#### 1. What does RS stand for?

- a. Rate of slope
- b. Road surface
- c. Reference stake
- d. Rear station

2 What do the markings above and below the diagonal lines on a cut stake indicate?

- a. The amount of cut is above the diagonal and the distance is below
- b. Take all measurements below the diagonal from the next cut
- c. The amount of cut is above the diagonal and the fill is below

d. non of the above

3 What other abbreviation means the same as RS?

- a. PG
- b. IS
- c. EP
- d. RP

4 If the RS distance is followed by a double line, where must the remainder of the grades and distances be established from?

- a. The surveyor's hub
- b. Grade setter's RS hub
- c. Each following cut or distance
- d. The HP
- 5 How much will a 2 percent slope rise or fall in 20 feet?
- a. 0.20 foot
- b. 0.30 foot
- c. 0.40 foot
- d. 0.60 foot

- 6 Where is the elevation on the side of the surveyor information stake taken from?
- a. The survey hub
- b. The centerline
- c. The reference stake
- d. The catch point

7 What does it mean to the grade setter if every distance on a surveyor's stake is followed by a double line?

- a. He must take the next grade and distance from each preceding point
- b. He must measure back to the survey hub for distance and elevation
- c. He must measure back to the survey stake for distance only
- d. It indicates that all the following measurements are cuts

#### 8 Which of the following is equal to 4 inches?



- a. 0.16 foot
- b. 0.20 foot
- c. 0.33 foot
- d. 0.40 foot

9 What is the purpose of a second horizontal line on a fill stake located 1 foot above the finished grade?

- a. To locate the hub set by the surveyor
- b. To indicate the overfill point to the equipment operator
- c. To help the grade setter set the next fill stake
- d. To help the grade setter establish the elevation at the projected centerline grade

10 What do the west and east toe grades on a ditch channel stake indicate?

- a. The distance across the channel
- b. The amount of fill required at the base of the west and east slopes
- c. The slope of the channel from west to east
- d. The bottom of the slope on each side of the channel

#### Excavation & Grading Handbook Chapter 2: Plan Reading

1 If the Camino street section in the figure has a 2 percent slope, how much fall is that from centerline to lip-of-curb?

- a. 0.19
- b. 0.26
- c. 0.27
- d. 0.32





2 What is the elevation difference between lot 51 and lot 54 in the figure?

- a. 7.90 feet
- b. 8.90 feet
- c. 9.30 feet
- d. 10.20 feet



3 What is the manhole rim elevation at station 63+83.33 in the figure?

- a. 445.70
- b. 445.84
- c. 445.85
- d. 446.30



4 What is the length of the transition from type 1 to type 2 curb & amp; gutter in the figure?

- a. 3 feet
- b. 5 feet
- c. 6 feet
- d. 8 feet



5. What is the flow line elevation of the sewer service line coming from the manhole in the figure?

- a. 439.10
- b. 443.2
- c. 444.1
- d. 461.0



6 How wide is the driveway at Station 371+47 in the figure?

- a. 14 feet
- b. 14.5 feet
- c. 15 feet
- d. 15.5 feet



7 What is the distance from centerline to EP, right and left, at Station 371+00 in the figure?

- a. 33 feet
- b. 36 feet
- c. 39 feet
- d. 44 feet



8 How thick is the AC base of the New Section in the figure?

- a. 0.17 foot
- b. 0.58 foot
- c. 0.83 foot
- d. 0.92 foot



9 Which cross section in the figure shows some cut needed for the road?

- a. 55+50
- b. 56+00
- c. 56+50
- d. 57+00







10 When the construction in the figure is finished, what will be the total width of all three completed sections?

- a. 32 feet
- b. 58 feet
- c. 64 feet
- d. 66 feet



#### STAGE 2 TYPICAL CROSS SECTION



#### STAGE 3 TYPICAL CROSS SECTION

# **Excavation and Grading Exam 3**

1 If you have a 4-foot swede and your finished grade at centerline is 0.30 higher, what should your ruler reading be?

- a. 2.70
- b. 3.70
- c. 3.90
- d. 4.30

2 What do you call a method of setting grade at a center point by sighting across three lath?

- a Setting crows feet
- b Setting swedes
- c Setting swales
- d Setting boots

3 To set an 8-foot string line for a 6.13-foot ditch cut, what must be added to the surveyor's grade in order to mark the grade pin correctly?

- A 0.87 foot
- B 1.69 feet
- C 1.87 feet
- D 2.87 feet

4 What will cause the laser unit to automatically shut off?

- A The receiver is out of range
- B It's bumped off-level
- C Another unit is being operated nearby and the signal is confusing it
- D The beam is blocked by a metal object
- 5 What is a bench mark?
- A The point at which you begin your cuts
- B The northernmost point of the site, to be used as a beginning point for surveying
- C The center point where you locate the laser level
- D A point of known elevation
- 6 What should you do if the receiver unit isn't receiving a signal from the laser level?
- a Turn the receiver off and on quickly
- b Make sure the receiver is within 40 feet of the laser level
- c Check the battery and replace it with the spare you should always have with you
- d Slide the receiver up or down

7 If the laser receiver unit shows a straight bar and the rod reading is 7.92, the bench mark cannot be at which elevation?

A 127.92

B 717.92

C 876.92

D 1037.92

8 When checking a grade, if your rod reading is 1.10 and the grade required at that point is 4.18, what would you mark on your lath?

A F-3.08

B F-4.18

C F-5.28

D C-3.38

9 What does it mean if a crows foot has a horizontal line drawn across it and there's an arrow with a circle through the tail pointing at that line?

A The line indicates finish grade

B The line indicates original grade

C More cut is needed

D Overfill is needed

10 If there's a cut of 3.50 and a 4-foot boot is needed, the grade setter measures up and marks the lath where?

A 3.00

B 3.50

C 4.00

D 4.50

#### Excavation & Grading Handbook Chapter 4: Setting Grade Stakes Using a Contour Plan

1 What is another name for a contour plan?

- A Profile plan
- B Topographic plan
- C Grading plan
- D Subdivision plan

2 How can you tell when contour lines represent a steep slope?

- A They are spread out evenly
- B They turn sharply
- C They connect in a circle
- D They are close together
- 3 How many contour lines in the figure are at elevation 130?



