TEST INFORMATION GUIDE

This test information guide provides a summary of concepts that are tested on the written (multiple choice) examination for the **Environmental Health Specialist I** job. This information can be reviewed in combination with the class specification and examination announcement to assist you in preparing for the examination.

I. BIOLOGY (28 Questions)

Employees in this job are responsible for enforcing public health rules and regulations for the prevention and control of communicable diseases that are caused or spread by environmental factors. Employees observe and assist in the investigation of complaints related to environmentally carried illnesses and disease. To be successful in this job employees must possess knowledge of a variety of concepts related to the field of biology. This section of the exam is comprised of test questions designed to test your knowledge of biological concepts and terminology. Test question topics include:

- Bacteria structure and characteristics;
- Circulatory system and blood cells;
- Cell structure and cell division;
- Taxonomic hierarchy;
- Fields of specialization within life science;
- Marine ecosystems, etc.

II. CHEMISTRY (28 Questions)

Employees in this job collect samples from facilities regulated by the Department of Public Health such as public swimming pools, sewage disposal systems and food processing plants. These samples are then submitted for testing and analysis. Employees must have a basic understanding of chemistry in order to interpret results of the sample analysis. This exam section tests your knowledge of basic chemistry. Test question topics include:

- Basic chemistry terms;
- Celsius/Fahrenheit conversion;
- Organic chemistry;
- Periodic table of elements;
- Use of the pH scale;
- Stoichiometry;
- Formulas (pressure, volume, density, etc.);
- Metric measurement system.

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III. MATHMATICS (12 Questions)

Employees in this job must use mathematical skills to determine the perimeter of the area affected, level of exposure from and containment of a public health outbreak. Math is also used in the daily analysis of field samples. The questions in this section of the exam test your ability to:

- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide;
- Solve basic algebraic equations;
- Utilize ratios and percentages;
- Apply geometric theorems and postulates;
- Perform metric conversions.

IV. ENGLISH USAGE (12 Questions)

Employees in this job are responsible for preparing routine inspection reports, writing technical reports and drafting business correspondence. All reports must be clearly written and succinct. It is essential that employees follow grammar rules, use appropriate punctuation and vocabulary, and correctly spell job-related terminology. This section of the exam presents questions that test your knowledge of the correct use of the English language.

V. READING COMPREHENSION (10 Questions)

Employees in this job are responsible for interpretation and application of relevant public health laws, department policies, and enforcement procedures. Employees in this job are expected to read and understand information presented in training manuals, textbooks and scientific articles without assistance or guidance from other staff. The questions in this section of the exam are designed to test your ability to read and understand material in which key ideas and concepts may require interpretation or inference on the part of the reader.

VI. ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC HEALTH (12 Questions)

Employees in this position must understand the purpose of public health programs and societal benefits of public health regulations. Employees must also be familiar with generally understood and practices public health standards. Test question topics include:

- Communicable diseases, food-borne illnesses and viruses;
- Sanitary practices;
- Classification of public health incidents.