

PRACTICE EXAM 17 — WDI CATEGORY SIMULATION (50 QUESTIONS)

1. Which of the following is NOT a sign of subterranean termites?
 - A. Mud tubes bridging soil to wood
 - B. Galleries lined with soil and fecal material
 - C. Pale workers rebuilding a broken tube
 - D. Six-sided fecal pellets beneath the wood

2. All of the following are castes or stages in a termite colony EXCEPT:
 - A. Powderpost larva
 - B. Worker
 - C. Soldier
 - D. Alate

3. Which action is LEAST appropriate when an area is blocked by stored belongings?
 - A. Certifying the blocked area as termite-free
 - B. Documenting the area as inaccessible
 - C. Noting the reason it could not be inspected
 - D. Recommending the items be moved for follow-up

4. All of the following require elevated moisture EXCEPT:
 - A. Subterranean termites
 - B. Wood-decay fungi
 - C. Drywood termites
 - D. Dampwood termites

5. Which statement about the pesticide label is NOT correct?

- A. The labeled rate may be exceeded for severe infestations
- B. The label dictates the application rate
- C. The label specifies approved sites
- D. Using the product against the label is illegal

6. Which of the following is NOT a function of a termite shield?

- A. Forcing termites into the open
- B. Making termite activity visible
- C. Aiding the inspector's detection
- D. Chemically killing termites on contact

7. All of the following distinguish termites from ants EXCEPT:

- A. Broad versus pinched waist
- B. Straight versus bent antennae
- C. Equal versus unequal wing pairs
- D. Body color as a reliable indicator

8. Which of the following is NOT true of carpenter ants?

- A. They excavate wood to create nest galleries
- B. They leave clean galleries with coarse debris
- C. They consume the wood as their primary food
- D. They prefer wood softened by moisture

9. Which action is LEAST appropriate when mixing a concentrated termiticide?

- A. Wearing the label-specified PPE
- B. Measuring the concentrate accurately
- C. Skipping PPE because the product will be diluted
- D. Following the label's mixing directions

10. All of the following are true of drywood termites EXCEPT:

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

11. Which of the following is NOT a conducive condition?

- A. Wood-to-ground contact
- B. A damp, poorly ventilated crawlspace
- C. Cellulose debris on crawlspace soil
- D. Live termites feeding in a sill plate

12. All of the following describe a non-repellent termiticide EXCEPT:

- A. Termites cannot detect it
- B. Termites are repelled and leave the area
- C. Termites tunnel through it unaware
- D. Termites transfer it to nestmates

13. Which statement about LD50 is NOT correct?

- A. A higher LD50 indicates a more toxic substance
- B. A lower LD50 indicates a more toxic substance
- C. LD50 measures acute toxicity
- D. LD50 values differ among products

14. All of the following are appropriate first steps at an inspection EXCEPT:

- A. Gathering the property's prior history
- B. Reviewing any prior treatment records
- C. Planning a systematic inspection route

D. Applying a preventive termiticide to the perimeter

15. Which of the following is NOT true of swarmers (alates)?

A. They are the caste that consumes the most wood

B. They are winged reproductives

C. Their presence signals a mature colony

D. They shed their wings after flight

16. All of the following are signs specific to drywood termites EXCEPT:

A. Six-sided fecal pellets

B. Soil-packed galleries

C. Small kick-out holes

D. Clean galleries within the wood

17. Which action is LEAST appropriate for protecting a drinking-water well during soil treatment?

A. Applying extra termiticide near the well for protection

B. Following the label's precautions near water

C. Observing setback distances from the well

D. Preventing runoff toward the wellhead

18. All of the following are true of the substructure EXCEPT:

A. It sits closest to the soil

B. It exposes sill plates and joists

C. It is a high-yield inspection zone

D. It is the only place drywood termites live

19. Which of the following is NOT a step in proper container disposal?

A. Triple rinsing the empty container

- B. Adding the rinsate to the spray tank
- C. Reusing the container for drinking water
- D. Disposing of the container per the label

20. All of the following favor wood-destroying organisms EXCEPT:

- A. A chronic plumbing leak
- B. Soil graded to slope away from the foundation
- C. Poor crawlspace ventilation
- D. Cellulose debris in soil contact

