TEXAS CDL GENERAL KNOWLEDGE 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. What are the requirements for transporting hazardous materials?

A. Proper training, labeling, and documentation
B. Only proper labeling and documentation
C. Proper training and vehicle size
D. Standard driving license and registration

2. What type of insurance is usually required for commercial vehicles?

A. Basic liability insurance
B. Collision coverage
C. Comprehensive coverage
D. All of the above

3. What is the minimum tread depth for tires on a commercial vehicle?

A. At least 6/32 of an inch for all tires
B. At least 4/32 of an inch for steer tires and 2/32 for other tires
C. At least 3/32 of an inch for all tires
D. At least 5/32 of an inch for all tires

4. How should a driver handle driving on icy roads?

A. Speed up to maintain control
B. Slow down and maintain greater space between vehicles
C. Take the usual route without adjustments
D. Use cruise control to maintain speed

5. When being tailgated, what action should you take?

A. Speed up
B. Switch lanes quickly
C. Brake suddenly
D. Increase your following distance

6. Which of these is true about overhead clearance?

A. The weight of the cargo can change the height of the vehicle.
B. Overhead clearance is the same regardless of the cargo
C. Overhead clearance is only important for tall vehicles
D. Overhead clearance does not affect the safety of the vehicle

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7. What should you do if your vehicle experiences brake failure?

A. Shift to a lower gear, look for a safe place to stop, and apply the parking brake gradually

B. Apply the accelerator to regain control

C. Turn off the engine immediately

D. Use the emergency lights and drive slowly

8. What is the total weight of a powered unit, the trailer, and the cargo called?

A. Total payload

B. Combined weight

C. Gross combination weight

D. Net weight

9. What factors can lead to "oversteering"?

A. Driving too slow for conditions

B. Excessive steering input

C. Maintaining a steady speed

D. Using larger than recommended tires

10. Why is it important to secure your cargo?

A. To comply with state regulations

B. To prevent shifting that can affect vehicle stability

C. To enhance the appearance of the vehicle

D. To reduce wear and tear on the cargo

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What are the requirements for transporting hazardous materials?

A. Proper training, labeling, and documentation

B. Only proper labeling and documentation

C. Proper training and vehicle size

D. Standard driving license and registration

Transporting hazardous materials requires strict compliance with safety regulations to ensure the protection of both the transporter and the public. The correct answer encompasses several crucial requirements. Proper training is essential as it educates drivers on how to handle hazardous materials safely, understand the risks, and respond effectively in emergencies. This training ensures that the driver can identify the type of hazardous materials being transported and follow the necessary safety protocols. Labeling is another critical requirement, as it communicates the nature of the hazardous materials to emergency responders and others who may come into contact with the vehicle. Labels must adhere to specific standards set by regulatory agencies, ensuring that the information is clear and easily understood. Documentation includes a detailed description of the hazardous materials being transported, including their classification, quantity, and any special handling instructions. This paperwork is vital for both regulatory compliance and safety, providing necessary information to authorities in case of an accident or spill. The other options do not encompass the full range of requirements needed for safely transporting hazardous materials. While labeling and documentation are important, lack of training can lead to serious safety risks. Similarly, vehicle size is not a standalone requirement, as it does not factor in the necessary skills and knowledge needed for handling hazardous materials. Lastly, standard driving licenses and registration do not sufficiently

2. What type of insurance is usually required for commercial vehicles?

A. Basic liability insurance

B. Collision coverage

C. Comprehensive coverage

D. All of the above

Basic liability insurance is essential for commercial vehicles because it meets the minimum legal requirement to operate on public roads. This type of insurance primarily covers damages and injuries that may be caused to other people or their property in the event of an accident for which the commercial vehicle driver is found to be at fault. It helps protect the business from lawsuits and financial losses resulting from these incidents. While collision coverage and comprehensive coverage offer additional protection—for instance, collision coverage helps pay for damages to your vehicle in an accident, and comprehensive coverage protects against non-collision-related damages such as theft or weather-related incidents—these types are not mandated by law. Therefore, they are not considered a primary requirement for operating a commercial vehicle. Only basic liability insurance is universally required to ensure that drivers have enough coverage to protect the public from their actions while on the road.