- B 2
- С 3
- D 4



- 4 What is indicated when contour lines connect to form a loop or circle?
- A A depression or a mound
- B A lake
- C A mound
- D A steep grade
- 5 When do contour lines change grade?
- A When making a loop
- **B** Never
- C In a depression
- D At the top-back-curb
- 6 What line in the figure does not represent a true contour line?
- A 2
- B 4B
- C 7
- D 10



7 In order to correctly mark the cut or fill to produce the finish grade, where must you start your measurements?

- A At the first contour line stake
- B At the edge-of-pavement
- C At a known elevation
- D Only at a bench mark
- 8 If an elevation is 125.50, which numbers will be set on the surveyor's rod?
- A 5.50
- B 125
- C 125.5
- D 125.50
- 9 Using 9 feet as a baseline, what combination of measurements will allow you to make a 90-degree angle?
- A 3, 6 and 9 feet
- B 3, 9 and 12 feet
- C 9, 12 and 15 feet
- D 9, 12 and 18 feet
- 10 Who, other than the surveyor, might set the grades for an industrial tract landscaping project?
- A The architect
- B The general contractor
- C The equipment operator
- D The excavation contractor

1. If checking a road section with a laser, how many elevations should be marked on the lath by the grade setter?

- A. One
- B. Two
- C. Three
- D. Four
- 2. If your rod reading on the hub is 3.50 and the stake shows a 0.70 fill with a road section depth of 0.75, what rod reading would you want to read for subgrade?
- A. 2.0
- B. 3.55
- C. 3.45
- D. None of the above
- 3. When using a laser with a sloping beam, what's the maximum distance from the trench centerline you'd want to set up to ensure accuracy?
  - A. 6 feet
  - B. 8 feet
  - C. 10 feet
  - D. 12 feet
- 4. When setting up a grade rod for trenching using a laser, if the cut is 7.58 and you measure up from the hub and get a steady signal on the receiver at 2.92, where on the rod do you place a mark for flow-line grade?
  - A. 10.50
  - B. 10.58
  - C. 10.92
  - D. 11.84
- 5. If the survey rod has a 10.50-foot measurement for flow line and you need a 0.50 undercut, where would you set the rod elevation?
- A. 9.50
- B. 10.00
- C. 11.00
- D. 12.50

- 6. How do you figure the undercut when determining trench depth for laying pipe?
- A. It's provided in the specifications or plans
- B. Add the thickness of the pipe bedding to the trench cut
- C. Add the thickness of the pipe bedding to the inside pipe diameter
- D. Add the thickness of the pipe to the thickness of the pipe bedding
- 7. What do you calibrate the cutting blade on a scraper to when using an on-board laser?
  - A. The laser transmitter
  - B. The finish elevation
  - C. The system is automatically controlled
  - D. A bench mark or known elevation
- 8. When setting a GPS base station, what must always be set up plumb, level and in the same location each day?
- A. The GPS screen
- B. The GPS receiver unit
- C. The radio antenna
- D. The rover unit

9. What is the minimum number of satellites you should be able to access to ensure the accuracy of a GPS signal?

- A. Eight
- B. Seven
- C. Six
- D. Five
- 10. What is the most difficult part of using GPS?
- A. Connecting the rover to a portable radio and satellite antenna
- B. The initial base unit set up and model building
- C. Training operators to use the equipment
- D. Transferring information to the rover unit

- 1. What is the primary cost-cutting feature of concrete curb machines?
  - A. No form crew is needed
  - B. No finishers are needed
  - C. They cut their own grade
  - D. They pour the curb and road at the same time
- 2. What is the primary use for a profilograph?
- A. Sloping concrete
- B. Striking off concrete
- C. Checking road grade
- D. Cutting grooves in concrete
- 3. What equipment is used to pour concrete roadways?
- A. Profiler
- B. Slip-form paver
- C. Concrete curb machine
- D. Reclaiming machine
- 4. What does an auger-driven curb machine use for grade?
- A. A string line
- B. A laser beam
- C. Sonar
- D. The asphalt base

5. The type of surface produced by a concrete slip-form paver is a smooth concrete mat that needs which of the following?

- A. No finishing
- B. A tined finish
- C. Hand finishing
- D. Only a groove-cutting machine
- 6. A profiler can mill which type of road surfacing material?
- A. Asphalt only
- B. Concrete only
- C. Both concrete and asphalt
- D. Only aggregate within the size parameters of the profiler
- 7. What is the function of a grizzly?
- A. Sizing material
- B. Crushing rock
- C. Trimming aggregate
- D. Ripping asphalt

- 8. Which of the following is not done by a reclaiming machine?
  - A. Grind up asphalt
  - B. Mix dirt
  - C. Mix aggregate
  - D. Trim to grade
- 9. What is the purpose of carbide teeth on a trencher?
  - A. To dig more precisely
  - B. To dig through hard materials
  - C. To increase the trenching speed
  - D. To protect the edge of the trenching blade
- 10. What is probably the most important element to consider in operating an excavation and grading business?
  - A. Proper estimating and bidding techniques
  - B. Selecting the right equipment for each job
  - C. Communication among the foreman, superintendent, and estimator

D. Safety

- 1. What determines the size of equipment you choose for a particular job?
  - A. The amount of excavation
  - B. The length of haul
  - C. The amount of fill
  - D. The time allotted for the job
- 2. What determines the number of scrapers needed for a job?
  - A. The depth of cut
  - B. The amount of excavation
  - C. The length of haul
  - D. The size of the scrapers
- 3. How should push-pull scrapers load?
  - A. The rear scraper first
  - B. The front scraper first
  - C. Both scrapers at the same time
  - D. With a dozer pushing for a faster load
- 4. How should a haul road be maintained?
  - A. It must be kept moist to cool the tires
  - B. It must have a separate passing lane for fast-moving equipment
  - C. Any curves must be banked
  - D. It must be smooth, wide, and not dusty
- 5. What is the typical loading time for an open-bowl scraper being pushed under average conditions?
  - A. 40 seconds
  - B. 60 seconds
  - C. 80 seconds
  - D. None of the above
- 6. Under what circumstances would you choose a paddle-wheel scraper?
  - A. If all the cuts are short and deep
  - B. If the soil is very sandy
  - C. If all the cuts are shallow
  - D. If the soil is very muddy
- 7. In which situation are you least likely to use a dozer?
  - A. Excavating downhill to fill
  - B. Excavating on an all rock ripped slope
  - C. Excavating in good soil using a paddle-wheel scraper
  - D. Excavating muddy areas

