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STUDY GUIDES

EPA 608

Diagnostic Assessment

Week 4 Checkpoint

40 Questions • 45 Minutes

Scored by the four Section 608 exam sections • Original practice questions

Find your weak sections, then study the chapters that matter most

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How to Use This Material

Take this assessment in one sitting with a 45-minute timer, choosing the single BEST answer for each question. It has 40 questions, 10 from each section of the exam: Core, Type I, Type II and Type III. Then score it with the separate answer key and fill in the Weakness Map at the end of the key: count your correct answers in each section, and study the sections marked Focus first or Review before the others. The interactive version on the Diagnostic page of the EPA 608 bonus site scores your Weakness Map automatically.

EPA 608 Week 4 Checkpoint

40 questions • 10 from each exam section • Answer key and Weakness Map in the separate Answer Key file
Choose the single BEST answer for each question. Allow 45 minutes.

Section 1: Core Questions 1-10

1. A technician finds R-407A on hand for a job that calls for R-407C. Can one be used in place of the other?

- **A.** Yes; the letter only marks the year
- **B.** No; same components, different proportions
- **C.** No; they have entirely different components
- **D.** Yes; the letter only marks the maker

2. A technician adds 8 lb of R-22 to a 100 lb comfort-cooling system. What must the technician give the owner?

- **A.** Documentation of the refrigerant added
- **B.** A copy of the technician's test record
- **C.** A chronic-leaker report for EPA
- **D.** A signed disposal statement

3. What is the industry practice for an empty disposable cylinder?

- **A.** Fill it with nitrogen and keep it for leak testing
- **B.** Open the valve and leave it to vent before throwing it out
- **C.** Recover it to 0 psig, make it unusable, and recycle it as scrap
- **D.** Refill it with recovered refrigerant for the wholesaler

4. The uncertified owner of an HVAC company wants to buy R-454B for his crew. He gives the wholesaler proof that he employs a certified technician. May the wholesaler sell to him?

- **A.** No; A2L refrigerants require a separate A2L handling license
- **B.** Yes; proof of employing a certified technician is enough
- **C.** Yes; R-454B is not covered by the restriction
- **D.** No; only the certified technician may buy it

5. During recovery, a technician notices a strong, acrid odor from the system. What does this most likely indicate?

- **A.** A compressor burnout with contaminated oil
- **B.** Normal odor of refrigerant dissolved in POE
- **C.** Non-condensables escaping from the condenser
- **D.** A properly working noncondensable purge

6. Which list puts these Section 608 service rules in the order they took effect, earliest first?

- **A.** Venting ban (ODS), technician certification, certified recovery equipment, venting ban (substitutes)
- **B.** Certified recovery equipment, venting ban (ODS), venting ban (substitutes), technician certification
- **C.** Technician certification, venting ban (ODS), certified recovery equipment, venting ban (substitutes)
- **D.** Venting ban (ODS), certified recovery equipment, technician certification, venting ban (substitutes)

7. How must pressure relief valves be installed on a refrigeration system?

- **A.** Only on the low side
- **B.** Never in series
- **C.** Only on the receiver
- **D.** Always in series

8. At the same temperature, about how does R-410A pressure compare with R-22 pressure?

- **A.** About the same
- **B.** About 2.5 times higher
- **C.** About 1.2 times higher
- **D.** About 1.7 times higher

9. Which list contains only A2L refrigerants?

- **A.** R-32, R-410A, R-454B, R-1234yf
- **B.** R-290, R-454B, R-1234yf, R-32
- **C.** R-32, R-454B, R-1234yf, R-1234ze(E)
- **D.** R-134a, R-1234yf, R-1234ze(E), R-32

10. Which pairing of equipment and target is correct?

- **A.** Recovery: certified machine to Table 1; evacuation: vacuum pump to a micron target
- **B.** Recovery: certified machine to 500 microns; evacuation: vacuum pump to Table 1
- **C.** Recovery: vacuum pump to 500 microns; evacuation: certified machine to Table 1
- **D.** Recovery: vacuum pump to Table 1; evacuation: certified machine to a micron target

Section 2: Type I: Small Appliances Questions 11-20

11. An appliance with a 20 lb full charge has leaked down to 8 lb. May portable system-dependent recovery equipment be used?

- **A.** No; the limit is based on the full charge, not the amount left
- **B.** Yes; only 8 lb remains, which is under 15 lb
- **C.** No; system-dependent equipment may be used only below 5 lb remaining
- **D.** Yes; a leaking appliance is exempt from the limit

12. A technician passed a mail-in Type I with 22 of 25, then passed proctored Core, Type II and Type III exams. Does the technician hold Universal certification?