21. Which statement about fumigation is NOT correct?

- A. It reaches hidden galleries within wood
- B. It suits widespread drywood infestations
- C. It is the best choice for subterranean soil entry
- D. It treats the whole structure under a sealed tent

22. All of the following are true of the worker caste EXCEPT:

- A. It forages for cellulose
- B. It feeds other castes
- C. It maintains the galleries
- D. It defends the colony with enlarged mandibles

23. Which of the following is NOT a sign of carpenter bees?

- A. A round, finger-width entry hole
- B. Six-sided fecal pellets in the wood
- C. Nesting tunnels in bare softwood
- D. Staining beneath the entry hole

24. All of the following are true about FIFRA and state authority EXCEPT:

- A. FIFRA is a federal law
- B. The EPA administers federal pesticide regulation
- C. States may set stricter requirements
- D. States may set requirements weaker than the federal baseline

25. Which action is LEAST appropriate when an active infestation is found with conducive conditions present?

- A. Treating the active infestation
- B. Ignoring the conducive conditions entirely
- C. Recommending correction of the conditions
- D. Documenting both in the report

26. Which statement about a wood-destroying organism inspection is NOT correct?

- A. It guarantees the structure is termite-free
- B. It covers visible, accessible areas
- C. It reports evidence found as of that date
- D. It documents inaccessible areas

27. All of the following are true of brown rot EXCEPT:

- A. It browns the affected wood
- B. It cracks wood into a cubical pattern
- C. It leaves wood bleached and stringy
- D. It requires elevated moisture

28. Which of the following is NOT a reason mixing and loading is high-risk?

- A. The product is in its concentrated form
- B. The product is fully diluted and harmless
- C. Spills release concentrated material

D. Splashes can contact skin directly

29. All of the following are true of bait systems EXCEPT:

- A. The toxicant kills foragers instantly at the station
- B. The toxicant is slow-acting
- C. Foragers share it via trophallaxis
- D. Stations require periodic monitoring

30. Which statement about the CORE and category exams is NOT correct?

- A. The CORE exam covers universal safety
- B. The category exam covers WDI specialty knowledge
- C. The category exam replaces the CORE exam
- D. Both are commonly required for WDI work

31. All of the following protect the inspector from liability EXCEPT:

- A. Documenting inaccessible areas
- B. Recording the inspection's limitations
- C. Keeping accurate written records
- D. Guaranteeing the home is pest-free

32. Which of the following is NOT true of trophallaxis?

- A. It circulates gut microbes among nestmates
- B. It prevents baits from spreading in the colony
- C. It shares food among colony members
- D. It distributes non-repellents through the colony

33. All of the following are true of pre-construction treatment EXCEPT:

- A. The soil is fully accessible

- B. The structural wood is exposed
- C. It is more thorough than post-construction
- D. It is performed after the home is occupied

34. Which action is LEAST appropriate when a mud tube is found?

- A. Breaking it open to check for activity
- B. Looking for live termites inside
- C. Certifying it as inactive without examining it
- D. Noting whether it is freshly rebuilt

35. All of the following are true of the Formosan termite EXCEPT:

- A. It forms very large colonies
- B. It builds moisture-retaining carton nests
- C. It needs no soil contact and ignores moisture
- D. It is an aggressive subterranean species

36. Which statement about treated soil zones is NOT correct?

- A. The zone must be continuous
- B. A small gap will not affect control
- C. Termites exploit gaps to reach wood
- D. Continuity defeats the termites' foraging

37. All of the following are true of wood-decay fungi EXCEPT:

- A. They require elevated wood moisture
- B. They weaken the structural wood
- C. They reduce the moisture in the wood
- D. "Dry rot" is a misnomer

38. Which of the following is NOT a route of pesticide exposure?

- A. Dermal absorption
- B. Cellular osmosis
- C. Inhalation
- D. Oral ingestion

39. All of the following are signal-word facts EXCEPT:

- A. CAUTION marks the most toxic products
- B. DANGER marks the highest acute toxicity
- C. WARNING marks moderate toxicity
- D. CAUTION marks the lowest acute toxicity

40. Which action is LEAST appropriate when applying a termiticide?

- A. Applying exactly at the labeled rate
- B. Calibrating the equipment first
- C. Wearing the required PPE
- D. Exceeding the labeled rate to finish faster