- 8. What might cause haul trucks to start bunching up?
  - A. A slow driver who won't be passed
  - B. Not enough trucks on the haul
  - C. A traffic light near the fill site
  - D. Too many trucks on the haul
- 9. Who would you check with to find out about soil conditions on your job?
  - A. The equipment operator
  - B. The local building department
  - C. The property owner
  - D. The estimator who bid the job
- 10. What situation do you not want to find yourself in on an excavation job?
  - A. Working with underpowered equipment
  - B. Working with overpowered equipment
  - C. Working without a paddle-wheel scraper
  - D. Working without a Cat D11 dozer

- 1. What is the best equipment for cutting a rocky slope?
- A. Grader
- B. Hoe
- C. Dozer with a slope bar
- D. Scraper with ripper teeth

2. If an existing slope must be cut back 15 feet at a 1:1 slope, how far back will the first cut be made?

- A. 1 foot
- B. 10 feet
- C. 14 feet
- D. 16 feet
- 3. What is the usual slope tolerance of a rocky slope?
- A. 0.60 foot
- B. 1.00 foot
- C. 1.50 feet
- D. 2.00 feet
- 4. What should the operator on the scraper do when he's being pushed while loading rock?
- A. Turn slightly from side to side for better traction
- B. Add little or no power while being pushed
- C. Take a deep cut with the apron wide open
- D. Apply more power than when loading dirt
- 5. What position should the scraper apron be in when loading rock?
- A. Opened wider than if you were loading dirt
- B. Opened as far as possible
- C. Closed; the rock will force it open
- D. Only slightly open

6. If the scraper operator notices he only has a three-quarter load and it seems to have quit loading, what should he do?

- A. Move the bowl up and down until full
- B. Lower the bowl for a deeper cut
- C. Raise the apron
- D. Not try to load any longer
- 7. What should you do while dumping if you have a boulder so big it won't pass under the bowl?
  - A. Pull forward slowly at a 90-degree turn angle
  - B. Back up slowly at a 90-degree turn angle
  - C. Pull ahead slowly until it rolls under the bowl
  - D. Have the dozer push it away

- 8. What is the standard compaction percentage required for a compaction test on a rock fill?
- A. You can't do a compaction test on a rock fill
- B. 80 percent
- C. 90 percent
- 9. What's the biggest advantage of using a compactor on rock fill?
  - A. To help grind down sharp rock points
  - B. To get the percentage of compaction on the fill
  - C. To push boulders over the edge of the slope
  - D. To help the dozer cut the slope

10. What is a grizzly used for?

- A. To compact fill
- B. To separate fines from rock
- C. To rip hard rock
- D. To crush rock into smaller pieces

- What is one of the best ways to keep your excavating costs down?
  - A. Use only the smallest equipment that can handle the job
  - B. Use one large water truck instead of several smaller ones
  - C. Use several grade setters on each job
  - D. None of the above
- 2. Why is it important for the compactor operator to keep dozing dirt as he works?
  - A. To break up large chunks
  - B. To mix the moisture evenly
  - C. To keep from getting ahead of the grader
  - D. To keep the soil from compacting too soon
- 3. What is the grader's most important job when rough excavation starts?
  - A. Grade haul roads
  - B. Start lot pad grading
  - C. Outline street cuts
  - D. Cut sidewalk grade
- 4. Why would you choose to use a water tank rather than a standpipe?
  - A. To keep an accurate load count
  - B. To decrease loading time
  - C. To have extra water on hand
  - D. To load two trucks in tandem
- 5. What is the most efficient equipment for stripping?
  - A. A grader
  - B. A compactor
  - C. An open-bowl scraper
  - D. A paddle-wheel scraper
- 6. What is the only area trimmed to finish grade during rough excavation?
  - A. Sidewalk grade
  - B. Curb grade
  - C. Lot pad
  - D. Street grade
- 7. Fill lots should be overfilled by how much for trim?
  - A. 0.05 to 0.10 foot
  - B. 0.10 to 0.20 foot
  - C. 0.20 to 0.30 foot
  - D. 0.30 to 0.40 foot

- 8. When must you have erosion control measures in place?
  - A. Any time you're excavating in developed areas
  - B. Always
  - C. Any time there's a threat of rain
  - D. Any time there are steep slopes
- 9. What are the usual compaction requirements for sidewalk and curb subgrade?
  - A. 85%
  - **B.** 90%
  - **C**. 95%
  - D. 100%
- 10. What are the usual compaction requirements for street subgrade?
  - A. 85%
  - **B**. 90%
  - **C**. 95%
  - **D.** 100%

- 1. What's the biggest difference between staking a commercial site and staking a road project?
  - A. The stakes are set every 100 feet
  - B. There are fewer stakes
  - C. There are more stakes
  - D. The surveyor will mark the boots
- 2. Which item listed below will not be found in the job specifications or soils report?
  - A. What to do with stripped topsoil
  - B. The amount of contour grading required
  - C. How much to overbuild the pads
  - D. The staking diagram
- 3. What type of island curb is placed on finished asphalt?
  - A. 6-inch glue-down curb
  - B. 10-inch asphalt dike
  - C. 14-inch barrier curb
  - D. None of these
- 4. What must be done to a fill area before any excavation can be placed on it?
  - A. It must be leveled for dumping
  - B. It must be disked under and the vegetation burned off
  - C. It must be ripped, watered and compacted
  - D. It must be undercut with a grader
- 5. How much are commercial building pads overbuilt?
  - A. 2 feet
  - B. 3 feet
  - C. 5 feet
  - D. 10 feet
- 6. How can you make the rough grading of parking areas easier?
  - A. Excavate through the island noses
  - B. Rip the entire area first
  - C. Cut the islands with a grader
  - D. Use a dozer to shape the islands
- 7. How much should you overbuild pad elevations during rough grading?
  - A. 0.03 to 0.04
  - B. 0.05 to 0.10
  - C. 0.10 to 0.25
  - D. 0.15 to 0.30

