

PRACTICE EXAM 15 — WDI CATEGORY SIMULATION (50 QUESTIONS)

1. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. Termites cannot digest cellulose without symbiotic gut microorganisms
- B. Termites secrete their own enzymes that fully digest cellulose alone
- C. Termites feed only on honeydew and never on wood
- D. Termites digest lignin while ignoring the cellulose in wood

2. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. Swarmers are the caste that consumes wood and causes damage
- B. Soldiers eat the most wood while defending the colony
- C. The queen leaves the nest to feed directly on the wood
- D. Workers are the caste that consumes wood and causes damage

3. Which of the following statements is FALSE?

- A. Subterranean termites build mud tubes to travel to wood
- B. Carpenter ants consume the wood they tunnel through as food
- C. Drywood termites leave six-sided fecal pellets
- D. Wood-decay fungi require elevated moisture to grow

4. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. A lower LD50 value indicates a more toxic substance
- B. A higher LD50 value indicates a more toxic substance

- C. LD50 measures only long-term chronic toxicity
- D. LD50 is identical across all registered pesticides

5. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. "Dry rot" fungus grows in wood without any moisture
- B. All wood-decay fungi, including so-called "dry rot," require moisture
- C. Decay fungi reduce the moisture in surrounding wood
- D. Mold significantly weakens the structural strength of wood

6. Which of the following statements is FALSE?

- A. The pesticide label is legally enforceable under federal law
- B. Using a product inconsistently with its label is illegal
- C. The label dictates the rate, site, and method of application
- D. An applicator may exceed the labeled rate for severe infestations

7. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. A non-repellent termiticide is undetectable, so termites tunnel through and transfer it
- B. A non-repellent termiticide is detected and avoided by termites
- C. A repellent termiticide kills the entire colony on contact
- D. Repellents are always more effective for colony elimination

8. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. Mud tubes are the signature sign of drywood termites
- B. Six-sided fecal pellets are the signature sign of subterranean termites

- C. Mud tubes are the signature sign of subterranean termites
- D. Carpenter bees build mud tubes up the foundation

9. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. An inspection reports only visible evidence in accessible areas
- B. An inspection guarantees a structure is entirely termite-free
- C. An inspection requires opening all finished walls
- D. An inspection certifies no infestation will ever occur

10. Which of the following statements is FALSE?

- A. Moisture favors most wood-destroying organisms
- B. Drywood termites require high moisture to survive
- C. Subterranean termites depend on soil moisture
- D. Dampwood termites require wet, decaying wood

11. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. The CORE exam covers only wood-destroying insect identification
- B. The CORE exam replaces the need for a category exam
- C. The CORE exam covers universal pesticide safety knowledge
- D. The CORE exam applies only to agricultural applicators

12. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. A termite shield forces termites into the open to be seen
- B. A termite shield chemically kills termites on contact

- C. A termite shield permanently blocks all termite entry
- D. A termite shield provides structural support to the floor

13. Which of the following statements is FALSE?

- A. Wood-to-ground contact gives subterranean termites a hidden entry path
- B. Wood-to-ground contact improves drainage away from the wood
- C. Cellulose debris in soil contact is food and harborage for termites
- D. Negative grade allows water to collect against the foundation

14. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. The waist shape cannot distinguish termites from ants
- B. Body color is the most reliable way to tell termites from ants
- C. A broad waist indicates a termite; a pinched waist indicates an ant
- D. Termite wings are always shorter than ant wings

15. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. Dermal exposure is the least common route for applicators
- B. Oral exposure accounts for nearly all applicator contact
- C. Inhalation is the only route of exposure that matters
- D. Dermal exposure is the most common route for applicators

16. Which of the following statements is FALSE?

- A. Bait toxicants are deliberately slow-acting
- B. Foragers share bait toxicant via trophallaxis

- C. Baiting requires ongoing monitoring and replenishment
- D. A fast-acting bait toxicant improves colony elimination

17. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. Fumigation suits a subterranean soil-entry infestation best
- B. Fumigation provides whole-structure reach for widespread drywood termites
- C. Fumigation is the cheapest option for any infestation
- D. Fumigation cannot reach hidden galleries within wood

18. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. The Formosan termite produces six-sided pellets like drywood termites
- B. The Formosan termite builds moisture-retaining carton nests and huge colonies
- C. The Formosan termite requires no moisture and ignores the soil
- D. The Formosan termite lives only in dry attic framing

