TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY 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. Who must use safety belts in a car or truck?

A. Only the driver

B. All occupants occupying a seat in a vehicle equipped with a safety belt

C. Children under 12 years old

D. Only front seat passengers

2. Under favorable circumstances, how far can a motor vehicle with good brakes be stopped when traveling at 50 miles per hour?

A. About 150 feet

B. About 229 feet

C. About 300 feet

D. About 400 feet

3. How many feet does it take for an average driver moving at 20 miles per hour to apply their brakes when danger is detected?

A. 30 feet

B. 44 feet

C. 55 feet

D. 60 feet

4. What is the first action you should take when your vehicle starts to skid?

A. Turn the steering wheel away from the skid

B. Hit the brakes hard

C. Take your foot off the accelerator and turn your steering wheel in the direction of the skid

D. Accelerate to regain control

5. How far ahead should you signal before making a turn?

A. 10 feet

B. 25 feet

C. 50 feet

D. 100 feet

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6. What type of insurance coverage is required to drive legally in Texas?

A. Liability insurance

B. Full coverage insurance

C. Uninsured motorist coverage

D. None

7. How is a "No Passing Zone" indicated on a Texas road?

A. By a flashing yellow light

B. By a solid yellow line on the left side

C. By a green sign

D. By a dotted white line

8. What is the legal Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) limit for drivers over the age of 21 in Texas?

A. 0.05%

B. 0.08%

C. 0.10%

D. 0.12%

9. As a novice or beginner driver, what is the recommended following distance behind the vehicle in front of you?

A. 2 seconds

B. 3 seconds

C. 4 seconds

D. 5 seconds

10. What does the Texas “Right to Know" program aim to achieve?

A. Enhance the economy of Texas

B. Promote awareness of hazardous substances

C. Regulate vehicle safety standards

D. Increase revenue from hazardous materials

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Who must use safety belts in a car or truck?

A. Only the driver

B. All occupants occupying a seat in a vehicle equipped with a safety belt

C. Children under 12 years old

D. Only front seat passengers

The requirement for all occupants in a vehicle equipped with a safety belt to use these safety devices is grounded in safety regulations designed to protect everyone in the vehicle. This approach recognizes that in the event of an accident, every passenger, regardless of where they are seated, is at risk of injury. By mandating the use of safety belts for all occupants, the law aims to minimize the potential for serious injuries or fatalities in crashes. Using safety belts is an effective measure to restrain individuals, preventing them from being thrown from their seats or colliding with other passengers or interior parts of the vehicle during sudden stops or accidents. This comprehensive requirement not only enhances the safety of individuals but also benefits overall road safety by encouraging responsible behavior among all vehicle occupants. In contrast, other options inaccurately limit safety belt use to specific groups or positions within the vehicle. For instance, stating that only the driver or only front seat passengers need to buckle up overlooks the fact that backseat passengers are also vulnerable in car accidents. Similarly, while specific regulations exist for children, they typically emphasize the need for appropriate child safety seats rather than excluding older passengers from the general requirement of using safety belts.

2. Under favorable circumstances, how far can a motor vehicle with good brakes be stopped when traveling at 50 miles per hour?

A. About 150 feet

B. About 229 feet

C. About 300 feet

D. About 400 feet

When a motor vehicle with good brakes is traveling at 50 miles per hour, it can be brought to a complete stop under favorable circumstances in approximately 229 feet. This distance accounts for the typical reaction time of a driver and the braking distance needed to halt the vehicle effectively. To understand this context, it's important to recognize that at 50 miles per hour, a vehicle travels roughly 73 feet per second. The stopping distance includes two components: the distance traveled during the driver's reaction time and the distance it takes for the vehicle to come to a stop once the brakes are applied. The average reaction time is about 1.5 seconds, during which the vehicle would cover approximately 109.5 feet. The braking distance is influenced by various factors, including the condition of the road, the efficiency of the braking system, and the weight of the vehicle, but generally falls around 120 feet at this speed under ideal conditions. Therefore, combining both the reaction distance and braking distance leads to a total stopping distance that aligns closely with the correct answer of about 229 feet. This knowledge is crucial for drivers to gauge stopping distances effectively and ensure safety on the road.

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3. How many feet does it take for an average driver moving at 20 miles per hour to apply their brakes when danger is detected?

