

**UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
PRESSURIZED WATER REACTOR GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION  
SEPTEMBER 2012--FORM A**

**Please Print**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Docket No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Facility: \_\_\_\_\_

Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Stop Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANT**

Answer all the test items using the answer sheet provided, ensuring a single answer is marked for each test item. Each test item has equal point value. A score of at least 80 percent is required to pass this portion of the NRC operator licensing written examination. All examination materials will be collected 3 hours after the examination begins. This examination applies to a typical U.S. pressurized water reactor (PWR) nuclear power plant.

SECTION	QUESTIONS	% OF TOTAL	SCORE
COMPONENTS	1 - 22		
REACTOR THEORY	23 - 36		
THERMODYNAMICS	37 - 50		
TOTALS	50		

All work performed on this examination is my own. I have neither given nor received aid.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

**RULES AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE NRC  
GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION**

During the administration of this examination the following rules apply:

NOTE: The generic term "control rod" refers to the length of neutron absorber material that can be positioned by the operator to change core reactivity.

NOTE: Numerical answers are rounded to the nearest whole number unless otherwise indicated.

1. Print your name in the blank provided on the cover sheet of the examination.
2. Fill in your individual docket number.
3. Fill in the name of your facility.
4. Fill in your start and stop times at the appropriate times.
5. Two aids are provided for your use during the examination:
  - (1) An equations and conversions sheet contained within the examination copy, and
  - (2) Steam tables and Mollier Diagram provided by your proctor.
6. Place your answers on the answer sheet provided. Credit will only be given for answers properly marked on this sheet. Follow the instructions for filling out the answer sheet.
7. Scrap paper will be provided for calculations.
8. Cheating on the examination will result in the automatic forfeiture of this examination. Cheating could also result in severe penalties.
9. Restroom trips are limited. Only **one** examinee may leave the room at a time. In order to avoid the appearance or possibility of cheating, avoid all contact with anyone outside of the examination room.
10. After you have completed the examination, sign the statement on the cover sheet indicating that the work is your own and you have neither given nor received any assistance in completing the examination. Either pencil or pen may be used.
11. Turn in your examination materials, answer sheet on top, followed by the examination copy and the examination aids, e.g., steam tables, handouts, and scrap paper.
12. After turning in your examination materials, leave the examination area, as defined by the proctor. If after leaving you are found in the examination area while the examination is in progress, your examination may be forfeited.

**GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION  
EQUATIONS AND CONVERSIONS HANDOUT SHEET**

**EQUATIONS**

$$\dot{Q} = \dot{m}c_p\Delta T$$

$$\dot{Q} = \dot{m}\Delta h$$

$$\dot{Q} = UA\Delta T$$

$$\dot{Q} \propto \dot{m}_{\text{Nat Circ}}^3$$

$$\Delta T \propto \dot{m}_{\text{Nat Circ}}^2$$

$$K_{\text{eff}} = 1/(1 - \rho)$$

$$\rho = (K_{\text{eff}} - 1)/K_{\text{eff}}$$

$$\text{SUR} = 26.06/\tau$$

$$\tau = \frac{\bar{\beta}_{\text{eff}} - \rho}{\lambda_{\text{eff}} \rho}$$

$$\rho = \frac{\ell^*}{\tau} + \frac{\bar{\beta}_{\text{eff}}}{1 + \lambda_{\text{eff}} \tau}$$

$$\ell^* = 1 \times 10^{-4} \text{ sec}$$

$$\lambda_{\text{eff}} = 0.1 \text{ sec}^{-1} \text{ (for small positive } \rho \text{)}$$

$$\text{DRW} \propto \phi_{\text{tip}}^2 / \phi_{\text{avg}}^2$$

$$A = A_0 e^{-\lambda t}$$

$$P = P_0 10^{\text{SUR}(t)}$$

$$P = P_0 e^{(t/\tau)}$$

$$\text{CR}_{\text{S/D}} = S/(1 - K_{\text{eff}})$$

$$\text{CR}_1(1 - K_{\text{eff}1}) = \text{CR}_2(1 - K_{\text{eff}2})$$

$$1/M = \text{CR}_1/\text{CR}_x$$

$$A = \pi r^2$$

$$F = PA$$

$$\dot{m} = \rho A \bar{v}$$

$$\dot{W}_{\text{Pump}} = \dot{m}\Delta P v$$

$$P = IE$$

$$P_A = \sqrt{3} IE$$

$$P_T = \sqrt{3} IE \text{ pf}$$

$$P_R = \sqrt{3} IE \sin\theta$$

Thermal Efficiency = Net Work Out/Energy In

$$\frac{g(z_2 - z_1)}{g_c} + \frac{(\bar{v}_2^2 - \bar{v}_1^2)}{2g_c} + v(P_2 - P_1) + (u_2 - u_1) + (q - w) = 0$$

