CDL CLASS A 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. What does a supply pressure gauge indicate?

A. The battery voltage level

B. The amount of fuel remaining

C. How much pressure is in the air tanks

D. The engine temperature

2. True or False: Common medicines for colds can make you sleepy?

A. True

B. False

C. Only some medicines

D. Depends on the dosage

3. Which type of fire is a B:C extinguisher not effective against?

A. Fires in combustible metals

B. Wood, paper, and ordinary combustibles

C. Electrical fires

D. Flammable liquids

4. Should you decrease your following distance if somebody is following too closely?

A. True

B. False

C. It depends on the situation

D. Only if the driver is aggressive

5. What are the two main things to look for ahead while driving?

A. Traffic and pedestrians

B. Traffic and changing roadways

C. Road signs and signals

D. Weather and construction

6. What should a driver do if their vehicle starts to skid?

A. Steer sharply in the opposite direction

B. Accelerate to gain control

C. Ease off the accelerator and steer in the direction of the skid

D. Brake hard to stop quickly

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7. What should you do when braking with a tractor-trailer combination equipped with ABS?

A. Use maximum force to stop quickly

B. Always brake harder regardless of ABS status

C. Monitor and adjust braking to maintain control

D. Slowly apply the brake and never release

8. Is it true or false that empty trucks have the best braking capability?

A. True

B. False

C. Only on dry roads

D. Only when loaded

9. What is the proper braking technique when going down a long steep downgrade?

A. Brake until you stop, then continue

B. Press brakes until 5mph below "SAFE" speed, then release

C. Use engine braking only

D. Brake hard at all times

10. What could happen if there is insufficient weight on the front axle?

A. Better fuel efficiency

B. Improved steering for the driver

C. Increased traction

D. Difficulty in steering safely

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What does a supply pressure gauge indicate?

A. The battery voltage level

B. The amount of fuel remaining

C. How much pressure is in the air tanks

D. The engine temperature

The supply pressure gauge is a critical instrument in the air brake system of a commercial vehicle, particularly those equipped with air brakes. It specifically indicates the amount of pressure in the air tanks, which is essential for the proper functioning of the braking system. Understanding the pressure level helps the driver ensure that there is adequate air supply for safe braking performance. If the pressure falls below a certain level, it can signal that there may be an issue with the air brake system, necessitating immediate attention to avoid potential safety hazards. This gauge is vital for maintaining the integrity and efficiency of the air brake system, contributing significantly to overall vehicle safety.

2. True or False: Common medicines for colds can make you sleepy?

A. True

B. False

C. Only some medicines

D. Depends on the dosage

The answer is true because many common cold medications contain ingredients such as antihistamines, which are known to have sedative effects. These sedative properties can lead to drowsiness, making the user feel sleepy after taking the medication. It's important for individuals to read the labels and instructions on over-the-counter cold medications, as some formulations specifically warn about potential drowsiness. Awareness of this effect is crucial, especially for those who need to operate vehicles or machinery, as impaired alertness can pose safety risks. While some medications might have different side effects or may not cause drowsiness at all, the general trend is that many cold medicines do indeed make users feel sleepy due to their active ingredients.

3. Which type of fire is a B:C extinguisher not effective against?

A. Fires in combustible metals

B. Wood, paper, and ordinary combustibles

C. Electrical fires

D. Flammable liquids

A B:C fire extinguisher is specifically designed to combat fires involving flammable liquids and electrical fires. The "B" class indicates its effectiveness against flammable liquids, such as gasoline, oil, and paints, while the "C" class denotes its suitability for electrical fires, meaning it can be used safely on live electrical equipment without risking electrocution. However, this type of extinguisher is not effective against fires in combustible metals, which fall under Class D. Combustible metals such as magnesium, titanium, and sodium react violently to water and other common extinguishing agents. Therefore, for fires involving combustible metals, specialized extinguishing agents are required that are specifically designed to handle that type of material, which is why a B:C extinguisher would not be effective in that scenario.

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4. Should you decrease your following distance if somebody is following too closely?

A. True

B. False

C. It depends on the situation

D. Only if the driver is aggressive

Maintaining a safe following distance is crucial for safe driving, particularly in a commercial vehicle. Decreasing your following distance in response to another driver who is tailgating creates additional risks. It can lead to a reduced reaction time and increase the likelihood of collisions, especially if the vehicle in front has to stop suddenly. By keeping an appropriate following distance, you ensure that there is enough space to react to changing conditions on the road. This distance allows for more time to brake or maneuver if necessary, which is vital in avoiding rear-end collisions – one of the most common types of accidents involving trucks. While it may be tempting to adjust your distance if someone is too close, doing so will generally increase the danger rather than mitigate it. The best practice is to maintain a steady and safe distance from the vehicle in front, regardless of the behavior of drivers behind you.

