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Practice Questions

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1. A banksman is directing a crane lift but loses sight of the load due to an obstruction. The site manager instructs the banksman via radio to "keep lowering" to save time. How must the banksman respond?

- A. Ask the crane driver to use their judgment
- B. Follow the manager's instruction
- C. Continue lowering slowly with radio checks
- D. Halt the lift immediately

2. An operator notices a deep crack in the casing of a 110V drill during a pre-use check. The drill has a PAT test sticker valid for another six months. What is the correct course of action?

- A. Tape over the crack and continue work
- B. Use the drill as the PAT test is valid
- C. Quarantine the drill immediately
- D. Report the defect at the end of the shift

3. A worker needs to install a security camera at a height of 5 meters on soft, uneven ground. Under PUWER, which piece of equipment is most suitable for this task?

- A. Extension ladder footed by a colleague
- B. Use an all-terrain MEWP platform
- C. Podium step with stabilisers
- D. Mobile tower scaffold on base plates

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4. Following a thorough examination under LOLER, a lifting accessory is reported to have a defect involving an 'immediate risk to persons'. What must happen to this equipment?

- A. Withdraw from use immediately
- B. Use until a replacement arrives
- C. Schedule repair for the next service
- D. Downrate the safe working load

5. What is the primary hazard associated with driving a forward-tipping dumper across a steep gradient (slope)?

- A. Excessive wear on the tyres
- B. The load sliding out of the skip
- C. The engine stalling on the incline
- D. The vehicle overturning sideways

6. Which sequence correctly represents the safe isolation procedure before maintaining dangerous machinery?

- A. Isolate, repair, switch on, test
- B. Switch off, lock off, repair, test
- C. Switch off, isolate, lock, test
- D. Switch off, isolate, repair, test

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7. If a plant operator discovers a safety-critical defect during a pre-use check, who must be informed immediately?

- A. The next shift operator
- B. The site supervisor
- C. The site security guard
- D. A close work colleague

8. A carpenter finds that the blade guard on a circular bench saw is broken. What is the only safe action to take?

- A. Do not use the machine
- B. Build a temporary guard
- C. Use saw with extreme caution
- D. Wear strong safety gloves



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9. A site entrance has heavy plant traffic crossing a pedestrian walkway. Which control measure is the most effective for segregating people from vehicles?

- A. Signage warning of heavy vehicles
- B. Mandatory high-visibility clothing
- C. Flashing beacons on all the plant
- D. Fixed barriers with gated crossings

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10. A lithium-ion battery for a power tool feels extremely hot to the touch and is emitting a strange chemical smell. What does this indicate?

- A. The battery needs immediate charging
- B. Normal safe operating temperature
- C. Imminent thermal runaway failure
- D. The tool has been used too slowly

11. A site manager hires an excavator for a complex lifting operation. The hire company provides a valid annual inspection certificate. What additional action is required before use?

- A. Rely only on the hire company certificate
- B. Assess suitability for the specific site task
- C. Conduct a visual check for cosmetic damage
- D. Assume safety based on brand reputation

12. A site office is being used to charge multiple power tool batteries. The chargers are placed on a wooden desk covered in loose paperwork. What is the primary hazard?

- A. Presence of combustibles near heat sources
- B. Use of standard domestic power sockets
- C. Lack of a Class D fire extinguisher
- D. Overnight charging without a watchman

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13. An operator identifies a safety-critical defect on a dumper during the pre-use check. They report it verbally to the site administrator but do not make a written entry. Why is this insufficient?

- A. Only project managers can authorise repairs
- B. Administrators lack technical competence
- C. Verbal reporting covers only cosmetic issues
- D. Legislation requires a documented record

14. A plant mechanic repairs a crane's hydraulic system. The site manager asks the same mechanic to immediately perform the statutory LOLER thorough examination. Why is this unsafe?

- A. Thorough examinations need a 48-hour delay
- B. The mechanic lacks necessary insurance
- C. It compromises the examiner's independence
- D. Only manufacturers can do statutory tests

15. An excavator operator is taking a lunch break and leaves the machine in a designated safe zone. What is the most effective way to prevent unauthorized use?

