



# Journeyman Plumber 2

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## Practice Questions

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### 1. What is the definition of 'backflow' in a plumbing system?

- A. The reversal of normal flow direction in a piping system
- B. The forward flow of water under high pressure
- C. The flow of water from a storage tank to the distribution system
- D. The discharge of water through a pressure relief valve

### 2. What does the acronym 'IPC' stand for in the plumbing industry?

- A. International Plumbing Code
- B. Indoor Pipe Classification
- C. Industrial Pipe Connection
- D. International Pressure Code

### 3. What does the acronym DWV stand for in plumbing?

- A. Drain, Waste, and Vent
- B. Drain, Water, and Valve
- C. Duct, Waste, and Vent
- D. Drain, Waste, and Volume

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### 4. What is the minimum water seal depth required for a plumbing trap under the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC)?

- A. 1 inch
- B. 2 inches
- C. 3 inches
- D. 4 inches



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**5. Which pipe material is commonly approved for use on natural gas distribution piping inside a building?**

- A. CSST (Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing)
- B. PVC schedule 40
- C. CPVC
- D. Cast iron

**6. Which unit is most commonly used to express water flow rate in plumbing supply systems?**

- A. Gallons per minute (GPM)
- B. Pounds per square inch (PSI)
- C. British thermal units (BTU)
- D. Cubic feet (CF)

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**7. What is the primary purpose of a plumbing vent system?**

- A. To supply fresh water to fixtures
- B. To protect trap seals and allow sewer gases to escape safely
- C. To increase water pressure at fixtures
- D. To drain storm water from the roof

**8. What is the standard minimum water pressure required at a plumbing fixture in most U.S. residential codes?**

- A. 15 psi
- B. 5 psi
- C. 60 psi
- D. 100 psi

**9. A cross-connection is best defined as which of the following?**

- A. A fitting used to join four pipes at right angles
- B. Any physical link between a potable water system and any source of contamination
- C. A double-check valve assembly used to prevent backflow
- D. A pipe that crosses another pipe in the same trench

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**10. Under the IPC, the term 'approved' means acceptable to:**

- A. UL (Underwriters Laboratories) only
- B. NSF International only
- C. The authority having jurisdiction (AHJ)
- D. The International Code Council

**11. What is the minimum slope required for a 3-inch horizontal drain pipe per the IPC?**

- A. 1/16 inch per foot
- B. 1/8 inch per foot
- C. 1/4 inch per foot
- D. 1/2 inch per foot

**12. What is the maximum water seal depth allowed for a standard plumbing trap?**

- A. 2 inches
- B. 3 inches
- C. 3.5 inches
- D. 4 inches

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**13. Black steel pipe used for gas piping is typically joined using which method?**

- A. Solvent cement
- B. Threaded fittings
- C. Soldering
- D. Fusion welding only

**14. The inside diameter (ID) of a nominal 1-inch copper Type L pipe is closest to which value?**

- A. 1.000 inch
- B. 0.875 inch
- C. 1.025 inches
- D. 1.125 inches

**15. A trap seal is considered adequate when the water depth in the trap is a minimum of:**

- A. 2 inches
- B. 1 inch
- C. 3 inches
- D. 4 inches



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**16. Above what static pressure must a pressure-reducing valve (PRV) be installed on a building water service under the Uniform Plumbing Code?**

- A. 60 psi
- B. 80 psi
- C. 100 psi
- D. 125 psi

**17. Which term describes backflow caused by the downstream pressure exceeding the supply pressure?**

- A. Back-siphonage
- B. Backsurge
- C. Backpressure backflow
- D. Reverse osmosis

**18. Before starting most plumbing installations, a plumber is required to obtain a:**

- A. Certificate of occupancy
- B. Plumbing permit
- C. Mechanical license
- D. Site plan approval

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**19. What is the primary function of a plumbing trap?**

- A. To increase water pressure
- B. To filter solids from wastewater
- C. To provide a clean-out access point
- D. To maintain a water seal that blocks sewer gases

**20. Which type of trap is most commonly used beneath a lavatory (bathroom sink)?**

- A. P-trap
- B. S-trap
- C. Drum trap
- D. Bell trap



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**21. Copper tubing used for fuel gas service must be which type to comply with most codes?**