$$g_c = 32.2 \text{ lbm-ft/lbf-sec}^2$$

**CONVERSIONS**

$$1 \text{ Mw} = 3.41 \times 10^6 \text{ Btu/hr}$$

$$1 \text{ hp} = 2.54 \times 10^3 \text{ Btu/hr}$$

$$1 \text{ Btu} = 778 \text{ ft-lbf}$$

$$^{\circ}\text{C} = (5/9)(^{\circ}\text{F} - 32)$$

$$^{\circ}\text{F} = (9/5)(^{\circ}\text{C}) + 32$$

$$1 \text{ kg} = 2.21 \text{ lbm}$$

$$1 \text{ ft}^3_{\text{water}} = 7.48 \text{ gal}$$

$$1 \text{ gal}_{\text{water}} = 8.35 \text{ lbm}$$

$$1 \text{ Curie} = 3.7 \times 10^{10} \text{ dps}$$

**USNRC GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION  
SEPTEMBER 2012 PWR--FORM A**

QUESTION: 1

A completely full water storage tank is being hydrostatically tested to 200 psig using a positive displacement pump (PDP) with a smooth and constant discharge flow rate of 8 gpm. The tank is protected by a relief valve and a safety valve; both valves discharge to the atmosphere. Each valve has an opening setpoint of 205 psig and a maximum rated discharge flow rate of 6 gpm. The PDP is inadvertently left running when tank pressure reaches 200 psig.

When conditions stabilize with the PDP still running, the relief valve will be \_\_\_\_\_ open; and the safety valve will be discharging approximately \_\_\_\_\_ to the atmosphere.

- A. partially; 6 gpm
- B. partially; 2 gpm
- C. fully; 6 gpm
- D. fully; 2 gpm

**USNRC GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION  
SEPTEMBER 2012 PWR--FORM A**

QUESTION: 2

Subcooled water is flowing through a throttled valve in an open system. The initial steady-state conditions for the throttled valve are as follows:

- Inlet pressure = 60 psia
- Outlet pressure = 44 psia
- Flow rate = 800 gpm

After four hours, the current steady-state conditions for the throttled valve are as follows:

- Inlet pressure = 62 psia
- Outlet pressure = 40 psia
- Flow rate = 600 gpm

Which one of the following could be responsible for the difference between the initial and current conditions for the throttled valve?

- A. The throttled valve was opened more.
- B. The throttled valve was closed more.
- C. Another valve, located upstream of the throttled valve, was partially closed.
- D. Another valve, located downstream of the throttled valve, was partially closed.

QUESTION: 3

Consider water flowing through a frictionless venturi with no heat gain or loss.

For the above system, flow rate through the venturi is proportional to the square root of differential pressure. For steam flow, the relationship must be modified to account for changes in \_\_\_\_\_ as the steam flows through the venturi.

- A. velocity
- B. enthalpy
- C. internal energy
- D. specific volume

**USNRC GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION  
SEPTEMBER 2012 PWR--FORM A**

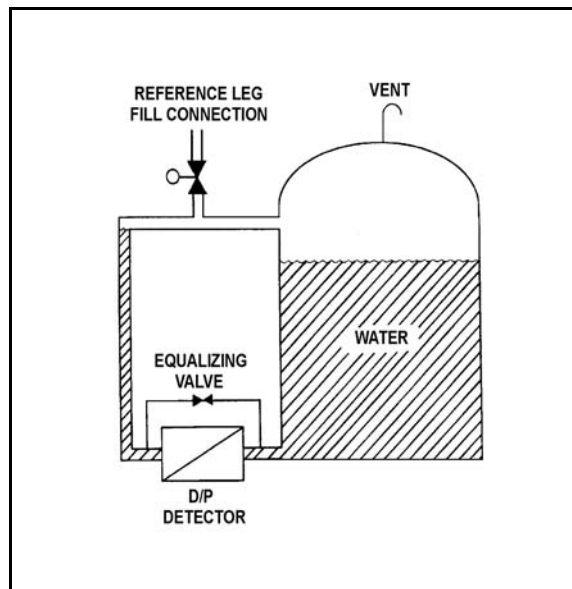
QUESTION: 4

Refer to the drawing of a water storage tank with a differential pressure (D/P) level detection system (see figure below).

Assume the initial temperature of the reference leg and the water in the tank is 100°F, and that reference leg temperature does not change.

If the temperature of the water in the tank increases by 20°F, the D/P sensed by the detector will \_\_\_\_\_ as long as the water \_\_\_\_\_ is maintained constant.

- A. increase; level
- B. decrease; level
- C. increase; mass
- D. decrease; mass



**USNRC GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION  
SEPTEMBER 2012 PWR--FORM A**

QUESTION: 5

The pressure in a cooling water system is 100 psig, as indicated by a bourdon tube pressure detector. The cooling water system and the detector are located inside a reactor containment building. The pressure detector case is vented to the containment building, which is currently at atmospheric pressure.

If a steam line rupture raises the containment building pressure by 20 psi, the cooling water system pressure indication will... (Disregard any temperature effect on the detector.)

- A. decrease to 80 psig.
- B. decrease by a small, but indeterminate amount.
- C. increase to 120 psig.
- D. increase by a small, but indeterminate amount.

