# PRACTICE EXAM 7 — WDI CATEGORY SIMULATION (50 QUESTIONS)

1. Why can a non-repellent termiticide achieve broader colony control than a repellent one?

A. Because it kills every termite the instant it touches the soil

B. Because termites cannot detect it and carry it back to nestmates

C. Because it evaporates quickly and spreads through the air

D. Because it permanently repels termites from the entire property

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

A. So the bait costs less to manufacture and distribute

B. So the stations never need to be monitored again

C. So the bait remains visually appealing to foragers

D. So foragers survive long enough to share it through the colony

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

A. Because decay fungi require elevated wood moisture to grow

B. Because fungi consume moisture and release it into the air

C. Because dry wood attracts fungi more strongly than wet wood

D. Because fungi can only grow in completely frozen conditions

4. What is the most likely result if a treated soil zone has an untreated gap where a pipe enters?

A. The treatment becomes stronger near the gap

B. The gap improves drainage around the foundation

C. The structure becomes permanently termite-proof

D. Subterranean termites exploit the gap to bypass the treatment

5. Why does a swarm of winged alates appearing indoors signal a serious concern?

A. Because the swarmers themselves consume large amounts of wood

B. Because it indicates a mature colony exists in or near the structure

C. Because alates immediately begin building mud tubes indoors

D. Because the appearance of alates guarantees no colony is present

6. Why is dermal protection emphasized so heavily in pesticide application?

A. Because the skin is completely impermeable to all chemicals

B. Because dermal exposure is the most common route for applicators

C. Because inhalation is the only route that matters during spraying

D. Because oral exposure accounts for nearly all applicator contact

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

A. Because termites die instantly upon nearing any treated soil

B. Because a continuous zone reduces the cost of the product used

C. Because gaps improve ventilation beneath the structure

D. Because subterranean termites will exploit any gap to reach the wood

8. Why do subterranean termites build mud tubes across exposed surfaces?

A. To signal the colony's location to swarming alates

B. To store excess cellulose harvested from the wood

C. To retain moisture and protection while traveling to wood

D. To strengthen the foundation against structural movement

9. Why is "the label is the law" a foundational principle of pesticide use?

A. Because labels are advisory suggestions that may be adjusted freely

B. Because using a product inconsistently with its labeling is illegal

C. Because only the first-aid section of the label is enforceable

D. Because the label applies only to restricted-use pesticides

10. Why does a lower LD50 value indicate a more toxic substance?

A. Because a smaller dose is enough to be lethal

B. Because a larger dose is required to cause harm

C. Because LD50 measures only long-term chronic effects

D. Because LD50 is identical for all registered products

11. Why is moisture control considered the single most effective preventive measure against most wood-destroying organisms?

