Dear CWS Examinee:

Below are some recommendations for how to use the Modular Education Program (MEP) to prepare for the CWS exam.

The Knowledge Base articles are meant as background information. The questions on the exam are more practical than those found in the MEP, however, competency in answering the questions in is a good indicator of your preparation. Pay attention to how the treatment technologies operate, what happens in their cleaning cycles, etc.

When reading the Knowledge Base articles and MEP, focus on:

1. What the contaminants are and how they behave in water (are they ions, organic compounds, large particles, etc.)
2. Which treatment technology can be used for which contaminant(s); for which contaminants/situations should it NOT be used
3. Theory behind how the treatment technologies work
4. Mechanics of how the treatment equipment operates - service and cleaning cycles & processes involved
5. Troubleshooting - If you understand how and why the treatment technology operates, you should be able to deduce what might have gone wrong
6. Installation - Best practices for equipment installation and related, general, plumbing code regulations
7. Cross-Connections/Backflow prevention - You should know what these are and how to guard against them. An excellent reference is the US EPA Cross-Connection Control manual, available on the US EPA’s website.

Be sure to look over Ethics and Legal Considerations Fundamentals. The exam has several questions related to ethics and legal issues and as a WQA-certified professional, you are expected to adhere to the WQA Code of Ethics.

Overall, the MEP and Knowledge Base are for your reference both in preparation for the exam and for questions you may encounter in the field.

Sincerely,

Tanya Lubner, PhD
Director of Professional Certification & Training
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