QUESTION: 6

DELETED

**USNRC GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION  
SEPTEMBER 2012 PWR--FORM A**

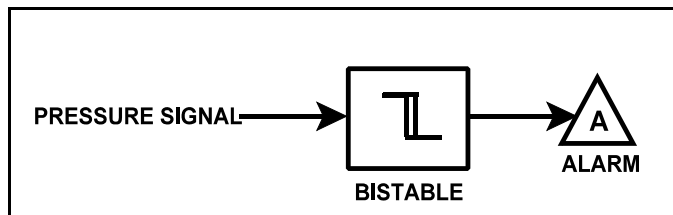
QUESTION: 7

Refer to the drawing of a pressure bistable in an alarm circuit (see figure below).

The orientation of the bistable symbol indicates the characteristics of the bistable, as is normal for a control circuit diagram. The bistable turns on to actuate an alarm at a system pressure of 100 psig. The bistable has a 5 psig dead band, or neutral zone.

If system pressure is currently 110 psig, which one of the following describes the alarm circuit response as system pressure slowly decreases to 90 psig?

- A. The alarm will actuate at 100 psig and will not turn off.
- B. The alarm will actuate at 100 psig and will turn off at 95 psig.
- C. The alarm is currently actuated and will not turn off.
- D. The alarm is currently actuated and will turn off at 95 psig.





**USNRC GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION  
SEPTEMBER 2012 PWR--FORM A**

QUESTION: 8

What is the purpose of a valve positioner in a typical pneumatic valve control system?

- A. Convert the valve controller pneumatic output signal to a mechanical force to position the valve.
- B. Convert the valve controller pneumatic output signal to an electrical output to position the valve.
- C. Compare valve controller pneumatic output signal to setpoint error, and adjust valve actuator air supply pressure to position the valve.
- D. Compare valve controller pneumatic output signal to valve position, and adjust valve actuator air supply pressure to position the valve.

QUESTION: 9

A proportional controller is being used to control the water level in a tank. When the tank water level matches the controller setpoint of 50%, the controller output signal is 50%.

Tank water level begins to rise, and the controller stabilizes water level at 60%, at which time the controller output signal is 90%.

What is the offset for this controller at the 60% water level?

- A. 10%
- B. 30%
- C. 40%
- D. 67%

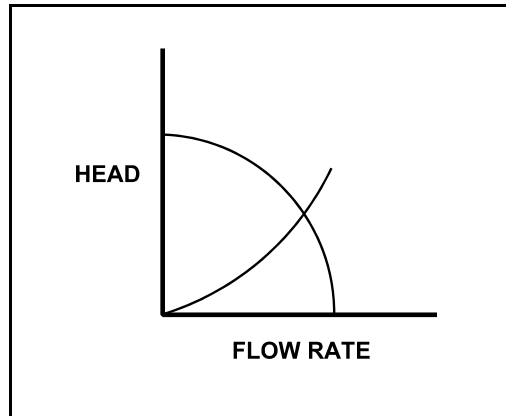
**USNRC GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION  
SEPTEMBER 2012 PWR--FORM A**

QUESTION: 10

Refer to the drawing of centrifugal pump and system operating curves (see figure below).

Which one of the following describes the value of head where the two curves cross?

- A. The maximum amount of head that the pump can provide.
- B. The amount of pump head that is required to avoid cavitation.
- C. The amount of pump head that is converted to kinetic energy in the pump.
- D. The amount of pump head that is converted to heat and other losses as the water circulates through the system.



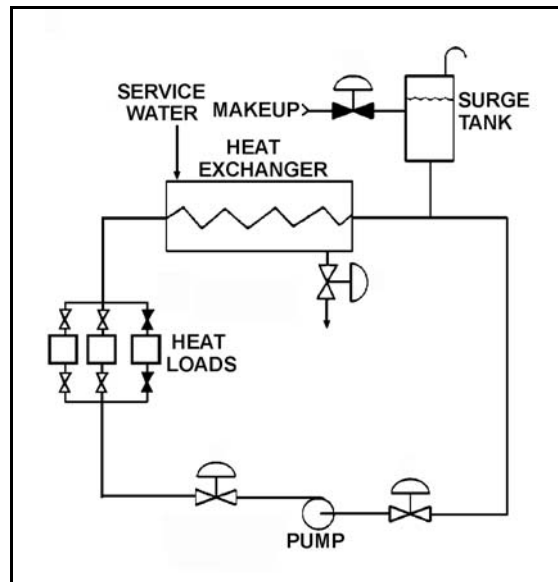
**USNRC GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION  
SEPTEMBER 2012 PWR--FORM A**

QUESTION: 11

Refer to the drawing of an operating cooling water system (see figure below).

Which one of the following changes to the cooling water system will result in a lower cooling water pump flow rate and a higher pump discharge head?

- A. Decrease pump speed by 20 percent.
- B. Increase pump speed by 20 percent.
- C. Isolate one of the two in-service heat loads.
- D. Place the third system heat load in service.



**USNRC GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION  
SEPTEMBER 2012 PWR--FORM A**

QUESTION: 12

A motor-driven centrifugal pump is operating in a closed-loop cooling water system and is unable to achieve its rated volumetric flow rate due to cavitation. Which one of the following will enable the pump to achieve a higher volumetric flow rate before cavitation occurs?