A. Because drywood termites are the only organisms that need moisture

B. Because moisture repels nearly all wood-destroying organisms

C. Because moisture favors nearly all of them except drywood termites

D. Because moisture has no effect on decay fungi or carpenter ants

12. Why must the substructure receive particularly thorough inspection despite being uncomfortable to access?

A. Because it sits closest to the soil, the main subterranean entry route

B. Because it contains the home's most valuable finished surfaces

C. Because it is the only location drywood termites can inhabit

D. Because it is consistently the easiest area to examine quickly

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

A. Because the product has already been fully diluted at this stage

B. Because no protective equipment is required during mixing

C. Because the product is handled in its most concentrated form

D. Because the label does not apply until the product is sprayed

14. Why are carpenter ant galleries clean and free of soil packing?

A. Because carpenter ants excavate wood to nest but do not eat it

B. Because carpenter ants pack their galleries with soil like termites

C. Because carpenter ants consume the wood and leave pellets behind

D. Because carpenter ants require constant soil contact to survive

15. Why does sounding and probing reveal damage that surface inspection misses?

A. Because termites always leave the surface visibly destroyed

B. Because painted surfaces are immune to internal damage

C. Because moisture meters cannot detect any internal decay

D. Because termites leave a thin intact shell over hollowed wood

16. Why must empty pesticide containers be triple rinsed before disposal?

A. Because rinsing removes residue and the rinsate can be applied to the site

B. Because rinsing increases the concentration of the leftover product

C. Because rinsing prepares the container to safely store drinking water

D. Because rinsing allows the container to be burned without hazard

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

A. Because it improves drainage of water away from the wood

B. Because it gives subterranean termites a hidden path into the wood

C. Because it strengthens the bond between the structure and soil

D. Because it deters carpenter bees from reaching the wood

18. Why is fumigation chosen for a widespread drywood termite infestation rather than localized treatment?

A. Because drywood termites live entirely within the soil

B. Because the gas penetrates all hidden galleries throughout the structure

C. Because fumigation is the cheapest option for any infestation

D. Because localized treatment is illegal for drywood termites

19. Why must an inspector document areas that could not be inspected?

A. Because documenting them guarantees those areas are pest-free

B. Because it lengthens the report to appear more thorough

C. Because it allows the inspector to skip the diagram entirely

D. Because it discloses limitations and protects against liability

20. Why does a termite shield force termites into the open rather than killing them?

A. Because its purpose is to make termite activity visible for inspection

B. Because it releases a chemical that poisons termites on contact

C. Because it permanently blocks all termite entry into the wood

D. Because it provides structural support to the floor framing

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

A. Because the EPA issues every individual applicator license directly

B. Because the federal framework sets a floor that states may exceed

C. Because FIFRA forbids any state from running its own program

D. Because states are required to be less strict than the EPA

22. Why does a recently molted termite worker depend on its nestmates?

A. Because molting permanently removes its ability to move

B. Because molting turns the worker into a reproductive caste

C. Because molting forces the worker to leave the colony

D. Because molting causes it to lose gut microbes it must regain by trophallaxis

23. Why is a free inspection offered by a treatment-selling company viewed with skepticism by lenders?

A. Because free inspections are prohibited under federal law

B. Because the report would be too detailed to be useful

C. Because handwritten reports are never accepted by lenders

D. Because the report comes from an interested party with potential bias

24. Why does negative grade around a foundation increase infestation risk?

A. Because it directs surface water safely away from the structure

B. Because it allows water to collect against the foundation, raising moisture

C. Because it prevents subterranean termites from reaching the wood

D. Because it improves crawlspace ventilation and lowers humidity

25. 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 the colony

C. Because workers forage for and consume the cellulose in wood

D. Because the queen leaves the nest to feed directly on the wood

26. Why does an inspection report only what is visible in accessible areas?

A. Because inspectors are legally barred from using any tools

B. Because hidden areas are always free of infestation

C. Because the inspection is intended to be destructive

D. Because a visual inspection cannot reach concealed or blocked areas

27. Why does the Formosan subterranean termite cause damage faster than native species?

