ALABAMA CDL CLASS A PERMIT PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

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How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 – 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

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Questions

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1. The air loss rate for a straight truck or bus with the engine off and the brakes on should not be more than how much?

A. 1 psi in 1 minute

B. 3 psi in 1 minute

C. 3 psi in 5 minutes

D. 5 psi in 1 minute

2. Merging onto a road is safest if you:

A. Wait for a large enough gap in traffic to enter the road.

B. Merge whenever you see space.

C. Enter from the shoulder.

D. Stop and wait for a police escort.

3. What is the principle to remember about loading cargo?

A. Balanced in the cargo area

B. Concentrated at the rear

C. Heaviest items on top

D. Keep weight on the left side

4. Aggressive driving is defined as:

A. Driving a vehicle in a selfish, bold, pushy manner

B. Following at a safe distance

C. Keeping to posted speed limits

D. Sharing the road with others respectfully

5. In hot weather, how often should you inspect your tires?

A. Every 2 hours or every 100 miles

B. Every 4 hours

C. Every hour

D. Only before trips

6. At highway speed, how far ahead should you look to identify hazards?

A. 1/4 of a mile at highway speed

B. 1/2 mile

C. 1 mile

D. 100 feet

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7. Which statement best reflects stopping distance for a 55 mph truck with air brakes under ideal conditions?

A. Less than 100 feet

B. Between 200 and 300 feet

C. More than 300 feet

D. About 350 feet

8. While driving through a work zone, when should you reduce your speed?

A. Lower your speed even farther any time workers are present

B. Maintain the posted limit

C. Speed up to clear the area

D. Slow down only if directed by a flagger

9. Your brakes can get wet when you drive through a heavy rain. What can this cause when the brakes are applied?

A. Trailer jackknife

B. Brake fade

C. Brake squeal only

D. Stall the engine

10. If you have been drinking alcohol, before you drive, you should

A. Wait for it to wear off

B. Drink water before driving

C. Take a nap while you drive

D. Drive with extra caution

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Answers

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1. B
2. A
3. A
4. A
5. A
6. A
7. C
8. A
9. A
10. A

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Explanations

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1. The air loss rate for a straight truck or bus with the engine off and the brakes on should not be more than how much?

A. 1 psi in 1 minute

B. 3 psi in 1 minute

C. 3 psi in 5 minutes

D. 5 psi in 1 minute

Air brake systems must hold pressure even when the engine is off, otherwise the brakes could fail to respond when you need them. To check this, you look at how quickly the system's air pressure leaks away while idle. For a straight truck or bus, the allowable leakage is small: the pressure should not drop more than 3 psi in one minute. If it falls faster than that, there are leaks somewhere in hoses, fittings, valves, or the brake equipment that could lead to insufficient braking power in operation. The other rates don't match the standard safety limit: they either understate the acceptable leakage, extend the window beyond what the test specifies, or exceed the allowable drop in one minute.

2. Merging onto a road is safest if you:

A. Wait for a large enough gap in traffic to enter the road.

B. Merge whenever you see space.

C. Enter from the shoulder.

D. Stop and wait for a police escort.

When you merge, the key is entering traffic at a speed that matches the flow and only when there's enough room to do it safely without forcing other drivers to slow or swerve. Waiting for a large enough gap in traffic gives you time to accelerate to freeway speed, check your mirrors and blind spots, signal, and glide into the lane smoothly. This approach creates a predictable path for you and for drivers already on the road, reducing the chance of cutting someone off or having to brake abruptly. Merging right away as soon as you spot any space can be risky because that space can close quickly as other vehicles change speed or lanes, and you might misjudge your own speed or distance. Entering from the shoulder is not allowed and would put you and other traffic in immediate danger. Stopping and waiting for a police escort isn't a practical or legal way to merge into traffic; you should use the ramp, build up speed, and merge into a suitable gap.

3. What is the principle to remember about loading cargo?

A. Balanced in the cargo area

B. Concentrated at the rear

C. Heaviest items on top

D. Keep weight on the left side

Keeping cargo balanced in the cargo area is essential because it helps maintain stability during all driving actions—acceleration, braking, and especially turning. When weight is spread evenly from front to back and side to side, the vehicle's center of gravity stays within a safe range, reducing the risk of swaying, loss of control, or rollover and making steering and stopping more predictable. Most weight should not be concentrated at the rear or stacked high. Piling weight toward the back shifts the center of gravity rearward and can make the vehicle harder to control, especially at higher speeds or in emergencies. Putting the heaviest items on top raises the center of gravity and increases the chance that the load may shift, upsetting balance. Loading more weight on one side can cause the truck to pull to that side and uneven tire loads, which wears tires unevenly and can affect handling. So aiming for a balanced, secure load—low, evenly distributed, and well secured—best supports safe, stable driving.

