COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE (CDL) HW 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. Which of the following are signs another driver is distracted?

A. His or her vehicle is moving faster or slower than other traffic.

B. The driver is making dramatic changes in speed for no apparent reason.

C. The driver is tailgating other vehicles.

D. All of the above.

2. Which term describes a person who works in a private residence as nanny, maid, or household help and is abused, underpaid, or not paid at all?

A. Sex trafficking

B. Forced labor

C. Domestic servitude

D. All of the above

3. Which of the following are signs a parked vehicle might pull into traffic?

A. There are people inside the car

B. You see the brake lights

C. Exhaust is coming out of the tailpipe

D. All of the above

4. If your vehicle is stopped on the roadway and you cannot exit safely, what should you do first?

A. Set out emergency warning devices immediately within the required time.

B. Ignore hazard and stay in vehicle.

C. Wait for emergency services.

D. Drive off the roadway.

5. Which question would help determine if someone is a possible trafficking victim?

A. What is your name?

B. Do you know where you are right now?

C. Where do you live?

D. Do you have any pets?

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6. Before starting a tractor-trailer engine, which action should you perform first?

A. Turn the ignition switch on

B. Apply the parking brake

C. Depress the clutch

D. Release the parking brake

7. Which device would you use to monitor the electrical system's status?

A. Voltmeter

B. Ammeter

C. Pyrometer warning light

D. Fuel gauge

8. How is your vision different at night?

A. The sharpness of images in front of you increases.

B. Visibility to the left and right sides becomes clearer.

C. Your eyes struggle adjusting from light to dark/dark to light.

D. All of the above.

9. At night, how should you adjust your following distance?

A. Increase it by at least one second.

B. Decrease it by seven seconds.

C. Increase it by ten seconds.

D. Decrease it by two seconds.

10. During converter dolly positioning, the rear trailer kingpin should be about how far from the jaw opening?

A. About a foot from the jaw opening.

B. Flush with the jaw opening.

C. Two feet from the jaw opening.

D. Four inches.

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which of the following are signs another driver is distracted?

A. His or her vehicle is moving faster or slower than other traffic.

B. The driver is making dramatic changes in speed for no apparent reason.

C. The driver is tailgating other vehicles.

D. All of the above.

Distraction shows up through irregular, attention-diverted driving patterns rather than smooth, steady control. If you see a vehicle moving faster or slower than surrounding traffic without a clear reason, that signals the driver isn't fully focused on speed and spacing. Dramatic changes in speed for no apparent cause point to cognitive distraction or slow reaction. Tailgating indicates the driver is not maintaining a safe following distance, often tied to inattention or panic reactions. When you observe these signs together, it strongly suggests the other driver is distracted. That's why the option including all of these behaviors is the best choice. In the moment, give extra space, anticipate sudden moves, and stay prepared to adjust your speed.

2. Which term describes a person who works in a private residence as nanny, maid, or household help and is abused, underpaid, or not paid at all?

A. Sex trafficking

B. Forced labor

C. Domestic servitude

D. All of the above

Domestic servitude describes a worker who is kept in a private home and subjected to abuse, underpayment, or nonpayment as a household employee such as a nanny or maid. This is a form of forced labor where the employer uses coercion or control to keep the worker in the job and deny fair wages or freedom. The setting—the private residence—makes this term the most precise fit for the situation described. Sex trafficking involves sexual exploitation, which isn't indicated here, and while forced labor is the broader category, the specific, accurate label for exploitation in a home is domestic servitude.

3. Which of the following are signs a parked vehicle might pull into traffic?

A. There are people inside the car

B. You see the brake lights

C. Exhaust is coming out of the tailpipe

D. All of the above

When a parked vehicle might pull into traffic, you look for signs that the driver is preparing to move. If there are people inside, that usually means someone is about to drive away. Brake lights being on indicate the driver is applying the brakes or preparing to start moving, which often happens just before pulling out. Exhaust emerging from the tailpipe shows the engine is running, meaning the vehicle could be about to roll into traffic. Any one of these signs suggests a possible movement, and together they strongly indicate the vehicle could enter traffic soon. So the best answer is that all of these signs together point to a parked vehicle potentially pulling into traffic. As you drive, stay alert, keep a safe distance, and be ready to yield or adjust your speed if you notice any of these signs.

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4. If your vehicle is stopped on the roadway and you cannot exit safely, what should you do first?