- A. Instruct a worker to watch the machine
- B. Remove the key and securely lock the cab
- C. Place a cone in front of access steps
- D. Lower bucket and leave engine idling

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16. An operator suspects a fine pinhole leak in a high-pressure hydraulic hose. How should they attempt to locate the leak safely?

- A. Use a piece of card or wood
- B. Run a gloved hand along it
- C. Listen closely to the hose
- D. Apply soapy water while hot

17. Construction work is taking place next to a busy public pavement. What is the most effective method to protect pedestrians from mobile plant operating near the edge?

- A. Instruct operators to sound horns often
- B. Deploy a banksman to shout warnings
- C. Erect safety signage and warning tape
- D. Install physical segregation barriers



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18. Why are 110V reduced low voltage tools preferred over standard 230V tools on construction sites?

- A. Decreased weight for manual handling
- B. Lower purchase costs compared to 230V
- C. Reduced severity of electric shock
- D. Exemption from portable appliance testing

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19. A telehandler is fitted with a non-integrated work platform for lifting personnel. Under LOLER, what is the maximum interval between thorough examinations for this configuration?

- A. At least every 12 months
- B. At least every 6 months
- C. Only prior to first use
- D. Every 3 months exactly

20. A dumper truck hits an obstruction and begins to overturn sideways. What is the safest immediate action for the driver?

- A. Stay in the seat and brace
- B. Jump clear away from the fall
- C. Attempt to steer into the skid
- D. Lower the skip to stabilize

21. During a pre-use check, a dumper's reversing alarm is found to be faulty, but a vehicle marshal is available. What is the correct action?

- A. Report the defect at the end of the working shift
- B. Use the dumper since a vehicle marshal is present
- C. Operate the vehicle only in forward gears for the shift
- D. Do not use the dumper until repaired

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22. Under LOLER, when is a new lifting accessory exempt from a thorough examination before its first use on a site?

- A. If the site manager completes a visual inspection log
- B. When it has been manufactured within the last two years
- C. With a Declaration of Conformity under 1 year old
- D. When it is hired from a certified equipment provider

23. What is the most effective immediate control measure to minimize silica dust exposure when cutting concrete kerbs?

- A. Wear a standard disposable face mask
- B. Use on-tool water suppression
- C. Rotate the task between two workers
- D. Sweep the dust immediately after use

24. A mobile plant vehicle must reverse in a confined area with pedestrians. What is the most effective safety measure?

- A. Use barriers and a vehicle marshal
- B. Rely on the reversing alarm and horn
- C. Install convex mirrors on site fence
- D. Instruct the driver to check mirrors

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25. An operative discovers a cut in an electrical cable exposing the inner wires. What is the immediate action?

- A. Report it at the end of the shift
- B. Tape over the cut with electrical tape
- C. Avoid touching the damaged section
- D. Stop use and remove the cable

26. Who is legally responsible for carrying out the daily pre-use check on a piece of plant before the shift begins?

- A. The hire company agent
- B. The site safety manager
- C. The plant operator
- D. The construction client



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27. When an excavator is used to lift suspended loads, what specific documentation is required under LOLER?

- A. Manufacturer's warranty document
- B. Thorough examination report
- C. Standard roadworthiness certificate
- D. Operator's daily inspection logbook

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28. Which position presents the highest risk of crushing for a vehicle marshal guiding a reversing truck?

- A. Between the truck and a wall
- B. Standing on the pedestrian walkway
- C. Visible in the driver's mirror
- D. On a raised observation platform

29. A safety-critical fault on a tool has been repaired. What must be done before it is used again?

- A. Use immediately to test it
- B. Wait 24 hours for cool down
- C. Obtain a manufacturer waiver
- D. Carry out a pre-use check

30. What is the primary factor when selecting hearing protection for using a breaker?

- A. The high visibility color
- B. The brand of ear defenders
- C. The specific noise level
- D. The cost of the protection



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Answer Key & Explanations

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1. D — Halt the lift immediately

Operations must stop immediately if visual contact is lost. Safety overrides schedule pressure or remote instructions until safe vision is restored.

2. C — Quarantine the drill immediately

A valid PAT sticker does not negate visible defects. Any equipment with physical damage affecting safety must be removed from service immediately.

