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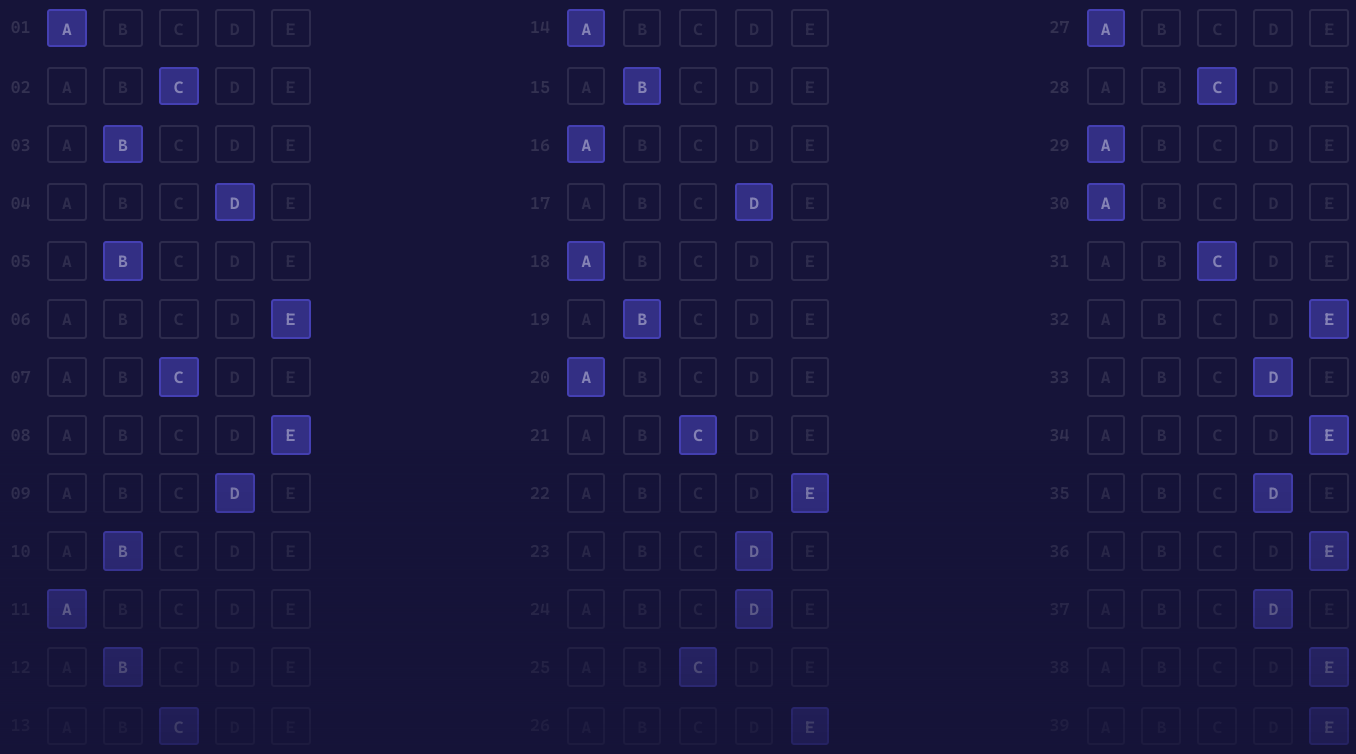

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Arkansas Contractors Licencing Board

VFWGBJJU

AR Underground Piping, Cable, Trenching, Boring - Commercial

EDITION	QUESTIONS	FORMAT
Demo	9	Limited Edition PDF

Before you begin

What this is

9 practice questions for Arkansas Contractors Licencing Board `VFWGBJJU`, 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, `VFWGBJJU`
- the question number
- the email address on your order

Write to **support@mometrix.net**. We reply within one business day.

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QUESTION 1 SINGLE CHOICE

According to OSHA standards for trenching and excavation, at what depth does a protective system (such as sloping, shoring, or a trench box) generally become required for worker protection in an excavation?

A At any depth greater than 2 feet

B At any depth greater than 4 feet

C At any depth greater than 5 feet

D Only at depths greater than 10 feet

ANSWER C

WHY Under OSHA 29 CFR 1926.651 and 1926.652, excavations deeper than 5 feet require a protective system unless the excavation is made entirely in stable rock. Excavations less than 5 feet deep may also require a protective system if a competent person determines that there is a potential for cave-in. This is a foundational safety requirement for trenching work in Arkansas and across the U.S.

QUESTION 2 SINGLE CHOICE

In Arkansas, before conducting any excavation, what is the required minimum advance notice that must be given to the Arkansas One-Call System (call 811) to allow for utility locates?

A 24 hours before excavation

B 48 hours before excavation (excluding weekends and holidays)

C 5 working days before excavation

D Same-day notice only

ANSWER B

WHY Arkansas's One-Call law requires that locate requests be made at least 2 working days (48 hours) before excavation begins, not counting the day of the request, weekends, or state-recognized holidays. This allows utility operators time to mark or otherwise indicate the location of their underground facilities. Failing to obtain locates or ignoring marks can result in fines, liability, and criminal charges.

