CLASS A CDL PRE-TRIP INSPECTION PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

https://classacdlpretripinspection.examzify.com

Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

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.

SAMPLE

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!

SAMPLE

Questions

SAMPLE

1. What should be checked on the header board during a pre-trip inspection?

A. Presence of wiring and electrical connections

B. No holes or missing rivets

C. Condition of paint and finish

D. Presence of reflective materials

2. What should be observed regarding the drive shaft?

A. Must be heavily lubricated

B. Should be bent for flexibility

C. Should not be bent or damaged

D. Must have visible holes

3. What is a potential hazard when inspecting the vehicle?

A. Not wearing safety gloves

B. Overlooking under the vehicle inspection

C. Inspecting in poor lighting

D. Checking under the hood without safety glasses

4. What condition should the windshield wipers be in during an inspection?

A. Should be in good condition and working properly

B. Should be damaged and loose

C. Should be missing entirely

D. Should be broken with cracks

5. What is required for the windshield during a pre-trip inspection?

A. It must be tinted

B. It must be clean and free of obstruction

C. It either can be cracked or broken

D. It should have a special coating

6. Why is it important to inspect the fuel system?

A. To ensure the fuel tank is clean

B. To check for leaks and ensure secure connections to avoid fuel spills and fire hazards

C. To verify fuel efficiency

D. To inspect the fuel gauge accuracy

SAMPLE

7. What is the expected reading for the ammeter/voltmeter gauge?

A. 8 - 10 volts

B. 10 - 12 volts

C. 12 - 14 volts

D. 14 - 16 volts

8. Why is load distribution important during pre-trip inspections?

A. It impacts fuel efficiency

B. Improper load distribution can lead to steering problems

C. It affects handling and increases the risk of rollover accidents

D. It is not an important factor

9. What may indicate a failure in the washer system of the vehicle?

A. Wipers keep moving in a circle

B. Washer does not spray properly

C. Wipers are too slow

D. Window is tinted

10. What is a key indicator that a leaf spring is defective?

A. It is free of debris

B. It is intact but has been painted

C. It is cracked or broken

D. It is shiny and polished

SAMPLE

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. What should be checked on the header board during a pre-trip inspection?

A. Presence of wiring and electrical connections

B. No holes or missing rivets

C. Condition of paint and finish

D. Presence of reflective materials

During a pre-trip inspection, checking the header board for holes or missing rivets is essential because these conditions can lead to structural integrity issues. The header board supports the load of the cargo and provides stability to the trailer. If there are holes or if rivets are missing, it could compromise the strength of the header board, making it susceptible to failure during transit. This could potentially lead to a loss of cargo or even an accident, therefore ensuring that the header board is intact plays a crucial role in safety and compliance. While the other options include important aspects to review in a broader inspection context, they do not provide as immediate a safety concern relating to the mechanical integrity of the vehicle as checking for structural issues on the header board does.

2. What should be observed regarding the drive shaft?

A. Must be heavily lubricated

B. Should be bent for flexibility

C. Should not be bent or damaged

D. Must have visible holes

The drive shaft plays a crucial role in transmitting power from the engine to the wheels of a vehicle. Therefore, its integrity is vital for the safe and efficient operation of the vehicle. When observing the drive shaft during a pre-trip inspection, it is essential to check that it is not bent or damaged. A compromised drive shaft can lead to significant mechanical failure or even complete loss of power to the wheels, resulting in dangerous driving conditions. Ensuring that the drive shaft is straight and free from any distortions allows for proper alignment and functioning. If there are any bends or damages, it could indicate stress or potential failure, which poses serious safety risks. Hence, the condition of the drive shaft must be one of the primary focuses during the pre-trip inspection process to ensure a reliable and safe driving experience.

3. What is a potential hazard when inspecting the vehicle?

A. Not wearing safety gloves

B. Overlooking under the vehicle inspection

C. Inspecting in poor lighting

D. Checking under the hood without safety glasses

When inspecting a vehicle, overlooking the under-vehicle inspection is a significant potential hazard because it results in missing critical safety checks that could compromise vehicle operation. The under-vehicle area can reveal numerous issues, such as leaks, damaged components, or signs of wear that are not visible from other perspectives. Failing to conduct a thorough inspection in this area may overlook serious defects that could lead to mechanical failures, accidents, or unsafe driving conditions. Comprehensive inspections are crucial for ensuring the vehicle's safety and reliability on the road. Each component plays a role, and capturing the entire picture—including underbody mechanics—is essential for maintaining operational safety standards. Skipping this inspection step can jeopardize not only the driver's safety but also the safety of others on the road.

SAMPLE

4. What condition should the windshield wipers be in during an inspection?

A. Should be in good condition and working properly

B. Should be damaged and loose

C. Should be missing entirely

D. Should be broken with cracks

During a pre-trip inspection, it is crucial that the windshield wipers are in good condition and functioning properly. This ensures that the driver has clear visibility during adverse weather conditions, such as rain, snow, or fog. Worn or damaged wipers can leave streaks or fail to adequately clear the windshield, which can severely impair the driver's ability to see the road, other vehicles, and potential hazards. Proper functioning windshield wipers typically include blades that are not frayed or cracked, a motor that operates smoothly, and an appropriate level of washer fluid. Ensuring that these components are in good shape is essential for safety and compliance with regulations. Therefore, confirming that the windshield wipers meet these criteria is a fundamental part of maintaining the vehicle's safety features before embarking on a journey.

