EXCAVATOR WRITTEN TEST

This written exam is designed to test the prospective operator on general knowledge and safe practices in relation the type of equipment that he/she will be operating. The SSHO (Site Safety Health Officer) will administer the test to the employee. Candidates must score at least 80% to pass the exam. All answers are multiple choice; please circle the best possible answer.

Employee Name: ______________________ Employee Signature: ______________________

Administered by: ______________________ Score: _____ Date: ___________

1) The excavator operator is to have read and understood the operator’s manual prior to operating the machine.
   A) True
   B) False

2) When trenching with an excavator, who is allowed in the trench when excavating is taking place?
   A) The grade checker
   B) Foreman
   C) Laborers
   D) No one is allowed

3) At the start of each shift, the operator should ______________________________.
   A) Check all fluid levels
   B) Test all controls for proper function
   C) Complete a written inspection
   D) All of the above

4) When approaching the edge of an excavation where the soil is loose and unstable, the excavator should be situated with the tracks ________________________________.
   A) Perpendicular (90°) to the edge of the excavation
   B) Parallel to the edge of the excavation

5) As a load is lifted and moved away from the excavator, the machine’s lifting capacity ___.
   A) Increases
   B) Decreases
   C) Remains the same
6) The lifting capacity of the excavator can be determined by _______________________.
   A) Making a test lift
   B) Lifting as much as you can until the excavator begins to tilt
   C) Consulting the load chart in the operator’s manual
   D) There is no way of knowing

7) When unloading an excavator from a transporter, it is best to ______________________.
   A) Have the bucket in front of machine’s direction of travel and close to ground
   B) Have the bucket in back of the machine’s direction of travel
   C) It doesn’t matter
   D) None of the above

8) A fire extinguisher should be in the cab of the excavator at all times.
   A) True
   B) False

9) If any part of the excavator comes into contact with a live power line, what should those on the ground do?
   A) Carefully walk up to machine and help the operator off
   B) Hook onto the excavator and pull it from the power lines
   C) Keep people away from area surrounding the excavator
   D) Throw a rope to operator so he can be dragged from machine

10) If any part of the excavator comes into contact with a live power line, what should the operator NOT do?
    A) Immediately climb off the machine
    B) Stay seated and avoid touching any part of machine until power is turned off
    C) Signal others to stay away from the machine
    D) Jump from the machine only if it’s on fire

11) When excavating a trench, the spoil pile needs to be placed a minimum of _______ feet from the edge of trench.
    A) 1 foot
    B) 2 feet
    C) 3 feet
    D) 4 feet
12) When trenching in previously filled areas, cave-ins are
   A) More likely to occur
   B) Less likely to occur
   C) Not a concern to the operator
   D) Only possible if temperature is below 60°

13) When an excavator is crossing a slope, the machine is more susceptible to a rollover
   A) True
   B) False

14) Before excavating where utilities are likely to be buried, the operator is responsible for locating and marking underground utilities.
   A) True
   B) False

15) When lifting a load with an excavator, who is authorized to be under it at any given time.
   A) Only those in the trench are allowed
   B) Only those wearing hardhats
   C) No one is allowed
   D) Only people who rigged the load

16) List at least 3 hazards associated with working in or around an excavator
   ___________________    ___________________    ___________________

17) When entering and exiting equipment always _____________________.
   A) Go head first
   B) Carry tools and materials
   C) Maintain 3 points of contact
   D) None of the above

18) Which of the following DO NOT cause trench cave-ins?
   A) Weather
   B) Vibration
   C) Weight
   D) Shoring and Sloping

19) When are riders allowed on equipment?
   A) Never
   B) Only when they wear seatbelts
   C) If there is enough room
20) When using the excavator to make a lift, it is best to rig the load to the ______ on the bucket.
   A) Tooth
   B) Eye
   C) Excavators can’t be used to lift load(s)
   D) Any point on the bucket is okay

21) Which of the following is a basic capability of the bucket on an excavator?
   A) Lifting
   B) Loading
   C) Backfilling
   D) Rough grading/leveling
   E) All of the above

22) As it relates to an excavator the term ROPS, stands for_____________________.
   A) Roll Over Protective Structure
   B) Right Of Passage System
   C) Rigging Operational Procedures Standard
   D) Rights Of People’s Security

23) When operating in a congested area, who is responsible for establishing a safety barrier around the machine?
   A) Site Safety Officer
   B) Operator
   C) Workers in the area
   D) A safety barrier is not needed

24) When climbing on or off the excavator, the operator should always be facing the machine.
   A) True
   B) False

25) The joystick controls on an excavator should always return to a ____________ position once they are released.
   A) Forward
   B) Back
   C) Neutral
   D) Rollover