

# PRACTICE EXAM 18 — WDI CATEGORY SIMULATION (50 QUESTIONS)

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1. The exchange of food and fluids among termite nestmates, which also spreads baits through the colony, is called \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. stridulation
- B. metamorphosis
- C. trophallaxis
- D. sclerotization

2. Subterranean termites build \_\_\_\_\_ out of soil and saliva to travel between the ground and the wood they feed on.

- A. carton nests
- B. kick-out holes
- C. frass pellets
- D. mud tubes

3. The termite caste responsible for foraging and consuming cellulose, and therefore for structural damage, is the \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. soldier
- B. alate
- C. queen
- D. worker

4. A termiticide that termites cannot detect and tunnel through unaware, carrying it back to the colony, is described as \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. non-repellent
- B. repellent
- C. fast-acting
- D. granular

5. Termites cannot digest the cellulose in wood without the help of symbiotic \_\_\_\_\_ living in their gut.

- A. microorganisms
- B. enzymes only
- C. fungi spores
- D. pheromones

6. A condition such as wood-to-ground contact or excess moisture that favors infestation without being an infestation itself is called a \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. active infestation
- B. previous infestation
- C. conducive condition
- D. inaccessible area

7. Drywood termites characteristically eject distinctive six-sided \_\_\_\_\_ through small kick-out holes in infested wood.

- A. wing scales
- B. fecal pellets
- C. mud particles
- D. egg cases

8. The principle that a pesticide must be used only as its label directs is summarized by the phrase "the label is the \_\_\_\_\_."

- A. law
- B. guide
- C. suggestion
- D. option

9. A lower LD50 value indicates that a substance is \_\_\_\_\_ than one with a higher LD50.

- A. less toxic
- B. more toxic
- C. equally toxic
- D. less concentrated

10. The metal barrier installed on a foundation to force termites into the open where they can be seen is called a termite \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. shield
- B. trap
- C. bait
- D. fence

11. Carpenter ants damage wood by excavating it to \_\_\_\_\_ rather than by eating it.

- A. feed on the cellulose
- B. nest in it
- C. digest the lignin
- D. extract its moisture

12. A continuous, unbroken treated soil zone is required because subterranean termites will exploit any \_\_\_\_\_ to reach the wood.

- A. moisture source
- B. gap
- C. food source
- D. wing scar

13. The highest-exposure step in pesticide application, requiring full PPE, is \_\_\_\_\_ the concentrated product.

- A. transporting
- B. storing
- C. mixing and loading
- D. recording

14. Termites undergo \_\_\_\_\_ metamorphosis, developing from egg to nymph to adult with no pupal stage.

- A. complete
- B. incomplete
- C. hyper-
- D. regressive

15. The standardized wood-destroying insect inspection report form commonly used in real estate transactions is the \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Safety Data Sheet
- B. pesticide label
- C. business license

D. NPMA-33

16. Whole-structure tent fumigation is most appropriate for a drywood infestation that is \_\_\_\_\_ throughout the structure.

- A. widespread
- B. confined to one beam
- C. located in the soil
- D. limited to the foundation

17. A wood-destroying organism inspection is limited to a visual examination of \_\_\_\_\_ areas.

- A. all concealed
- B. accessible
- C. previously treated
- D. soil-bearing

18. Among the signal words, \_\_\_\_\_ indicates the highest level of acute toxicity.

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

19. Soil that slopes toward a foundation, allowing water to collect against it, is referred to as \_\_\_\_\_ grade.

- A. positive
- B. level

- C. negative
- D. compacted

20. All wood-decay fungi require elevated \_\_\_\_\_ to grow, which is why "dry rot" is a misnomer.

- A. temperature
- B. moisture
- C. salinity
- D. acidity

21. The winged reproductive termites that leave a mature colony to found new ones are called \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. workers
- B. alates
- C. soldiers
- D. neotenics

22. Federal pesticide regulation in the United States is governed by \_\_\_\_\_, administered by the EPA.

- A. OSHA
- B. WHMIS
- C. FIFRA
- D. NEPA

23. Bait toxicants are deliberately formulated to be \_\_\_\_\_ so that foragers survive to share them through the colony.