5. What is required for the windshield during a pre-trip inspection?

A. It must be tinted

B. It must be clean and free of obstruction

C. It either can be cracked or broken

D. It should have a special coating

For a pre-trip inspection, ensuring that the windshield is clean and free of obstruction is crucial for safe operation of the vehicle. A clean windshield allows for optimal visibility, which is essential for the driver to adequately see the road, other vehicles, and any potential hazards. Any dirt, grime, or obstructions such as stickers or objects can impair visibility, leading to increased risk of accidents. Additionally, if there are any cracks or breaks in the windshield, these can further obstruct the driver's view and may compromise the vehicle's structural integrity in the event of an accident. Therefore, maintaining a clean and unobstructed windshield is not only a safety requirement but also a legal one in many jurisdictions. The other options, such as tinting, having a special coating, or allowing cracks or breaks, do not align with safety standards for vehicle operation. In fact, having a tinted windshield or one with any form of impairment would not meet the necessary safety requirements.

6. Why is it important to inspect the fuel system?

A. To ensure the fuel tank is clean

B. To check for leaks and ensure secure connections to avoid fuel spills and fire hazards

C. To verify fuel efficiency

D. To inspect the fuel gauge accuracy

Inspecting the fuel system is vital primarily to check for leaks and ensure secure connections, which helps to avoid fuel spills and potential fire hazards. A properly functioning fuel system is crucial for the safe operation of a vehicle, as leaks can lead to dangerous situations, including fires or environmental contamination. Ensuring that all connections are tight and leak-free contributes to the overall safety of the vehicle, preventing accidents associated with fuel loss and providing peace of mind while on the road. While other factors related to the fuel system, such as cleanliness of the fuel tank or the accuracy of the fuel gauge, can be important, they do not directly address the immediate safety concerns that come from potential leaks or unsecured connections. The integrity of the fuel system is essential for both safety and operational reliability, making the inspection of these components a top priority during a pre-trip inspection.

SAMPLE

7. What is the expected reading for the ammeter/voltmeter gauge?

A. 8 - 10 volts

B. 10 - 12 volts

C. 12 - 14 volts

D. 14 - 16 volts

The expected reading for the ammeter/voltmeter gauge in a properly functioning vehicle, particularly during a pre-trip inspection, should fall within the range of 12 to 14 volts. This range indicates that the vehicle's battery is adequately charged and that the alternator is functioning correctly, supplying the necessary voltage for the vehicle's electrical systems. A reading below this range could imply a potential issue with the battery or alternator, while a reading above this range may indicate overcharging, which can lead to battery damage or other electrical problems. Ensuring the gauge reflects a reading of 12 to 14 volts is crucial for safe vehicle operation.

8. Why is load distribution important during pre-trip inspections?

A. It impacts fuel efficiency

B. Improper load distribution can lead to steering problems

C. It affects handling and increases the risk of rollover accidents

D. It is not an important factor

Load distribution is crucial during pre-trip inspections because it directly affects the handling of the vehicle and can significantly increase the risk of rollover accidents. When cargo is not evenly distributed across the axles, it can cause imbalance, making the truck more difficult to control. An improperly loaded truck can have a higher center of gravity, which can further exacerbate the risks associated with sharp turns or emergency maneuvers. Moreover, proper load distribution helps ensure that the vehicle's weight is kept within legal limits on each axle, which is important for maintaining vehicle stability. A well-distributed load can also improve braking performance and reduce tire wear. Therefore, ensuring an even distribution of cargo is essential for safe operation and preventing potentially dangerous incidents on the road.

9. What may indicate a failure in the washer system of the vehicle?

A. Wipers keep moving in a circle

B. Washer does not spray properly

C. Wipers are too slow

D. Window is tinted

The indication of a failure in the washer system of the vehicle is when the washer does not spray properly. This situation typically manifests as insufficient fluid being sprayed onto the windshield, which can hinder visibility when driving, especially in adverse weather conditions. A properly functioning washer system is crucial for maintaining clear visibility, and any issues with the spray can directly affect the driver's ability to see the road clearly. This can ultimately compromise safety. In contrast, while having wipers that continuously move in a circle may suggest a problem with the wipers themselves, and wipers that are too slow may indicate an issue with their motor or wear, these do not specifically point to a failure of the washer system. Tinted windows do not have any relevance to the operation of the washer system and would not indicate a failure in that regard.

SAMPLE

10. What is a key indicator that a leaf spring is defective?

A. It is free of debris

B. It is intact but has been painted

C. It is cracked or broken

D. It is shiny and polished

A key indicator of a defective leaf spring is the presence of cracks or breaks in the material. Leaf springs are critical components of a vehicle's suspension system, responsible for supporting the weight of the vehicle and absorbing shocks from the road. When a leaf spring is cracked or broken, it compromises the integrity and performance of the suspension system, leading to poor handling, increased wear on other components, and potential safety hazards while driving. While being free of debris, intact but painted, or appearing shiny and polished may suggest maintenance or care, they do not necessarily indicate the overall condition of the spring. In contrast, cracks or breaks directly signify a failure in the structural integrity of the spring and require immediate attention to ensure safe vehicle operation. Identifying such defects during a pre-trip inspection can prevent accidents and ensure compliance with safety regulations.

SAMPLE

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://classacdlpretripinspection.examzify.com

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

SAMPLE