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3. What is the minimum tread depth for tires on a commercial vehicle?

A. At least 6/32 of an inch for all tires

B. At least 4/32 of an inch for steer tires and 2/32 for other tires

C. At least 3/32 of an inch for all tires

D. At least 5/32 of an inch for all tires

The minimum tread depth regulations are crucial for maintaining traction and safety on the road. The correct answer indicates that the minimum tread depth is 4/32 of an inch for steer tires, which are critical for steering control and stability, and 2/32 of an inch for other tires, which includes drive and trailer tires. This distinction is important because steer tires bear the weight of the front of the vehicle and are essential for maintaining control and preventing skidding. Having deeper tread on steer tires enhances grip, especially in adverse weather conditions, while the lower requirement for other tires reflects their different roles in vehicle operation. It's worth noting that adequate tread depth on all tires is necessary for braking effectiveness and overall vehicle safety, and allowing for some variance based on tire placement helps ensure optimal performance based on the specific demands placed on each set of tires. Understanding these requirements helps drivers perform necessary inspections and maintain their vehicles in compliance with safety regulations, which is vital for commercial vehicle operation.

4. How should a driver handle driving on icy roads?

A. Speed up to maintain control

B. Slow down and maintain greater space between vehicles

C. Take the usual route without adjustments

D. Use cruise control to maintain speed

When driving on icy roads, it is crucial to adjust your driving behavior to enhance safety. Slowing down allows for better vehicle control as reduced speeds help prevent skidding and provide more reaction time to any potential hazards. Maintaining a greater space between vehicles is equally important, as it gives drivers more time to react to unexpected movements or slippery conditions. Drivers should not speed up, as this increases the risk of losing control, especially when the road is slick. Taking the usual route without adjustments could lead to dangerous situations if that route has not been cleared or treated for ice. Additionally, using cruise control on icy roads can be particularly hazardous since it may not allow for instant adjustments if conditions change rapidly. Overall, slowing down and increasing following distance are key strategies to navigate icy roads safely.

5. When being tailgated, what action should you take?

A. Speed up

B. Switch lanes quickly

C. Brake suddenly

D. Increase your following distance

When you are being tailgated, increasing your following distance is the most effective and safe action to take. By giving yourself more space between your vehicle and the one in front of you, you create a buffer zone that can help avoid accidents. This extra distance allows for a longer reaction time in case the vehicle in front of you suddenly stops, and it also encourages the tailgating driver to recognize that they should give you more space to operate safely. Managing your following distance effectively reduces the pressure of the tailgater, providing a calmer driving environment and helping to prevent aggressive maneuvers. The other options, such as speeding up, switching lanes quickly, or braking suddenly, can lead to increased danger, as they may provoke the tailgater or lead to loss of control. By maintaining a safe and sufficient distance, you can ensure a safer journey for both yourself and other drivers on the road.

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6. Which of these is true about overhead clearance?

A. The weight of the cargo can change the height of the vehicle.

B. Overhead clearance is the same regardless of the cargo

C. Overhead clearance is only important for tall vehicles

D. Overhead clearance does not affect the safety of the vehicle

Cargo weight can greatly affect the overall height of a vehicle. As a result, the allowable clearance height may change depending on the weight of the cargo. This means that vehicles carrying heavy loads may have less overhead clearance than those without cargo. Option B is incorrect because as previously mentioned, cargo weight can affect the vehicle's height. Option C is not true because overhead clearance is important for all vehicles, regardless of height. Option D is incorrect because insufficient overhead clearance can lead to potential accidents or damage to the vehicle, making it a safety concern.