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4. Aggressive driving is defined as:

A. Driving a vehicle in a selfish, bold, pushy manner

B. Following at a safe distance

C. Keeping to posted speed limits

D. Sharing the road with others respectfully

Aggressive driving is operating a vehicle in a selfish, bold, pushy manner that disregards safety and the rights of others. This describes actions where a driver puts personal convenience above everyone else's safety, such as tailgating, weaving through traffic, or making abrupt, unsafe moves to intimidate others. These behaviors increase the risk of crashes and are what the term aims to capture in driver training. The other statements describe safe, lawful driving—keeping a safe following distance, obeying speed limits, and sharing the road respectfully—which do not reflect aggression.

5. In hot weather, how often should you inspect your tires?

A. Every 2 hours or every 100 miles

B. Every 4 hours

C. Every hour

D. Only before trips

Heat makes tires more vulnerable: they can overheat, pressure can rise, and small issues can become dangerous quickly. Because of that, you should inspect tires every two hours or every 100 miles, whichever comes first. This regular check helps you catch low pressure, cuts, bulges, or tread problems caused or worsened by heat before they lead to a blowout. Doing this only before trips or at longer intervals in hot weather doesn't give you enough monitoring time during a drive, when conditions can change rapidly.

6. At highway speed, how far ahead should you look to identify hazards?

A. 1/4 of a mile at highway speed

B. 1/2 mile

C. 1 mile

D. 100 feet

When you're moving fast on the highway, you must scan far enough ahead to spot hazards in time to react and deal with them safely. A quarter of a mile ahead is the guideline most often taught because it gives you a window to notice problems and take action. At typical highway speeds, that distance means roughly 15 seconds of travel time, which is enough to see slow or stopped traffic, debris, merging vehicles, or construction, and then brake, steer, or change lanes as needed. Looking only 100 feet ahead leaves you with only a few seconds to respond, which isn't enough at highway speed. Scanning farther than a quarter mile—like half a mile or a mile—offers more time, but isn't necessary for normal highway driving and can distract you from maintaining speed and control.

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7. Which statement best reflects stopping distance for a 55 mph truck with air brakes under ideal conditions?

A. Less than 100 feet

B. Between 200 and 300 feet

C. More than 300 feet

D. About 350 feet

Stopping distance grows with speed, and for a heavy truck with air brakes it stays long even on dry pavement. The total stopping distance is the sum of what it takes the driver to react and the distance the truck needs to stop once braking begins. At 55 mph, a typical reaction time puts you about eighty feet behind the point where you notice the hazard and start braking. The braking distance for a loaded tractor-trailer with air brakes is much longer than for a car because of the truck's weight and the way air brakes operate, which adds a brief delay as air pressure builds and brakes apply. Put together, these factors push the total stopping distance beyond 300 feet, often into the mid-300s under ideal conditions. So, the best description is that stopping distance is more than 300 feet.

8. While driving through a work zone, when should you reduce your speed?

A. Lower your speed even farther any time workers are present

B. Maintain the posted limit

C. Speed up to clear the area

D. Slow down only if directed by a flagger

When you're driving through a work zone, you must slow down as soon as you see workers or equipment in or near the roadway. The presence of people and changed road conditions—narrowed lanes, uneven surfaces, and unexpected workers moving near traffic—means you need extra time to react, more control over the vehicle, and a shorter stopping distance. Slowing down protects both the workers and you, even if you're not yet directed by a flagger or signs. Maintaining the posted speed can put you and the workers at risk because the normal limits are often reduced in work zones. Speeding up to "clear the area" creates danger for the people working nearby. Slowing down only when told by a flagger isn't enough because conditions can change quickly and workers may be present before you receive a directive. Always err on the side of caution and reduce your speed whenever workers are visible, following posted speed limits and flagger instructions as you proceed.

9. Your brakes can get wet when you drive through a heavy rain. What can this cause when the brakes are applied?

A. Trailer jackknife

B. Brake fade

C. Brake squeal only

D. Stall the engine

Wet brakes reduce braking power because water between the braking surfaces lowers friction. In a tractor–trailer, if the trailer brakes lock up when you brake in rain, the trailer can skid and push the tractor sideways. That loss of directional control is what leads to a trailer jackknife. Brake fade is caused by overheating, not moisture, and stalling the engine isn't a direct result of wet brakes, while squealing is just noise and not the main danger described here. In wet conditions, brake gently to dry them and avoid abrupt stops; if you feel the trailer starting to skid, ease off and straighten the wheels.

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10. If you have been drinking alcohol, before you drive, you should

A. Wait for it to wear off

B. Drink water before driving

C. Take a nap while you drive

D. Drive with extra caution

When you've been drinking, you should not drive until the effects have worn off. Alcohol slows your reaction time, dulls your judgment, and impairs coordination and vision, all of which are critical for safe driving a large vehicle. These impairments don't vanish just because you feel okay; they fade as your body metabolizes the alcohol, and the time this takes varies with how much you drank, your weight, metabolism, and other factors. There isn't a quick fix—drinking water or taking a nap won't immediately restore your abilities, and driving with extra caution still leaves you at risk of accidents. The safest and most responsible choice is to wait until you're sober or arrange an alternative ride so you don't drive impaired.

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Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

https://alabamacdlclassa.examzify.com

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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