- A. fast-acting

- B. slow-acting
- C. repellent
- D. volatile

24. The closest evolutionary relatives of termites are the \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. ants
- B. wasps
- C. beetles
- D. cockroaches

25. Injecting termiticide into the soil with a long probe is the application technique known as \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. trenching
- B. rodding
- C. fogging
- D. tenting

26. Brown rot causes affected wood to crack into a distinctive \_\_\_\_\_ pattern.

- A. cubical
- B. stringy
- C. powdery
- D. spiral

27. Pre-construction treatment is more thorough than post-construction treatment because the soil and wood are fully \_\_\_\_\_ during the build.

- A. enclosed

- B. painted
- C. accessible
- D. occupied

28. A pesticide that may be applied only by or under the supervision of a certified applicator is classified as a \_\_\_\_\_ pesticide.

- A. restricted-use
- B. general-use
- C. biological
- D. inert

29. The most common route of pesticide exposure for applicators is \_\_\_\_\_ contact.

- A. oral
- B. dermal
- C. ocular
- D. nasal

30. Carpenter bees bore a round, finger-width entry hole into bare \_\_\_\_\_ before tunneling along the grain.

- A. masonry
- B. metal
- C. concrete
- D. softwood

31. White rot fungus leaves affected wood looking bleached and \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. stringy
- B. cubical
- C. powdery
- D. crystallized

32. The substructure receives priority in an inspection because it sits closest to the \_\_\_\_\_, the main subterranean entry route.

- A. roofline
- B. attic
- C. chimney
- D. soil

33. An applicator must \_\_\_\_\_ the equipment before treatment to ensure the labeled rate is applied.

- A. paint
- B. dismantle
- C. calibrate
- D. submerge

34. A mud tube that rebuilds quickly after being broken open indicates an \_\_\_\_\_ infestation.

- A. old
- B. abandoned
- C. inactive
- D. active

35. Documenting inaccessible areas in the report discloses the inspection's \_\_\_\_\_ and protects against liability.

- A. limitations
- B. guarantees
- C. fees
- D. warranties

36. The Formosan subterranean termite builds moisture-retaining \_\_\_\_\_ nests and forms exceptionally large colonies.

- A. paper
- B. mud-tube
- C. wax
- D. carton

37. The two broad licensing exams most candidates take are the \_\_\_\_\_ exam and the WDI category exam.

- A. business
- B. renewal
- C. CORE
- D. apprenticeship

38. Empty pesticide containers should be \_\_\_\_\_ rinsed, with the rinsate added to the spray tank.

- A. triple
- B. never
- C. single
- D. solvent

39. Moisture is the master conducive condition because it favors nearly all wood-destroying organisms except \_\_\_\_\_ termites.

- A. subterranean
- B. Formosan
- C. dampwood
- D. drywood

40. Movement of spray droplets away from the target during application is called particle \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. drift
- B. runoff
- C. leaching
- D. binding

41. The broad waist of a termite, compared with the pinched waist of an ant, is one \_\_\_\_\_ feature for telling them apart.

- A. unreliable
- B. reliable
- C. seasonal
- D. color-based

42. A finding of old, abandoned galleries with no live insects is reported as a \_\_\_\_\_ infestation.

- A. active
- B. conducive
- C. previous
- D. current

43. Applying a pesticide at a rate \_\_\_\_\_ the label maximum is a violation of federal law.

- A. equal to
- B. exceeding
- C. below
- D. matching

44. Termite soldiers are specialized for \_\_\_\_\_ the colony and must be fed by the workers.

- A. defending
- B. reproducing
- C. foraging
- D. excavating

45. A treatment confined to a single accessible drywood-infested beam is best handled by a \_\_\_\_\_ wood treatment.

- A. localized
- B. whole-structure
- C. soil-zone
- D. perimeter

46. States administer their own applicator certification programs above a federal \_\_\_\_\_ set by the EPA.

- A. ceiling
- B. license
- C. exam
- D. baseline

47. Termites that live entirely within the wood they infest and require no soil contact are \_\_\_\_\_ termites.

- A. subterranean
- B. dampwood
- C. drywood
- D. Formosan

48. Mold and stain fungi mainly \_\_\_\_\_ the wood surface without significantly reducing its structural strength.

- A. dissolve
- B. strengthen
- C. petrify
- D. discolor

49. The first step upon arriving at an inspection is gathering the property's prior pest and treatment \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. invoices
- B. blueprints
- C. history
- D. photographs

