ONLINE CALIFORNIA DMV TRAFFIC SCHOOL 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. A driver must yield to pedestrians crossing the roadway within crosswalks.

A. A driver must yield to pedestrians crossing the roadway within crosswalks.

B. Pedestrians always wait for drivers to yield.

C. Drivers only yield at marked crosswalks.

D. Pedestrians have no right of way.

2. Which option correctly describes a recommended approach to fatigue on long drives?

A. Drive without breaks.

B. Take breaks, get proper sleep, and avoid driving when fatigued.

C. Only rely on caffeine to stay awake.

D. Sleep while driving.

3. You should always check behind your vehicle before getting in, watching out for children, pets, and small objects before backing.

A. False

B. True

C. Only when backing slowly

D. Sometimes

4. What BAC level is illegal for drivers under 21?

A. 0.05% or higher

B. 0.08% or higher

C. 0.01% or higher (zero tolerance)

D. 0.03% or higher

5. The following statement is true: ESC systems help drivers stay on the road in emergency situations by automatically adjusting steering and braking.

A. They make steering unnecessary

B. They help keep the vehicle on the road by automatically adjusting steering and braking

C. They slow the vehicle down to a crawl automatically

D. They are only for off-road use

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6. The following statement is true: Your ability to drive safely has nothing to do with your emotional state.

A. True

B. False

C. Not related

D. Sometimes

7. Which of the following is a tip for driving in wet weather?

A. Drive at the same speed as in dry conditions.

B. Use high beams in the rain.

C. Leave extra space to brake.

D. Pump the brakes quickly to dry them.

8. What should you do to stay rested and alert while driving?

A. Stay rested and alert by driving as long as possible to reach your destination.

B. Take short naps while driving.

C. Use stimulants and skip breaks.

D. Get sufficient sleep, take breaks on long trips, and avoid driving when fatigued.

9. How should you respond to an emergency vehicle approaching with siren and lights?

A. Pull over to the right edge of the roadway and stop if needed; do not re-enter traffic until clear.

B. Speed up to get out of the way.

C. Continue in your lane and slow down.

D. Move to the left lane and stop.

10. What is the purpose of the three-second rule?

A. To ensure you can stop instantly if needed.

B. To maintain a safe following distance; increase it in rain or poor conditions.

C. To follow the vehicle ahead by a fixed three-second gap.

D. To allow you to pass other vehicles more quickly.

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. A driver must yield to pedestrians crossing the roadway within crosswalks.

A. A driver must yield to pedestrians crossing the roadway within crosswalks.

B. Pedestrians always wait for drivers to yield.

C. Drivers only yield at marked crosswalks.

D. Pedestrians have no right of way.

Pedestrians have the right of way when they are crossing within a crosswalk, so drivers must yield to them. This means you should slow down or stop to let a pedestrian finish crossing, even if you have a green light or think you don't need to yield. The obligation applies to crosswalks that are marked as well as those that are unmarked at intersections, so you must be prepared to yield in both cases. The other statements misstate the rule: pedestrians don't always wait for drivers to yield, drivers aren't limited to marked crosswalks, and pedestrians do have a right of way in crosswalks.

2. Which option correctly describes a recommended approach to fatigue on long drives?

A. Drive without breaks.

B. Take breaks, get proper sleep, and avoid driving when fatigued.

C. Only rely on caffeine to stay awake.

D. Sleep while driving.

Fatigue dramatically reduces driving performance by slowing reaction time, dulling perception, and risking moments of sleep behind the wheel. The safest approach on long drives is to plan for breaks, get adequate sleep before traveling, and avoid driving when you're tired. Taking regular breaks helps reset attention and reduce drowsiness, while a solid night's sleep before the trip ensures you start with proper alertness. If you feel tired while driving, pull over and rest rather than continuing to drive. Relying on caffeine to stay awake is only a temporary fix and doesn't restore the needed sleep and alertness, so it shouldn't be your main strategy. Driving while fatigued is dangerous and should be avoided.

3. You should always check behind your vehicle before getting in, watching out for children, pets, and small objects before backing.

A. False

B. True

C. Only when backing slowly

D. Sometimes

Always check behind your vehicle before getting in and before backing. Backing up carries a risk of backover injuries because there are blind spots directly behind most cars, and children, pets, or small objects can be hidden from view in mirrors. A quick check by walking around the vehicle, looking over your shoulder, and using your mirrors helps you spot anything that could be in the path of the moving vehicle. Even if you're backing up slowly, hazards can appear unexpectedly, so this check is needed every time.

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4. What BAC level is illegal for drivers under 21?

A. 0.05% or higher

B. 0.08% or higher

C. 0.01% or higher (zero tolerance)

D. 0.03% or higher

For drivers under 21, any amount of alcohol in the bloodstream is illegal to drive. This is a zero-tolerance rule, so the cutoff is very low: 0.01% BAC or higher means illegal driving for someone under 21. The other levels listed—0.05% or higher, 0.08% or higher, and 0.03% or higher—are thresholds that apply to adult drivers or in other contexts, not the under-21 zero-tolerance standard. So even a small amount of alcohol can lead to consequences for someone under 21, which is why 0.01% or higher is the correct understanding.

