

PRACTICE EXAM 10 — WDI CATEGORY SIMULATION (50 QUESTIONS)

1. Termites are eusocial insects whose closest evolutionary relatives are which of the following?
 - A. Cockroaches
 - B. Ants
 - C. Wasps
 - D. Beetles

2. An inspector finds pencil-width mud tubes running up a foundation wall and breaks one open to find pale insects rebuilding it. What does this indicate?
 - A. An active subterranean termite infestation
 - B. An inactive drywood colony in the wall
 - C. A carpenter bee nest in the foundation
 - D. Surface mold on the damp concrete

3. All of the following are signs of drywood termites EXCEPT:
 - A. Six-sided fecal pellets
 - B. Small round kick-out holes
 - C. Pencil-width soil mud tubes
 - D. Clean galleries crossing the grain

4. A 50-question exam requires 70% to pass. How many questions must be answered correctly to pass?

- A. 35 correct
- B. 30 correct
- C. 25 correct
- D. 45 correct

5. When choosing between a repellent and a non-repellent termiticide for thorough colony elimination, which is the better choice and why?

- A. Non-repellent, because termites transfer it through the colony unseen
- B. Repellent, because termites detect and leave the area permanently
- C. Repellent, because it kills termites instantly on contact
- D. Either, because the two products work identically

6. What is the term for the mutual exchange of food and fluids among termite nestmates?

- A. Metamorphosis
- B. Stridulation
- C. Swarming
- D. Trophallaxis

7. Why does the presence of wood-decay fungi always indicate a moisture problem?

- A. Because fungi release moisture into the surrounding wood
- B. Because dry wood attracts fungi more strongly than wet wood
- C. Because decay fungi require elevated moisture to grow
- D. Because fungi grow only in completely frozen wood

8. A homeowner shows an inspector a small pile of detached wings, all of equal length, on a windowsill. Combined with a reported spring swarm, what is the best interpretation?

- A. The wings prove the home has no infestation
- B. A mature termite colony exists in or near the home
- C. The swarmers themselves caused the structural damage
- D. The wings indicate a carpenter bee nest nearby

9. Which is the most reliable single sign for identifying a subterranean termite infestation specifically?

- A. Six-sided fecal pellets beneath the wood
- B. A round, finger-width hole in bare wood
- C. Mud tubes of soil bridging ground to wood
- D. Fine, flour-like frass from small round holes

10. What is the correct term for a pesticide that may be applied only by or under the supervision of a certified applicator?

- A. General-use pesticide
- B. Inert carrier
- C. Biological control agent
- D. Restricted-use pesticide

11. An inspector finds clean, smooth galleries with coarse debris containing insect parts in a damp door frame. Which organism is indicated?

- A. Subterranean termites entering from the soil
- B. Carpenter ants nesting in the moist wood
- C. Drywood termites ejecting six-sided pellets
- D. Wood-decay fungus softening the frame

12. All of the following are conducive conditions EXCEPT:

- A. Wood-to-ground contact at porch steps
- B. A damp, poorly ventilated crawlspace
- C. Cellulose debris stacked on crawlspace soil
- D. An active mud tube containing live termites

13. A label requires 4 gallons of finished solution per 10 linear feet. How many gallons are needed for a 120-foot perimeter?

- A. 48 gallons
- B. 30 gallons
- C. 12 gallons
- D. 480 gallons

14. A client with an active subterranean infestation and a chronic crawlspace leak asks the inspector to treat only the termites. What is the most complete professional response?

- A. Decline the job because moisture is present
- B. Treat only the termites as the client requested
- C. Treat the termites and recommend correcting the moisture
- D. Correct the moisture and leave the termites untreated

15. What is the term for the application technique of injecting termiticide into the soil using a probe?

- A. Trenching
- B. Tenting
- C. Rodding
- D. Fogging

16. Why is the worker caste, rather than the swarmer, responsible for structural damage?

- A. Because swarmers chew through wood faster than workers
- B. Because soldiers consume the wood while defending
- C. Because the queen leaves the nest to feed on wood
- D. Because workers forage for and consume the cellulose

17. Which is the most appropriate treatment for a drywood infestation distributed throughout an entire multi-story structure?

