

PA-PLS Registration Exam

Stormwater Management

Recommended Study Outline

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The following study outline is my recommendation of stormwater management topics to study prior to sitting for the PA PLS registration exam. I have no knowledge of the exam content regarding stormwater management. I have never taken the exam. However, I do have extensive knowledge about stormwater methods and calculations as they pertain to land development. I am also aware of the structure of the registration exam and the limitations this structure places on developing quality questions regarding stormwater management surveys and plan designs. I have taught workshops through PLS over the past 35 years regarding stormwater methods. I have received positive feedback from past workshop participants stating that these workshops were very helpful in passing the stormwater segment of the exam. This outline is purely my best guess at the topics that could and should be addressed in such an exam.

The topics follow the content of the textbook *Stormwater Management for Land Development: Methods and Calculations for Quantity Control*, 3rd edition. It is self-published and can be purchased through Amazon.com. Be aware that there are first and second editions of the book that are still available for purchase. This outline only follows the third edition.

The book was written for two audiences. First, it was written for college students studying stormwater design in surveying and geomatics baccalaureate degree programs. All chapters are important for a solid understanding of the fundamental stormwater design methods, including the more complex methods of design rainfall, design hydrographs, channel routing, detention basin routing, multiple-stage outlet structure design and storm sewer design. Second, it was written as a desktop reference for land development design professionals. Of the eighteen chapters in the book, some chapters have limited value for those interested in passing the PLS exam. The chapter content is either too rudimentary or too procedurally complex to be included in a PLS exam.

The following list offers guidance as to what book sections should be studied to effectively study for the PLS exam. Sections with the text in red are recommended. Practice problems to try have been included where appropriate. Questions regarding any of these topics or the practice problems can be directed to tseybert@psu.edu. Also, a problems solutions manual (200 pages) is available for those studying for the PLS exam. Contact me for a copy.

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