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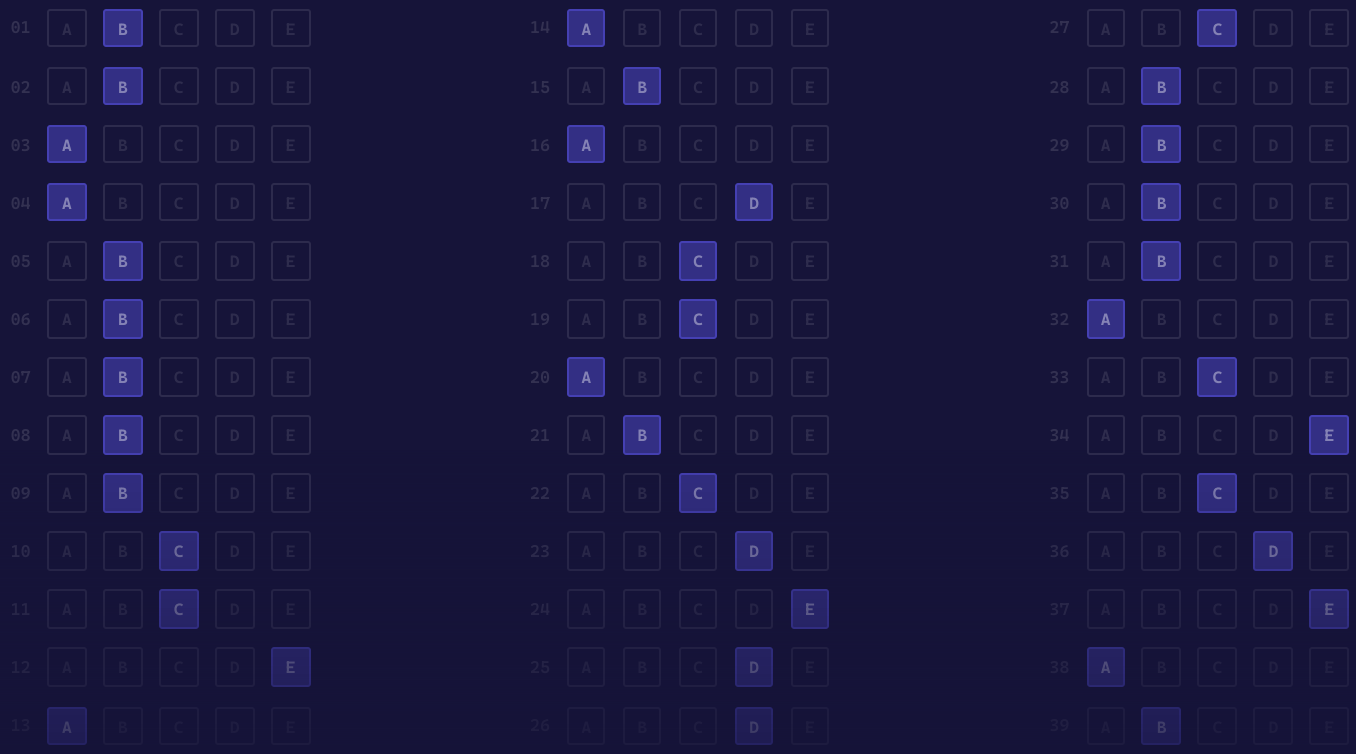

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

ABC-SD: South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources

TYME9D95

South Dakota Wastewater Collection Class 1

EDITION	QUESTIONS	ISSUED
Demo	9	September 3, 2026

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Before you begin

What this is

9 practice questions for ABC-SD: South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources `TYME9D95`, each with its answer key and an explanation. Answer a question before you read its key — the explanation is worth more once you have committed.

If something looks wrong

Send us three things and we will check it:

- the exam code, `TYME9D95`
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QUESTION 1 SINGLE CHOICE

What is the primary function of a wastewater collection system?

A To treat wastewater before it is discharged to a receiving stream

B To convey wastewater from its source to a treatment facility

C To produce potable water for public consumption

D To store stormwater for later reuse

ANSWER B

WHY The primary function of a wastewater collection system is to convey (transport) wastewater from homes, businesses, and industries to a treatment facility. Treatment, potable water production, and stormwater storage are functions of other systems.