A. Because it lives entirely within dry attic framing

B. Because its enormous colonies consume wood far more rapidly

C. Because it produces six-sided fecal pellets like drywood termites

D. Because it requires no moisture and ignores the soil entirely

28. Why must a pesticide applicator calibrate application equipment?

A. Because calibration ensures the equipment applies the correct label rate

B. Because calibration legally permits exceeding the labeled rate

C. Because calibration removes the need to wear protective equipment

D. Because calibration eliminates the requirement to keep records

29. Why is excess pesticide best avoided by mixing only the amount needed for a job?

A. Because leftover product becomes more toxic the longer it sits

B. Because it minimizes leftover product and the disposal problems it creates

C. Because diluted product may be safely stored near food and feed

D. Because mixing extra eliminates the need to calibrate the equipment

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

A. Because drywood termites build long mud tubes up the exterior walls

B. Because drywood termites need no soil contact and live within the wood

C. Because drywood termites require constant soil moisture to survive

D. Because drywood termites form the largest colonies of any group

31. Why does protecting wells and water sources matter so much in termite work?

A. Because soil termiticides improve the taste of well water

B. Because wells guarantee a structure is free of termites

C. Because soil-applied termiticides can contaminate groundwater

D. Because wells raise the indoor temperature after treatment

32. Why does the caste flexibility of termite nymphs benefit the colony?

A. Because it lets the colony skip the egg stage during growth

B. Because it allows termites to survive without eating cellulose

C. Because it removes the need for a queen to lay any eggs

D. Because it lets the colony adjust its workforce to changing needs

33. Why is the CORE exam required of every pesticide applicator regardless of specialty?

A. Because it covers the universal safety knowledge all applicators need

B. Because it tests only wood-destroying insect identification

C. Because it replaces the need for any category-specific exam

D. Because it applies solely to agricultural pesticide users

34. Why does painting or sealing exposed wood help deter carpenter bees?

A. Because the paint chemically poisons the carpenter bees on contact

B. Because carpenter bees prefer painted and sealed surfaces

C. Because carpenter bees favor bare, weathered wood for nesting

D. Because painting has no measurable effect on carpenter bees

35. Why does a continuous treated zone fail if even one section is left untreated?

A. Because the treated sections lose their toxicity near a gap

B. Because subterranean termites forage persistently and find any opening

C. Because a gap causes the entire zone to evaporate quickly

D. Because untreated soil increases the chemical's spread to the colony

36. Why are inadequately ventilated crawlspaces prone to wood-destroying organisms?

A. Because trapped moisture keeps the wood damp and inviting

B. Because good airflow attracts subterranean termites

C. Because ventilation increases the wood's moisture content

D. Because dry crawlspaces favor decay fungi and termites

37. Why does a slow-acting bait reach termites that never visited the station?

A. Because foragers share the toxicant with nestmates through trophallaxis

B. Because the bait releases a gas that travels through the soil

C. Because the toxicant repels termites toward untreated areas

D. Because every termite in the colony visits the station directly

38. Why is honest disclosure of inaccessible areas a protection for the inspector?

A. Because it guarantees no infestation exists in those areas

B. Because it allows the inspector to skip the written report

C. Because it certifies the structure as completely pest-free

D. Because it shows the inspection's limits and reduces liability

39. Why does a mud tube that rebuilds within a day indicate an active infestation?

A. Because old, abandoned tubes also rebuild themselves over time

B. Because rebuilding proves the tube was never inhabited

C. Because live colonies quickly repair damaged shelter tubes

D. Because rebuilt tubes indicate the colony has died off

40. Why does termite dependence on gut microbes make trophallaxis essential?

A. Because newly molted termites must reacquire lost microbes from nestmates

B. Because microbes allow termites to fly during a swarm

C. Because microbes defend the colony against predators

D. Because microbes eliminate the colony's need to eat cellulose

41. Why is a slab-on-grade foundation harder to inspect for termite entry?

A. Because the crawlspace is fully open for direct examination

B. Because entry occurs hidden through slab cracks and penetrations

C. Because all structural wood is exposed above the slab

D. Because slabs have no plumbing penetrations at all

42. Why does exceeding the labeled application rate create problems?

A. Because higher rates are always safer for the applicator

B. Because the label rate is only a rough starting suggestion

C. Because it is illegal, more hazardous, and environmentally harmful