- A. A perimeter trench of liquid soil termiticide
- B. Localized injection of one accessible beam
- C. Whole-structure tent fumigation
- D. Improving the crawlspace ventilation

18. An inspector cannot examine framing concealed behind finished drywall during a real estate inspection. What is the correct action?

- A. Certify the concealed framing as termite-free
- B. Remove the drywall to inspect the framing
- C. Assume the framing is infested and treat it
- D. Document the framing as inaccessible with the reason

19. Which signal word indicates the highest acute toxicity?

- A. DANGER
- B. CAUTION
- C. WARNING
- D. NOTICE

20. Why must a soil-applied termiticide zone be continuous and unbroken?

- A. Because a continuous zone reduces product cost
- B. Because termites die instantly near any treated soil
- C. Because subterranean termites exploit any gap to reach wood
- D. Because gaps improve ventilation beneath the structure

21. An inspector finds an above-ground nest of chewed wood and soil in a wall void of a coastal home with a fast-spreading subterranean infestation. Which species is indicated?

- A. A native eastern drywood termite
- B. A common dampwood termite
- C. A lyctid powderpost beetle
- D. The Formosan subterranean termite

22. Which is the most accurate statement about the relationship between LD50 and toxicity?

- A. A lower LD50 indicates a more toxic substance
- B. A higher LD50 indicates a more toxic substance
- C. LD50 measures only chronic toxicity
- D. LD50 is identical for all pesticides

23. What is the term for a condition favorable to wood-destroying organisms that is not itself an infestation?

- A. Active infestation
- B. Conducive condition
- C. Previous infestation
- D. Inaccessible area

24. An inspector probes a painted sill plate that looks intact but collapses to reveal soil-streaked hollowing. What does this best demonstrate?

- A. Painted wood is immune to termite attack
- B. Surface appearance reliably indicates soundness
- C. Only drywood termites damage painted wood
- D. Termites leave a thin intact shell over hollowed wood

25. Which is the single most decisive factor in choosing between soil treatment and fumigation?

- A. The color of the structure's exterior siding
- B. The age of the inspector performing the work
- C. The day of the week the work is scheduled
- D. Whether the infestation is subterranean or widespread drywood

26. Why are termite bait toxicants deliberately formulated to act slowly?

- A. To reduce the manufacturing cost of each station
- B. So the stations never require further monitoring
- C. So foragers survive to share it through the colony
- D. To kill the foraging workers instantly at the station

27. What is the correct order of steps in responding to a pesticide spill?

- A. Clean up, then contain, then control the source
- B. Control the source, then contain, then clean up
- C. Contain, then clean up, then control the source
- D. Rinse into a drain, then leave it to evaporate

28. A drywood infestation is confined to a single accessible exterior beam. Which treatment is most proportionate?

- A. Localized or direct wood treatment of the beam
- B. Whole-structure tent fumigation of the home
- C. A complete perimeter trench of soil termiticide
- D. Installation of in-ground bait stations

29. Which is the most accurate statement about carpenter ants?

- A. They consume the wood they tunnel through as food
- B. They excavate wood to nest but do not eat it
- C. They require constant soil contact to survive
- D. They leave six-sided fecal pellets beneath wood

30. Why does wood-to-ground contact pose such a significant termite risk?

- A. Because it improves drainage away from the wood
- B. Because it strengthens the structure's foundation
- C. Because it gives subterranean termites a hidden path into the wood
- D. Because it deters carpenter bees from the wood

31. What is the term for the winged reproductive termites that leave the colony to found new ones?

- A. Workers
- B. Alates
- C. Soldiers
- D. Nymphs

32. An applicator is about to apply a restricted-use termiticide near a drinking-water well. What is the best practice?

- A. Apply extra termiticide near the well for stronger protection
- B. Follow the label's precautions for application near wells and water
- C. Ignore the well, since termiticides never reach groundwater
- D. Pour any excess solution down the well to dispose of it