- 8. What should you have the surveyor do when the initial excavation is completed?
  - A. Set a benchmark to be used for finished grading
  - B. Stake for curbs
  - C. Stake for underground work
  - D. Verify the parking area and pad grades
- 9. When is it best to rip and compact the subgrade for parking areas?
  - A. Before the curbs are poured
  - B. Before the aggregate is placed
  - C. After watering has partly evaporated
  - D. Before the rough trim
- 10. What must be done about any unsuitable soil discovered during excavation?
  - A. It should be brought to the attention of the soils engineer
  - B. It should be brought to the attention of the owner
  - C. It should be removed and replaced with dry dirt
  - D. It should be removed and replaced with rock

- 1. What should be done first before any work begins on a highway project?
  - A. The crew and equipment should be directed to the largest cut area
  - B. The foreman and grade setter should go over the plans and staking
  - C. The surveyor should run three rows of stakes for the grade setter
  - D. The traffic should be detoured so the work area is clear
- 2. Why are right-of-way stakes set?
  - A. For the surveyors' use
  - B. For the grade setters' use
  - C. To indicate limits of the work area
  - D. For centerline control
- 3. Where do you start the fill on a 2:1 fill slope if the RS point is a foot low after clearing?
- A. 1 foot back of the RS point
- B. 2 feet back of the RS point
- C. 4 feet back of the RS point
- D. None of these
- 4. What do double horizontal lines marked on a survey stake mean?
- A. Information above the lines is for the surveyors' use only
- B. "And then"
- C. The grade setter must double the distance to ditch
- D. The plus or minus amount tolerance allowed for the grader
- 5. How does the grade setter set the fill slope lath on a large fill slope?
- A. At 90 degrees from the surveyor's stake
- B. Exactly plumb with the slope
- C. In even rows 10 feet apart
- D. At a uniform height
- 6. What is the usual tolerance on a fill slope?
- A. 0.05 foot
- B. 0.10 foot
- C. 0.20 foot
- D. 0.50 foot
- 7. It's good practice to overbuild a fill slope by how much?
  - A. 2 to 4 inches
  - B. 4 to 6 inches
  - C. 6 to 8 inches
  - D. 8 to 10 inches

- 8. Which slope angle is the most difficult to cut with a grader?
  - A. 1:1 slope
  - B. 2:1 slope
  - C. 3:1 slope
  - D. 4:1 slope
- 9. When cutting a slope that has a ditch at toe-of-slope, to what elevation must the initial cut be made?
  - A. The road subgrade
  - B. The bottom of the ditch
  - C. The shoulder subgrade
  - D. The centerline of road
- 10. What must be done with the road subgrade when building a road fill that has chokers?
  - A. It should be ripped for compacting
  - B. It should be left low for the choker excess
  - C. It should be built to choker level
  - D. It should be compacted to 95 percent

- 1. What should be quickly repaired if cut or damaged during the road-widening preparation process?
- A. Fences
- B. Walks
- C. Shrubs
- D. Sprinkler lines
- 2. When is it acceptable to work beyond the right-of-way line?
- A. When you find, after beginning work on the job, that it's necessary
- B. When a note on the plans instructs you to do so
- C. When the property owner asks you to do a little extra paving
- D. When the inspector thinks it will look better
- 3. Some agencies don't approve of using too many of which road safety device?
- A. K-rail
- B. Delineators
- C. Barricades with flashers
- D. Cones
- 4. How many methods are generally used to tie out manholes, water valves, and cleanouts?
- A. Two
- B. Three
- C. Four
- D. Five
- 5. How can you protect a saw cut in the shoulder pavement that will be run over by trucks and scrapers?
- A. Back it with aggregate
- B. Make the cut only half-way through the asphalt
- C. Make two cuts, 6 inches apart, and leave the pavement between them
- D. Don't make the saw cut until the equipment has finished excavating
- 6. What should be done with mailboxes on posts that are in the work area?
- A. They should be returned to the post office
- B. They should be given to the property owner until the work is complete
- C. They should be cut off and placed in portable 5-gallon buckets
- D. They should be hauled away and then replaced later
- 7. When the preparations are complete, which of these work items is the first to be done?
- A. Cut roadside ditches
- B. Lay driveway culverts
- C. Pour walks
- D. Repair fences

- 8. What determines your choice of excavating equipment for a 15-foot road section?
- A. Where you must haul the excess dirt
- B. The depth of the road section
- C. The equipment the estimator assumed would be used
- D. The length of the job

9. Why should you overfill a fill slope even though it can't be track-walked?

- A. Because it will help prevent slope erosion
- B. So a compacted surface is left after trimming
- C. So there will be excess dirt for the shoulder fill
- D. So the landscaper will have topsoil for planters

10. If a road section is so narrow that 95 percent compaction is difficult to achieve, how might you reduce the required compaction rate to 90 percent?

- A. Deepen the aggregate section
- B. Use a hoe compaction wheel
- C. Use only asphalt and no aggregate
- D. Use crushed rock in place of aggregate

- 1. Why are narrow embankments more difficult to build than wide embankments?
  - A. The compaction requirements are greater
  - B. The confined area makes passing difficult for the equipment
  - C. Compaction water applied tends to flow off the area
  - D. The slopes must be kept to a closer tolerance
- 2. After the stripping and clearing is done, what is the next order of work?
- A. Rip and compact the original ground
- B. Have the grader set slope stakes
- C. Track-walk the original slope
- D. Have the scrapers start hauling fill
- 3. Cutting a 3-foot vertical bench into an existing 2:1 slope adds how much horizontal space?
  - A. 4 feet
  - B. 6 feet
  - C. 8 feet
  - D. 12 feet
- 4. Where does the first fill on a narrow road widening come from?
- A. It's hauled in from the closest cut area
- B. It's usually dumped from the road above
- C. It's generated from the bench cut
- D. It's generated from the stripping operation
- 5. What method should you use to gain extra fill width for your equipment?
  - A. Cut turnouts
  - B. Cut a 10-foot bench cut
  - C. Make a 5-foot vertical cut
  - D. Overfill the shoulder
- 6. Why do you need to cut a bench into the existing slope?
  - A. To make room for the equipment to work
  - B. To properly tie into the existing fill
  - C. To generate more fill
  - D. To provide a mark for the scrapers to fill to
- 7. What important safety factor should you remember while building any fill?
  - A. Make sure the fill is compacted with a vibratory compactor
  - B. Never make a vertical cut into the existing slope
  - C. Always keep the fill area level
  - D. Always build the outside edge higher

