



DWSD DRINKING WATER OPERATORS CERTIFICATION PREP TEST

The following questions are provided as examples of the types of questions that might be covered on your certification exam. These questions may help prepare you for certification by identifying areas in which you need additional study.

1. If a customer complains about the drinking water characteristics, the operator should record the complaint and
 - A. Investigate immediately
 - B. Investigate only if more complaints are received
 - C. Inform the customer that the water should be boiled
 - D. Inform the customer that the water is safe
2. How often should operation data, such as flow rate, amount of water treated, dosage of chemical, and reservoir levels be recorded?
 - A. Twice a day
 - B. Daily
 - C. Weekly
 - D. Monthly
3. Which of the following is the most important reason to keep daily records of operational data?
 - A. Maintain records for customer billing
 - B. Document the need for an increased budget
 - C. Provide insurance data
 - D. Document that safe drinking water has been delivered to customers
4. Under the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act, it is the duty of the water purveyor to deliver potable water of proper quantity only as far as the
 - A. Entry point of the distribution system
 - B. Customer's curb box and service connection
 - C. Consumer's tap inside the home
 - D. Furthest water main blow-off or sampling point
5. According to the Safe Drinking Water Act, the basic definition of a public water supply system is any water system that supplies water for human consumption that serves
 - A. 25 homes or more for over 120 days a year
 - B. The public in any capacity, no matter how small
 - C. 25 or more persons for at least 30 days a year
 - D. 15 service connections or over 25 persons for over 60 days a year
6. What agent is responsible for reporting lab results to the regulatory agency?
 - A. Water system owner
 - B. Board of Health chairperson
 - C. Lab technician
 - D. Sample collector



7. What federal law is designed to protect the safety and health of operators?
 - A. OSHA
 - B. FMLA
 - C. FLSA
 - D. ADEA

8. What federal law regulates public water supplies?
 - A. Safe Drinking Water Act
 - B. Clean Water Act
 - C. Taft-Hartley Act
 - D. Standard Methods

9. What is a commonly used indicator of possible health problems found in plants, soil, water and the intestines of humans and warm-blooded animals?
 - A. Viruses
 - B. Coliform bacteria
 - C. Intestinal parasites
 - D. Pathogenic organisms

10. Which source of water has the greatest natural protection from bacterial contamination?
 - A. Shallow well
 - B. Deep well in gravel
 - C. Surface water
 - D. Spring

11. How often should preventive maintenance for equipment be performed?
 - A. Once every week
 - B. After a breakdown
 - C. According to manufacturer recommendations
 - D. When time permits

12. Which of the following terms refers to excessive internal pressure, which may be several times the normal operating pressure and can seriously damage hydropneumatic tanks, valves, and the piping network?
 - A. Air charge
 - B. Flow rate pressure
 - C. Water hammer
 - D. Hydraulic charge

13. Most pumps must be primed before startup in order to
 - A. Calculate flow rate
 - B. Prevent reverse flow
 - C. Start the flow of water
 - D. Prevent hammer

14. What is the primary purpose of a preventive maintenance program?
 - A. Increase the use of backup equipment
 - B. Correct equipment breakdowns
 - C. Eliminate inventory of spare parts
 - D. Avoid future equipment problems



15. Which of the following duties should not be performed by a small system operator?
 - A. Disinfect water mains
 - B. Observe pump motors to detect unusual noises, vibrations or excessive heat
 - C. Repair and overhaul chlorinators
 - D. Wire pump, compressors and electrical components of the water system

16. What are the most important methods of ensuring operator safety?
 - A. Appointing a safety officer and administrator
 - B. Alerting operators of unsafe acts and conducting mandatory safety training
 - C. Providing handbooks and copies of regulations
 - D. Working with proper light and ventilation

17. What are the two most important safety concerns when entering a confined space?
 - A. Corrosive chemicals and falls
 - B. Bad odors and claustrophobia
 - C. Extreme air temperatures and slippery surfaces
 - D. Oxygen deficiency and hazardous gases

18. What piece of safety equipment must an operator wear when entering a confined space?
 - A. Boots
 - B. Harness
 - C. Gloves
 - D. Goggles

19. What type of fire extinguisher should be used for fires with live electricity present?
 - A. Class A
 - B. Class B
 - C. Class C
 - D. Class D

20. Which document provides a profile of hazardous substances?
 - A. CERCLA
 - B. SARA
 - C. CFR
 - D. MSDS

21. Factors of what number are used in the metric system?
 - A. 5
 - B. 10
 - C. 12
 - D. 64

22. Which of the following should not be used to draw a sample into a pipet?
 - A. Mouth
 - B. Bulb
 - C. Pump
 - D. Straw



23. Which of the following are two types of samples?
- A. Dessicator and gooch
 - B. Wet and dry
 - C. Buret and flask
 - D. Grab and composite
24. What two types of devices are used to collect samples?
- A. Left and right
 - B. Upper and lower
 - C. Automatic and manual
 - D. Gas and diesel
25. An empty atmospheric storage tank is 8 feet in diameter and 32 feet high. How long will it take to fill 90% of the tank volume if a pump is discharging a constant 24 gallons per minute into the tank?
- A. 7 hours 31 minutes
 - B. 8 hours 21 minutes
 - C. 8 hours 23 minutes
 - D. 9 hours 17 minutes
26. A ditch that is 4.5 feet wide, 6 feet deep, and 120 feet long has to be dug for a water line. How many cubic yards of material must be removed?
- A. 120 cubic yards
 - B. 240 cubic yards
 - C. 850 cubic yards
 - D. 1,200 cubic yards
27. How many cubic feet of water will a rectangular tank that is 20 feet long by 15 feet wide and 10 feet high hold?
- A. 2,000 cubic feet
 - B. 3,000 cubic feet
 - C. 4,000 cubic feet
 - D. 5,000 cubic feet
28. Calculate the volume, in gallons, of a tank that is 75 feet long, 20 feet wide, and 10 feet deep.
- A. 15,000 gallons
 - B. 112,200 gallons
 - C. 150,000 gallons
 - D. 224,400 gallons
29. Calculate the average weekly flow for a system with the following data.
- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Sunday - 3,000 gallons | Monday - 4,000 gallons | Tuesday - 3,500 gallons |
| Wednesday - 2,000 gallons | Thursday - 3,000 gallons | Friday - 3,500 gallons |
| Saturday - 2,000 gallons | | |
- A. 2,000 gpd
 - B. 3,000 gpd
 - C. 4,000 gpd
 - D. 5,000 gpd



30. What is the most important reason for maintaining a continuous positive pressure throughout the distribution system?
- A. Prevent damage to water meters
 - B. Keep pipe joints sealed
 - C. Prevent contamination from backflow
 - D. Maintain chlorine residual
31. Which of the following causes taste problems and has a rotten egg odor?
- A. Chlorine
 - B. Benzene
 - C. Nitrate
 - D. Hydrogen sulfide