QUESTION 3 SINGLE CHOICE

Which OSHA soil classification describes soil that is most prone to failure and requires the most protective measures in trench work?

A Stable Rock

B Type A

C Type B

D Type C

ANSWER D

WHY OSHA classifies soils into Stable Rock, Type A, Type B, and Type C, with Type C being the least stable and most prone to collapse. Type C includes granular soils, submerged soil, soil with water seeping into the trench, and previously disturbed soils. Because of its instability, Type C soil requires the flattest allowable slopes (maximum 1.5H:1V or 34 degrees) or use of shoring/trench boxes designed for the loads involved.

QUESTION 4 SINGLE CHOICE

What is the primary purpose of using a bentonite or polymer slurry during a horizontal directional drilling (HDD) operation?

A To permanently seal the borehole after pipe installation

B To cool the drill head and lubricate the cutting surface only

C To stabilize the borehole, transport cuttings, and cool and lubricate the tooling

D To replace the need for a tracking/locator system

ANSWER C

WHY Drilling fluid (bentonite or polymer slurry) in HDD serves multiple critical functions: it stabilizes the borehole walls to prevent collapse, suspends and carries drill cuttings to the surface, cools and lubricates the cutting head and downhole tools, and helps control downhole pressure. It does not replace tracking/locating equipment, which remains essential for guiding the pilot bore along the correct path.

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QUESTION 5 SINGLE CHOICE

In OSHA Type B soil, what is the maximum allowable slope angle for a simple slope (uncupported) excavation that is less than 20 feet deep?

A 1/2 horizontal to 1 vertical (53 degrees from horizontal)

B **1 horizontal to 1 vertical (45 degrees from horizontal)**

C 1 1/2 horizontal to 1 vertical (34 degrees from horizontal)

D 2 horizontal to 1 vertical (26 degrees from horizontal)

ANSWER **B**

WHY For Type B soil, OSHA permits a maximum slope of 1H:1V (45 degrees) for excavations less than 20 feet deep, meaning for every foot of vertical depth, the excavation must be set back one foot horizontally. Type A soil allows 3/4H:1V (53 degrees), and Type C allows only 1.5H:1V (34 degrees) because of its instability.

QUESTION 6 SINGLE CHOICE

For most flexible underground pipe installations, what is the purpose of providing proper pipe bedding material beneath the pipe?

A To permanently support the pipe walls against internal pressure

B **To provide uniform support under the pipe and protect it from damage by the surrounding soil and rocks**

C To eliminate the need for compaction testing

D To allow the pipe to be laid directly on large rocks

ANSWER **B**

WHY Pipe bedding provides a uniform, stable foundation under the pipe, transferring loads evenly and preventing point loads from rocks or hard soil that could crack or deform the pipe. Proper bedding material (typically granular material such as sand, pea gravel, or crushed stone, free of large or sharp particles) is critical for the long-term performance of flexible pipes and is specified by manufacturers such as those for PVC, HDPE, and ductile iron pipe.

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QUESTION 7 SINGLE CHOICE

Under Arkansas's One-Call law, after utility operators have marked their facilities in response to a locate request, what is the validity period of the locate before it must be renewed if excavation has not yet begun?

A 7 days

B 14 days

C 30 days

D It does not expire

ANSWER B

WHY Under Arkansas's One-Call statute (Ark. Code Ann. § 14-271-101 et seq.), the marks provided in response to a locate request are valid for 14 days from the date the request was made. If excavation has not started within that window, the excavator must request a new locate. This protects against utility marking information becoming outdated as site conditions change.

QUESTION 8 SINGLE CHOICE

What is the OSHA requirement regarding spoil piles (excavated material) relative to the edge of a trench?

A Spill piles may be placed at the edge as long as they are less than 2 feet high

B Spoil piles and equipment must be kept at least 2 feet from the trench edge

C Spill piles and equipment must be kept at least 4 feet from the trench edge

D Spoil piles must always be placed on the downhill side of the trench regardless of distance

ANSWER B

WHY OSHA 29 CFR 1926.651(j)(2) requires that excavated material (spoil) be placed no closer than 2 feet from the edge of the trench. Additionally, heavy equipment and vehicles must be kept a safe distance from the trench to prevent surcharge loads that could cause wall failure. Some standards or competent persons may require greater setbacks based on soil conditions and depth.

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QUESTION 9 MULTIPLE CHOICE

Which of the following are generally accepted best practices when backfilling over newly installed underground pipe? (Choose two.)

A **Compacting the backfill in lifts (layers) rather than in a single thick lift**

B Using large boulders to fill the trench quickly

C **Removing rocks, debris, and organic material that could damage the pipe**

D Compacting only the top 6 inches of backfill

ANSWER **A · C**

WHY Proper backfilling is critical to pipe performance. Compacting backfill in lifts (typically 6 to 12 inch layers) ensures proper density throughout the trench depth and reduces settlement. Removing large rocks, debris, and organic material prevents point loads and long-term settlement that could damage the pipe. Large boulders and shallow-only compaction are contrary to good practice and can lead to pipe deflection, cracking, or trench surface settlement.

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