- A. Operate the system at a higher pressure.
- B. Operate the system at a higher temperature.
- C. Remove the existing pump motor and install a motor with a higher horsepower rating.
- D. Remove the existing pump and install a same-capacity pump with a higher minimum required net positive suction head rating.

QUESTION: 13

An ideal (no slip) reciprocating positive displacement pump is operating to provide makeup water to a reactor coolant system that is being maintained at 2,200 psig. The discharge valve of the pump was found to be throttled to 80 percent open.

If the valve is subsequently fully opened, pump flow rate will \_\_\_\_\_ and pump head will \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. increase; decrease
- B. remain constant; decrease
- C. increase; remain constant
- D. remain constant; remain constant

**USNRC GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION  
SEPTEMBER 2012 PWR--FORM A**

QUESTION: 14

A main generator is connected to an infinite power grid with the following initial generator parameters:

Voltage: 22 KV  
Frequency: 60 Hertz  
Load--Real: 600 MW  
Load--Reactive: 100 MVAR (out)

Which one of the following contains a combination of manual adjustments to the main generator voltage regulator and speed control setpoints such that each adjustment will initially result in a decrease in main generator amps?

- |    | <u>Voltage<br/>Setpoint</u> | <u>Speed<br/>Setpoint</u> |
|----|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| A. | Increase                    | Increase                  |
| B. | Increase                    | Decrease                  |
| C. | Decrease                    | Increase                  |
| D. | Decrease                    | Decrease                  |

QUESTION: 15

To minimize the adverse effects of starting current, an AC induction motor should be started \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ the stator counter electromotive force.

- A. unloaded; quickly establish
- B. unloaded; delay
- C. partially loaded; quickly establish
- D. partially loaded; delay

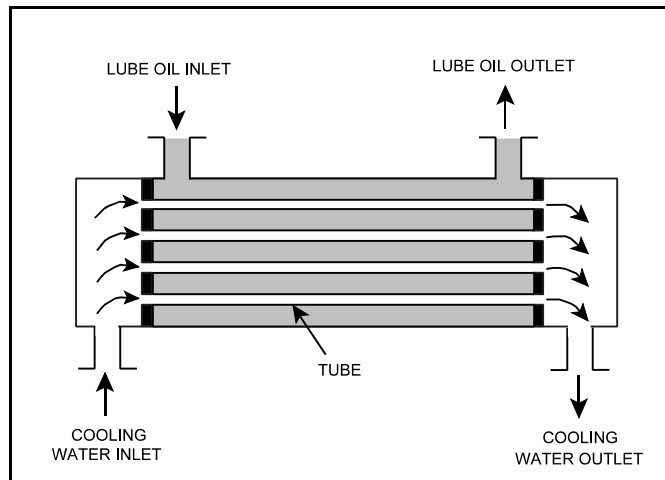
**USNRC GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION  
SEPTEMBER 2012 PWR--FORM A**

QUESTION: 16

Refer to the drawing of an operating parallel-flow lube oil heat exchanger (see figure below).

Unlike a counter-flow heat exchanger, in the parallel-flow heat exchanger the \_\_\_\_\_ temperature will always be greater than the \_\_\_\_\_ temperature.

- A. CW outlet; LO inlet
- B. CW outlet; LO outlet
- C. LO outlet; CW inlet
- D. LO outlet; CW outlet



**USNRC GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION  
SEPTEMBER 2012 PWR--FORM A**

QUESTION: 17

A nuclear power plant is operating near rated power with the following initial conditions:

Main steam pressure: 900 psia  
Main steam quality: 100 percent  
Main condenser pressure: 1.0 psia

Air leakage into the main condenser results in the main condenser pressure increasing and stabilizing at 2.0 psia. Assume that all main steam parameters (e.g., pressure, quality, and mass flow rate) remain the same and that the main turbine efficiency remains at 100 percent.

Which one of the following is the percent by which the main generator MW output will decrease as a result of the main condenser pressure increase?

- A. 5.0 percent
- B. 6.3 percent
- C. 7.5 percent
- D. 8.8 percent

QUESTION: 18

A fresh demineralizer that continuously processes water with a high concentration of suspended solids will first develop an increase in the...

- A. conductivity at the demineralizer outlet.
- B. decontamination factor of the demineralizer.
- C. differential pressure across the demineralizer.
- D. pH at the demineralizer outlet.

**USNRC GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION  
SEPTEMBER 2012 PWR--FORM A**

QUESTION: 19

Which one of the following indicates that a demineralizer receiving 75 gpm of reactor coolant is boron-saturated?

- A. The decontamination factor of the demineralizer is less than 1.0.
- B. The decontamination factor of the demineralizer is greater than 1.0.
- C. Following a reactor coolant temperature increase, demineralizer influent boron concentration exceeds effluent boron concentration.
- D. Following a reactor coolant temperature increase, demineralizer effluent boron concentration exceeds influent boron concentration.

QUESTION: 20

Which one of the following is an unsafe practice if performed while working on or near energized electrical equipment?

- A. Use insulated tools to prevent inadvertent contact with adjacent equipment.
- B. Cover exposed energized circuits with insulating material to prevent inadvertent contact.
- C. Attach a metal strap from your body to a nearby neutral ground to ensure that you are grounded.
- D. Have a person standing by with the ability to remove you from the equipment in the event of an emergency.