19. Which of the following statements is FALSE?

- A. A continuous treated soil zone is required for control
- B. Subterranean termites exploit gaps in a treated zone
- C. A gap where a pipe enters can let termites bypass the treatment
- D. Termites die instantly upon nearing any treated soil

20. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. The NPMA-33 is a federal pesticide registration application
- B. The NPMA-33 is a continuing-education certificate

- C. The NPMA-33 is a state business license
- D. The NPMA-33 is a standardized wood-destroying insect inspection report form

21. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. States must set requirements weaker than the federal baseline
- B. The EPA personally issues each applicator's license
- C. States may set requirements stricter than the federal baseline
- D. FIFRA forbids states from running certification programs

22. Which of the following statements is FALSE?

- A. Brown rot causes cubical cracking in wood
- B. White rot leaves wood bleached and stringy
- C. Decay fungi require elevated moisture to grow
- D. Mold significantly reduces the structural strength of wood

23. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. The substructure sits closest to the soil, the main subterranean entry route
- B. The substructure is the only place drywood termites live
- C. The substructure holds the home's most valuable finishes
- D. The substructure is always the easiest area to inspect

24. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. Carpenter ants consume wood as their primary food
- B. Carpenter ants leave six-sided pellets beneath the wood

- C. Carpenter ants excavate wood to nest but do not eat it
- D. Carpenter ants require constant soil contact to survive

25. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. Mixing and loading is the highest-exposure step in application
- B. Mixing handles the product in its safest, most diluted form
- C. No protective equipment is required during mixing
- D. The label does not apply during mixing and loading

26. Which of the following statements is FALSE?

- A. Swarmer directly consume large amounts of wood
- B. A swarm indoors signals a mature colony nearby
- C. Swarmer shed their wings after the flight
- D. Swarmer are reproductives that found new colonies

27. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. Pre-construction treatment is done only after occupancy
- B. Pre-construction treatment relies on drilling finished slabs
- C. Pre-construction treatment removes the need to follow the label
- D. Pre-construction treatment treats soil and wood while fully accessible

28. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. A conducive condition favors infestation but is not itself an infestation
- B. A conducive condition is identical to an active infestation

- C. A conducive condition proves termites are currently present
- D. A conducive condition can only exist with live insects

29. Which of the following statements is FALSE?

- A. Drywood termites need no soil contact
- B. Drywood termites build large mud tubes across foundations
- C. Drywood termites live within the wood they infest
- D. Drywood termites leave six-sided fecal pellets

30. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. Triple rinsing cleans a container, with rinsate added to the spray tank
- B. Empty containers should be reused to store drinking water
- C. Empty containers should be discarded into a storm drain
- D. Empty containers should be burned on site to destroy residue

31. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. A restricted-use pesticide may be applied freely by the public
- B. A restricted-use pesticide is exempt from FIFRA
- C. A restricted-use pesticide requires a certified applicator
- D. A restricted-use pesticide carries no signal word

32. Which of the following statements is FALSE?

- A. Particle drift is droplet movement during application
- B. Vapor drift occurs during application before any evaporation

- C. Vapor drift is vapor movement after the product volatilizes
- D. Drift can harm non-target areas and waste product

33. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. Termites undergo complete metamorphosis with a pupal stage
- B. Termite nymphs cannot develop into different castes
- C. Termites hatch as fully formed adults with no molting
- D. Termites undergo incomplete metamorphosis with no pupal stage

34. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. An old, crumbling mud tube with no repair confirms active infestation
- B. A mud tube that rebuilds within a day indicates active infestation
- C. Measuring a tube's length confirms whether it is active
- D. Photographing a tube confirms whether it is active

35. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. Soil termiticides can contaminate wells and groundwater
- B. Soil termiticides improve the taste of well water
- C. Soil termiticides guarantee a structure is termite-free
- D. Soil termiticides raise the indoor temperature after treatment

36. Which of the following statements is FALSE?

- A. The inspection diagram pinpoints findings and inaccessible areas
- B. The inspection diagram is a required component in many states

- C. The inspection diagram supplements the written report
- D. The inspection diagram replaces the written report entirely

37. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. Carpenter bees prefer well-painted, sealed surfaces for nesting
- B. Carpenter bees bore round, finger-width holes into bare softwood
- C. Carpenter bees consume the wood they tunnel through
- D. Carpenter bees build mud tubes from soil up the foundation

38. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. Documenting inaccessible areas guarantees they are pest-free
- B. Documenting inaccessible areas replaces the inspection diagram
- C. Documenting inaccessible areas discloses limits and reduces liability
- D. Documenting inaccessible areas allows skipping the report

39. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. A higher application rate than the label is always safer
- B. The label rate is only a rough starting suggestion
- C. Applying exactly at the labeled rate is correct practice
- D. Exceeding the labeled rate guarantees faster control

40. Which of the following statements is FALSE?

- A. Supervised field experience confirms practical competence
- B. A written exam alone fully confirms field competence

- C. Continuing education maintains a current license
- D. Renewal keeps a credential active over time

41. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. The signal word CAUTION marks the most acutely toxic products
- B. The signal word DANGER marks the least acutely toxic products
- C. The signal words rank DANGER, WARNING, then CAUTION by hazard
- D. The signal words rank CAUTION, WARNING, then DANGER by increasing hazard

42. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. A free inspection from a treatment seller has no conflict of interest
- B. A lender always prefers a free inspection over a paid one
- C. A free inspection from a treatment seller may carry a bias
- D. Free inspections are explicitly prohibited by federal law

43. Which of the following statements is FALSE?

- A. Subterranean galleries are often lined with soil and fecal material
- B. Drywood galleries are clean and contain six-sided pellets
- C. Carpenter ant galleries are clean with coarse expelled debris
- D. Subterranean galleries are always clean and free of soil

44. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. Trophallaxis prevents baits from spreading through a colony
- B. Trophallaxis circulates gut microbes and shared food among nestmates

- C. Trophallaxis allows termites to fly during a swarm
- D. Trophallaxis eliminates the colony's need to eat cellulose

45. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. A slab-on-grade foundation exposes all structural wood above it
- B. Termites can enter a slab home hidden through cracks and penetrations
- C. A slab foundation has no plumbing penetrations
- D. A slab foundation is easier to inspect than an open crawlspace

46. Which of the following statements is FALSE?

- A. The worker caste forages for and consumes cellulose
- B. The soldier caste defends the colony
- C. The soldier caste consumes wood while defending
- D. The queen caste lays the colony's eggs

47. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. A widespread multi-floor drywood infestation warrants fumigation
- B. A single accessible drywood beam requires whole-structure tenting
- C. A subterranean soil-entry infestation is best treated by fumigation
- D. Improving ventilation eliminates an active drywood colony

48. Which of the following statements is FALSE?

- A. Gathering prior pest history directs the inspection
- B. Inspecting accessible zones systematically prevents oversights

- C. Applying termiticide is the proper first step of an inspection
- D. Completing the diagram and report concludes the inspection

49. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. Cockroaches are the closest evolutionary relatives of termites
- B. Ants are the closest evolutionary relatives of termites
- C. Bees are the closest evolutionary relatives of termites
- D. Beetles are the closest evolutionary relatives of termites

50. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A. Mold destroys cellulose while decay fungi only discolor the surface
- B. Decay fungi and mold have identical effects on wood
- C. Decay fungi weaken wood, while mold mainly discolors it
- D. Neither decay fungi nor mold requires any moisture

Practice Exam 15: Answer Key and Full Explanations

1. A — The true statement is that termites cannot digest cellulose without symbiotic gut microorganisms. They do not secrete their own complete enzymes, feed only on honeydew, or digest lignin instead. This microbial partnership underlies their wood-destroying capacity.
2. D — The true statement is that workers are the caste that consumes wood and causes damage. Swarmers and soldiers do not consume wood, and the queen does not leave the nest to feed. The worker is the destructive caste.
3. B — The false statement is that carpenter ants consume the wood they tunnel through; they excavate to nest but feed elsewhere. Mud tubes, six-sided pellets, and the fungal moisture requirement are all true. Not eating wood is the key carpenter ant contrast.

4. A — The true statement is that a lower LD50 indicates a more toxic substance, because a smaller dose is lethal. A higher LD50 means less toxic, LD50 measures acute toxicity, and values differ among products. The relationship is inverse.

5. B — The true statement is that all wood-decay fungi, including "dry rot," require moisture to grow. The name is a misnomer, fungi do not reduce wood moisture, and mold does not significantly weaken wood. Moisture is the universal requirement.

6. D — The false statement is that an applicator may exceed the labeled rate for severe infestations; exceeding the rate is always illegal. The label is enforceable, inconsistent use is illegal, and the label dictates rate, site, and method. "The label is the law" governs all use.