5. What are the two main things to look for ahead while driving?

A. Traffic and pedestrians

B. Traffic and changing roadways

C. Road signs and signals

D. Weather and construction

The two main things to look for ahead while driving, specifically in the context of choice B, encompass traffic and changing roadways. Monitoring traffic is crucial, as it allows you to gauge the behavior of other vehicles, anticipate their movements, and react appropriately to maintain safety. By being aware of the flow of traffic, you can adjust your speed and positioning to avoid accidents and ensure a smooth driving experience. Additionally, observing changing roadways is essential because the conditions of the road can vary significantly. This includes recognizing lane changes, upcoming intersections, road closures, or any hazards that might appear. Understanding how the road layout is shifting enables you to plan your trajectory ahead of time, reducing the risk of abrupt maneuvers that can cause accidents. While the other options include important elements of safe driving—such as road signs, signals, and construction or weather conditions—focusing on traffic and changes in the roadway provides a broader awareness of the driving environment, helping drivers make timely and informed decisions.

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6. What should a driver do if their vehicle starts to skid?

A. Steer sharply in the opposite direction

B. Accelerate to gain control

C. Ease off the accelerator and steer in the direction of the skid

D. Brake hard to stop quickly

When a vehicle starts to skid, the most effective response is to ease off the accelerator and steer in the direction of the skid. This technique helps regain control of the vehicle by allowing the tires to re-establish traction with the road surface. Skidding usually occurs when a vehicle loses friction with the ground, which can happen due to slick surfaces, such as ice or wet roads. By easing off the accelerator, the driver reduces the vehicle's speed gradually, reducing the force on the tires and allowing them to regain grip. Steering in the direction of the skid helps realign the vehicle with the direction of travel and counteracts the lateral forces that are causing the skid. This is commonly referred to as "steering into the skid." Understanding the mechanics of a skid and how to react appropriately is critical for maintaining safe vehicle control. Making abrupt movements, such as sharply steering in the opposite direction or braking hard, can worsen the skid and lead to loss of control, potentially resulting in dangerous situations or accidents. Similarly, accelerating during a skid can further destabilize the vehicle and make regaining control much more difficult.

7. What should you do when braking with a tractor-trailer combination equipped with ABS?

A. Use maximum force to stop quickly

B. Always brake harder regardless of ABS status

C. Monitor and adjust braking to maintain control

D. Slowly apply the brake and never release

When driving a tractor-trailer combination equipped with Anti-lock Braking System (ABS), maintaining control during braking is crucial. Monitoring and adjusting your braking helps ensure that you do not lose traction, allowing the ABS to function effectively. This system prevents the wheels from locking up during hard braking, which enhances steering control and stability. By focusing on maintaining control, you can modulate your braking force based on road conditions and the situation at hand, rather than applying maximum force or braking in a way that could lead to a loss of control. This adaptability is essential when driving heavier vehicles like a tractor-trailer, where stopping distances can be longer and more challenging. Proper use of ABS supports safer stopping without compromising vehicle stability.

8. Is it true or false that empty trucks have the best braking capability?

A. True

B. False

C. Only on dry roads

D. Only when loaded

Empty trucks do not have the best braking capability because their reduced weight affects their traction with the road. When a truck is fully loaded, the additional weight increases the downward force on the tires, improving their grip and thereby enhancing the braking efficiency. On the other hand, an empty truck has less friction and may have a longer stopping distance, especially on wet or slippery surfaces. This phenomenon is especially critical for large commercial vehicles, where proper braking relies not only on brake system efficiency but also on the weight distribution and traction involved. Furthermore, an empty truck may experience more pronounced effects of inertia, making it more challenging to control under braking. Therefore, the assertion that empty trucks have the best braking capability is inaccurate.

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9. What is the proper braking technique when going down a long steep downgrade?

A. Brake until you stop, then continue

B. Press brakes until 5mph below "SAFE" speed, then release

C. Use engine braking only

D. Brake hard at all times

The proper braking technique when descending a long steep downgrade is to press the brakes until you are 5 mph below the "SAFE" speed, then release them. This method helps to avoid overheating the brakes, which can lead to brake failure, while still ensuring that you maintain control of the vehicle. By braking to 5 mph below the safe speed, you are also allowing for any potential changes in road conditions or traffic without completely relying on your brakes. This technique promotes a steady, controlled descent and makes use of the truck's natural slowing power, which enhances safety. Engine braking, while beneficial, may not always provide enough deceleration, especially on steep grades, which is why combining it with controlled braking is crucial. Continual hard braking can lead to brake failure, so maintaining a balance is essential for safe driving in such conditions.

10. What could happen if there is insufficient weight on the front axle?

A. Better fuel efficiency

B. Improved steering for the driver

C. Increased traction

D. Difficulty in steering safely

When a vehicle has insufficient weight on the front axle, it can lead to difficulty in steering safely. This is because the front axle supports the steering mechanism and provides the necessary grip for the front tires. When there isn't enough weight, the tires may not have adequate traction on the road surface, leading to a lack of control, especially in turns or during sudden maneuvers. This can cause the vehicle to drift or be more susceptible to slippage, particularly in inclement weather or on slick surfaces. Thus, maintaining proper weight distribution is crucial for safe vehicle handling and control.

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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:

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

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