33. All of the following describe subterranean termites EXCEPT:

- A. They require contact with soil moisture
- B. They build mud tubes to travel to wood
- C. They line their galleries with soil and fecal material
- D. They live within dry wood and need no soil contact

34. A 30-foot by 40-foot slab is to have its perimeter treated. What is the total perimeter length?

- A. 70 linear feet
- B. 140 linear feet
- C. 120 linear feet
- D. 1,200 linear feet

35. Which is the single best first step upon arriving at an inspection?

- A. Gathering the property's prior pest and treatment history
- B. Drilling the slab to inspect the soil beneath it
- C. Applying a preventive termiticide to the perimeter
- D. Certifying the structure based on its appearance

36. Why does mixing and loading carry the highest risk of pesticide exposure?

- A. Because the product is already fully diluted and harmless
- B. Because no protective equipment is required at this stage
- C. Because the label does not apply until the product is sprayed
- D. Because the product is handled in its most concentrated form

37. An inspector finds wood that is bleached, stringy, and spongy near a long-standing leak. Which organism is responsible, and what must be corrected?

- A. Brown rot; the wood will crack into cubes when dry
- B. White rot fungus; correct the moisture source driving the decay
- C. Drywood termites; recommend tenting the structure
- D. Carpenter ants; recommend baiting the colony

38. What is the term for the metal barrier on a foundation that forces termites into the open to be seen?

- A. Vapor barrier
- B. Expansion joint
- C. Termite shield
- D. Weep screed

39. Why can states impose termite licensing requirements more stringent than the federal baseline?

- A. Because the EPA issues every individual license directly
- B. Because FIFRA forbids states from running programs
- C. Because the federal framework sets a floor states may exceed
- D. Because states must always be less strict than the EPA

40. Which is the most reliable way to confirm whether a mud tube is currently active?

- A. Measuring the precise length of the tube
- B. Photographing the tube without disturbing it
- C. Spraying the tube and returning in a month
- D. Breaking it open to check for live termites or fresh repair

41. What is the term for the developmental pattern, lacking a larval or pupal stage, by which termites mature?

- A. Incomplete metamorphosis
- B. Complete metamorphosis
- C. Hypermetamorphosis
- D. Pupation

42. An inspector finds a perfectly round, finger-width hole in a bare deck railing with staining below and nearby woodpecker damage. Which organism and secondary issue are indicated?

- A. Subterranean termites, with secondary mud tubes
- B. Carpenter bees, with woodpeckers seeking the larvae
- C. Drywood termites, with secondary six-sided pellets
- D. Powderpost beetles, with secondary flour-like frass

43. Why does honest disclosure of inaccessible areas protect the inspector?

- A. Because it guarantees those areas are free of infestation
- B. Because it discloses the inspection's limits and reduces liability
- C. Because it allows the inspector to skip the written report
- D. Because it certifies the structure as completely pest-free

44. Which is the most accurate statement about wood-decay fungi versus mold?

- A. Decay fungi weaken wood, while mold mainly discolors it
- B. Mold significantly weakens the structural strength of wood
- C. Neither decay fungi nor mold requires any moisture
- D. Mold destroys cellulose while decay fungi only stain

45. The CORE exam and the WDI category exam differ in that the CORE exam:

- A. Tests only wood-destroying insect identification
- B. Covers universal safety knowledge for all applicators
- C. Replaces the need for the category exam entirely
- D. Applies solely to agricultural pesticide users

46. Why must food and medicines be removed or sealed before a structural fumigation?

- A. Because the fumigant is a highly toxic gas that contaminates consumables
- B. Because the fumigant improves the shelf life of stored food
- C. Because the warning placards require it for decoration
- D. Because the gas is harmless and the step is merely a formality

47. Which is the best reason a free inspection from a treatment-selling company may not satisfy a lender?

- A. Free inspections are explicitly prohibited by federal law
- B. The report comes from an interested party with potential bias
- C. Handwritten reports are never accepted by any lender
- D. The report would be too detailed for the lender to use

48. An inspector finds soil-packed galleries following the grain in one beam and clean galleries with insect-part debris in another. What do these findings indicate?