7. A — The true statement is that a non-repellent termiticide is undetectable, so termites tunnel through and transfer it through the colony. It is not detected and avoided, repellents do not kill on contact, and repellents are not more effective for colony elimination. Undetectability enables colony-wide control.

8. C — The true statement is that mud tubes are the signature sign of subterranean termites. Drywood termites leave pellets, subterranean termites do not leave pellets, and carpenter bees do not build mud tubes. Mud tubes point specifically to subterranean termites.

9. A — The true statement is that an inspection reports only visible evidence in accessible areas. It does not guarantee a termite-free structure, require opening all walls, or certify against future infestation. Access limits define the scope.

10. B — The false statement is that drywood termites require high moisture; they are the exception that needs no external moisture. Subterranean and dampwood termites do depend on moisture, and moisture favors most organisms. Drywood termites thrive in dry wood.

11. C — The true statement is that the CORE exam covers universal pesticide safety knowledge for all applicators. It is not limited to WDI identification or agriculture, and it does not replace the category exam. CORE is the shared foundation.

12. A — The true statement is that a termite shield forces termites into the open to be seen. It does not kill chemically, block entry permanently, or provide structural support. Its purpose is detection.

13. B — The false statement is that wood-to-ground contact improves drainage; it actually gives subterranean termites a hidden entry path. Cellulose debris is food and harborage, and negative grade collects water. Wood-to-ground contact is a serious conducive condition.

14. C — The true statement is that a broad waist indicates a termite while a pinched waist indicates an ant. The waist does distinguish them, color is unreliable, and termite wings are equal-length, not shorter. The waist is a dependable feature.

15. D — The true statement is that dermal exposure is the most common route for applicators. It is not the least common, oral is not dominant, and inhalation is not the only route that matters. Skin protection is emphasized for this reason.

16. D — The false statement is that a fast-acting bait toxicant improves colony elimination; in fact it kills foragers before they share it, sparing the colony. Bait toxicants are deliberately slow, foragers share via trophallaxis, and baiting requires monitoring. Slow action is essential.

17. B — The true statement is that fumigation provides whole-structure reach for widespread drywood termites. It does not suit subterranean soil entry, is not the cheapest option, and does reach hidden galleries. Whole-structure reach is its purpose.

18. B — The true statement is that the Formosan termite builds moisture-retaining carton nests and forms huge colonies. It does not produce drywood pellets, ignore moisture and soil, or live only in dry attics. The carton nest and colony size are its signatures.

19. D — The false statement is that termites die instantly upon nearing any treated soil; in fact a continuous zone is needed because termites exploit gaps. A continuous zone is required, termites exploit gaps, and a pipe gap can let them bypass treatment. Continuity defeats their foraging.

20. D — The true statement is that the NPMA-33 is a standardized wood-destroying insect inspection report form. It is not a registration application, CE certificate, or business license. It provides a recognized inspection-reporting format.

21. C — The true statement is that states may set requirements stricter than the federal baseline. They may not be weaker, the EPA does not issue individual licenses, and FIFRA does not forbid state programs. The federal floor may be exceeded but not undercut.

22. D — The false statement is that mold significantly reduces the structural strength of wood; mold mainly discolors without weakening. Brown rot causes cubical cracking, white rot leaves bleached stringy wood, and decay fungi require moisture. Mold is a cosmetic and air-quality concern.

23. A — The true statement is that the substructure sits closest to the soil, the main subterranean entry route. It is not the only drywood habitat, the most valuable space, or the easiest area. Proximity to soil makes it high-yield.

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

25. A — The true statement is that mixing and loading is the highest-exposure step in application. The concentrate is the most hazardous form, PPE is required, and the label always applies. Protection peaks where exposure peaks.

26. A — The false statement is that swarmers directly consume large amounts of wood; they are reproductives, and the workers do the damage. A swarm signals a mature colony, swarmers shed wings, and they found new colonies. Swarmers do not consume wood.

27. D — The true statement is that pre-construction treatment treats soil and wood while fully accessible. It is not done after occupancy, does not rely on drilling finished slabs, and never waives the label. Full access is its key advantage.

28. A — The true statement is that a conducive condition favors infestation but is not itself an infestation. It is not identical to an active infestation, not proof of current termites, and can exist without live insects. It is a risk factor reported separately.

29. B — The false statement is that drywood termites build large mud tubes across foundations; mud tubes are a subterranean trait. Drywood termites need no soil contact, live within the wood, and leave six-sided pellets. They do not build mud tubes.

