CALIFORNIA CLASS B DRIVING PERMIT PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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Table of Contents

Copyright 1

Table of Contents 2

Introduction 3

How to Use This Guide 4

Questions 5

Answers 8

Explanations 10

Next Steps 15

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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. To start moving uphill from a stop, which action sequence is recommended?

A. Fully release the clutch, then release the parking brake

B. Apply the accelerator first, then release the parking brake

C. Drive in reverse briefly before going forward

D. Release the parking brake after partly engaging the clutch

2. At 45 mph with an 80-foot vehicle in good weather, what is the least amount of space you should keep in front of you?

A. 9 seconds

B. 6 seconds

C. 12 seconds

D. 3 seconds

3. Gross combination weight (GCW) is the total weight of which components?

A. The total weight of the cargo only.

B. The weight of the power unit alone.

C. The total weight of the trailer and cargo.

D. The total weight of the power unit and the cargo.

4. What should you do if signals or barriers require stopping at a railroad crossing?

A. Stop if required by signals or barriers

B. Do not stop

C. Stop only if a train is approaching

D. Turn around and back up

5. What should you do if you approach a vehicle that is signaling to turn and is in your blind spot?

A. Do not linger in the other vehicle's blind spot; wait until it clears or moves.

B. Maintain distance and speed.

C. Move to the other vehicle's blind spot.

D. Immediately brake.

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6. Within how many days must you notify the DMV if you sell or transfer your vehicle?

A. Change of address

B. Repair of vehicle

C. Sell or transfer your vehicle

D. Suspension

7. Cargo loads can be?

A. Unstable and therefore requiring extra caution around curves.

B. Always stable and safe

C. Too heavy to move

D. Never shift during travel

8. What is countersteering?

A. Turning the wheel back in the other direction after steering to avoid a traffic emergency

B. Turning the wheel in the same direction as the steering

C. Stomping on the brakes hard

D. Pulling the steering wheel hard to the left

9. What are the primary signs that brakes might be fading or failing?

A. Quicker braking response

B. No warning signs

C. Longer stopping distance

D. Immediate stop without distance change

10. What is 'off tracking' in commercial driving?

A. When a commercial vehicle swings wide when turning

B. When a vehicle speeds up in a turn

C. When you back up slowly

D. When you fail to signal

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. To start moving uphill from a stop, which action sequence is recommended?

A. Fully release the clutch, then release the parking brake

B. Apply the accelerator first, then release the parking brake

C. Drive in reverse briefly before going forward

D. Release the parking brake after partly engaging the clutch

Starting uphill with a manual transmission requires preventing rollback by coordinating the clutch, brake, and accelerator. Keep the parking brake on and begin to lift the clutch toward the bite point—the point where the engine starts to grip the drivetrain and the car is ready to move. At this moment, release the parking brake and continue to ease the clutch up slowly while adding a touch of throttle. This sequence gives you control and a smooth start without the car rolling backward. Releasing the clutch fully before releasing the parking brake can cause a stall or a backward roll, and applying the accelerator before you've reached the bite point can overwhelm the engine or stall. There's no need to move in reverse for a hill start.

2. At 45 mph with an 80-foot vehicle in good weather, what is the least amount of space you should keep in front of you?

A. 9 seconds

B. 6 seconds

C. 12 seconds

D. 3 seconds

This question tests how much space you should leave in front when driving a long vehicle at highway speed, using a time-based headway. The idea is that you want enough margin to react and to stop safely if the vehicle ahead slows or stops, and this margin must be larger for a long vehicle. With an 80-foot vehicle traveling at 45 mph in good weather, you need a substantial space cushion to account for your reaction time plus the braking distance, and you must also consider the length of the vehicle in front. Even when conditions are ideal, a shorter gap won't give you enough time to react and decelerate without risk of catching up to the lead vehicle. Among the options, the safest choice is the one that provides the most headway, because more space means more time to respond and stop. In practice, that larger cushion is the responsible, safer rule when you're handling a long vehicle at higher speeds in good weather.

3. Gross combination weight (GCW) is the total weight of which components?

A. The total weight of the cargo only.

B. The weight of the power unit alone.

C. The total weight of the trailer and cargo.

D. The total weight of the power unit and the cargo.

Gross combination weight is the total weight of the power unit and the cargo. This matters because it represents the overall load of the towing setup that the vehicle must move, brake for, and be rated to handle. It combines the tractor's own weight with the payload it's hauling, giving the complete picture of how heavy the combination is. The other options miss part of the reality: counting only the cargo ignores the tractor's own weight, counting the power unit alone ignores the load, and counting the trailer plus cargo omits the weight of the power unit itself.

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4. What should you do if signals or barriers require stopping at a railroad crossing?