- A. Drywood termites in both beams equally
- B. Carpenter bees in the first, fungus in the second
- C. Subterranean termites in the first, carpenter ants in the second
- D. Powderpost beetles in both, differing only by frass

49. Why does drywood termite biology allow infestation of upper floors and attic framing?

- A. Because they build long mud tubes up exterior walls
- B. Because they require constant soil moisture to survive
- C. Because they form the largest colonies of any group
- D. Because they need no soil contact and live within the wood

50. What is the standardized wood-destroying insect inspection report form commonly required for real estate transactions?

- A. The NPMA-33 form
- B. The FIFRA registration application
- C. The Safety Data Sheet
- D. The state business license

Practice Exam 10: Answer Key and Full Explanations

1. A — Termites are eusocial insects belonging to the order Blattodea, making cockroaches their closest evolutionary relatives. Their resemblance to ants is superficial. This relationship reinforces that termites are social wood-feeders, not relatives of ants.

2. A — Pencil-width mud tubes on a foundation containing pale insects that rebuild a broken section indicate an active subterranean termite infestation. Mud tubes are the subterranean signature, and fresh rebuilding proves current activity. This finding warrants colony treatment.

3. C — Pencil-width soil mud tubes are a sign of subterranean termites, not drywood termites, which instead leave six-sided pellets, kick-out holes, and clean galleries crossing the grain. Drywood termites maintain no soil connection. The mud tube points away from drywood activity.
4. A — Passing a 50-question exam at 70% requires $0.70 \times 50 = 35$ correct answers. This is the minimum passing count. Falling one short, at 34, means failing the threshold.
5. A — A non-repellent termiticide is the better choice for thorough colony elimination because termites transfer it through the colony unseen via trophallaxis. Repellents are detected and avoided and do not kill on contact, and the products do not work identically. Colony-wide transfer is the goal.
6. D — Trophallaxis is the mutual exchange of food and fluids among nestmates, circulating gut microbes and spreading baits and non-repellents through the colony. Metamorphosis, stridulation, and swarming are unrelated. The term is central to colony control.
7. C — Decay fungi require elevated moisture to grow, so their presence always indicates a moisture problem. They do not release moisture, prefer dry wood, or grow only when frozen. All fungal decay traces back to a moisture source.
8. B — Equal-length detached wings combined with a reported spring swarm best indicate that a mature termite colony exists in or near the home, since only mature colonies produce swarmers. The wings do not prove the home is clear, and the swarmers do not cause the damage. Hidden workers remain nearby.
9. C — Mud tubes of soil bridging the ground to the wood are the most reliable single sign of a subterranean infestation. Six-sided pellets indicate drywood termites, a finger-width hole indicates carpenter bees, and flour-like frass indicates beetles. Mud tubes are the subterranean signature.
10. D — A restricted-use pesticide may be applied only by or under the supervision of a certified applicator due to its hazard. General-use products are available to the public, and the other options are unrelated. This classification is the reason certification exists.
11. B — Clean, smooth galleries with coarse insect-part debris in damp wood indicate carpenter ants nesting in the moisture-softened wood. They excavate but do not eat wood, and the absence of soil packing rules out subterranean termites. Clean galleries with debris are the carpenter ant sign.

12. D — An active mud tube containing live termites is active infestation, not a conducive condition. Wood-to-ground contact, a damp crawlspace, and cellulose debris are all conducive conditions favoring infestation. Keeping these categories distinct is essential to an honest report.

13. A — At 4 gallons per 10 linear feet, a 120-foot perimeter requires $4 \div 10 \times 120 = 48$ gallons. The rate scales proportionally with the perimeter length. Correct calculation ensures complete, label-compliant coverage.

14. C — The most complete response is to treat the termites and recommend correcting the moisture, since treating alone leaves the structure at high reinfestation risk. Declining, treating only termites, or correcting only moisture all fall short. Effective practice pairs treatment with condition correction.