- 8. What is the possible disadvantage of using bottom dump trucks?
  - A. Heavy clay and large chunks may not dump
  - B. They need a 60-foot turning radius
  - C. They are slower than graders
  - D. The truck must stop for a bottom dump
- 9. If you're dumping fill from the road above, what must you do before the lane is reopened for traffic each night?
  - A. Advise the local agency of your progress
  - B. Remove all signs related to the road work
  - C. Scrape and clean the roadbed
  - D. Post a guard at the edge of the work area
- 10. What type of compactor works fastest on a narrow fill?
  - A. A pad-drum roller
  - B. A pad-foot compactor with a center wheel
  - C. A Cat 815 pad-foot compactor
  - D. A sheepsfoot compactor

- 1. How are channels usually staked?
  - A. Every 50 feet on both sides
  - B. Every 50 feet on the right, looking downstream
  - C. Every 100 feet on each side
  - D. Every 25 feet down the center of the channel
- 2. How should a diversion trench be dug?
  - A. From upstream to downstream
  - B. From downstream to upstream
  - C. At least 1 foot deeper than the existing channel
  - D. At least 6 feet deeper than the existing channel
- 3. How can you ensure an even flow through a long detour channel?
- A. Use a trencher to excavate the detour channel
- B. Make sure the detour channel is at least 6 feet deep its entire length
- C. Set hubs and cuts for grade
- D. Use scrapers equipped with a laser to excavate the detour channel
- 4. What type of pumping setup is best to use in a residential area?
- A. Gas water pumps
- B. Diesel water pumps
- C. A diesel generator and submersible electric pumps
- D. Utility-supplied power and submersible electric pumps
- 5. How can you be sure the water is maintained at the proper level if you're using a pumping setup?
- A. Install a float switch system
- B. Have a maintenance person to control the pumps
- C. Set the pumps on timers
- D. Make sure there's an adequate fuel supply to maintain the pumps
- 6. Where will the grade setter paint the line for the first cut of a bench cut at top-of-slope on a 1-3/4:1 slope?
  - A. 1 foot out from the top of slope
  - B. 1.50 feet out from the top of slope
  - C. 1.75 feet out from the top of slope
  - D. 2 feet out from the top of slope
- 7. What equipment would you use to fill in a narrow, washed-out slope?
  - A. A hoe with a grading bucket
  - B. A hoe with a compaction wheel
  - C. A small dozer
  - D. A dump truck

- 8. Never fill against what type of slope?
  - A. A slope that has been benched
  - B. An undisturbed slope
  - C. A 1:1 slope
  - D. A slope less than 3 feet high
- 9. How do you finish a channel slope?
  - A. Track roll it two times
  - B. Hydroseed it
  - C. Trim it to a firm surface
  - D. Back-drag it with a dozer blade

10. What can you do to eliminate most ground water during a channel excavation?

- A. Sink wellpoint pumps
- B. Pump lime into the soil
- C. Set up a sump pump
- D. Dig a small drainage ditch

- 1. What do you call an area that's too soft to cover with base rock or asphalt?
  - A. Muddy
  - B. Pumped
  - C. Unsaturated
  - D. Saturated
- 2. Who covers the cost for removing unsuitable material below subgrade during excavation?
  - A. It's billed as extra work
  - B. It's the contractor's responsibility
  - C. The cost is shared by the contractor and owner
  - D. No one; it should be allowed to sit until it dries and firms up
- 3. What should you use to test roll movement on subgrade?
- A. A water truck
- B. A grader
- C. A scraper
- D. A steel drum roller
- 4. How much soft soil was excavated if 4,000 tons of aggregate is needed to fill the hole?
- A. 1,800 cubic yards
- B. 2,000 cubic yards
- C. 2,400 cubic yards
- D. 4,000 cubic yards
- 5. How long should you wait to place the top lift when plugging soft areas with asphalt?
- A. 8 hours
- B. 12 hours
- C. 24 hours
- D. 36 hours
- 6. What is the best equipment choice for removing unsuitable soil in a thin bridged area?
- A. Hoe and small dump trucks
- B. Cat 613 scraper
- C. Grader
- D. Dozer
- 7. What is the main reason for using filter fabric?
  - A. Stabilize mud
  - B. Keep mud from penetrating the aggregate
  - C. Keep water from penetrating the aggregate
  - D. Eliminate trimming

- 8. Which of the following will not help stabilize an unsuitable subgrade?
  - A. Cement
  - B. Filter fabric
  - C. Lime
  - D. Rolling

9. Which type of utility line is less likely to break in unsuitable areas?

- A. Telephone ducts
- B. Steel water mains
- C. Plastic or steel gas mains
- D. Clay sewer lines

10. How much sand or light gravel backfill do most utility agencies require you to place around excavated utility lines?

- A. 4 to 6 inches
- B. 6 to 12 inches
- C. 12 to 18 inches
- D. 18 to 24 inches

- 1. What is the most important element for achieving good soil compaction?
- A. The weight of the compaction equipment
- B. The type of drum used
- C. The amount of mixing done
- D. The amount of water used
- 2. What does the amount of compaction actually measure?
  - A. The water in the soil
  - B. The weight of the soil
  - C. The density of the soil
  - D. The volume of the soil
- 3. Why has nuclear testing replaced sand cone testing?
  - A. It's more accurate
  - B. It's faster
  - C. It tests much deeper
  - D. No compaction curve is needed
- 4. How will a nuclear test gauge indicate tightly-compacted soil?
- A. A low reading on the gauge
- B. A high reading on the gauge
- C. The impulses will return almost instantly
- D. There will be a delay as the impulses slow due to the compression in the soil

5. What is the compaction requirement for most embankments?

- A. 80 percent
- B. 85 percent
- C. 90 percent
- D. 95 percent

6. Before taking a compaction test on an embankment fill in progress, the grader or compactor should cut down how many inches to a level spot for testing?