50. Periodic \_\_\_\_\_ education credits are required in many states to keep an applicator's license current.

- A. higher
- B. physical
- C. continuing

D. optional

## Practice Exam 18: Answer Key and Full Explanations

1. C — Trophallaxis is the exchange of food and fluids among nestmates, which also spreads baits and non-repellents through the colony. Stridulation, metamorphosis, and sclerotization describe other processes. This food-sharing is the mechanism that makes colony-wide control possible.
2. D — Subterranean termites build mud tubes of soil and saliva to travel between the ground and the wood while retaining moisture. Carton nests, kick-out holes, and frass pellets belong to other organisms. Mud tubes are the subterranean signature.
3. D — The worker caste forages for and consumes cellulose and is therefore responsible for structural damage. Soldiers defend, alates found colonies, and the queen reproduces. The worker is the destructive caste.
4. A — A non-repellent termiticide is undetectable, so termites tunnel through it unaware and carry it back to the colony. Repellent, fast-acting, and granular describe other properties. Undetectability enables colony-wide transfer.
5. A — Termites cannot digest cellulose without symbiotic microorganisms in their gut. Their own enzymes alone are insufficient, and spores and pheromones play no digestive role. This partnership underlies termite biology.
6. C — A conducive condition favors infestation without being one, such as wood-to-ground contact or excess moisture. Active and previous infestation and inaccessible areas are different report categories. Conducive conditions are reported as risk factors.
7. B — Drywood termites eject distinctive six-sided fecal pellets through small kick-out holes. Wing scales, mud particles, and egg cases are not their sign. The pellets are the drywood signature.
8. A — "The label is the law" summarizes that a pesticide must be used only as its label directs. It is not a mere guide, suggestion, or option. Label compliance is mandatory under FIFRA.

9. B — A lower LD50 indicates a more toxic substance, because a smaller dose is lethal. It is not less toxic, equally toxic, or merely less concentrated. The relationship is inverse.

10. A — A termite shield is the metal foundation barrier that forces termites into the open to be seen. It is not a trap, bait, or fence. Its value lies in aiding detection.

11. B — Carpenter ants damage wood by excavating it to nest in it rather than eating it. They do not feed on cellulose, digest lignin, or extract moisture as food. Not eating wood is the key contrast with termites.

12. B — A continuous treated zone is required because subterranean termites exploit any gap to reach the wood. The threat is a gap, not a moisture or food source or wing scar. Any break defeats the barrier.

13. C — Mixing and loading the concentrated product is the highest-exposure step, requiring full PPE. Transporting, storing, and recording pose far lower risk. Exposure peaks where the product is handled undiluted.

14. B — Termites undergo incomplete metamorphosis, developing egg to nymph to adult with no pupal stage. It is not complete, hyper-, or regressive metamorphosis. This flexibility lets nymphs develop into any caste.

15. D — The NPMA-33 is the standardized wood-destroying insect inspection report form used in real estate transactions. The SDS, label, and business license serve other purposes. It provides a recognized reporting format.

16. A — Whole-structure tent fumigation suits a drywood infestation that is widespread throughout the structure, reaching all hidden galleries. A single beam, soil, or foundation-limited infestation calls for other methods. Distribution drives the need for fumigation.

17. B — A wood-destroying organism inspection is limited to a visual examination of accessible areas. It does not cover all concealed areas and is not limited to treated or soil-bearing areas. Access defines the scope.

18. D — DANGER indicates the highest level of acute toxicity among the signal words. CAUTION and WARNING mark lower toxicity, and NOTICE is not a signal word. The order is CAUTION, WARNING, DANGER.

19. C — Soil sloping toward a foundation, collecting water against it, is negative grade. Positive grade slopes away, and level or compacted are not the term. Negative grade is a conducive condition.

20. B — All wood-decay fungi require elevated moisture, which is why "dry rot" is a misnomer. Temperature, salinity, and acidity are not the requirement. Their presence always signals a moisture problem.

21. B — Alates are the winged reproductives that leave a mature colony to found new ones. Workers and soldiers are wingless, and neotenics are a different reproductive form. Alates are the termites seen during a swarm.

22. C — FIFRA governs federal pesticide regulation and is administered by the EPA. OSHA, WHMIS, and NEPA address other areas. FIFRA is the governing pesticide law.

23. B — Bait toxicants are deliberately slow-acting so foragers survive to share them through the colony. Fast-acting, repellent, or volatile formulations would defeat the method. Slow action enables colony-wide elimination.

24. D — The closest evolutionary relatives of termites are cockroaches, both in the order Blattodea. Ants, wasps, and beetles are not their closest relatives. The resemblance to ants is superficial.

25. B — Rodding is injecting termiticide into the soil with a long probe. Trenching digs a trench, fogging disperses mist, and tenting seals for fumigation. Rodding helps achieve a continuous treated zone.