30. A — The true statement is that triple rinsing cleans a container, with the rinsate added to the spray tank. Containers should not be reused for water, discarded into drains, or burned. Triple rinsing prepares them for proper disposal.

31. C — The true statement is that a restricted-use pesticide requires a certified applicator. It may not be applied freely by the public, is not exempt from FIFRA, and is not nontoxic. Its hazard is why its use is restricted.

32. B — The false statement is that vapor drift occurs during application before evaporation; vapor drift is movement of vapors after the product volatilizes. Particle drift is droplet movement during application, and drift can harm non-target areas. The two drift types are distinct.

33. D — The true statement is that termites undergo incomplete metamorphosis with no pupal stage. They do not have a complete-metamorphosis pupal stage, their nymphs can develop into castes, and they molt rather than hatching as adults. This flexibility lets nymphs become any caste.

34. B — The true statement is that a mud tube that rebuilds within a day indicates active infestation. An old crumbling tube indicates past activity, and measuring or photographing does not confirm activity. Fresh repair confirms a living colony.

35. A — The true statement is that soil termiticides can contaminate wells and groundwater. They do not improve water taste, guarantee a termite-free structure, or raise indoor temperature. Protecting water sources is a critical termite-specific concern.

36. D — The false statement is that the inspection diagram replaces the written report entirely; it supplements rather than replaces it. The diagram pinpoints findings and inaccessible areas and is required in many states. It works alongside the written report.

37. B — The true statement is that carpenter bees bore round, finger-width holes into bare softwood. They do not prefer painted surfaces, consume wood, or build mud tubes. The round hole in bare wood is their signature.

38. C — The true statement is that documenting inaccessible areas discloses limits and reduces liability. It does not guarantee those areas are pest-free, replace the diagram, or allow skipping the report. Honest disclosure is a core protection.

39. C — The true statement is that applying exactly at the labeled rate is correct practice. A higher rate is not safer, the label rate is not a rough suggestion, and exceeding it does not guarantee faster control. The label rate is a legal requirement.

40. B — The false statement is that a written exam alone fully confirms field competence; it cannot, which is why supervised experience is required. Supervised experience confirms practical competence, and continuing education and renewal keep a license current. Field time confirms real-world ability.

41. D — The true statement is that the signal words rank CAUTION, WARNING, then DANGER by increasing hazard. CAUTION is not the most toxic, DANGER is not the least, and the order is not reversed. This ordering communicates relative acute toxicity.

42. C — The true statement is that a free inspection from a treatment seller may carry a bias as an interested party. Such a conflict does exist, lenders do not always prefer free inspections, and free inspections are not illegal. The bias is why such reports may not satisfy lenders.

43. D — The false statement is that subterranean galleries are always clean and free of soil; they are typically lined with soil and fecal material. Drywood galleries are clean with pellets, and carpenter ant galleries are clean with coarse debris. Soil lining is the subterranean signature.

44. B — The true statement is that trophallaxis circulates gut microbes and shared food among nestmates. It does not prevent bait spread, enable flight, or remove the need to eat cellulose — in fact it spreads baits through the colony. Food-sharing is the transfer mechanism.

45. B — The true statement is that termites can enter a slab home hidden through cracks and penetrations. The slab does not expose all wood, does have penetrations, and a crawlspace is generally more inspectable. Concealed slab entry is the inspection challenge.

46. C — The false statement is that the soldier caste consumes wood while defending; soldiers defend but do not consume wood and must be fed by workers. Workers forage and consume cellulose, soldiers defend, and the queen lays eggs. The soldier's role is defense only.

47. A — The true statement is that a widespread multi-floor drywood infestation warrants fumigation. A single accessible beam does not require tenting, a subterranean soil-entry infestation is not best treated by fumigation, and ventilation does not eliminate a drywood colony. Distribution drives the need for fumigation.

48. C — The false statement is that applying termiticide is the proper first step of an inspection; the inspection begins with gathering history. Gathering history directs the inspection, systematic examination prevents oversights, and the diagram and report conclude it. Treatment is not an inspection step.

49. A — The true statement is that cockroaches are the closest evolutionary relatives of termites, which belong to the order Blattodea. Ants, bees, and beetles are not their closest relatives. The resemblance to ants is superficial.

50. C — The true statement is that decay fungi weaken wood while mold mainly discolors it. Mold does not destroy cellulose, the two do not have identical effects, and both require moisture. Distinguishing them prevents over- or understating damage.