A. Stop if required by signals or barriers

B. Do not stop

C. Stop only if a train is approaching

D. Turn around and back up

When you approach a railroad crossing, signals or barriers are there to protect you from a train that can come quickly and unexpectedly. If the signals are flashing, the gates are lowering, or there's a stop sign or barrier, you must come to a complete stop before the crossing. Stop behind the stop line if there is one, and wait until the signals indicate it's safe to proceed. After stopping, look both ways, listen for an approaching train, and only cross when the lights stop flashing, the gates are fully up, and you have enough room to clear the tracks. This isn't just about a train you can see. A train can be close even if you don't see it yet, and you're required to stop whenever the crossing demands it to avoid a dangerous and potentially fatal situation. Other choices would put you at risk or aren't the proper procedure: you don't ignore the signals, you don't stop only when you think a train is near, and turning around or backing up is not an appropriate or safe way to handle a crossing.

5. What should you do if you approach a vehicle that is signaling to turn and is in your blind spot?

A. Do not linger in the other vehicle's blind spot; wait until it clears or moves.

B. Maintain distance and speed.

C. Move to the other vehicle's blind spot.

D. Immediately brake.

Blind spots are areas your mirrors can't show, so a driver signaling a turn might not see you if you stay in that zone. If you linger there, the other vehicle could unexpectedly change position or begin the turn and collide with you because you're not visible to them. The safest approach is to exit the blind spot and wait until the vehicle clears or moves out of your path, establishing a safe, visible position before continuing. This reduces the chance of a surprise merge or turn into you. Quick braking or trying to occupy the other vehicle's blind spot doesn't fix the visibility issue and can create new dangers, while simply maintaining distance may still leave you hidden in a blind spot.

6. Within how many days must you notify the DMV if you sell or transfer your vehicle?

A. Change of address

B. Repair of vehicle

C. Sell or transfer your vehicle

D. Suspension

Notifying the DMV when you sell or transfer your vehicle is about updating ownership and protecting yourself from liability. When you sell or transfer a vehicle, you file a Notice of Transfer and Release of Liability with the DMV within five days. This ensures the DMV records show the new owner and that you're no longer responsible for fines or violations tied to that vehicle. The other options relate to different situations: changing your address, repairs to the vehicle, or suspensions, which aren't about notifying the DMV when you sell. So the option that describes selling or transferring your vehicle is the correct one.

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7. Cargo loads can be?

A. Unstable and therefore requiring extra caution around curves.

B. Always stable and safe

C. Too heavy to move

D. Never shift during travel

Cargo loads can be unstable, which is why extra caution is needed around curves. When a vehicle turns or changes speed, the load tends to shift unless it's properly secured. This shifting changes the vehicle's center of gravity and can lead to loss of control or even a rollover, especially on curves. That's why recognizing the possibility of instability and using good securing methods—straps, chains, and bracing—are essential for safe driving. Loads aren't guaranteed to stay stable or safe; movement can happen if securing devices aren't adequate or if the road is rough. It's also not true that a load is so heavy it can't move; weight doesn't prevent shifting, and improper securing still poses a risk. And it's false that loads never shift during travel—shifting can occur even with careful loading, underscoring the need for continuous attention to tie-downs and securing during the trip.

8. What is countersteering?

A. Turning the wheel back in the other direction after steering to avoid a traffic emergency

B. Turning the wheel in the same direction as the steering

C. Stomping on the brakes hard

D. Pulling the steering wheel hard to the left

Countersteering is a corrective steering action where you briefly steer in the opposite direction from your initial turn to regain control, especially after a sudden maneuver or when the vehicle starts to skid. The idea is to counter the vehicle's yaw so the tires can grip again and you can straighten up or steer toward your intended path. For example, if you steer to avoid a hazard and the rear of the car begins to slide, you'll steer briefly in the opposite direction to stabilize the car, then steer back toward where you want to go. The option described matches this practice: you turn the wheel back the other way after steering to avoid the emergency. This is different from simply turning in the same direction to enter a turn, or from braking hard or yanking the wheel, which can make control harder rather than easier.

9. What are the primary signs that brakes might be fading or failing?

A. Quicker braking response

B. No warning signs

C. Longer stopping distance

D. Immediate stop without distance change

When brakes are fading or starting to fail, you'll notice a reduction in braking effectiveness—the car needs more distance to come to a stop. That's why the longer stopping distance is the best sign: it directly shows you're not stopping as quickly as you should, signaling a problem with the braking system. You might also feel a softer or sinking brake pedal or see a warning light, but the essential takeaway is that you must allocate more space to stop safely. The other options don't fit because quicker braking would indicate better performance, not a problem; no warning signs would be unlikely since brake issues usually present some cue like a changed pedal feel or a warning light; and an immediate stop without any distance change isn't realistic—stopping takes at least a small amount of distance, and a failing system wouldn't produce an instant, distance-free stop. If you notice longer stopping distances, slow down, increase following distance, and have the brakes checked promptly.

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10. What is 'off tracking' in commercial driving?

A. When a commercial vehicle swings wide when turning

B. When a vehicle speeds up in a turn

C. When you back up slowly

D. When you fail to signal

Off tracking happens with long commercial vehicles when the rear wheels don't follow the exact path of the front wheels during a turn. Because of the wheelbase and trailer geometry, the rear end can swing outward, making the turn wider than you might expect. That means you need extra room and should begin the turn earlier to avoid hitting curbs or objects. It's specifically about how the rear wheels move relative to the front during a turn, not about speed, backing, or signaling.

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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://caclassbdrivingpermit.examzify.com

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

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