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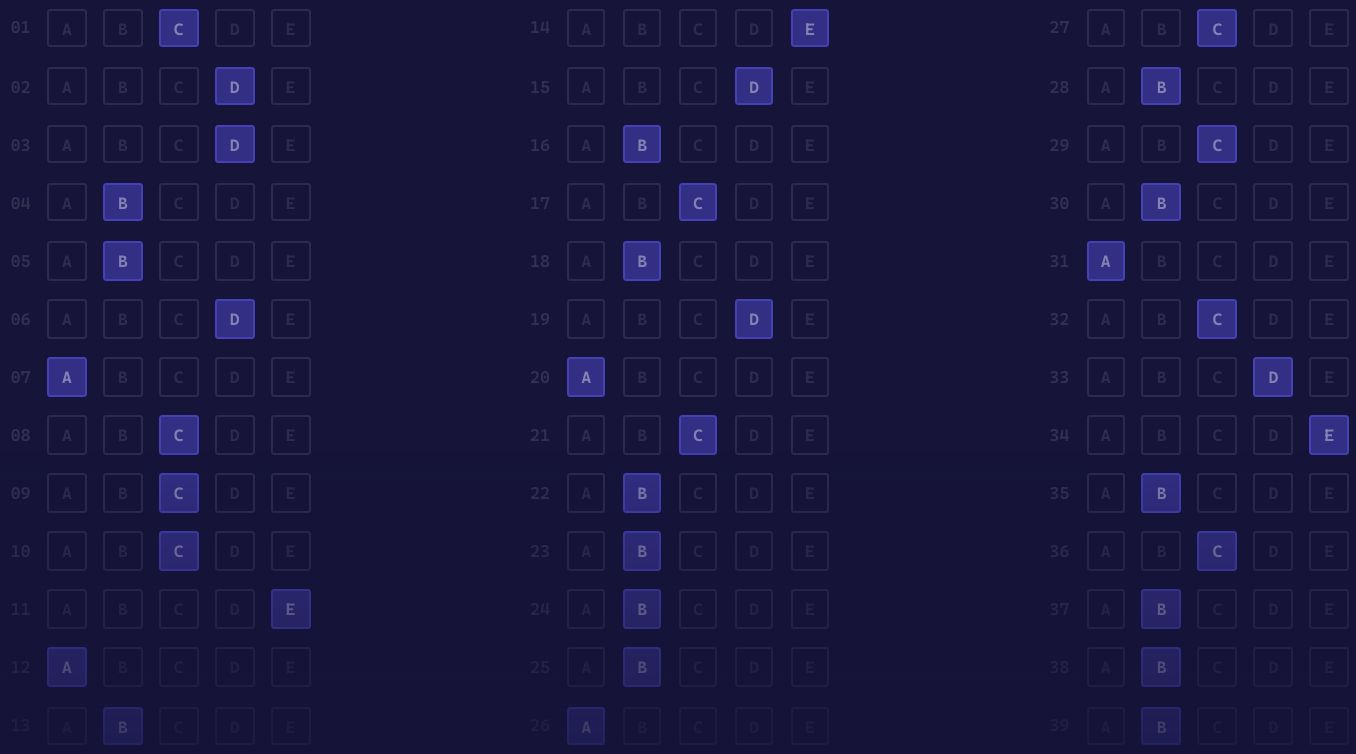

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Office of Administration

71680

Anthracite Underground Mine Inspector Examination

EDITION	QUESTIONS	FORMAT
Demo	9	Limited Edition PDF

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Before you begin

What this is

9 practice questions for Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Office of Administration `71680`, 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, `71680`
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QUESTION 1 SINGLE CHOICE

Under the Pennsylvania anthracite underground mining laws, what is the primary statutory reference that establishes the duties, authority, and responsibilities of mine inspectors?

A The Bituminous Mine Subsidence Act

B The Anthracite Mine Law Act of 1905 and the Pennsylvania Mine Safety Act

C The Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969

D The Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act

ANSWER B

WHY Anthracite mining in Pennsylvania is regulated primarily under state law, specifically the Anthracite Mine Law Act of 1905 and the Pennsylvania Mine Safety Act. Federal MSHA standards apply to coal mines generally, but state anthracite inspectors enforce Pennsylvania's anthracite-specific statutes and regulations.

QUESTION 2 SINGLE CHOICE

A mine inspector observes that a working section of an anthracite underground mine is being operated in a manner that creates an imminent danger to the lives and health of miners. What action is the inspector authorized to take under the Pennsylvania anthracite mine safety statutes?

A Issue a written warning and allow 30 days to correct the condition

B Withdraw all persons from the area and immediately issue an order stopping the affected operation

C Refer the matter to the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration for action

D Impose a monetary penalty directly on the operator

ANSWER B

WHY When an anthracite mine inspector determines that an imminent danger exists, the inspector is authorized under Pennsylvania's anthracite mine safety laws to withdraw miners from the affected area and issue an order stopping the operation until the dangerous condition is corrected.