**USNRC GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION  
SEPTEMBER 2012 PWR--FORM A**

QUESTION: 21

A diesel generator (DG) was initially operating at 80 percent of rated load supplying an isolated electrical bus when a malfunction caused the DG output breaker to trip. The breakers for all of the bus loads--all of which are large motors--remained closed, preparing the motors to restart upon restoration of power to the bus.

The DG output breaker has been repaired. With all of the bus load breakers still closed, which one of the following will occur when the DG output breaker is closed to reenergize the bus?

- A. The DG will become lightly loaded.
- B. The DG will return directly to its initial load.
- C. The DG will experience slight overload conditions.
- D. The DG will experience severe overload conditions.

QUESTION: 22

Given the following indications for an open 4,160 VAC breaker:

- The local OPEN/CLOSED mechanical flag indicates OPEN.
- A breaker overcurrent trip flag is actuated on one phase.
- The line-side voltmeter indicates 4,160 VAC.
- The load-side voltmeter indicates 0 VAC.

Assuming no operator actions were taken since the breaker opened, which one of the following could have caused the breaker to open?

- A. A ground fault caused an automatic breaker trip.
- B. A loss of control power caused an automatic breaker trip.
- C. An operator opened the breaker locally.
- D. An operator opened the breaker from a remote location.

**USNRC GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION  
SEPTEMBER 2012 PWR--FORM A**

QUESTION: 23

In a comparison between a delayed neutron and a prompt neutron produced from the same fission event, the prompt neutron is more likely to...

- A. leak out of the core while slowing down.
- B. be captured by a U-238 nucleus at a resonance energy.
- C. be captured by a Xe-135 nucleus.
- D. cause thermal fission of a U-235 nucleus.

QUESTION: 24

A nuclear power plant is operating at steady-state 100 percent power with rod control in Manual. During the next two weeks of operation at 100 percent power shutdown margin will... (Assume no operator actions are taken.)

- A. continuously increase.
- B. continuously decrease.
- C. initially increase, then return to the same value.
- D. initially decrease, then return to the same value.

**USNRC GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION  
SEPTEMBER 2012 PWR--FORM A**

QUESTION: 25

A nuclear reactor is operating at steady-state 100 percent power in the middle of a fuel cycle. Which one of the following changes would cause the core effective delayed neutron fraction to increase?

- A. The fast nonleakage factor increases.
- B. The fast nonleakage factor decreases.
- C. The thermal utilization factor increases.
- D. The thermal utilization factor decreases.

QUESTION: 26

Which one of the following describes the overall reactivity effect of a moderator temperature increase in an undermoderated nuclear reactor core?

- A. Negative reactivity will be added because more neutrons will be absorbed by U-238 at resonance energies while slowing down.
- B. Negative reactivity will be added because more neutrons will be captured by the moderator while slowing down.
- C. Positive reactivity will be added because fewer neutrons will be absorbed by U-238 at resonance energies while slowing down.
- D. Positive reactivity will be added because fewer neutrons will be captured by the moderator while slowing down.

**USNRC GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION  
SEPTEMBER 2012 PWR--FORM A**

QUESTION: 27

Ignoring the effects of changes in fission product poisons, which one of the following power changes requires the greatest amount of positive reactivity addition?

- A. 3% power to 10% power
- B. 10% power to 25% power
- C. 25% power to 60% power
- D. 60% power to 100% power

QUESTION: 28

A nuclear reactor is exactly critical below the point of adding heat (POAH) during a normal reactor startup. If a control rod is manually withdrawn for 5 seconds, reactor power will...

- A. increase to a stable critical power level below the POAH.
- B. increase temporarily, then decrease and stabilize at the original value.
- C. increase to a stable critical power level at the POAH.
- D. increase temporarily, then decrease and stabilize below the original value.

**USNRC GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION  
SEPTEMBER 2012 PWR--FORM A**

QUESTION: 29

A nuclear reactor is operating at steady-state 100 percent power when a single control rod fully inserts (from the fully withdrawn position). The operator then returns the reactor to 100 percent power with the control rod still fully inserted.

Compared to the initial axial neutron flux shape, the current axial neutron flux shape will have a...

- A. minor distortion, because a fully inserted control rod has zero reactivity worth.
- B. minor distortion, because the fully inserted control rod is an axially uniform poison.
- C. major distortion, because the upper and lower core halves are loosely coupled.
- D. major distortion, because power production along the length of the rod drastically decreases.

QUESTION: 30

Nuclear reactors A and B are operating at steady-state 100 percent power with equilibrium core Xe-135. The reactors are identical except that reactor A is operating near the end of core life (EOL) and reactor B is operating near the beginning of core life (BOL).

Which reactor core has the greater concentration of Xe-135, and why?

- A. Reactor A (EOL) due to the smaller 100 percent power thermal neutron flux.
- B. Reactor A (EOL) due to the larger 100 percent power thermal neutron flux.
- C. Reactor B (BOL) due to the smaller 100 percent power thermal neutron flux.
- D. Reactor B (BOL) due to the larger 100 percent power thermal neutron flux.