- A. 4 inches
- B. 6 inches
- C. 8 inches
- D. 10 inches

7. What are the compaction requirements for a road subgrade?

- A. 80 percent
- B. 85 percent
- C. 90 percent
- D. 95 percent

8. Which of the following materials compacts most readily to 95 percent?

A . Aggregate

B. Clay

- C. Hardpan
- D. Sand

9. What equipment should you use first to roll subgrade on a large job?

- A. A smooth-drum vibratory roller
- B. A pad-drum vibratory roller
- C. A disc
- D. A rubber-tired roller

10. What would be the last choice for rolling a large fill being built?

- A. A pad-drum vibratory roller
- B. A pad-foot self-propelled roller
- C. A sheepsfoot self-propelled roller
- D. A smooth-drum vibratory roller

- 1. What must the grade setter do before he can check grade with an eye level?
  - A. Set a string line
  - B. Set boots
  - C. Offset the grades 2 feet
  - D. Set a swede at flow line
- 2. How much offset is needed when a barrier curb is staked for forming?
  - A. 1 foot
  - B. 2 feet
  - C. 3 feet
  - D. 4 feet

3. What is the minimum the grader should cut behind the curb?

- A. 0.35 foot
- B. 0.50 foot
- C. 0.75 foot
- D. 1.00 foot

4. How much offset is needed when a concrete machine is used for a Type 2 or Type1-A curb?

- A. 1 foot
- B. 2 feet
- C. 3 feet
- D. 4 feet

5. If the curb is 3.00 feet wide and the slope is 7 percent, what is the rise?

- A. 0.17
- B. 0.18
- C. 0.20
- D. 0.21

6. What happens if the concrete machine pours over an undercut subgrade?

- A. It will fill the undercut with concrete
- B. The concrete will crack
- C. The concrete will sag
- D. The concrete machine will not hold on the string line

7. How should the sidewalk grade be left when using a concrete machine?

- A. 0.03 to 0.05 low
- B. 0.03 to 0.05 high
- C. 0.05 to 0.08 high
- D. 0.08 to 0.10 high

8. How should the grade be left if the concrete machine is cutting a 3-foot-wide curb only?

A. 0.03 to 0.08 low

- B. 0.08 to 0.015 low
- C. 0.03 to 0.08 high
- D. 0.08 to 0.15 high

9. What is the slope if the grade is 8 percent in 2.17 feet?

- A. 0.1227
- B. 0.1340
- C. 0.1736
- D. 0.1825

10. If you're adding a 0.50 undercut to all the surveyor's cuts and one stake has a fill of 0.30, what would be the correct distance above or below the surveyor's hub?

- A. 0.20 below
- B. 0.60 below
- C 0.20 above
- D. 0.60 above

- How should the rough subgrade be cut before compacting?
  - A. 0.00 to 0.05 high
  - B. 0.05 to 0.10 high
  - C. 0.10 to 0.20 high
  - D. On grade
- 2. What may need to be done when processing subgrade with extremely dry soil?
  - A. The grader may need to turn the soil over several times
  - B. The water truck may need to flood the subgrade so the water will penetrate
  - C. The compactor may need to do the mixing with his dozer
  - D. The scraper may need to remove the top layer and replace it with better
- 3. To what depth is the subgrade of a road section usually required to be 95 percent compacted?
  - A. 4 inches
  - B. 6 inches
  - C. 8 inches
  - D. 10 inches
- 4. What must you ensure that your grader has before beginning fine trimming?
  - A. Equal pressure in all tires
  - B. Sonar set to maximum sensitivity
  - C. A good cutting edge with no worn ends
  - D. GPS
- 5. What must the grade setter do if the grader is not equipped with slope control or sonar?
  - A. Paint a line at centerline
  - B. Set centerline crows feet
  - C. Set centerline hubs
  - D. Paint grades at centerline

6. If a road that's 15 feet to the centerline has a 2 percent slope and a 0.75-foot road section, what would the centerline reading be to get the correct subgrade when shooting to a 4-foot boot at lip-of-curb?

- A. 0.75
- **B. 3**.75
- **C.** 4.00
- D. 4.45

7. If the grade you require at centerline is 3.75 and you shoot 3.90, what is needed to shoot 3.75?

- A. A fill of 0.15
- B. A fill of 0.30
- C. A cut of 0.15
- D. A cut of 0.30

- 8. What must the roller operator do if the water truck sprays the grade just ahead of the roller?
  - A. Roll quickly before it dries
  - B. Turn the vibrator off
  - C. Re-roll the grade
  - D. Wait until the water soaks in
- 9. What is indicated when each bank plug has only one nail?
- A. The road has a crown
- B. The road is level
- C. The road has a constant super
- D. The road has a curb on only one side
- 10. What's the most accurate way to carry grade if you're running sonar on a road job with no curbs?
  - A. Trim one side over the hubs then use that grade to run the sonar on
  - B. Set a string line on each side to run sonar on
  - C. Don't use sonar, just slope control
  - D. Start at centerline first

1. Using the author's quick calculation method, how many tons of aggregate would you order to cover 12,000 square feet with 6 inches of gravel?

- A. 250 tons
- B. 300 tons
- C. 350 tons
- D. 450 tons
- 2. What type of gravel trucks should you use in large parking lots?
  - A. End dumps and bottoms
  - B. Bottom dumps
  - C. Semi bottoms
  - D. End Dumps
- 3. What happens to gravel if it's overworked?
  - A. It'll become bony
  - B. It'll lump together and become unusable
  - C. It'll need an extra pass by the water truck
  - D. It'll break up and will need to be replaced
- 4. How do you keep aggregate fines from separating from the rock?
  - A. Roll it with a vibratory roller
  - B. Roll it with a rubber-tired roller
  - C. Keep it dry
  - D. Keep it very moist
- 5. What is the most common tool used for setting hubs in a parking lot?
  - A. Swedes
  - B. Hand level
  - C. Eye level
  - D. Laser level

6. How far out from the edge of asphalt should the grade setter set his crows foot grade stake on an open-shoulder road with a 12-inch aggregate section?