5. The following statement is true: ESC systems help drivers stay on the road in emergency situations by automatically adjusting steering and braking.

A. They make steering unnecessary

B. They help keep the vehicle on the road by automatically adjusting steering and braking

C. They slow the vehicle down to a crawl automatically

D. They are only for off-road use

Electronic Stability Control helps you stay on the road by actively stabilizing the vehicle when it starts to slip or lose traction. It detects when the car isn't responding to your steering as intended and automatically applies braking to individual wheels and trims engine power to counter the skid, helping you regain control and stay on your intended path. It doesn't make steering unnecessary, it doesn't slow the car to a crawl, and it's not limited to off-road use. The description that ESC helps keep the vehicle on the road by automatically adjusting steering and braking captures the stabilizing role, even though the primary action is braking to correct direction, making it the best fit.

6. The following statement is true: Your ability to drive safely has nothing to do with your emotional state.

A. True

B. False

C. Not related

D. Sometimes

Emotional state directly influences driving ability because emotions use mental resources that you need for safe driving—attention, judgment, and reaction time. When you're angry or frustrated, you may drive more aggressively or misjudge gaps. Anxiety or fear can narrow your focus and slow your responses, while sadness or fatigue can dull concentration. Since driving requires rapidly processing signals, judging hazards, and responding appropriately, your emotions can make safe driving harder. That's why the statement is not true. Not related and Sometimes don't fit because they imply either no connection or only a partial one; in reality, emotions often affect driving performance, not just occasionally. The option True would assert no relation, which is also incorrect.

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7. Which of the following is a tip for driving in wet weather?

A. Drive at the same speed as in dry conditions.

B. Use high beams in the rain.

C. Leave extra space to brake.

D. Pump the brakes quickly to dry them.

Wet roads dramatically reduce traction, so you need more distance to slow down safely. Leaving extra space to brake gives you a safety margin to respond to slower-moving traffic, pooling water, or sudden stops ahead, reducing the chance of rear-end collisions and skidding. This directly addresses the core risk of wet driving: reduced grip and longer stopping distances. Other ideas don't fit as well because they don't reliably improve safety in rain. Maintaining the same speed as in dry conditions leaves you with far too little room to stop. Using high beams in rain creates glare on wet surfaces and can actually impair visibility. Pumping the brakes quickly can lead to loss of steering control or wheel lock, especially in cars without modern anti-lock brakes; in wet conditions, smooth, progressive braking is generally safer.

8. What should you do to stay rested and alert while driving?

A. Stay rested and alert by driving as long as possible to reach your destination.

B. Take short naps while driving.

C. Use stimulants and skip breaks.

D. Get sufficient sleep, take breaks on long trips, and avoid driving when fatigued.

Fatigue slows reaction time, impairs judgment, and reduces vigilance, making it harder to react to hazards on the road. The safest approach is to get sufficient sleep before driving, plan regular breaks on long trips, and avoid driving when you're fatigued. Sleep provides the real recovery your brain needs, while breaks help you stay focused and alert. Short naps at the wheel aren't a safe substitute for rest, and relying on stimulants can mask tiredness without truly restoring alertness. Driving when tired is a high-risk choice, so avoid it altogether.

9. How should you respond to an emergency vehicle approaching with siren and lights?

A. Pull over to the right edge of the roadway and stop if needed; do not re-enter traffic until clear.

B. Speed up to get out of the way.

C. Continue in your lane and slow down.

D. Move to the left lane and stop.

When an emergency vehicle is approaching with siren and lights, you should move to the right edge of the roadway and stop if needed, then wait until the vehicle has passed and the way is clear before re-entering traffic. This creates a clear path for responders and reduces the chance of a collision. Speeding up to get out of the way can put you in the path of the emergency vehicle or other traffic and is dangerous. Staying in your lane and slowing down still blocks the path and delays responders. Moving to the left lane and stopping can put you in the path of oncoming traffic and isn't the correct maneuver on most roads.

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10. What is the purpose of the three-second rule?

A. To ensure you can stop instantly if needed.

B. To maintain a safe following distance; increase it in rain or poor conditions.

C. To follow the vehicle ahead by a fixed three-second gap.

D. To allow you to pass other vehicles more quickly.

The main idea is to keep a safe cushion between you and the vehicle in front so you have time to react and stop if they brake suddenly. The three-second rule is a simple way to measure that gap: pick a fixed object on the road, and after the car ahead passes it, count seconds. If you reach that object before you finish counting to three, you're too close. This helps you maintain enough stopping distance at typical speeds. In rain or other poor conditions, your braking distance grows because the road is slick and tires have less grip. Because of that, you should increase the gap beyond three seconds to give yourself more time to stop safely. The rule is about staying back to avoid rear-end crashes, not about stopping instantly, not about following a fixed distance, and not about passing other vehicles quickly.

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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://olcadmvtrafficschool.examzify.com

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

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