**USNRC GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION  
SEPTEMBER 2012 PWR--FORM A**

QUESTION: 31

A nuclear reactor is initially shut down with no xenon in the core. Over the next 4 hours, the reactor is made critical and power level is increased to 10 percent. The shift supervisor has directed that power be maintained constant at this level for 12 hours for testing.

To accomplish this objective, control rods will have to be...

- A. inserted periodically for the duration of the 12 hours.
- B. withdrawn periodically for the duration of the 12 hours.
- C. inserted periodically for 4 to 6 hours, then withdrawn periodically.
- D. withdrawn periodically for 4 to 6 hours, then inserted periodically.

QUESTION: 32

Instead of using a higher concentration of soluble boric acid, burnable poisons are installed in a new reactor core to...

- A. prevent boron precipitation during normal operation.
- B. establish a more negative moderator temperature coefficient.
- C. allow control rods to be farther withdrawn upon initial criticality.
- D. maintain reactor coolant pH above a minimum acceptable value.

**USNRC GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION  
SEPTEMBER 2012 PWR--FORM A**

QUESTION: 33

A nuclear power plant was operating at steady-state 100 percent power near the end of a fuel cycle when a reactor trip occurred. Four hours after the trip, reactor coolant temperature is currently being maintained at normal no-load temperature in anticipation of commencing a reactor startup.

At this time, which one of the following will cause the fission rate in the reactor core to decrease?

- A. The operator fully withdraws the shutdown control rods.
- B. Reactor coolant temperature is allowed to decrease by 3°F.
- C. Reactor coolant boron concentration is decreased by 10 ppm.
- D. An additional 2 hours is allowed to pass with no other changes in plant parameters.

QUESTION: 34

A subcritical nuclear reactor has a stable source range count rate of 150 cps with a shutdown reactivity of -2.0 % $\Delta$ K/K. Approximately how much positive reactivity must be added to establish a stable count rate of 600 cps?

- A. 0.5 % $\Delta$ K/K
- B. 1.0 % $\Delta$ K/K
- C. 1.5 % $\Delta$ K/K
- D. 2.0 % $\Delta$ K/K

**USNRC GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION  
SEPTEMBER 2012 PWR--FORM A**

QUESTION: 35

A reactor trip has occurred from 100 percent power and equilibrium xenon-135 conditions near the middle of a fuel cycle. An estimated critical rod position (ECP) has been calculated for the subsequent reactor startup using the following assumptions:

- Criticality occurs 24 hours after the trip.
- Reactor coolant temperature is 550°F.
- Reactor coolant boron concentration is 400 ppm.

Which one of the following will result in criticality occurring at a control rod position that is lower than the calculated ECP?

- A. Moving the time of criticality to 18 hours after the trip.
- B. Decreasing reactor coolant system boron concentration to 350 ppm.
- C. A malfunction resulting in control rod speed being 20 percent lower than normal speed.
- D. Misadjusting the steam dump (turbine bypass) controller such that reactor coolant temperature is being maintained at 553°F.

QUESTION: 36

A nuclear power plant is operating at 100 percent power near the end of core life. The greatest contribution to core heat production is being provided by the fission of...

- A. U-235 and U-238.
- B. U-235 and Pu-239.
- C. U-238 and Pu-239.
- D. U-238 and Pu-241.



**USNRC GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION  
SEPTEMBER 2012 PWR--FORM A**

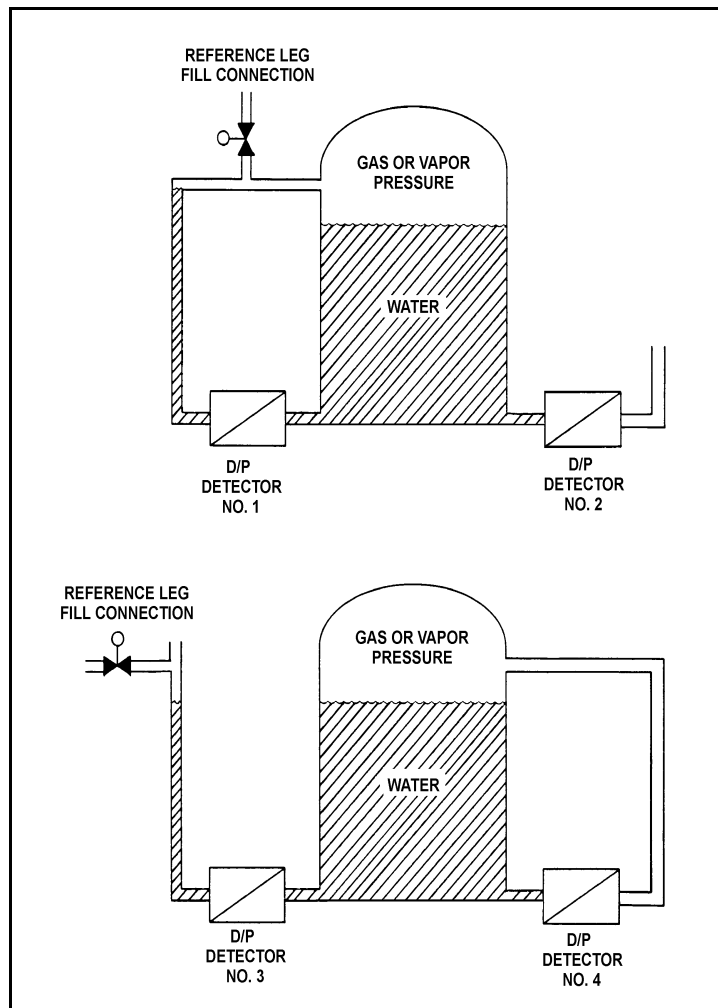
QUESTION: 37

Refer to the drawing of two water storage tanks with four differential pressure (D/P) level detectors (see figure below).