D. Because more product guarantees faster colony elimination

43. Why does the inspection diagram strengthen the inspection report?

A. Because it replaces the written findings entirely

B. Because it estimates the property's market value

C. Because it pinpoints findings and inaccessible areas precisely

D. Because it demonstrates the inspector's artistic skill

44. Why does a colony continue to damage wood even after a swarm is eliminated?

A. Because the swarmers were the only wood-consuming caste

B. Because eliminating swarmers destroys the entire colony

C. Because the swarm was the actual source of the damage

D. Because the hidden workers remain and keep consuming wood

45. Why does cellulose debris in a crawlspace increase termite risk?

A. Because it provides food and harborage in direct soil contact

B. Because it improves the ventilation of the crawlspace

C. Because it raises the wood above the soil safely

D. Because it has no effect and removal is purely cosmetic

46. Why should an inspector avoid certifying a home as guaranteed "termite-free"?

A. Because such a guarantee is legally required on every report

B. Because termites cannot infest the majority of structures

C. Because the guarantee would lower the inspection fee

D. Because an inspection reports only visible evidence in accessible areas

47. Why must food and medicines be removed or sealed before fumigation?

A. Because the fumigant improves the shelf life of stored food

B. Because the placards posted on the tent require it for decoration

C. Because the fumigant is a highly toxic gas that contaminates consumables

D. Because the gas is harmless and the step is merely a formality

48. Why does a non-repellent termiticide rely on termite behavior to work?

A. Because termites detect it and seal off the treated soil

B. Because termites die at the soil surface before moving

C. Because termites tunnel through unaware and transfer it to the colony

D. Because termites avoid the treated zone and relocate the colony

49. Why is supervised field experience required in many states before independent licensure?

A. Because it replaces the need to pass any written exam

B. Because it exempts the applicant from continuing education

C. Because written exams confirm field competence on their own

D. Because it confirms practical competence the written exam cannot

50. Why does the same body of technical knowledge apply across different states' termite exams?

A. Because every state uses an identical exam written by the EPA

B. Because termite licensing is governed by a single national license

C. Because termite biology and control science do not change at state lines

D. Because states are forbidden from adding any local regulations

## Practice Exam 7: Answer Key and Full Explanations

1. B — A non-repellent achieves broader control because termites cannot detect it, so they tunnel through and carry the active ingredient back to nestmates via contact and trophallaxis. It does not kill instantly or repel. This colony-wide transfer is what distinguishes it from a repellent.

2. D — Bait toxicants are slow-acting so foragers survive long enough to share the active ingredient throughout the colony before dying. A fast-acting bait would kill foragers at the station and break the transfer chain. The slow action enables colony-wide elimination.

3. A — Decay fungi require elevated wood moisture to grow, so their presence always points to a moisture problem such as a leak or poor drainage. They cannot attack dry wood. Even "dry rot" requires moisture to develop, despite its name.

4. D — Subterranean termites exploit any untreated gap, such as where a pipe enters, to bypass the treated zone and reach the wood. A gap does not strengthen treatment or improve drainage. This is why a continuous, unbroken zone is essential.

5. B — An indoor swarm of alates indicates a mature colony exists in or near the structure, since only mature colonies produce swarmers. The alates themselves do not consume wood or build tubes. Their presence signals hidden, destructive workers nearby.

6. B — Dermal protection is emphasized because skin absorption is the most common route of occupational pesticide exposure. The skin is not impermeable, and oral and inhalation routes are less common for applicators. PPE priorities follow the dominant route.

7. D — A soil termiticide zone must be continuous because subterranean termites will exploit any gap to reach the wood. Termites do not die instantly near treated soil, and gaps do not aid ventilation or cut cost. Continuity is what makes the barrier effective.

8. C — Subterranean termites build mud tubes to retain moisture and gain protection from predators while traveling between soil and wood. The tubes are not for signaling, storage, or structural support. Moisture retention is the central purpose.

9. B — "The label is the law" is foundational because using a product inconsistently with its labeling is a violation of federal law under FIFRA. Labels are not advisory, and the entire label is enforceable. The applicator must follow it before every use.

10. A — A lower LD50 indicates greater toxicity because a smaller dose is lethal to half the test population. The relationship is inverse, and LD50 measures acute, not chronic, toxicity. Values differ among products, so they are not identical.