- A. Type M hard drawn
- B. Type L soft annealed only
- C. ACR grade or Type K/L
- D. Type DWV

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**22. What is the maximum recommended water velocity in a cold-water supply branch to prevent erosion and noise?**

- A. 4 ft/s
- B. 8 ft/s
- C. 12 ft/s
- D. 16 ft/s

**23. According to the UPC, the minimum diameter of a vent pipe serving a single lavatory (1.5-inch trap) is:**

- A. 3/4 inch
- B. 1 inch
- C. 1-1/4 inches
- D. 1-1/2 inches

**24. A water column 2.31 feet high creates approximately how much pressure at its base?**

- A. 2.31 psi
- B. 1 psi
- C. 4.62 psi
- D. 0.43 psi

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**25. Back-siphonage is caused by which condition in the water supply system?**

- A. Pressure downstream exceeding supply pressure
- B. A faulty check valve failing to close
- C. Thermal expansion in a closed system
- D. Negative pressure (vacuum) in the supply line



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**26. At which stage of construction must a rough-in inspection typically occur?**

- A. After all fixtures are set and operational
- B. Before excavation begins
- C. After the final coat of paint is applied
- D. After pipes are installed but before they are concealed

**27. What is the minimum water seal depth required for a fixture trap per the IPC?**

- A. 2 inches
- B. 1 inch
- C. 3 inches
- D. 4 inches

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**28. Why is an S-trap prohibited under most modern plumbing codes?**

- A. It requires too large a pipe diameter
- B. It cannot maintain a water seal due to excessive pressure
- C. It can self-siphon and lose its water seal
- D. It is too difficult to install in modern construction

**29. Why is galvanized steel pipe generally NOT permitted for LP or natural gas piping under NFPA 54?**

- A. It corrodes too quickly outdoors
- B. It cannot handle pressures above 5 psi
- C. It is too heavy for residential use
- D. Zinc flaking can clog gas controls and appliance orifices

**30. According to the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC), how many drainage fixture units (DFU) does a standard lavatory (hand wash sink) carry?**

- A. 3 DFU
- B. 2 DFU
- C. 4 DFU
- D. 1 DFU



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## Answer Key & Explanations

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### 1. A — The reversal of normal flow direction in a piping system

Backflow is the undesirable reversal of flow in a piping system, which can allow contaminants to enter the potable water supply. Understanding this basic definition is foundational to cross-connection control.

### 2. A — International Plumbing Code

IPC stands for International Plumbing Code, the model plumbing code developed by the International Code Council (ICC) and adopted by many U.S. jurisdictions.

### 3. A — Drain, Waste, and Vent

DWV stands for Drain, Waste, and Vent — the three functions of a residential or commercial drainage system that removes wastewater and controls sewer gases.

### 4. B — 2 inches

The UPC requires a minimum trap seal of 2 inches. This depth prevents sewer gases from entering the building while still allowing normal drainage flow.

### 5. A — CSST (Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing)

CSST is a flexible, corrugated stainless steel tubing that is widely approved for interior natural gas distribution. PVC, CPVC, and cast iron are not approved for gas service inside buildings.

### 6. A — Gallons per minute (GPM)

Flow rate in plumbing is measured in gallons per minute (GPM). PSI measures pressure, BTU measures heat energy, and CF measures static volume — none express a rate of flow.

### 7. B — To protect trap seals and allow sewer gases to escape safely

Vent pipes maintain atmospheric pressure in the drainage system, which protects the water seal in each trap from being siphoned or blown out. They also allow sewer gases to exit above the roof.

### 8. A — 15 psi

Most plumbing codes require a minimum static pressure of 15 psi at each plumbing fixture to ensure adequate flow. Pressures below this may result in poor fixture performance.

### 9. B — Any physical link between a potable water system and any source of contamination

A cross-connection is any actual or potential link between the potable water supply and any source of pollution or contamination. Eliminating or protecting cross-connections is the goal of cross-connection control programs.