- A. 3 inches
- B. 5 inches
- C.6 inches
- D. 8 inches

7. When dumping aggregate with bottom dumps, for the best results, how many feet should the gravel be spread?

A. 50 feet

B. 75 feet

C. 100 feet

D. 125 feet

8. How many feet before the spot the gravel is needed must the dump person give a bottom dump the signal to dump?

A. On the spot

B. 5 feet

C. 10 feet

D. 15 feet

9. How far in from the choker or open shoulder should the first windrow of aggregate on a highway job be dumped?

A. 3 feet

B. 5 feet

C. 10 feet

D. 20 feet

10. What is the usual tolerance allowed on aggregate grade?

A. 0.05

B. 0.08

C. 0.10

D. 0.15

- 1. Which type of soil is best suited for lime treatment?
- A. Sandy
- B. Rocky
- C. Hard pan
- D. Clay

2. To what tolerance should you trim lime-treated subgrade?

- A. 0.08
- B 0.10
- C. 0.12
- D. 0.15

3. What percentage of lime is most commonly added to the soil for lime treatment?

- A. 1 to 2 percent
- B. 3 to 5 percent
- C. 6 to 8 percent
- D. 9 to 15 percent
- 4. What is the first step in lime treatment?
- A. Pre-rototill the subgrade
- B. Spread lime
- C. Water subgrade
- D. Rip subgrade

5. Below what temperature should you not apply lime treatment?

- A. 29 degrees Fahrenheit
- B. 35 degrees Fahrenheit
- C. 40 degrees Fahrenheit
- D. 45 degrees Fahrenheit

6. How many passes of the lime machine are usually required for lime subgrade treatment?

- A. Two
- B. Three
- C. Four
- D. Five

7. For best results, how soon after the initial compaction should you start trimming lime-treated soil?

- A. 6 hours
- B. 12 hours
- C. 18 hours
- D. 24 hours

8. What type of roller may not be allowed for rolling lime base?

- A. Steel drum
- B. Sheepsfoot
- C. Vibratory
- D. Pad foot

9. With which type of soil would you most likely use cement-treated base?

- A. Sandy soil
- B. Hardpan
- C. Cobbles
- D. Clay soil
- 10. How long after the final mixing of cement-treated base should you complete compaction?
  - A. After 30 minutes but no more than one hour
  - B. Within two hours
  - C. Within four hours
  - D. Within eight hours

- 1. What is the most efficient way to remove an old road surface?
- A. Rip it with a dozer
- B. Grind and load with a profiler
- C. Load it with a hoe
- D. Grind with a reclaimer

2. What is the best choice for asphalt removal in a small parking area?

- A. A profiler
- B. A reclaimer
- C. A track hoe with a bucket thumb
- D. A rubber-tired hoe with a 4-in-1 bucket
- 3. What's the advantage of using a bottom dump truck with a pickup machine?
  - A. The paver doesn't have to stop
  - B. The paver can start and stop anytime
  - C. The asphalt has time to cool
  - D. A smoother grade can be carried
- 4. What is the acceptable temperature range for asphalt when paving?
- A. 200 to 250 degrees
- B. 285 to 350 degrees
- C. 325 to 450 degrees
- D. 400 to 525 degrees

5. Open-graded asphalt shouldn't be placed when the weather drops below what temperature?

- A. 32 degrees
- B. 40 degrees
- C. 50 degrees
- D. 60 degrees

6. When the paver is using sonar to follow a curb grade, what should control the grade on the other side?

- A. Nothing else is needed
- B. Sonar
- C. The screed man
- D. Slope control
- 7. What is the purpose of a stab rod?
- A. To lower the screed
- B. To check asphalt temperature
- C. To check asphalt thickness
- D. To check the asphalt density

8. When rolling asphalt, where should the first pass be made?

A. Down the center

- B. On the lowest side
- C. On the highest side
- D. On a diagonal

9. Unless specifications say otherwise, what size asphalt mix should you use for skin patches that must match existing areas?

- A. 1/4 inch
- B. 3/8 inch
- C. 5/8 inch
- D. 3/4 inch

10. What is the usual spread rate for chips when chip sealing?

- A. 15 to 30 pounds per square yard
- B. 5 pounds per square foot
- C. 1 pound per square foot per inch of asphalt depth

D. 10 to 15 pounds per square yard for chips less than 1/4 inch; 15 to 20 for larger chips

- 1. When would you use a Vermeer trencher?
  - A. For deep trenches
  - B. For shallow digging
  - C. For hardpan and rock
  - D. For very soft soil

2. How long must the pressure in a water pipe pressure test hold?

- A. One hour
- B. Two hours
- C. Four hours
- D. It depends on the size of the pipe, the number of service runs, and the length.
- 3. A trapezoid bucket is used for what type of trenching?
- A. Deep trenching
- B. Wide trenching
- C. Hard rock trenching
- D. Slope trenching
- 4. What must be done if the trench bottom is soft?
- A. It must be filled with crushed rock
- B. It must be undercut to a stable grade
- C. It must be lime treated
- D. It must be cement treated

5. When an agency uses a camera to check sewer pipe flow, what's the maximum amount of ponding they'll accept inside the pipe?