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QUESTION 3 SINGLE CHOICE

Which of the following is a characteristic hazard most associated with anthracite underground mining operations in Pennsylvania?

A Explosive coal dust at concentrations above 10%

B Methane gas liberation from the coal seam

C **High concentrations of water and old mine workings, including flooded abandoned mines**

D Spontaneous combustion in low-rank coal seams

ANSWER **C**

WHY Anthracite seams in Pennsylvania are characterized by steep pitches and an extensive network of old, often water-filled abandoned workings. Water inundation from these old workings is one of the most distinctive hazards of anthracite underground mining. Methane and coal dust hazards are more closely associated with bituminous mining.

QUESTION 4 SINGLE CHOICE

During an inspection of an anthracite underground mine, the inspector notes that the ventilation plan does not appear to adequately direct air over working faces. What is the inspector's primary concern?

A That methane will be ignited by electrical equipment

B **That harmful gases and dust will accumulate at the working face, creating an unsafe atmosphere**

C That coal dust will reach explosive concentrations

D That the main fan will become overloaded

ANSWER **B**

WHY The primary purpose of mine ventilation is to supply fresh air to working faces, dilute and carry away harmful gases, dust, and contaminants, and to maintain a safe, breathable atmosphere. Failure to direct adequate air to working faces allows buildup of harmful gases and respirable dust and is a serious violation of ventilation requirements.

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QUESTION 5 SINGLE CHOICE

Which of the following roof support practices is required in areas of an anthracite underground mine where the roof is broken or suspicious, and where persons are required to travel or work?

A Posting of a danger sign only

B **Installation of supplemental supports, scaling of loose material, or barring down of loose rock, and prohibition of entry until made safe**

C Use of warning lights at the entrance

D Daily written inspection by the foreman only

ANSWER B

WHY Where roof conditions are broken or suspicious, anthracite mine regulations require positive measures to make the area safe, such as scaling down loose material, installing supplemental supports, barring down loose material, or otherwise controlling the roof before persons are permitted to travel or work in the area.

QUESTION 6 SINGLE CHOICE

An inspector is reviewing the map of an anthracite underground mine and notes that boreholes are required to be drilled when approaching a known area of abandoned mine workings that may contain water. What is the primary purpose of these boreholes?

A To provide additional ventilation to the working section

B To dewater the abandoned workings in advance of mining

C **To intercept and drain water before a breakthrough into the flooded workings, allowing miners to be withdrawn in time**

D To test the methane content of the abandoned workings

ANSWER C

WHY Boreholes are drilled in advance of mining toward abandoned or worked-out areas that may contain accumulations of water, gas, or other hazards. Their primary purpose is to intercept water or gas before mining breaks into the old workings so that miners can be safely withdrawn and the hazard can be controlled or drained.

QUESTION 7 MULTIPLE CHOICE

Which of the following are recognized as significant hazards specific to anthracite underground mining operations in Pennsylvania? (Choose two.)

A **Inrush of water from adjacent abandoned flooded workings**

B **Steeply pitching seams affecting roof control and haulage**

C Hydrogen sulfide liberation characteristic of low-rank lignite deposits

D Methane liberation at concentrations typical of Pittsburgh seam bituminous mines

ANSWER **A** · **B**

WHY Anthracite mining in Pennsylvania is distinguished by the threat of water inundation from extensive, often interconnected abandoned workings and by steeply pitching seams that complicate roof control, haulage, and material handling. Hydrogen sulfide liberation is associated with low-rank coals and bituminous mining, and methane hazards at levels typical of Pittsburgh seam bituminous mines are not a defining characteristic of anthracite operations.

QUESTION 8 SINGLE CHOICE

Under Pennsylvania's anthracite mine safety laws, after an inspector issues an order to withdraw persons from a section of an anthracite underground mine, what is the required follow-up action by the operator before mining may resume?

A Wait for the next scheduled monthly inspection

B **Submit a written corrective action plan and obtain the inspector's approval that the dangerous condition has been corrected**

C Pay the assessed civil penalty in full

D Provide a written statement of prior operator violations

ANSWER **B**

WHY When an anthracite mine inspector issues a withdrawal order or closure order under the anthracite mine safety laws, the operator must take corrective action and demonstrate that the dangerous condition has been abated. Mining may not resume until the inspector, in most circumstances, verifies and approves that the condition has been corrected.

QUESTION 9 SINGLE CHOICE

An anthracite mine inspector is conducting a routine inspection of an underground anthracite mine. Under the anthracite mine safety statutes, an entry on the mine map is required to reflect all of the following EXCEPT:

A Location of mine workings, drifts, slopes, and shafts

B Known or suspected areas of accumulated water or gas

C The hourly wage rates paid to individual miners

D Ventilation controls, doors, and stoppings in use

ANSWER C

WHY The mine map required by Pennsylvania anthracite mining laws is a safety document used to show the location and extent of mine workings, dangerous conditions, ventilation controls, and known hazards such as water or gas accumulations. It is not used to record wage information of individual miners.

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