41. All of the following are true of the NPMA-33 EXCEPT:

- A. It is a standardized inspection report form
- B. It is a federal pesticide registration application
- C. It is used in real estate transactions
- D. It documents wood-destroying insect findings

42. Which of the following does NOT belong with the others?

- A. Trenching
- B. Rodding
- C. Stridulation

D. Sub-slab injection

43. All of the following are true of termite digestion EXCEPT:

- A. Termites digest cellulose without any help
- B. Gut microbes break down the cellulose
- C. Termites depend on symbiotic microorganisms
- D. Microbes are reacquired after molting

44. Which statement about slab-on-grade foundations is NOT correct?

- A. Termites can enter through cracks
- B. The slab exposes all structural wood for inspection
- C. Plumbing penetrations are possible entry points
- D. Hidden entry makes inspection challenging

45. All of the following are appropriate spill-response steps EXCEPT:

- A. Controlling the source of the spill
- B. Rinsing the spill into a storm drain
- C. Containing the spread of the material
- D. Cleaning up the contaminated material

46. Which of the following is NOT a wood-destroying organism category covered in inspections?

- A. Subterranean termites
- B. Carpenter ants
- C. Honeybees in a wall void
- D. Powderpost beetles

47. All of the following are true of mold versus decay fungi EXCEPT:

- A. Mold significantly weakens structural wood

- B. Mold mainly discolors the wood surface
- C. Decay fungi weaken the wood
- D. Both require moisture to grow

48. Which action is LEAST appropriate at the close of an inspection?

- A. Completing the structural diagram
- B. Writing up the findings
- C. Marking inaccessible areas
- D. Guaranteeing no future infestation

49. All of the following are true of subterranean galleries EXCEPT:

- A. They are clean and entirely free of soil
- B. They are lined with soil and fecal material
- C. They follow the grain of the wood
- D. They connect to mud tubes

50. Which statement about continuing education is NOT correct?

- A. It maintains a current license
- B. It keeps applicators up to date
- C. It eliminates the need for initial certification
- D. It is required periodically in many states

Practice Exam 17: Answer Key and Full Explanations

1. D — Six-sided fecal pellets are a drywood termite sign, not a subterranean one, so they are NOT a sign of subterranean termites. Mud tubes, soil-lined galleries, and pale workers rebuilding tubes are all subterranean signs. Subterranean termites pack galleries with soil rather than ejecting pellets.

2. A — A powderpost larva is a beetle stage, not a termite caste or stage, so it is the exception. Workers, soldiers, and alates are all termite castes. The powderpost beetle is a separate wood-destroying organism.

3. A — Certifying a blocked area as termite-free is least appropriate, since it cannot be examined. Documenting it as inaccessible, noting the reason, and recommending the items be moved are all proper. The inspector must not certify what was never seen.

4. C — Drywood termites are the exception that requires no elevated moisture, living within dry wood. Subterranean termites, decay fungi, and dampwood termites all depend on moisture. Independence from moisture is the drywood hallmark.

5. A — The incorrect statement is that the labeled rate may be exceeded for severe infestations; exceeding the rate is always illegal. The label dictates rate and sites, and inconsistent use is illegal. "The label is the law" forbids over-application.

6. D — Chemically killing termites on contact is NOT a function of a termite shield, which is a physical detection aid. The shield forces termites into the open, makes activity visible, and aids detection. It neither poisons nor permanently excludes termites.

7. D — Body color is NOT a reliable indicator distinguishing termites from ants, since color varies. Waist shape, antennae form, and wing-pair symmetry are all dependable features. Structural traits, not color, separate the two.

8. C — Carpenter ants do NOT consume wood as food; they excavate it to nest and feed elsewhere. They do create galleries, leave clean galleries with coarse debris, and prefer moisture-softened wood. Not eating wood is the key contrast with termites.

9. C — Skipping PPE because the product will be diluted is least appropriate, since mixing handles the most concentrated, highest-exposure form. Wearing label PPE, measuring accurately, and following mixing directions are all proper. Protection is most critical at this step.

10. A — Building mud tubes across foundations is NOT a drywood trait; mud tubes are subterranean. Drywood termites need no soil, live within the wood, and leave six-sided pellets. They maintain no soil connection.

