



Certification Boulevard · Answer Key

Test Your Knowledge of Water Treatment ... And Other Miscellaneous Topics

(submitted by: Ronald S. Karpa – certified operator)

1. A water plant has a ground storage reservoir that is 100 feet in diameter and fills to its maximum operating depth of 25 feet in 6 hours ... what is the average flow rate entering the tank in gpm?

- A. 650 gpm
- B. 3,125 gpm
- C. 4,078 gpm**
- D. 4,546 gpm

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Capacity of Tank at Max Level} &= \pi r^2 \times \text{depth} \times 7.48 \text{ gal/cu. ft.} \\ &= 3.14 \times 50 \text{ ft.} \times 50 \text{ ft.} \times 25 \text{ ft.} \times 7.48 \text{ gal/cu. ft.} \\ &= 1,467,950 \text{ gals} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Total Minutes of Pumping} = 6 \text{ hrs} \times 60 \text{ mins/hr} = 360 \text{ minutes}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Average Flow Rate} &= \text{Capacity, gals divided by Minutes Pumped} \\ &= 1,467,950 \text{ gals divided by 360 mins} \\ &= 4,078 \text{ gpm} \end{aligned}$$

2. Given the following data, what is the total lbs/day of chlorine consumption in this water plant?

- Raw water flow rate is 2,550 gpm
- Inlet treatment is 3.5 mg/L
- Pre-filtration is 1.75 mg/L
- Finished water disinfection is 2.75 mg/L

- A. 2,245 lbs/day
- B. 245 lbs/day**
- C. 145 lbs/day
- D. 1,145 lbs/day

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Total Flow Treated} &= 2,550 \text{ gpm} \times 1,440 \text{ mins/day} \\ &= 3,672,000 \text{ gpd or } 3.672 \text{ mgd} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Total Chlorine Dosage} &= 3.5 \text{ mg/L} + 1.75 \text{ mg/L} + 2.75 \text{ mg/L} \\ &= 8.0 \text{ mg/L} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Total Lbs/day Consumed} &= \text{Flow, mgd} \times \text{Total Dosage, mg/L} \times 8.34 \text{ lbs/gal} \\ &= 3.672 \text{ mgd} \times 8.0 \text{ mg/L} \times 8.34 \text{ lbs/gal} \\ &= 245 \text{ lbs/day} \end{aligned}$$

3. The finished water product temperature after thermal treatment is 15 °C, what is the conversion to °F?

- A. 59 °F
- B. 68 °F
- C. -5 °F
- D. 72 °F

$$^{\circ}\text{C} \times 1.8 + 32 = ^{\circ}\text{F}$$

$$15^{\circ}\text{C} \times 1.8 + 32 = 59^{\circ}\text{F}$$

4. Given the following data, what is the total daily backwash volume in this effluent filter?

Filter Data:

- Hydraulic inflow of 1,500 gpm
- Operational loading rate of 3 gpm/ft²
- Backwash rate of 25 gpm/ft²
- Two (2) backwash cycles per day

- A. 345,600 gpd backwash
- B. 3.15% of Q
- C. 1,800 gpd backwash
- D. 1.16% of Q

$$Q \text{ to filter, gpd} = 1,500 \text{ gpm} \times 1,440 \text{ min/day} = 2,160,000 \text{ gpd}$$

$$\text{Filter surface area, ft}^2 = 1,500 \text{ gpm} \div 3 \text{ gpm/ft}^2 = 500 \text{ ft}^2$$

$$\text{Filter backwash volume, gpd} = 500 \text{ ft}^2 \times 25 \text{ gpm/ft}^2 \times 2 \text{ cycles per day} = 25,000 \text{ gpd}$$

$$\text{Filter backwash rate, \% of } Q = 25,000 \text{ gpd backwash} \div 2,160,000 \text{ gpd inflow} = 0.01157 \times 100 = 1.16\% \text{ of } Q$$

(submitted by: Ken Martin – certified operator at Lake Correctional Institution)

5. Which water quality indicator reduces the effectiveness of copper sulfate as an algicide when treating source waters for taste and odor caused by algae?
- A. Total suspended solids
 - B. Temperature
 - C. Alkalinity
 - D. pH
6. What is created when chlorine reacts with volatile organics?
- A. Ammonia
 - B. Trihalomethane
 - C. Alkalinity
 - D. Trimethylamine
7. Which type of solids are not typically removed with standard water filtration?
- A. Dissolved
 - B. Suspended
 - C. Settleable

D. Total

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8. Given the following data, and considering a 10% increase in the flow rate, and an increased chlorine consumption of 34%, calculate the new lbs/day consumption and dosage of chlorine in this water plant.

Plant Data:

- The plant flow rate is 1,388 gpm
- Chlorine consumption is 50 lbs/day

- A. 55 lbs/day and 3.0 ppm
B. 50 lbs/day and 4.0 ppm
C. 75 lbs/day and 3.25 ppm
D. **67 lbs/day and 3.6 ppm**

$$\begin{aligned} \text{New plant flow in mgd} &= \frac{1,388 \text{ gpm} \times 1.1}{694 \text{ gpm/mgd}} \\ &= 2.2 \text{ mgd} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{New chlorine consumption} &= 50 \text{ lbs/day} \times 1.34 \\ &= 67 \text{ lbs/day} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{New chlorine dosage} &= \frac{67 \text{ lbs/day}}{2.2 \text{ mgd} \times 8.34 \text{ lbs/gal}} \\ &= 3.6 \text{ ppm} \end{aligned}$$

9. Which two chemicals are typically used in a water system chlor-ammonation process?

- A. Chlorine and Sulfur Dioxide
B. Ammonia and Sodium Hydroxide
C. Chlorine and Caustic
D. **Chlorine and Ammonia**

10. What is another term for non-volatile?

- A. Dissolved
B. Soluble
C. Organic
D. **Inorganic**

Please forward your comments and sample questions for publication to:

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