11. C — Moisture control is most effective because moisture favors nearly all wood-destroying organisms — subterranean and dampwood termites, carpenter ants, many beetles, and all decay

fungi — with drywood termites the lone exception. Controlling it discourages almost all of them at once. This is why moisture is the master condition.

12. A — The substructure is inspected thoroughly because it sits closest to the soil, the main route of subterranean entry, exposing sill plates and joists. It is not the easiest area, the most valuable finished space, or the only drywood habitat. Proximity to soil makes it high-yield.

13. C — Mixing and loading carry the highest exposure risk because the product is handled in its most concentrated, undiluted form. PPE is required at this stage, and the label always applies. Concentrate exposure is the most hazardous handling.

14. A — Carpenter ant galleries are clean and free of soil packing because the ants excavate wood to nest but do not eat it, pushing debris out. They do not pack galleries with soil or leave pellets. Clean galleries distinguish them from termites.

15. D — Sounding and probing reveal hidden damage because termites leave a thin intact outer shell over hollowed wood. The surface can look sound while the interior is destroyed. Physical testing exposes what visual inspection misses.

16. A — Triple rinsing removes residue, and the rinsate is added to the spray tank and applied at the label rate, making the container acceptable for disposal. It does not increase concentration, prepare for water storage, or permit burning. Triple rinsing is the proper disposal preparation.

17. B — 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 structure, or deter carpenter bees. This concealed entry is the risk.

18. B — Fumigation is chosen for widespread drywood infestations because the gas penetrates all hidden galleries throughout the structure, which localized treatment cannot reach. Drywood termites do not live in soil, and localized treatment is not illegal. Whole-structure reach is the reason.

19. D — Documenting inaccessible areas discloses the inspection's limitations and protects the inspector against liability if an infestation is later found there. It does not guarantee those areas are clear, replace the diagram, or merely pad the report. Honest disclosure is a core protection.

20. A — A termite shield forces termites into the open so their mud tubes become visible for inspection; its purpose is detection, not killing. It does not poison termites, block them permanently, or provide structural support. Exposing activity is its function.

21. B — States may be more stringent because the federal framework sets a floor that states may exceed but not fall below. The EPA registers pesticides and sets the baseline while states run certification. This explains state-to-state variation.

22. D — A recently molted worker loses its gut microbes and must reacquire them from nestmates through trophallaxis. Molting does not immobilize the worker, change its caste, or force it out. This dependence keeps the colony's microbes circulating.

23. D — A free inspection from a treatment-selling company is viewed skeptically because the report comes from an interested party with potential bias. Free inspections are not illegal, and the concern is bias, not detail or format. This conflict is why such reports may not satisfy lenders.

24. B — Negative grade slopes soil toward the foundation, allowing water to collect against the structure and raising moisture, which invites wood-destroying organisms. It does not direct water away, block termites, or improve ventilation. The added moisture is the risk.

25. C — 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.

26. D — An inspection reports only visible, accessible findings because a visual inspection cannot reach concealed or blocked areas. Inspectors do use tools, hidden areas are not assumed clear, and the inspection is non-destructive. Access limits define the scope.

27. B — The Formosan termite damages faster because its enormous colonies consume wood far more rapidly than native species. It does not live only in dry attics, produce drywood pellets, or ignore moisture and soil. Sheer colony size drives the rapid damage.

28. A — Calibration ensures the equipment applies the correct label rate, neither under- nor over-applying. It does not permit exceeding the rate, waive PPE, or remove recordkeeping. Calibration is the means of label compliance.

29. B — Mixing only the amount needed minimizes leftover product and the disposal problems it creates. Leftover product does not grow more toxic, may not be stored near food, and mixing extra does not eliminate calibration. Mixing to need is responsible practice.

30. B — 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 is what gives them this reach.

31. C — Protecting wells matters because soil-applied termiticides are placed directly into the ground and can contaminate groundwater. They do not improve water taste, guarantee a termite-free structure, or raise indoor temperature. Label precautions near wells must be followed.