11. D — Live termites feeding in a sill plate is an active infestation, not a conducive condition. Wood-to-ground contact, a damp crawlspace, and cellulose debris are conducive conditions. A conducive condition favors infestation but is not one.

12. B — Being repelled and leaving the area describes a repellent, not a non-repellent, so it is the exception. A non-repellent is undetectable, is tunneled through unaware, and is transferred to nestmates. Undetectability enables colony-wide control.

13. A — The incorrect statement is that a higher LD50 indicates a more toxic substance; in fact a lower LD50 means more toxic. LD50 measures acute toxicity and varies among products. The relationship is inverse.

14. D — Applying a preventive termiticide is NOT an appropriate first step of an inspection. Gathering history, reviewing records, and planning a route are proper first steps. Treatment follows inspection and findings, not the reverse.

15. A — Swarmers are NOT the caste that consumes the most wood; the workers do the feeding and damage. Swarmers are winged reproductives, signal a mature colony, and shed their wings. They do not consume wood.

16. B — Soil-packed galleries are a subterranean sign, not a drywood one, so it is the exception. Six-sided pellets, kick-out holes, and clean galleries within the wood are drywood signs. Drywood termites do not pack galleries with soil.

17. A — Applying extra termiticide near the well is least appropriate, as it raises contamination risk. Following label precautions, observing setbacks, and preventing runoff toward the wellhead all protect the water. Over-application threatens the very resource being protected.

18. D — The exception is that the substructure is the only place drywood termites live; in fact drywood termites live within wood anywhere, including upper floors. The substructure does sit closest to the soil, expose sill plates and joists, and yield high evidence. Its value is proximity to soil, not drywood habitat.

19. C — Reusing the container for drinking water is NOT a disposal step and is dangerous. Triple rinsing, adding rinsate to the tank, and disposing per the label are proper. Pesticide containers must never hold consumables.

20. B — Soil graded to slope away from the foundation does NOT favor wood-destroying organisms; it directs water away and reduces moisture. A plumbing leak, poor ventilation, and cellulose debris all favor them. Positive grade is corrective, not conducive.

21. C — The incorrect statement is that fumigation is best for subterranean soil entry; soil treatment or baiting is appropriate there. Fumigation reaches hidden galleries, suits widespread drywood, and treats the whole structure under a tent. It targets drywood, not soil-dwelling termites.

22. D — Defending the colony with enlarged mandibles describes the soldier, not the worker, so it is the exception. Workers forage, feed other castes, and maintain galleries. Defense is the soldier's role.

23. B — Six-sided fecal pellets are a drywood termite sign, not a carpenter bee sign, so they are NOT a carpenter bee sign. The round finger-width hole, bare-softwood nesting tunnels, and staining below are carpenter bee signs. Carpenter bees do not produce pellets.

24. D — The exception is that states may set requirements weaker than the federal baseline; in fact they may not fall below it. FIFRA is federal, the EPA administers it, and states may be stricter. The federal floor may be exceeded but not undercut.

25. B — Ignoring the conducive conditions entirely is least appropriate, leaving the structure at reinfestation risk. Treating the infestation, recommending correction, and documenting both are proper. Effective practice addresses both the infestation and the conditions.

26. A — The incorrect statement is that an inspection guarantees a termite-free structure; it cannot. It covers visible, accessible areas, reports evidence as of that date, and documents inaccessible areas. Access limits make a guarantee impossible.

27. C — Leaving wood bleached and stringy describes white rot, not brown rot, so it is the exception. Brown rot browns the wood, cracks it cubically, and requires moisture. The cubical cracking is the brown rot signature.

28. B — The exception is that the product is fully diluted and harmless during mixing; in fact it is in its most concentrated, hazardous form. The concentrated form, spill potential, and skin-contact risk all make mixing high-risk. Exposure peaks at this step.

29. A — The exception is that the toxicant kills foragers instantly; bait toxicants are deliberately slow-acting so foragers survive to share them. The toxicant is slow-acting, shared via trophallaxis, and stations require monitoring. Instant kill would defeat colony transfer.

30. C — The incorrect statement is that the category exam replaces the CORE exam; both are required and cover different material. CORE covers universal safety, the category covers WDI specialty knowledge, and both are commonly required. They complement rather than replace each other.