15. C — Rodding is the technique of injecting termiticide into the soil using a probe. Trenching digs a shallow trench, tenting seals a structure for fumigation, and fogging disperses a fine mist. Rodding helps achieve a continuous treated zone.

16. D — Workers cause structural damage because they forage for and consume the cellulose in wood. Swarmers and soldiers do not consume wood, and the queen does not leave the nest to feed. The worker is the destructive caste.

17. C — Whole-structure tent fumigation is most appropriate for a drywood infestation distributed throughout a multi-story structure, because the gas reaches all hidden galleries. Perimeter trenching and localized injection cannot reach distributed colonies, and ventilation addresses moisture. Fumigation provides the needed reach.

18. D — Framing concealed behind drywall cannot be examined visually, so the inspector documents it as inaccessible with the reason. Certifying or assuming its condition overstates certainty, and removing drywall exceeds the non-destructive scope. Honest disclosure protects both parties.

19. A — DANGER is the signal word indicating the highest acute toxicity, often accompanied by POISON. CAUTION marks slightly toxic and WARNING moderately toxic products. The order CAUTION → WARNING → DANGER reflects increasing hazard.

20. C — A treated soil zone must be continuous because subterranean termites will exploit any gap to reach the wood. Continuity is not about cost or ventilation, and termites do not die instantly near treated soil. Any break defeats the barrier.

21. D — An above-ground carton nest of chewed wood and soil with a fast-spreading coastal subterranean infestation indicates the Formosan subterranean termite. Drywood, dampwood, and beetles do not build such nests. The carton nest is the Formosan signature.

22. A — A lower LD50 indicates a more toxic substance because a smaller dose is lethal. The relationship is inverse, LD50 measures acute toxicity, and values differ among products. A smaller lethal dose means greater toxicity.

23. B — A conducive condition is a situation favorable to wood-destroying organisms that is not itself an infestation. Active and previous infestation and inaccessible areas are different report categories. Recognizing conducive conditions supports prevention.

24. D — A painted sill that looks intact but collapses to reveal soil-streaked hollowing demonstrates that termites leave a thin intact shell over hollowed wood. Paint does not make wood immune, surface appearance is unreliable, and subterranean (not only drywood) termites cause this. Sounding and probing reveal hidden damage.

25. D — The single most decisive factor is whether the infestation is subterranean or widespread drywood: subterranean calls for soil treatment or baiting, widespread drywood for fumigation. Siding color, inspector age, and scheduling are irrelevant. Treatment must match the organism and extent.

26. C — Bait toxicants are slow-acting so foragers survive long enough to share the active ingredient through the colony via trophallaxis. A fast-acting bait would kill foragers at the station and break the transfer chain. Slow action enables colony-wide elimination.

27. B — The correct spill-response order is the three C's: control the source, contain the spread, then clean it up. Rinsing into a drain or leaving it to evaporate contaminates the environment and is illegal. Controlling the source first prevents the spill from worsening.

28. A — A drywood infestation confined to a single accessible beam is most proportionately treated with localized or direct wood treatment. Whole-structure fumigation, a perimeter trench, and bait stations are excessive or aimed at the wrong organism. Matching scope to infestation avoids unnecessary cost.

29. B — The most accurate statement is that carpenter ants excavate wood to nest but do not eat it. They do not consume wood, require soil contact, or leave six-sided pellets. Not eating wood is the key contrast with termites.

30. C — Wood-to-ground contact gives subterranean termites a hidden, direct path from the soil into the wood without a visible mud tube. It does not improve drainage, strengthen the foundation, or deter carpenter bees. This concealed entry is the risk.

31. B — Alates are the winged reproductive termites that leave the colony to found new ones. Workers, soldiers, and nymphs are other castes or stages. Alates are the termites people most often see during a swarm.

32. B — Near a drinking-water well, the best practice is to follow the label's precautions for application near wells and water. Applying extra, ignoring the well, or pouring solution into it all threaten the water supply. Protecting water sources is a critical termite-specific duty.

