MISSOURI CDL PRACTICE EXAM (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. When stopped on a divided highway, where should the reflectors be placed?

A. At the rear of the vehicle only

B. 5ft and 15ft towards approaching traffic

C. 10ft, 100ft, and 200ft towards approaching traffic

D. Only at 50ft

2. Which of the following is a method to reduce stress while driving?

A. Listening to the news

B. Taking deep breaths

C. Consuming snacks

D. Using your mobile device

3. When must you recheck your cargo after beginning a trip?

A. Only at rest stops

B. Within the first 50 miles of travel

C. After 100 miles

D. Only before long hauls

4. Why is it necessary to drain air tanks?

A. To prevent rust and corrosion

B. To maintain proper tire pressure

C. To avoid freeze issues caused by water and compressor oil

D. To reduce noise during operation

5. What role does cargo weight play in vehicle stopping distance?

A. Heavier cargo decreases stopping distance

B. Cargo weight has no effect on stopping distance

C. Heavier cargo increases stopping distance

D. Lighter cargo increases stopping distance

6. What could technically happen to the landing gear if not fully raised?

A. It may get damaged

B. It could become stuck

C. No noticeable effect

D. It will keep the trailer more stable

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7. What part of the steering system connects the steering wheel to the axle?

A. Steering shaft

B. Drag link

C. Power steering pump

D. Pitman arm

8. What is the most important method for seeing the sides and rear of your vehicle?

A. Turning your head

B. Checking your mirrors

C. Using backup cameras

D. Asking passengers

9. Which three types of emergency equipment must you carry in your vehicle?

A. First aid kit, spare electrical fuses, fire extinguisher

B. Wheel chocks, fire extinguisher, warning devices

C. Spare electrical fuses, fire extinguisher, warning devices

D. Emergency flares, spare tire, safety vest

10. How can you check the movement of slack adjusters?

A. While driving at high speed

B. By checking their alignment

C. Park on level ground, chock wheels, and test for movement of 1" maximum

D. By measuring pressure in the air tanks

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. When stopped on a divided highway, where should the reflectors be placed?

A. At the rear of the vehicle only

B. 5ft and 15ft towards approaching traffic

C. 10ft, 100ft, and 200ft towards approaching traffic

D. Only at 50ft

When a vehicle is stopped on a divided highway, it is essential to properly set up reflectors to enhance visibility and ensure safety for both the driver and approaching traffic. The correct placement of reflectors should be at distances of 10 feet, 100 feet, and 200 feet towards approaching traffic. This specific arrangement provides a clear and gradual warning to other drivers about the presence of a stopped vehicle. The closest reflector at 10 feet is immediately visible to oncoming traffic, while the ones placed further away at 100 feet and 200 feet allow drivers ample time to react and slow down or change lanes, reducing the risk of an accident. By following this guideline, drivers contribute to a safer roadway environment, particularly in situations where visibility may be compromised or during low-light conditions. Other options do not provide adequate warning for approaching traffic, potentially leading to dangerous situations.

2. Which of the following is a method to reduce stress while driving?

A. Listening to the news

B. Taking deep breaths

C. Consuming snacks

D. Using your mobile device

Taking deep breaths while driving is an effective method to reduce stress. This practice helps to calm the mind and body, promoting a sense of relaxation and focus. By intentionally slowing your breath and engaging in deep, controlled inhalations and exhalations, you activate the body's relaxation response, which can help to lower anxiety and tension levels that may accumulate during driving. Deep breathing can also improve your concentration, allowing you to engage more fully with the task of driving, which is essential for safety on the road. It helps to clear your mind and can reduce feelings of being overwhelmed, particularly in challenging driving situations or heavy traffic. Listening to the news, consuming snacks, or using your mobile device, while they may offer some distraction or temporary relief, do not facilitate a significant reduction in stress or promote better focus and alertness when driving. In fact, using a mobile device can lead to distractions that increase risk while driving, and constantly checking the news can heighten stress levels rather than alleviate them.

3. When must you recheck your cargo after beginning a trip?

A. Only at rest stops

B. Within the first 50 miles of travel

C. After 100 miles

D. Only before long hauls

Rechecking your cargo within the first 50 miles of travel is crucial for ensuring safety and compliance. After beginning a trip, it's important to verify that the cargo is secure. This initial check helps prevent potential shifting or shifting that could lead to accidents or cargo loss as it provides an opportunity to address any issues caused by the vehicle's movement and the road conditions. During the first leg of your journey, any shifting of cargo may have occurred due to acceleration, braking, and turning. Addressing these issues early in the trip is critical for the safety of both the driver and other road users. While other points in the journey can be important, the emphasis on the first 50 miles highlights the importance of checking cargo at the very beginning to mitigate risks effectively.

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4. Why is it necessary to drain air tanks?

A. To prevent rust and corrosion

B. To maintain proper tire pressure

C. To avoid freeze issues caused by water and compressor oil

D. To reduce noise during operation

Draining air tanks is essential primarily to avoid freeze issues caused by water and compressor oil. When the air compressor operates, it compresses air, and as the air cools in the tanks, moisture can condense and accumulate. This moisture, if not drained, can mix with compressor oil and create a sludge-like substance. In cold weather, this moisture can freeze, which may block the air lines and lead to malfunctions in the braking system. Therefore, regular drainage is crucial to ensure that the air system remains free from ice and operates smoothly. While preventing rust and corrosion is a related concern, it is less critical than addressing the immediate operational risks posed by ice formation. Proper tire pressure is important for vehicle safety, but it does not directly relate to the need for draining air tanks. Noise reduction during operation does not significantly factor into the necessity of draining air tanks either. Focusing on the prevention of freezing issues is the most vital reason for this maintenance practice.