7. What should you do if your vehicle experiences brake failure?

A. Shift to a lower gear, look for a safe place to stop, and apply the parking brake gradually

B. Apply the accelerator to regain control

C. Turn off the engine immediately

D. Use the emergency lights and drive slowly

In the event of brake failure, the recommended action involves shifting to a lower gear, looking for a safe place to stop, and gradually applying the parking brake. This method helps in reducing speed without locking the wheels, which could cause the vehicle to skid. Shifting to a lower gear increases engine resistance, which can also help slow the vehicle down more effectively. Finding a safe place to stop is crucial as it helps to avoid potential hazards or collisions with other vehicles or objects. Gradually applying the parking brake allows for a controlled deceleration, providing the driver with better management of the situation rather than a sudden stop that could lead to loss of control. Other options, such as applying the accelerator, turning off the engine, or using emergency lights while driving, do not appropriately address the critical need to regain control of the vehicle safely. Engaging the accelerator in a brake failure scenario could exacerbate the situation, while turning off the engine can lead to loss of power steering and braking assistance. Using emergency lights does not directly contribute to stopping the vehicle and, in fact, would divert attention from handling the brake failure properly.

8. What is the total weight of a powered unit, the trailer, and the cargo called?

A. Total payload

B. Combined weight

C. Gross combination weight

D. Net weight

The term that refers to the total weight of a powered unit, the trailer, and the cargo is "Gross Combination Weight." This definition encompasses all components involved in the weight calculation for vehicles that are towing trailers, which is critical for ensuring compliance with weight regulations and safety. Understanding gross combination weight is essential for operators of commercial vehicles to prevent overloading, maintain control, and ensure safe operation. It is vital that drivers know this total weight to adhere to state and federal transportation laws, as exceeding weight limits can lead to penalties and increased risk of accidents. The other terms don't accurately capture the entirety of the weight of the powered unit and trailer combination. "Total payload" focuses specifically on the weight of the cargo without including the vehicle itself or the trailer. "Combined weight" might seem similar, but it lacks the specificity of referring to the regulatory definition. "Net weight" refers to the weight of the cargo alone, excluding the weight of the vehicle and trailer, making it unsuitable for this context.

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9. What factors can lead to "oversteering"?

A. Driving too slow for conditions

B. Excessive steering input

C. Maintaining a steady speed

D. Using larger than recommended tires

Oversteering occurs when the rear wheels lose grip while the front wheels maintain traction, resulting in a loss of control over the vehicle's direction. One significant factor that contributes to this phenomenon is excessive steering input. When a driver turns the steering wheel too sharply or makes abrupt maneuvers, it can cause the rear end of the vehicle to slide out. This action displaces the weight and causes instability, particularly in rear-wheel-drive vehicles or in adverse conditions like wet or icy roads. Driving too slow for conditions may actually help maintain control rather than contribute to oversteering. Maintaining a steady speed can promote stability and reduce the chances of losing control, while the effect of using larger than recommended tires may not inherently lead to oversteering in all situations, but it could potentially alter the vehicle's handling characteristics, possibly leading to issues under specific conditions. Therefore, the key factor leading to oversteering is indeed the excessive steering input, which disrupts the vehicle's balance.

10. Why is it important to secure your cargo?

A. To comply with state regulations

B. To prevent shifting that can affect vehicle stability

C. To enhance the appearance of the vehicle

D. To reduce wear and tear on the cargo

Securing cargo is vital primarily because it prevents shifting that can affect vehicle stability. When cargo is not properly secured, it can move around during transit, which can lead to a number of dangerous situations. For instance, if the cargo shifts towards one side of the vehicle while turning, it can destabilize the truck or trailer, increasing the risk of a rollover or loss of control. This is particularly critical for larger vehicles like trucks or buses, where the high center of gravity can exacerbate stability issues. Additionally, properly secured cargo ensures that the load remains in place during sudden stops or starts, thereby maintaining control of the vehicle and promoting safety for both the driver and other road users. The implications of inadequate cargo security can lead to accidents, injuries, and even fatalities, highlighting the necessity of this practice in commercial driving.

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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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