31. D — Guaranteeing the home is pest-free does NOT protect the inspector; it creates liability. Documenting inaccessible areas, recording limitations, and keeping accurate records all protect against liability. An unenforceable guarantee invites disputes.

32. B — The exception is that trophallaxis prevents baits from spreading; in fact it spreads baits and non-repellents through the colony. It circulates gut microbes, shares food, and distributes non-repellents. Food-sharing is the very mechanism that enables colony control.

33. D — The exception is that pre-construction treatment is performed after occupancy; it is performed during construction before enclosure. The soil is accessible, the wood is exposed, and it is more thorough than post-construction. Full access during construction is its advantage.

34. C — Certifying a tube as inactive without examining it is least appropriate, since activity must be verified. Breaking it open, looking for live termites, and noting fresh rebuilding all establish activity. Fresh repair confirms a living colony.

35. C — The exception is that the Formosan termite needs no soil contact and ignores moisture; it is a subterranean species that depends on moisture. It forms very large colonies, builds carton nests, and is aggressive. Its moisture-retaining carton nest reflects its moisture needs.

36. B — The incorrect statement is that a small gap will not affect control; subterranean termites exploit any gap. The zone must be continuous, termites exploit gaps, and continuity defeats their foraging. Any break undermines the barrier.

37. C — The exception is that decay fungi reduce wood moisture; in fact they require elevated moisture and do not lower it. They require moisture, weaken the wood, and "dry rot" is a misnomer. Their presence always signals a moisture problem.

38. B — Cellular osmosis is NOT a route of pesticide exposure. Dermal absorption, inhalation, and oral ingestion are the recognized routes. Dermal exposure is the most common for applicators.

39. A — The exception is that CAUTION marks the most toxic products; CAUTION marks the least toxic. DANGER marks the highest toxicity, WARNING the moderate, and CAUTION the lowest. The order is CAUTION, WARNING, DANGER.

40. D — Exceeding the labeled rate to finish faster is least appropriate and illegal. Applying at the labeled rate, calibrating first, and wearing PPE are all proper. The label rate is a legal maximum that must never be exceeded.

41. B — The exception is that the NPMA-33 is a federal pesticide registration application; it is an inspection report form. It is a standardized form, used in real estate, that documents WDI findings. It has nothing to do with pesticide registration.

42. C — Stridulation, a sound-producing behavior, does NOT belong with the soil-treatment techniques. Trenching, rodding, and sub-slab injection are all application methods. Stridulation is unrelated to termiticide application.

43. A — The exception is that termites digest cellulose without any help; in fact they depend on gut microbes. Microbes break down cellulose, termites rely on these symbionts, and microbes are reacquired after molting. The partnership is essential to digestion.

44. B — The incorrect statement is that the slab exposes all structural wood for inspection; a slab conceals entry points. Termites can enter through cracks and plumbing penetrations, and hidden entry makes inspection challenging. Concealed entry is the slab's inspection difficulty.

45. B — Rinsing the spill into a storm drain is NOT an appropriate spill-response step and is illegal. Controlling the source, containing the spread, and cleaning up are the proper three C's. Draining the spill contaminates the environment.

46. C — Honeybees in a wall void are NOT a wood-destroying organism category covered in inspections, since they do not damage wood. Subterranean termites, carpenter ants, and powderpost beetles are wood-destroying organisms. Honeybees are a stinging-insect concern, not a WDO.

47. A — The exception is that mold significantly weakens structural wood; mold mainly discolors without weakening. Mold discolors the surface, decay fungi weaken the wood, and both require moisture. Mold is a cosmetic and air-quality issue, not structural.

48. D — Guaranteeing no future infestation is least appropriate at an inspection's close, as it is unsupported. Completing the diagram, writing up findings, and marking inaccessible areas are all proper. The inspection reports current evidence, not future assurances.

49. A — The exception is that subterranean galleries are clean and free of soil; in fact they are lined with soil and fecal material. They are soil-lined, follow the grain, and connect to mud tubes. Soil lining is the subterranean signature.

50. C — The incorrect statement is that continuing education eliminates the need for initial certification; it does not replace it. CE maintains a current license, keeps applicators up to date, and is required periodically. It supplements, rather than substitutes for, initial certification.