General Assessment Information

Test Type: This Residential Construction Academy certification assessment is a customized assessment for the Home Builders Institute. This assessment measures technical skills at the occupational level and includes items which gauge factual and theoretical knowledge. This assessment offers both a written and performance component and can be used at the secondary level and post-secondary level. This assessment can be delivered in an online or paper/pencil format.

Revision Team: The assessment content is based on input from secondary, post-secondary, and business/industry representatives from the state of Arizona, California, Indiana, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Washington.

CIP Code

46.0503 – Plumbing Technology/Plumber

Career Cluster 1 - Architecture and Construction

47-2152.02 – Plumbers

Blueprint Contents

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The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), the leading professional organization for career and technical educators, commends all students who participate in career and technical education programs and choose to validate their educational attainment through rigorous technical assessments. In taking this assessment you demonstrate to your school, your parents and guardians, your future employers and yourself that you understand the concepts and knowledge needed to succeed in the workplace. Good Luck!

Home Builders Institute (HBI), an affiliate of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), is a national leader for career training in the building industry. HBI’s educational materials are designed to be relevant in today’s rapidly changing environment, bringing increased professionalism, competency and effectiveness to those entering the residential construction workforce.

HBI/NAHB assessments are based on national skill standards set by NAHB industry professionals and educators as are the materials contained in the Residential Construction Academy Series. Participants passing the assessments are eligible for certification through HBI/NAHB at the entry, semi-skilled or skilled levels.
This written assessment consists of questions to measure an individual’s factual theoretical knowledge.

**Administration Time:** 50 minutes  
**Number of Questions:** 60  
**Number of Sessions:** This assessment may be administered in one session.

### Areas Covered

- **Safety, Tools and Fittings:** 16.7%  
- **Fixtures and Equipment:** 16.6%  
- **Layout and Water Service and Installation:** 16.6%  
- **Drainage, Waste and Vent Installation:** 16.7%  
- **Fixture and Equipment Installation:** 16.7%  
- **Troubleshooting:** 16.7%
Specific Competencies and Skills Tested in This Assessment

**Safety, Tools and Fittings**

**Fixtures and Equipment**
- Faucets and Drains, Fixture Types, and Appliances

**Layout and Water Service and Installation**
- Blueprint, Water Supply, and Water Distribution

**Drainage, Waste and Vent Installation**
- Drainage, Waste and Vent Installation, Vents, Sizing, Traps, and Installation

**Fixture and Equipment Installation**
- Fixtures and Equipment, Appliances, and Faucets/Drains

**Troubleshooting**
- Water Heater-Electric, Water Heater-Gas, and Toilets
Sample Questions

Which of these is a characteristic of a male adapter?
A. Internal threads
B. External threads
C. A thread cover
D. A slip-joint and washer

Which of these is used to connect the tailpiece to a kitchen sink?
A. Lock nut
B. Check valve
C. Basket strainer
D. Trap adapter

Which of these is required to install non-insulated copper pipe?
A. A copper plated hanger
B. A rubber coated hanger
C. A PVC clip strap
D. A black steel clamp

Which of these is the lowest horizontal portion of the drainage system inside the building?
A. The building drain
B. The waste stack
C. The stack vent
D. The building sewer

Which of these is most likely to cause a leak in a toilet tank?
A. Loose closet bolts
B. The wax ring
C. Close-couple gasket
D. Improper vent
Performance Assessment

This performance assessment allows individuals to demonstrate their acquired skills by completing actual jobs using the tools, materials, machines, and equipment related to the technical area.

**Administration Time:** 3 hours  
**Number of Jobs:** 2

**Areas Covered:**

50% **Install and Prepare to Leak Test a DWV System**  
Selection of tools/materials, safe handling of tools and equipment, rough-in: lavatory #1 (vertical and horizontal), rough-in lavatory #2 (vertical and horizontal), techniques for joining pipe and fittings, installation techniques, accuracy of fittings chosen, workstation left in good condition, adhere to local plumbing code, leak test, and time to complete Job 1.

50% **Install and Prepare to Leak Test a Water Supply System**  
Selection of tools/materials, safe handling of tools and equipment, rough-in: lavatory #1 (vertical and horizontal), rough-in lavatory #2 (vertical and horizontal), techniques for joining pipe and fittings, installation techniques, accuracy of fittings chosen, workstation left in good condition, adhere to local plumbing code, leak test, and time to complete Job 2.
Sample Job

Install and Prepare to Leak Test a Water Supply System

Maximum Time: 1 hour and 30 minutes

Participant Activity: The participant will study a rough-in sketch and drawings to install a water supply system, measure and cut the pipe to correct size, connect all pipe and fittings per rough-in dimensions, install appropriate nail plates, and prepare the system for leak testing.