3. B — Use an all-terrain MEWP platform

PUWER requires equipment suitable for the conditions. An all-terrain MEWP provides the necessary stability for working on soft, uneven ground.

4. A — Withdraw from use immediately

LOLER mandates that any defect posing an immediate danger requires the equipment to be taken out of service immediately.

5. D — The vehicle overturning sideways

Dumpers have a high center of gravity. Driving across a slope creates a high risk of lateral instability and overturning.

6. C — Switch off, isolate, lock, test

Safe isolation ensures equipment is dead before work starts. The correct sequence is: switch off, isolate, lock off, then test.

7. B — The site supervisor

Report defects immediately to the site supervisor. The supervisor can remove the equipment from service to prevent unsafe use.

8. A — Do not use the machine

Never operate machinery with broken guards. Remove the saw from service immediately until it is repaired by a competent person.

9. D — Fixed barriers with gated crossings

Physical barriers provide positive segregation, preventing accidental contact. This is more effective than relying on pedestrian behavior or PPE.

10. C — Imminent thermal runaway failure

Heat and chemical smells indicate thermal runaway. The battery cells are failing and may catch fire or explode imminently.

11. B — Assess suitability for the specific site task

Dutyholders must ensure equipment suits specific site conditions and tasks. General certificates do not cover site-specific hazards or load requirements.



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12. A — Presence of combustibles near heat sources

Chargers generate heat. Placing them on wood or near loose paper creates a fire risk; they require stable, non-combustible surfaces.

13. D — Legislation requires a documented record

Documenting defects proves compliance and ensures tracking. Verbal reports are easily forgotten, potentially leaving unsafe equipment in service.

14. C — It compromises the examiner's independence

Examiners must be independent. Allowing the same person to repair and inspect creates a conflict of interest, compromising objectivity.

15. B — Remove the key and securely lock the cab

Removing the key and locking the cab is the most effective physical security measure to prevent unauthorized operation.

16. A — Use a piece of card or wood

High-pressure fluid can penetrate skin causing severe injury. Never use hands to search for leaks; use card or wood to maintain a safe distance.

17. D — Install physical segregation barriers

Physical barriers provide robust separation preventing contact. Unlike signage or banksmen, they do not rely on human behavior to be effective.

18. C — Reduced severity of electric shock

Centre-tapped 110V tools limit voltage to earth to 55V. This significantly reduces shock severity compared to 230V, making fatality less likely.

19. B — At least every 6 months

LOLER requires equipment used for lifting persons to be thoroughly examined at least every 6 months, compared to 12 months for goods only.

20. A — Stay in the seat and brace

Attempting to jump clear often causes fatal crushing. The safest action is to remain in the seat, hold on, and brace for impact.

21. D — Do not use the dumper until repaired

Isolate the dumper immediately. Safety devices like reversing alarms must be functional; a marshal is an additional control, not a substitute for defective equipment.

22. C — With a Declaration of Conformity under 1 year old

A Declaration of Conformity issued within the last 12 months exempts new equipment from immediate thorough examination, as it certifies manufacturing safety compliance.

23. B — Use on-tool water suppression

Wet cutting suppresses dust at the source. This engineering control is significantly more effective than PPE or administrative measures in preventing airborne silica exposure.

24. A — Use barriers and a vehicle marshal

Physical segregation combined with a vehicle marshal is most effective. This prevents pedestrians entering



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the danger zone, unlike mirrors or alarms which have limitations.

25. D — Stop use and remove the cable

Immediately remove the cable from service. Taping is not a safe repair; only a competent person can properly restore insulation integrity and mechanical strength.

26. C — The plant operator

The operator is responsible for checking their equipment before use to ensure it is safe for the shift.

27. B — Thorough examination report

Using an excavator for lifting duties classifies it as lifting equipment under LOLER, requiring a Report of Thorough Examination.

28. A — Between the truck and a wall

Standing between a vehicle and a fixed structure creates a crushing zone with no escape route for the marshal.

29. D — Carry out a pre-use check

Operators must perform a pre-use check to verify the tool is safe and ready for use after any repairs.

30. C — The specific noise level

Hearing protection must be matched to the noise level to provide adequate attenuation without over-protecting.



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