- **A.** Yes; 22 of 25 exceeds the mail-in passing score
- **B.** No; a mail-in Type I cannot count toward Universal
- **C.** No; the mail-in Type I also needs a 25 of 25 score
- **D.** Yes; all four sections have now been passed

13. An R-600a refrigerator has lost part of its charge, and the customer asks the technician to top it off with R-134a. What should the technician do?

- **A.** Add R-134a after changing the oil to POE for compatibility
- **B.** Add R-134a, but only up to the 150 g hydrocarbon limit
- **C.** Add R-134a, since it is non-flammable and makes the whole unit safer
- **D.** Refuse; recharge only with R-600a by weight to the nameplate amount

14. How should a technician confirm the required level was reached before opening a small appliance?

- **A.** Check that the recovery cylinder feels cold to the touch
- **B.** Open the appliance briefly and listen for escaping gas
- **C.** Run the appliance compressor briefly to see whether it still pumps down
- **D.** Stop recovery, wait a few minutes and watch the gauge for a rise

15. What is another name for the piercing-type access fitting used on small appliances?

- **A.** A fusible plug or relief fitting
- **B.** A solderless piercing valve or saddle valve
- **C.** A king valve or receiver outlet valve
- **D.** A Schrader core or a brazed-in service port

16. A technician picks up a light gray-green refrigerant container at the supply house. What does the color tell about its contents?

- **A.** Nothing specific; most refrigerants now share that color
- **B.** It holds R-134a, which has always used that color
- **C.** It holds recovered refrigerant awaiting reclaim
- **D.** It holds a flammable A2L refrigerant

17. What access feature must every small appliance have?

- **A.** A king valve at the receiver outlet
- **B.** A servicing aperture with a service valve
- **C.** A process stub
- **D.** Schrader valves on the high and low sides

18. A technician who holds only Type II certification is asked to recover refrigerant from a factory-sealed window air conditioner holding 2 lb of R-22. May the technician do it?

- **A.** Yes; R-22 is a high-pressure refrigerant
- **B.** No; small appliances need Type I or Universal
- **C.** Yes; Type II covers all air conditioners
- **D.** Yes; Type II covers all equipment that Type I covers

19. During recovery from an R-134a refrigerator, the technician notices a strong burnt odor. What does this suggest?

- **A.** Ice blocking the refrigerator's capillary tube
- **B.** A mix of R-600a with the R-134a charge
- **C.** A compressor burnout with contaminated oil
- **D.** Air that leaked into the recovery cylinder

20. During passive recovery from a dead-compressor refrigerator, the gauge rises after the technician heats and taps the compressor. What does this mean?

- **A.** More refrigerant is being released and recovery should continue
- **B.** The compressor has restarted and is pumping
- **C.** The recovery bag is full and must be replaced
- **D.** Air has started entering the system through the piercing access fittings

Section 3: Type II: High- and Medium-Pressure Appliances Questions 21-30

21. The 0 psig non-major repair rule says to EVACUATE to 0 psig for which appliances?

- **A.** Low-pressure appliances only
- **B.** High- and very high-pressure appliances, but not medium
- **C.** Small appliances only
- **D.** Medium-, high- and very high-pressure appliances

22. A micron gauge reads 1,500 microns. How does this compare with 25 mm Hg absolute?

- **A.** It is 150 mm Hg absolute, a shallower vacuum than 25 mm Hg
- **B.** It is 1,500 mm Hg absolute, a shallower vacuum than 25 mm Hg
- **C.** It is 1.5 mm Hg absolute, a deeper vacuum than 25 mm Hg
- **D.** It is 15 mm Hg absolute, a deeper vacuum than 25 mm Hg

23. The nameplate of an old R-22 rooftop unit is missing. How may the owner determine its full charge for leak-rate calculations?

- **A.** By calculation, measurement or a range midpoint
- **B.** By using the largest charge it is known to have held
- **C.** By using the refrigerant added over the past year
- **D.** By using 50 lb for any unit that has no nameplate

24. At the end of a recovery job, what should be recorded along with closing the valves and clearing the hoses?

- **A.** The ambient humidity at the job
- **B.** The serial number of the vacuum pump
- **C.** The micron reading of the cylinder
- **D.** The weight of refrigerant recovered

25. The refrigerant sensor on an R-454B air handler has failed, and a replacement is days away. The owner asks the technician to jumper it so the system can run. What should the technician do?