5. What role does cargo weight play in vehicle stopping distance?

A. Heavier cargo decreases stopping distance

B. Cargo weight has no effect on stopping distance

C. Heavier cargo increases stopping distance

D. Lighter cargo increases stopping distance

The correct answer highlights a critical aspect of vehicle dynamics: heavier cargo increases stopping distance. When a vehicle is loaded with more weight, it requires more time and distance to come to a complete stop. This is due to the fact that increased weight generates greater momentum; as a result, the vehicle's brakes must work harder to overcome that momentum. When brakes are applied, the friction created between the brake pads and the brake rotors struggles against the inertia of the heavier load, meaning the vehicle will take longer to decelerate adequately. Furthermore, heavier loads can impact handling and stability, making it more challenging for the driver to maintain control during the stopping process. Understanding this principle is crucial for drivers of commercial vehicles, as they must calculate their stopping distance accurately to ensure safety on the road and comply with regulations regarding safe driving practices.

6. What could technically happen to the landing gear if not fully raised?

A. It may get damaged

B. It could become stuck

C. No noticeable effect

D. It will keep the trailer more stable

If the landing gear is not fully raised when the vehicle is in motion, it may get damaged. This is because landing gear is not designed to withstand the forces of the road and the dynamics of driving when it is in a lowered position. When not fully retracted, the landing gear can make contact with the ground or other objects, leading to potential bending, breaking, or other forms of damage. Moreover, any contact with the landing gear while driving can affect the vehicle's aerodynamics and handling, potentially causing dangerous situations for the driver and others on the road. In this case, fully raising the landing gear before moving is crucial for maintaining vehicle integrity and safety.

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7. What part of the steering system connects the steering wheel to the axle?

A. Steering shaft

B. Drag link

C. Power steering pump

D. Pitman arm

The steering shaft is the component that directly connects the steering wheel to the axle, specifically to the steering gear or rack, allowing the driver to control the direction of the vehicle. By turning the steering wheel, the driver rotates the steering shaft, which transmits this motion to the steering mechanism that then adjusts the angle of the wheels. The drag link, while important in connecting components of the steering assembly in some types of vehicles, primarily connects the pitman arm to the steering arms, facilitating the movement of the wheels based on the input from the steering shaft. The power steering pump provides hydraulic assistance to make steering easier but does not serve as a structural connection between the steering wheel and the axle. The pitman arm is a lever attached to the steering gear that translates the motion of the steering shaft into lateral movement used to steer the vehicle, but it operates as a part of the overall mechanism rather than directly connecting the steering wheel to the axle.

8. What is the most important method for seeing the sides and rear of your vehicle?

A. Turning your head

B. Checking your mirrors

C. Using backup cameras

D. Asking passengers

Checking your mirrors is the most important method for seeing the sides and rear of your vehicle. Mirrors are designed to provide a wide field of view that allows drivers to monitor their surroundings effectively, including blind spots that may not be visible through direct line of sight. Properly adjusted mirrors not only enhance the driver's ability to spot vehicles and obstacles beside and behind them but also improve overall situational awareness, making it easier to navigate safely, especially in tight spaces or during lane changes. While turning your head can provide additional visibility, it is not always feasible to do so constantly, especially in larger vehicles. Backup cameras can offer valuable assistance when reversing but should not be solely relied upon, as they do not replace the need for checking mirrors. Asking passengers for help is generally impractical and could lead to distractions or miscommunication, making it less reliable compared to using mirrors. Overall, mirrors are crucial in maintaining safety and awareness while driving.

9. Which three types of emergency equipment must you carry in your vehicle?

A. First aid kit, spare electrical fuses, fire extinguisher

B. Wheel chocks, fire extinguisher, warning devices

C. Spare electrical fuses, fire extinguisher, warning devices

D. Emergency flares, spare tire, safety vest

The correct answer identifies the essential emergency equipment that must be carried in a commercial vehicle to ensure safety and compliance during roadside situations. Carrying spare electrical fuses ensures that you can replace blown fuses that may cause electrical issues, helping to maintain vehicle operation. A fire extinguisher is critical for quickly addressing small fires that may arise due to mechanical failures or accidents. Lastly, warning devices, such as triangles or flares, are vital for alerting other drivers to your vehicle's presence in case of a breakdown or emergency, enhancing safety for yourself and others on the road. This combination of equipment not only meets the legal requirements but also prepares you to handle a variety of potential roadside emergencies effectively.

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10. How can you check the movement of slack adjusters?

A. While driving at high speed

B. By checking their alignment

C. Park on level ground, chock wheels, and test for movement of 1" maximum

D. By measuring pressure in the air tanks

The method of checking the movement of slack adjusters is crucial for ensuring the proper functioning of a vehicle's braking system, particularly for air brake systems. To conduct this check accurately, it is important to park the vehicle on level ground. This setup provides a stable environment to assess the slack adjusters without the interference of incline or decline that could affect the readings. Chocking the wheels is also a safety precaution to prevent any unintended movement of the vehicle while performing the check. The test for movement, specifically that it should not exceed 1 inch, relates directly to ensuring that the slack adjusters are functioning well within the acceptable limits. If the movement is greater than this, it can indicate that the adjusters are not maintaining the brakes correctly, which could lead to braking inefficiency or failure. Thus, this procedure is vital for road safety and operational reliability. Other methods, like checking alignment or measuring air pressure, are not appropriate for assessing slack adjuster movement directly. Checking while driving at high speed poses risks and does not provide an accurate assessment of the slack adjusters' performance.

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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://missouricdl.examzify.com

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

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