The tanks are identical and are being maintained at 2 psig overpressure, the same constant water level, and a temperature of 60°F. The tanks are surrounded by atmospheric pressure. All level detectors have been calibrated and are producing the same level indication.

If a leak in the top of each tank causes a complete loss of overpressure in both tanks, which detector(s) will produce an unchanged level indication?

- A. No. 1 only
- B. No. 2 only
- C. No. 1 and 4
- D. No. 2 and 3



**USNRC GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION  
SEPTEMBER 2012 PWR--FORM A**

QUESTION: 38

Consider a sealed vessel containing 1,000 lbm of a saturated steam-water mixture at 500°F. The vessel is perfectly insulated with no heat gain or loss occurring.

If a leak near the bottom of the vessel results in a loss of 10 percent of the liquid volume from the vessel, the temperature of the mixture will \_\_\_\_\_; and the overall quality of the mixture will \_\_\_\_\_. (Assume the mixture remains saturated.)

- A. decrease; increase
- B. decrease; decrease
- C. remain the same; increase
- D. remain the same; decrease

QUESTION: 39

Saturated steam at 1,000 psia enters an ideal high pressure (HP) turbine and exhausts at 100 psia. The HP turbine exhaust then enters an ideal low pressure (LP) turbine and exhausts to a steam condenser at 1.5 psia. Which one of the following will cause the HP and LP turbines to produce more equal power? (Assume all pressures remain the same unless stated otherwise.)

- A. Reheat the HP turbine exhaust.
- B. Lower the steam condenser pressure.
- C. Remove the moisture from the HP turbine exhaust.
- D. Decrease the pressure of the saturated steam entering the HP turbine.

**USNRC GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION  
SEPTEMBER 2012 PWR--FORM A**

QUESTION: 40

A nuclear power plant is operating at 100 percent power. Steam is escaping to atmosphere through a flange leak in a steam line to the low pressure section of the main turbine.

Given:

- Steam line pressure is 280 psia.
- Steam line temperature is 450°F.

What is the approximate temperature of the steam as it reaches standard atmospheric pressure?

- A. 212°F
- B. 268°F
- C. 322°F
- D. 378°F

**USNRC GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION  
SEPTEMBER 2012 PWR--FORM A**

QUESTION: 41

A nuclear power plant is operating at 85 percent power when the extraction steam to a high pressure feedwater heater is isolated. After the transient, the operator returns reactor power to 85 percent and stabilizes the plant. Compared to conditions just prior to the transient, the current main generator output (MW) is...

- A. higher because increased steam flow to the main turbine caused the main generator to pick up load.
- B. lower because decreased steam flow to the main turbine caused the main generator to reject load.
- C. higher because the steam cycle thermal efficiency has increased.
- D. lower because the steam cycle thermal efficiency has decreased.

QUESTION: 42

An 80 gpm leak to atmosphere has developed from a cooling water system that is operating at 150 psig. Which one of the following will be the approximate leak rate when system pressure has decreased to 100 psig?

- A. 70 gpm
- B. 65 gpm
- C. 53 gpm
- D. 47 gpm

**USNRC GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION  
SEPTEMBER 2012 PWR--FORM A**

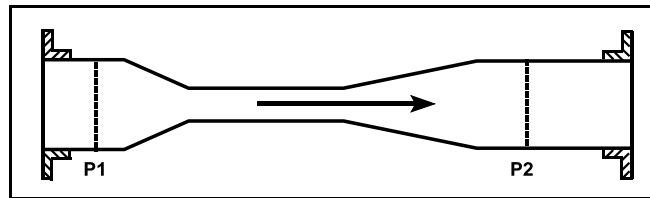
QUESTION: 43

Refer to the drawing of a venturi in a main steam line (see figure below). The venturi inlet and outlet pipe diameters are equal.

A main steam line break downstream of the venturi causes the main steam mass flow rate through the venturi to increase. Soon, the steam reaches sonic velocity in the throat of the venturi.

How will the main steam mass flow rate through the venturi be affected as the steam pressure downstream of the venturi continues to decrease? (Assume the upstream steam pressure remains the same.)

- A. It will continue to increase at a rate that is dependent on the steam velocity in the throat of the venturi.
- B. It will continue to increase at a rate that is dependent on the differential pressure ( $P_1 - P_2$ ) across the venturi.
- C. It will not continue to increase because the steam velocity cannot increase above sonic velocity in the throat of the venturi.
- D. It will not continue to increase because the differential pressure ( $P_1 - P_2$ ) across the venturi cannot increase further once the steam reaches sonic velocity in the throat of the venturi.