33. D — Living within dry wood and needing no soil contact describes drywood termites, not subterranean termites. Subterranean termites require soil moisture, build mud tubes, and line their galleries with soil. The dry-wood, no-soil trait is the drywood exception.

34. B — A 30-by-40-foot slab has a perimeter of $2 \times (30 + 40) = 140$ linear feet. Perimeter sums all four sides. This figure determines the trench length and solution volume.

35. A — The single best first step is gathering the property's prior pest and treatment history, which directs the inspection and is often required by state standards. Drilling, preventive treatment, and certifying by appearance are not appropriate first steps. History-gathering prevents missed findings.

36. D — Mixing and loading carry the highest exposure risk because the product is handled in its most concentrated form. It is not diluted or harmless at this stage, PPE is required, and the label always applies. Concentrate exposure is the most hazardous handling.

37. B — Bleached, stringy, spongy wood near a long-standing leak indicates white rot fungus, and the underlying moisture source must be corrected. Brown rot causes cubical cracking, and the damage is fungal rather than termite or ant. Correcting the moisture is essential, since decay fungi require it.

38. C — A termite shield is the metal barrier on a foundation that forces termites into the open to be seen. A vapor barrier, expansion joint, and weep screed serve other functions. The shield aids detection rather than killing or excluding termites.

39. C — States may be more stringent because the federal framework sets a floor states may exceed but not fall below. The EPA does not issue individual licenses, FIFRA does not forbid state programs, and states need not be less strict. This explains state-to-state variation.

40. D — The most reliable way to confirm activity is breaking the tube open to check for live termites or fresh repair, since active colonies rebuild quickly. Measuring, photographing, or treating-and-waiting do not establish activity. Fresh repair confirms a living colony.

41. A — Incomplete metamorphosis is the developmental pattern, lacking a larval or pupal stage, by which termites mature from egg to nymph to adult. Complete metamorphosis includes a pupal stage, unlike termites. This flexibility lets nymphs develop into any caste.

42. B — A round, finger-width hole in bare wood with staining and nearby woodpecker damage indicates carpenter bees, with woodpeckers as a secondary problem seeking the larvae. Termites and beetles produce different signs, and the finger-width hole is the carpenter bee signature. Woodpecker activity commonly follows carpenter bee infestation.

43. B — Honest disclosure of inaccessible areas discloses the inspection's limits and reduces liability, protecting the inspector. It does not guarantee those areas are clear, replace the report, or certify the structure pest-free. Disclosing limitations is the protection.

44. A — The most accurate statement is that decay fungi weaken wood while mold mainly discolors it. Mold does not significantly weaken wood, both require moisture, and mold does not destroy cellulose. Distinguishing them prevents over- or understating damage.
45. B — The CORE exam covers universal safety knowledge for all applicators, distinguishing it from the WDI category exam's specialty content. It is not limited to WDI identification or agriculture, and it does not replace the category exam. CORE is the shared foundation.
46. A — Food and medicines must be removed or sealed because the fumigant is a highly toxic gas that contaminates consumables. The gas does not improve shelf life, and the step is a safety requirement, not decoration or formality. Protecting consumables prevents harm.
47. B — A free inspection from a treatment-selling company may not satisfy a lender because the report comes from an interested party with potential bias. Free inspections are not illegal, handwritten reports are not categorically rejected, and the concern is bias, not detail. This conflict undermines credibility.
48. C — Soil-packed galleries following the grain indicate subterranean termites in the first beam, while clean galleries with insect-part debris indicate carpenter ants in the second. Drywood termites, carpenter bees, and beetles produce different signs. Reading each gallery correctly identifies the distinct organism.
49. D — Drywood termites can infest upper floors and attic framing because they need no soil contact and live within the wood itself. They do not build exterior mud tubes, require soil moisture, or form the largest colonies. Independence from soil gives them this reach.
50. A — The NPMA-33 is the standardized wood-destroying insect inspection report form commonly required for real estate transactions, including federally backed loans. The registration application, SDS, and business license serve other purposes. It provides a recognized format for documenting findings.