### 10. C — The authority having jurisdiction (AHJ)

In the IPC, 'approved' means acceptable to the AHJ. Materials from any listing agency may be used provided the AHJ accepts them; 'listed' and 'labeled' carry separate, more specific definitions.

### 11. B — 1/8 inch per foot

The IPC requires a minimum slope of 1/8 inch per foot (approximately 1%) for 3-inch horizontal drain pipes to



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ensure self-scouring velocity and prevent solids from settling.

**12. D — 4 inches**

The maximum trap seal depth allowed is 4 inches. Seals deeper than 4 inches can accumulate debris, leading to clogs and reduced drainage efficiency.

**13. B — Threaded fittings**

Black steel pipe for gas is most commonly connected with threaded fittings or welded joints. Solvent cement is for plastic pipe, soldering is for copper, and fusion welding alone is not the only method for steel.

**14. C — 1.025 inches**

Nominal 1-inch Type L copper has an actual ID of 1.025 inches. The nominal size does not equal the true ID; wall thickness determines the difference between nominal and actual dimensions.

**15. A — 2 inches**

Plumbing codes require a minimum trap seal depth of 2 inches to effectively block sewer gases from entering the building, while a maximum of 4 inches is allowed.

**16. B — 80 psi**

The UPC requires a PRV whenever static water pressure at the building service exceeds 80 psi. Pressures above this level can damage fixtures, appliances, and piping over time.

**17. C — Backpressure backflow**

Backpressure backflow occurs when downstream pressure becomes greater than the supply (system) pressure, forcing contaminants backward into the potable supply. This can happen in boiler systems, pumped systems, or elevated piping.

**18. B — Plumbing permit**

A plumbing permit must be obtained from the local AHJ before beginning new plumbing installations or significant alterations, ensuring the work will be inspected for code compliance.

**19. D — To maintain a water seal that blocks sewer gases**

A plumbing trap holds a standing column of water that acts as a seal, preventing sewer gases (including potentially toxic hydrogen sulfide and methane) from entering the building through fixture drains.

**20. A — P-trap**

P-traps are the standard trap used under lavatories because their shape provides reliable water sealing and is approved by modern plumbing codes. S-traps and drum traps are prohibited by most codes.

**21. C — ACR grade or Type K/L**

For gas service, ACR tubing or Type K or L copper is required; Type M is too thin-walled and Type DWV is for drainage only. Always verify local code acceptance as some jurisdictions prohibit copper for gas.

**22. B — 8 ft/s**

Cold-water supply branches should not exceed 8 ft/s to minimise erosion, noise, and water hammer. Higher velocities accelerate pipe wear and greatly increase pressure loss.

**23. C — 1-1/4 inches**

The UPC requires that no vent pipe be less than 1-1/4 inches in diameter, regardless of the fixture trap size, to ensure adequate air circulation and prevent condensation blockage.



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**24. B — 1 psi**

One psi of pressure is equivalent to a water column 2.31 feet high (or conversely, one foot of head = 0.433 psi). So 2.31 feet of water column equals exactly 1 psi.

**25. D — Negative pressure (vacuum) in the supply line**

Back-siphonage is the backflow of potentially contaminated water caused by a negative pressure (partial vacuum) in the supply piping, similar to the siphon effect. It can occur during water main breaks or high-demand events.

**26. D — After pipes are installed but before they are concealed**

A rough-in inspection occurs after piping is installed and tested but before walls or floors are closed, so the inspector can verify code compliance while the work is still visible.

**27. A — 2 inches**

The IPC requires a minimum trap seal depth of 2 inches to ensure an adequate barrier against sewer gas entry under normal operating conditions.

**28. C — It can self-siphon and lose its water seal**

S-traps are prone to self-siphoning because the trap is followed immediately by a vertical drop, which pulls the water seal out of the trap. This allows sewer gases to enter the building.

**29. D — Zinc flaking can clog gas controls and appliance orifices**

NFPA 54 prohibits galvanized pipe for gas because zinc coating can flake off over time and travel downstream, clogging regulators, valves, and burner orifices.

**30. D — 1 DFU**

A lavatory is assigned 1 DFU under the UPC, reflecting its small 1-1/4-inch drain and light intermittent use. Larger DFU values apply to fixtures that discharge greater volumes.



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