- A. 1/4 inch
- B. 1/2 inch
- C. 1 inch
- D. An amount equal to the amount of fall in the pipe run
- 6. How high above the pipe is the water level in the manhole required to be for a sewer pipe water test?
  - A. 3 feet
  - B. 4 feet
  - C. 5 feet
  - D. 6 feet
- 7. What's the advantage of using air testing over other methods in testing sewer pipe?
  - A. The equipment needed is always handy
  - B. No manholes are needed
  - C. There's no mess involved to drain it
  - D. An air leak won't soften the grade

#### 8. How do you usually repair a broken pipe along a sewer main?

- A. Buckle in a new pipe section
- B. Cut the pipe on each side of the break and snap in a double-collar pipe
- C. Place a caulder coupling over the break
- D. Cover the break with a concrete collar

9. What's the main advantage of trench sloping?

- A. It's faster to trench
- B. It's easier to work with in a confined space
- C. No shoring is needed
- D. The pipe can be placed closer to the trench
- 10. How is cast-in-place trench dug?
  - A. Only over-dug 2 inches
  - B. Extra deep to allow for the equipment
  - C. Always sloped to allow access for a worker
  - D. The exact shape and grade of the pipe

- 1. At what depth must a vertical trench always be shored?
- A. 4 feet
- B. 5 feet
- C. 6 feet
- D. 7 feet
- 2. What's the best method to ensure that a trench 7 feet deep or less is stable?
  - A. Use sheet shoring
  - B. Use a shield
  - C. Slope the sides
  - D. Use hydraulic shoring
- 3. What's the main problem with using a shield in loose cobble?
- A. It's hard to keep a straight trench
- B. It's likely to wedge against the wall
- C. It's hard to keep cobbles from entering the shield
- D. It's hard to keep a smooth grade
- 4. What do you need when setting two 6-foot shores, one under the other?
  - A. A long release tool
  - B. Five people
  - C. A larger pump
  - D. A grappling hook
- 5. How high above the trench bottom should you place shoring?
- A. High enough for the initial backfill
- B. High enough so the pipe won't hit the shoring
- C. High enough so the crew can reach the quick coupler
- D. High enough so the pipe crew can work under the hydraulic cylinders
- 6. When attaching a hydraulic pump hose to the shore, how should you position the quick coupler?
- A. Facing toward the right side
- B. Facing toward the left side
- C. Facing up
- D. Facing down
- 7. How can you prevent damage to the shore planks if there's a void in the trench wall?
- A. Place the jack over the void
- B. Increase the pressure on the jack to keep it away from the void
- C. Place a 2 x 10 wood plank behind the shore
- D. Place the planks at an angle to avoid the indentation

- 8. When should you use sheeting with the shoring?
  - A. When you're working in clay
  - B. When the ground is damp
  - C. When the wall crumbles between shores
  - D. When you're working in hardpan
- 9. How is a shield moved along in the trench?
  - A. It's pulled by a hoe
  - B. It's pushed by a dozer
  - C. It runs on tracks
  - D. It's set by a crane
- 10. What should you do if a manhole shield is set between vertical trench walls?
  - A. Slope the trench walls
  - B. Backfill around it
  - C. Allow a 2-foot clearance on each side
  - D. Set shores on each side

- 1. A 48-inch manhole has what size opening?
  - A. 24 inches
  - B. 36 inches
  - C. 42 inches
  - D. 48 inches

2. What's the largest pipe size that should be laid through a manhole?

- A. 10 inches
- B. 12 inches
- C. 14 inches
- D. 16 inches;

3. How far above the pipe should you pour the concrete on a poured sewer manhole bottom?

- A. 1 inch
- B. 2 inches
- C. 3 inches
- D. 5 inches

4. How long should a poured concrete bottom be allowed to set before the top of the pipe is broken away?

- A. 3 hours
- B. 5 hours
- C. 9 hours
- D. 12 hours

5. What is the minimum amount of gravel that should be placed under a precast manhole bottom?

- A. 6 inches
- B. 8 inches
- C. 10 inches
- D. 1 foot

6. What's the major difference between sewer and drain manholes?

- A. The sewer manhole is deeper
- B. The drain manhole has no side outlets
- C. The drain manhole usually has a sump
- D. The sewer inlets are always smaller pipe

7. What material is used in the joints between manhole barrels to get a good seal?

- A. Ram-Nek
- B. Cement mortar
- C. Epoxy and sand
- D. Plastic cement

- 8. What's the maximum neck height, including the casting, allowed on a manhole?
  - A. 12 inches
  - B. 18 inches
  - C. 24 inches
  - D. 30 inches
- 9. Manholes are vacuum-tested to how many pounds?
  - A. 1 pound
  - B. 2 pounds
  - C. 3 pounds
  - D. 5 pounds
- 10. What's the best percentage of calcium chloride to use for a quick concrete set?
  - A. 8 percent
  - B. 5 percent
  - C. 2 percent
  - D. 1 percent

- 1. Where are underdrains usually placed?
  - A. On the low side of the road
  - B. Down the centerline
  - C. In the median
  - D. Under the choker
- 2. At what point during the subgrade operation are underdrains placed?
  - A. After 4 inches of aggregate have been placed and rolled
  - B. When the subgrade fill is first made
  - C. After the subgrade is rough trimmed, but before the fine trimming
  - D. When the subgrade has been fine trimmed and it's ready for aggregate
- 3. Where is the water from the underdrain line carried?
  - A. To roadside drop inlets
  - B. To the median ditch
  - C. To a roadside ditch
  - D. To the nearest culvert line
- 4. What covers the top of the underdrain pipe?
  - A. 3/4-inch crushed rock
  - B. Type 1 asphalt
  - C. 3/4-inch aggregate base
  - D. 1- to 1-1/2-inch permeable material
- 5. What is an underdrain trench lined with?
  - A. Plastic sheeting
  - B. Construction fabric
  - C. Sand
  - D. Chopped straw
- 6. When should the culverts be placed if there's a deep fill?
  - A. When the fill is finished
  - B. When the fill is 6 feet deep
  - C. When the fill is 3 feet above the top of the pipe
  - D. When the fill reaches subgrade
- 7. What part of a culvert usually requires a dirt cap?
  - A. Just the downstream end
  - B. Both the ends and top
  - C. Only the top
  - D. Just the upstream end

- 8. What type pipe is seldom used as culvert pipe?
- A. Clay
- B. Concrete
- C. Ribbed plastic
- D. Corrugated metal
- 9. What type of runoff are downdrains designed to handle?
  - A. Runoff from the road and shoulder
  - B. Runoff from the median
  - C. Runoff from the fill slope
  - D. Runoff from the roadside ditch
- 10. What can happen if a downdrain isn't properly anchored?
  - A. It may not drain
  - B. It may break apart
  - C. It may fill up with dirt and debris
  - D. It may slide down the slope