26. A — Brown rot causes affected wood to crack into a distinctive cubical pattern. Stringy describes white rot, and powdery and spiral are not its pattern. The cubical cracking is the brown rot signature.

27. C — Pre-construction treatment is more thorough because the soil and wood are fully accessible during the build. They are not enclosed, painted, or occupied at that stage. Full access is the key advantage.

28. A — A restricted-use pesticide may be applied only by or under a certified applicator. General-use, biological, and inert describe other categories. Its hazard is why its use is restricted.

29. B — Dermal contact is the most common route of pesticide exposure for applicators. Oral, ocular, and nasal routes are less common. Skin protection is emphasized for this reason.

30. D — Carpenter bees bore a round, finger-width entry hole into bare softwood before tunneling along the grain. They do not bore masonry, metal, or concrete. The hole in bare softwood is their signature.

31. A — White rot leaves affected wood looking bleached and stringy. Cubical describes brown rot, and powdery and crystallized are not its appearance. The stringy, bleached texture identifies white rot.

32. D — The substructure is prioritized because it sits closest to the soil, the main subterranean entry route. The roofline, attic, and chimney are not that route. Proximity to soil makes it high-yield.

33. C — An applicator must calibrate the equipment before treatment to ensure the labeled rate is applied. Painting, dismantling, or submerging it would not. Calibration ensures accurate, label-compliant application.

34. D — A mud tube that rebuilds quickly after being broken indicates an active infestation. Old, abandoned, and inactive describe the opposite. Fresh repair confirms a living colony.

35. A — Documenting inaccessible areas discloses the inspection's limitations and protects against liability. It does not provide guarantees, set fees, or create warranties. Honest disclosure is a core protection.

36. D — The Formosan termite builds moisture-retaining carton nests and forms exceptionally large colonies. The nests are not paper, mud-tube, or wax. The carton nest is its signature.

37. C — The two broad licensing exams are the CORE exam and the WDI category exam. Business, renewal, and apprenticeship are not these exams. CORE covers universal safety; the category covers specialty knowledge.

38. A — Empty pesticide containers should be triple rinsed, with the rinsate added to the spray tank. They should not be never-rinsed, single-rinsed, or solvent-rinsed for this purpose. Triple rinsing prepares them for proper disposal.

39. D — Moisture favors nearly all wood-destroying organisms except drywood termites, the exception that needs no external moisture. Subterranean, Formosan, and dampwood termites all depend on moisture. Moisture is the master conducive condition.

40. A — Movement of spray droplets away from the target during application is particle drift. Runoff, leaching, and binding describe other processes. Particle drift can harm non-target areas and waste product.

41. B — The broad waist of a termite versus the pinched waist of an ant is a reliable feature for telling them apart. It is not unreliable, seasonal, or color-based. Structural features, not color, distinguish the two.

42. C — Old, abandoned galleries with no live insects are reported as a previous infestation. Active, conducive, and current do not fit inactive evidence. Distinguishing previous from active infestation clarifies the report.

43. B — Applying a pesticide at a rate exceeding the label maximum is a violation of federal law. Applying at, below, or matching the rate is not the violation. The label rate is a legal ceiling.

44. A — Termite soldiers are specialized for defending the colony and must be fed by the workers. They do not reproduce, forage, or excavate. Defense is the soldier's role.

45. A — A single accessible drywood-infested beam is best handled by a localized wood treatment. Whole-structure, soil-zone, and perimeter treatments are excessive or aimed at other organisms. Matching scope to the infestation avoids unnecessary cost.

46. D — States administer their own certification programs above a federal baseline set by the EPA. It is not a ceiling, license, or exam. The federal floor may be exceeded but not undercut.

47. C — Drywood termites live entirely within the wood they infest and require no soil contact. Subterranean, dampwood, and Formosan termites depend on moisture or soil. Independence from soil is the drywood hallmark.

48. D — Mold and stain fungi mainly discolor the wood surface without significantly reducing its structural strength. They do not dissolve, strengthen, or petrify the wood. Mold is a cosmetic and air-quality concern.

49. C — The first step upon arriving at an inspection is gathering the property's prior pest and treatment history. Invoices, blueprints, and photographs are not the first step. History-gathering directs the inspection.

50. C — Periodic continuing education credits are required in many states to keep a license current. Higher, physical, and optional do not describe this requirement. Continuing education maintains certification over time.