- **A.** Refuse; replace it with the manufacturer's part
- **B.** Recalibrate the old sensor in the field instead
- **C.** Jumper it until the replacement sensor arrives
- **D.** Remove it, since the charge is under 50 lb

26. A technician still uses a recovery machine built in 1991. What is required for it to be used legally?

- **A.** It must be replaced before any use
- **B.** It must carry a new certification label
- **C.** It must reach the pre-Nov 15, 1993 Table 1 levels
- **D.** It must first be retested and relabeled to AHRI 740-2016

27. A compressor's suction line shows nearly zero superheat. What is the main concern?

- **A.** The system is undercharged from a leak
- **B.** Liquid refrigerant may reach the compressor
- **C.** The evaporator is starved of refrigerant
- **D.** The head pressure is far too low to run

28. A recovery cylinder labeled R-22 has stabilized at 70°F and reads about 121 psig. What does this show?

- **A.** The cylinder is overfilled
- **B.** The cylinder contains R-410A
- **C.** The pressure matches R-22; no excess air is shown
- **D.** Non-condensables are present and must be removed

29. On a Type II condensing unit, where are leaks most often found?

- **A.** Along straight seamless tubing away from any joint
- **B.** On the inside wall of the receiver tank
- **C.** In the foam insulation on the suction line
- **D.** At flare fittings, service valves and valve cores

30. A coil replacement is planned on a 25 lb R-454B rooftop unit, using an A2L-rated recovery machine built in 2024. What level must be reached first?

- **A.** 10 in. Hg vacuum
- **B.** 0 in. Hg
- **C.** 4 in. Hg vacuum
- **D.** 15 in. Hg vacuum

Section 4: Type III: Low-Pressure Appliances Questions 31-40

31. Which published vapor-to-liquid switch point for R-123 is stated correctly?

- **A.** 25.9 in. Hg vacuum, a 0°F saturation
- **B.** 18.1 in. Hg vacuum, a 40°F saturation
- **C.** 18.1 in. Hg vacuum, a 32°F saturation
- **D.** 16.9 in. Hg vacuum, a 36°F saturation

32. An R-123 chiller must be leak tested, and neither hot water nor heater blankets can be used at this site. What is the acceptable approach?

- **A.** Pressurize with dry compressed air, to no more than 10 psig
- **B.** Pressurize with nitrogen through a regulator, to no more than 15 psig
- **C.** Leak test it in a vacuum, since positive pressure is not possible
- **D.** Pressurize with nitrogen through a regulator, to no more than 10 psig

33. In a running centrifugal chiller, where does the refrigerant reject its heat?

- **A.** In the evaporator shell, to water in the tubes
- **B.** In the condenser tubes, to water in the shell
- **C.** In the purge unit, to the machine room air
- **D.** In the condenser shell, to water in the tubes

34. On an R-123 chiller, the evaporator gauge moves from 18 in. Hg vacuum to 22 in. Hg vacuum. What happened to the evaporating temperature?

- **A.** It rose from about 20°F to near 40°F
- **B.** It fell from about 40°F to near 20°F
- **C.** It rose from about 40°F to near 82°F
- **D.** It stayed the same, since both are vacuums

35. EPA's pressure classes are based on a refrigerant's liquid-phase saturation pressure at what temperature?

- **A.** 77°F
- **B.** 70°F
- **C.** 100°F
- **D.** 104°F

36. A plant has two separate chiller machinery rooms, each with an R-123 chiller. The owner installs one refrigerant detector in the larger room. Is this enough?

- **A.** No; each machinery room needs its own detector
- **B.** No; each chiller needs three detectors
- **C.** Yes, if the rooms share a ventilation fan
- **D.** Yes; one detector per building is required

37. An industrial process chiller holding 1,200 lb of R-123 has gone over its leak threshold. What leak-inspection schedule now applies?

- **A.** Once only, at the time of the follow-up test
- **B.** Once per calendar year, until 1 full year passes with no exceedance
- **C.** Every 3 months, until 4 straight quarters with no exceedance
- **D.** Every month, until 12 months with no exceedance

38. Recovery from a chiller is going slowly. Which change will help?

- **A.** Shorten the hoses between the chiller and the recovery unit
- **B.** Lengthen the hoses so the unit can sit outside the room
- **C.** Shut off the chilled-water pump to reduce the load
- **D.** Raise the recovery unit's cut-out setting to 20 psig

39. A technician lists four chiller jobs. Only one meets EPA's definition of major maintenance, service or repair. Which one?

- **A.** Replacing a refrigerant temperature sensor
- **B.** Replacing a filter in the purge unit
- **C.** Tightening the bolts on a leaking flange
- **D.** Removing the condenser for replacement

40. An R-11 chiller over 50 lb has exceeded its leak threshold, and its purge run time has tripled. Can the rising purge time by itself serve as the required leak inspection?

- **A.** Yes, if the purge run time is logged daily by a certified technician
- **B.** No; an inspection must locate the leak, not just show a loss
- **C.** No; only a nitrogen pressure test counts as an inspection
- **D.** Yes; purge run time is an approved leak inspection method