QUESTION 2 SINGLE CHOICE

Which of the following is a typical component of a sanitary sewer collection system?

A Stormwater detention basin

B Service connection (house lateral)

C Finished water reservoir

D Headworks screen

ANSWER B

WHY Service connections (house laterals) connect a building's plumbing to the sanitary sewer main and are a typical component of a collection system. Detention basins handle stormwater, finished water reservoirs store treated drinking water, and headworks are part of the treatment plant.

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QUESTION 3 SINGLE CHOICE

What is the main purpose of a manhole in a sanitary sewer collection system?

A To increase flow velocity through the main

B To provide access for inspection, cleaning, and maintenance of the sewer

C To vent sewer gases into the atmosphere above the residential area

D To measure the rate of wastewater flow

ANSWER B

WHY Manholes are installed to provide access points for crews to inspect, clean, and maintain the sewer main. They are not designed to change flow velocity, vent gases, or measure flow rate.

QUESTION 4 SINGLE CHOICE

What is the function of a lift station in a wastewater collection system?

A To remove grit and debris from incoming wastewater

B To raise wastewater from a lower elevation to a higher elevation so it can continue to flow by gravity

C To chlorinate wastewater before discharge

D To compress sludge for transport

ANSWER B

WHY A lift station pumps wastewater from a low point to a higher elevation, allowing it to continue flowing by gravity through the collection system. Grit removal, disinfection, and sludge processing occur at the treatment plant, not in the collection system.

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QUESTION 5 SINGLE CHOICE

Which gas is most commonly associated with deadly hazards in sanitary sewer manholes and lift stations?

A Oxygen

B Methane

C **Hydrogen sulfide**

D Carbon dioxide

ANSWER C

WHY Hydrogen sulfide (H2S) is the gas most commonly associated with deadly hazards in sanitary sewers. It is produced by the decomposition of organic matter, smells like rotten eggs at low concentrations, and can cause unconsciousness and death at high concentrations. Methane is also hazardous but H2S is more commonly the immediate cause of sewer-related fatalities.

QUESTION 6 SINGLE CHOICE

Which piece of personal protective equipment (PPE) is required when entering a confined space such as a manhole?

A High-visibility vest only

B Hard hat only

C **A harness attached to a retrieval line**

D Steel-toe boots only

ANSWER C

WHY A harness attached to a retrieval line is required for confined space entry so a worker can be quickly extracted in an emergency. While high-visibility vests, hard hats, and steel-toe boots are common PPE, the harness and retrieval system is specifically required for confined space entry.

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QUESTION 7 SINGLE CHOICE

Before a worker enters a sanitary sewer manhole, which of the following must be performed first?

A The manhole cover should be replaced to test the seal

B The atmosphere must be tested for hazardous gases and oxygen content

C The flow should be shut off at the upstream pump station

D The downstream manhole should be sealed

ANSWER B

WHY Atmospheric testing for hazardous gases (such as H2S and methane) and for adequate oxygen content must be performed before entering a confined space. This is the most important step in protecting the entrant's life. Replacing the cover, shutting off flow, and sealing the downstream manhole are not standard pre-entry steps.

QUESTION 8 SINGLE CHOICE

Which of the following is the most common cause of blockages in sanitary sewer collection systems?

A Tree roots infiltrating the pipe through joints or cracks

B Earthquake damage to buried mains

C Lightning strikes on lift station equipment

D Industrial chemical corrosion of ductile iron pipe

ANSWER A

WHY Tree roots infiltrating pipes through joints, cracks, or service connections are among the most common causes of sewer blockages. Earthquakes, lightning, and chemical corrosion are far less common causes of blockages in typical municipal systems.

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QUESTION 9 MULTIPLE CHOICE

Which of the following are routine maintenance activities performed on sanitary sewer collection systems? (Choose two.)

A **Sewer line cleaning (rodding, jetting, or flushing)**

B **Closed-circuit television (CCTV) inspection of sewer mains**

C Disinfecting the finished drinking water supply

D Adjusting the weir on a treatment plant clarifier

ANSWER **A** · **B**

WHY Sewer line cleaning (rodding, jetting, flushing) and CCTV inspection are both routine collection system maintenance activities used to keep mains clear and assess pipe condition. Disinfecting the finished water supply and adjusting clarifier weirs are treatment plant functions, not collection system maintenance.

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