**USNRC GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION  
SEPTEMBER 2012 PWR--FORM A**

QUESTION: 44

Which one of the following describes a heat transfer process in which convection is the most significant mode of heat transfer?

- A. From the reactor fuel to the core barrel during core uncover.
- B. From the reactor fuel to the steam generators following a loss of all RCPs.
- C. Through the tube walls in a steam generator during normal operation at 100 percent power.
- D. From the fuel pellet centerline to the fuel clad during normal operation at 100 percent power.

QUESTION: 45

How does critical heat flux (CHF) vary with core height during normal full power operation?

- A. CHF increases from the bottom to the top of the core.
- B. CHF decreases from the bottom to the core midplane, then increases from the midplane to the top of the core.
- C. CHF decreases from the bottom to the top of the core.
- D. CHF increases from the bottom to the core midplane, then decreases from the midplane to the top of the core.

**USNRC GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION  
SEPTEMBER 2012 PWR--FORM A**

QUESTION: 46

Refer to the drawing of a section of pipe with subcooled water flowing through it (see figure below).

Given:

Pressure at  $P_1$  is 30 psig.

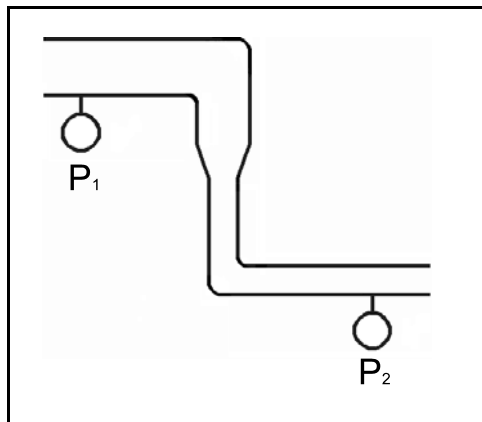
Pressure at  $P_2$  is 32 psig.

Pressure change due to change in velocity is 2 psig.

Pressure change due to change in elevation is 2 psig.

The pressure decrease due to friction head loss between  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  is \_\_\_\_\_; and the direction of flow is from \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. 2 psig; left to right
- B. 2 psig; right to left
- C. 6 psig; left to right
- D. 6 psig; right to left



**USNRC GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION  
SEPTEMBER 2012 PWR--FORM A**

QUESTION: 47

During the reflux boiling method of core cooling, the steam that is generated in the core is condensed in the \_\_\_\_\_ side of a steam generator and flows back into the core via the \_\_\_\_\_. (Assume the steam generators contain U-tubes.)

- A. hot leg; hot leg
- B. cold leg; hot leg
- C. hot leg; cold leg
- D. cold leg; cold leg

QUESTION: 48

A reactor coolant system natural circulation cooldown is in progress via the steam generator (SG) atmospheric steam relief valves (operated in manual control). Assume feedwater flow rate, relief valve position, and decay heat level are constant.

If high point voiding interrupts natural circulation, SG levels will gradually \_\_\_\_\_; and core exit thermocouple indications will gradually \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. decrease; increase
- B. decrease; decrease
- C. increase; increase
- D. increase; decrease



**USNRC GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION  
SEPTEMBER 2012 PWR--FORM A**

QUESTION: 49

Peaking (or hot channel) factors are used to establish a maximum reactor power level such that fuel pellet temperature is limited to prevent \_\_\_\_\_ and fuel clad temperature is limited to prevent \_\_\_\_\_ during most analyzed transients and abnormal conditions.

- A. fuel pellet melting; fuel clad melting
- B. excessive fuel pellet expansion; fuel clad melting
- C. fuel pellet melting; excessive fuel clad oxidation
- D. excessive fuel pellet expansion; excessive fuel clad oxidation

QUESTION: 50

Pressurized thermal shock is a condition that can occur following a rapid \_\_\_\_\_ of the reactor coolant system if system pressure is rapidly \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. cooldown; decreased
- B. cooldown; increased
- C. heatup; decreased
- D. heatup; increased

**\*\*\* FINAL ANSWER KEY \*\*\***

**SEPTEMBER 2012 NRC GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION  
PRESSURIZED WATER REACTOR - ANSWER KEY**

<u>FORM A</u>	<u>FORM B</u>	<u>ANS.</u>	<u>FORM A</u>	<u>FORM B</u>	<u>ANS.</u>
1	15	A	26	40	A
2	16	B	27	41	D
3	17	D	28	42	C
4	18	A	29	43	B
5	19	A	30	44	C
6	20	Deleted	31	45	B
7	21	A	32	46	B
8	22	D	33	47	D
9	23	A	34	48	C
10	24	D	35	49	B
11	25	C	36	50	B
12	26	A	37	1	C
13	27	B	38	2	A
14	28	D	39	3	C
15	29	A	40	4	D
16	30	D	41	5	D
17	31	C	42	6	B
18	32	C	43	7	C
19	33	D	44	8	B
20	34	C	45	9	C
21	35	D	46	10	B
22	36	A	47	11	A
23	37	A	48	12	C
24	38	A	49	13	C
25	39	B	50	14	B