A. Set out emergency warning devices immediately within the required time.

B. Ignore hazard and stay in vehicle.

C. Wait for emergency services.

D. Drive off the roadway.

When you're stopped on the roadway and you can't exit safely, the first action is to place emergency warning devices within the required time. This immediately creates a warning zone for approaching traffic, giving drivers enough distance to slow down and steer away, which reduces the risk of a secondary crash and protects you and others at the scene. Ignoring the hazard or staying in the vehicle offers no protection from passing traffic, and waiting for emergency services without providing a warning does not reduce danger quickly. Driving off the roadway could put you in an even more hazardous situation. After the warning devices are set, you can seek assistance and move to safety as appropriate.

5. Which question would help determine if someone is a possible trafficking victim?

A. What is your name?

B. Do you know where you are right now?

C. Where do you live?

D. Do you have any pets?

Asking someone if they know where they are right now tests their awareness of their immediate surroundings, which can reveal coercion or control typical in trafficking situations. A person who has been moved or is under a trafficker's control may not know their exact location or may give a confused or inconsistent answer, signaling potential trafficking. This question directly assesses whether the individual has knowledge of their current environment, which is a meaningful red flag for investigators or workers trying to identify trafficking victims. Other questions like asking for a name, where they live, or whether they have pets don't probe their real-time situation or level of control as effectively, so they're less useful for spotting potential trafficking. If the location question raises uncertainty, it's important to follow safety protocols and provide appropriate support.

6. Before starting a tractor-trailer engine, which action should you perform first?

A. Turn the ignition switch on

B. Apply the parking brake

C. Depress the clutch

D. Release the parking brake

Securing the vehicle before starting is the priority. Applying the parking brake locks the wheels, preventing any movement if the engine torque or a gear selection could otherwise cause the tractor-trailer to roll. This safety step is done first, especially on inclines or if the transmission might be in gear. After the parking brake is set, you would typically ensure the truck is in neutral (and depress the clutch if needed) before starting the engine. Releasing the parking brake or starting without this safeguard could allow an unintended roll, making the other actions unnecessary as the first step.

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7. Which device would you use to monitor the electrical system's status?

A. Voltmeter

B. Ammeter

C. Pyrometer warning light

D. Fuel gauge

To monitor the electrical system's status, you need to know the voltage level being supplied by the battery and charging system. A voltmeter directly measures voltage, giving a clear readout of whether the battery is charged and if the alternator is maintaining the proper voltage (typically around 12.6V with the engine off, and about 13.5–14.5V when running). This makes it the best choice for assessing overall electrical health. An ammeter shows how much current is flowing, which is useful for spotting abnormal loads or charging activity, but it doesn't provide a direct indication of the system's voltage stability. A pyrometer warning light and a fuel gauge measure temperature-related indicators and fuel level, respectively, and do not reflect electrical system status.

8. How is your vision different at night?

A. The sharpness of images in front of you increases.

B. Visibility to the left and right sides becomes clearer.

C. Your eyes struggle adjusting from light to dark/dark to light.

D. All of the above.

At night, your eyes rely more on rods than cones, so vision shifts from sharp, color-detailed daytime sight to a less precise, dimmer night vision. This adaptation takes time, especially when moving between bright areas and darkness. Because of that adjustment lag, you're more likely to struggle moving from light to dark and from dark to light, rather than seeing sharper images or clearer side vision. In other words, night vision is characterized by difficulty with light-dark transitions, which is why the correct statement is that your eyes struggle adjusting from light to dark and dark to light.

9. At night, how should you adjust your following distance?

A. Increase it by at least one second.

B. Decrease it by seven seconds.

C. Increase it by ten seconds.

D. Decrease it by two seconds.

Night driving lowers visibility and can slow your ability to perceive hazards and react in time, so you need a larger space cushion behind the vehicle in front. Increasing your following distance by a full ten seconds gives a generous margin to see brake lights early, react to sudden stops, and stop safely on dark or slick roads where stopping distances are longer. It also accounts for glare from oncoming headlights and the possibility of animals or debris appearing suddenly. Decreasing the gap or only making a small increase would raise the risk of a rear-end collision in poor nighttime conditions, while a ten-second cushion provides the strongest safety buffer among the options. In practice, you should always err toward more space at night and adjust for weather, road surface, and traffic conditions.

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10. During converter dolly positioning, the rear trailer kingpin should be about how far from the jaw opening?

A. About a foot from the jaw opening.

B. Flush with the jaw opening.

C. Two feet from the jaw opening.

D. Four inches.

The key idea is to have proper clearance between the rear trailer's kingpin and the dolly's jaw so the coupling can engage smoothly. About a foot from the jaw opening gives enough room for the jaw to close around the kingpin as you back under, while still allowing the kingpin to seat correctly in the jaw. If it's too close or flush, the jaw can hit or clamp prematurely and cause binding or damage; if it's too far, the kingpin won't engage properly and the connection won't be secure. So, about a foot is the best distance.

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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://cdlhw.examzify.com

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

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