32. D — Caste flexibility lets the colony adjust its workforce to changing needs, producing more soldiers, workers, or reproductives as required. It does not skip the egg stage, remove the queen, or end the need to eat cellulose. This adaptability aids colony success.

33. A — The CORE exam is required of all applicators because it covers the universal safety knowledge every applicator needs, regardless of specialty. It is not limited to WDI identification or agriculture, and it does not replace category exams. CORE is the shared foundation.

34. C — Painting or sealing deters carpenter bees because they favor bare, weathered wood for nesting and avoid finished surfaces. Paint does not poison them, and they do not prefer painted wood. Reducing attractiveness is how sealing helps.

35. B — A continuous zone fails at any gap because subterranean termites forage persistently and will find any opening. Treated sections do not lose toxicity near a gap, and a gap does not cause evaporation or aid colony spread. Persistent foraging defeats an incomplete barrier.

36. A — Poorly ventilated crawlspaces are prone to infestation because trapped moisture keeps the wood damp and inviting to termites, ants, and decay fungi. Good airflow does not attract termites, and ventilation lowers rather than raises moisture. Trapped moisture is the problem.

37. A — A slow-acting bait reaches termites that never visited the station because foragers share the toxicant with nestmates through trophallaxis. The bait does not release a gas, repel termites, or require every termite to visit. Food-sharing is the transfer mechanism.

38. D — Honest disclosure of inaccessible areas shows 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.

39. C — A tube that rebuilds within a day indicates active infestation because live colonies quickly repair damaged shelter tubes. Old, abandoned tubes do not rebuild, and rebuilding signals a living, not dead, colony. Fresh repair is direct evidence of activity.

40. A — Trophallaxis is essential because newly molted termites must reacquire lost gut microbes from nestmates to digest cellulose. Microbes do not enable flight, defend the colony, or remove the need to eat cellulose. The microbial dependence drives the food-sharing behavior.

41. B — A slab-on-grade foundation is harder to inspect because termite entry occurs hidden through slab cracks and plumbing penetrations. There is no open crawlspace, the wood is not all exposed, and slabs do have penetrations. Concealed entry is the challenge.

42. C — Exceeding the labeled rate is illegal, more hazardous, and environmentally harmful. Higher rates are not safer, the label rate is a legal maximum, and over-applying does not guarantee faster control. Applying exactly at the labeled rate is required.

43. C — The diagram strengthens the report because it pinpoints findings and inaccessible areas precisely on a drawing of the structure. It does not replace the written findings, estimate value, or showcase artistry. Precise location is its value.

44. D — A colony keeps damaging wood after a swarm because the hidden workers remain and continue consuming wood. Swarmers are not the wood-consuming caste, and eliminating them does not destroy the colony. The unseen workers are the ongoing threat.

45. A — Cellulose debris increases risk because it provides food and harborage for termites in direct soil contact. It does not improve ventilation, raise wood above soil, or serve a merely cosmetic role. Removing it eliminates a food source and staging area.

46. D — An inspector should not guarantee a home "termite-free" because an inspection reports only visible evidence in accessible areas as of the inspection date. No law requires such a guarantee, termites can infest structures, and the guarantee does not affect the fee. Hidden areas limit certainty.

47. C — 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.

48. C — A non-repellent relies on termite behavior because termites tunnel through it unaware and transfer it to the colony. They do not detect and seal it off, die at the surface, or avoid and relocate. Their unwitting tunneling is what spreads the product.

49. D — Supervised field experience is required because it confirms practical, field-tested competence that a written exam alone cannot. It does not replace the exam, exempt the applicant from continuing education, or imply the exam confirms field skill on its own. Field time confirms real-world ability.

50. C — The same technical knowledge applies across states because termite biology and control science do not change at state lines. States do not share one EPA-written exam or a single national license, and they may add local regulations. Only the regulatory overlay varies, not the science.