensate system. When a steam trap sticks open, live steam passes into the condensate return line and mixes with the condensate. That added steam energy raises the temperature of the condensate in the return tank, so you see a noticeable rise—about 20 degrees above normal in this case. Other problems would affect flow or levels rather than add heat to the return. A condensate pump failure would mostly cause drainage or flooding issues, not a temperature rise from steam; a boiler feedwater shortage changes the feedwater supply and boiler level; an air leak in the piping would typically bring in cooler air and could lower or not significantly raise the condensate temperature. The temperature rise points to trapped-open steam traps letting steam into the condensate return.

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10. How often should you check the Low Water Fuel Cut Off?

A. Once per shift

B. Once per day

C. Every hour

D. Only during startup

The key idea is that the Low Water Fuel Cut Off must be regularly verified so it will shut off fuel if the water level drops, preventing a dangerous boiler condition. Because this device provides protection during operation, it should be tested with each shift to confirm it has power, the control circuit is intact, and that it trips properly when needed. This per-shift testing is a practical balance between safety and workload; testing only at startup leaves the boiler unprotected while it's running, and testing every hour or only once per day either wastes effort or misses a fault that could occur during the shift.

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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://dc3rdclassboiler.examzify.com

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

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