A. 30 feet

B. 44 feet

C. 55 feet

D. 60 feet

When a driver detects danger and begins to apply the brakes at a speed of 20 miles per hour, the average stopping distance is approximately 44 feet. This figure is derived from both the perception-reaction time, which takes a moment for the driver to realize and respond to the hazard, and the actual braking distance required to bring the vehicle to a complete stop. At 20 mph, a driver typically has a perception-reaction time of about 1.5 seconds. During this time, the vehicle continues to travel approximately 44 feet before the brakes are effectively engaged. After braking begins, the subsequent distance needed to halt the vehicle completely is accounted for, resulting in this overall stopping distance. This information is crucial for understanding how speed impacts stopping distances, especially in emergency situations. Knowing the correct stopping distance helps drivers make informed decisions to maintain safe distances between vehicles and react appropriately to potential hazards on the road.

4. What is the first action you should take when your vehicle starts to skid?

A. Turn the steering wheel away from the skid

B. Hit the brakes hard

C. Take your foot off the accelerator and turn your steering wheel in the direction of the skid

D. Accelerate to regain control

When your vehicle begins to skid, the correct first action is to take your foot off the accelerator and turn your steering wheel in the direction of the skid. This technique helps to regain control of the vehicle by allowing the wheels to realign with the direction of travel. In a skid, the vehicle's tires lose traction, and steering into the skid enables you to guide the vehicle back onto its intended path. By turning the steering wheel towards the direction the back of the vehicle is sliding, you are counteracting the skid's momentum and helping to stabilize the car. Hitting the brakes hard can worsen the skid by further losing traction, while accelerating can intensify the loss of control. Turning the steering wheel away from the skid is counterproductive, as it will exacerbate the situation, leading to a spin-out. Understanding these actions can significantly improve vehicle handling in adverse conditions, contributing to safer driving practices.

5. How far ahead should you signal before making a turn?

A. 10 feet

B. 25 feet

C. 50 feet

D. 100 feet

Signaling before making a turn is an important aspect of safe driving, as it helps communicate your intentions to other road users. The correct distance for signaling is typically about 100 feet before the actual turn. This distance gives other drivers and pedestrians ample time to adjust to your actions, enhancing safety and promoting fluid traffic flow. Signaling well in advance helps prevent confusion and can significantly reduce the risk of accidents, especially in high-traffic areas or when other vehicles are closely following. By adhering to this practice, you demonstrate responsible driving behavior and contribute to a safer road environment for everyone.

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6. What type of insurance coverage is required to drive legally in Texas?

A. Liability insurance

B. Full coverage insurance

C. Uninsured motorist coverage

D. None

In Texas, the law mandates that drivers must carry liability insurance to legally operate a vehicle. Liability insurance protects you financially in the event that you are at fault in an accident and cause injury or damage to another person or their property. It covers the costs of claims made against you, including medical expenses and damages for property loss. While full coverage insurance, which may include collision and comprehensive coverage, provides more extensive protection, it is not a legal requirement to drive in the state. Uninsured motorist coverage is also not mandatory but is highly recommended for additional protection against drivers who lack insurance. Thus, holding a basic liability insurance policy satisfies the legal requirement necessary to drive in Texas.

7. How is a "No Passing Zone" indicated on a Texas road?

A. By a flashing yellow light

B. By a solid yellow line on the left side

C. By a green sign

D. By a dotted white line

A "No Passing Zone" is indicated by a solid yellow line on the left side of the roadway. This marking is a crucial safety feature that communicates to drivers that passing is not permitted in that area due to potential hazards such as curves, intersections, or other conditions that could make overtaking other vehicles dangerous. The solid yellow line serves as a visual cue, helping to prevent accidents by discouraging drivers from attempting to pass when visibility is limited or when it could pose a risk to themselves or others on the road. It's important for drivers to understand and respect these markings to ensure safe driving practices.

8. What is the legal Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) limit for drivers over the age of 21 in Texas?

A. 0.05%

B. 0.08%

C. 0.10%

D. 0.12%

In Texas, the legal Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) limit for drivers over the age of 21 is 0.08%. This threshold is established to promote road safety and reduce the incidence of alcohol-related traffic accidents. At or above this level, a person is presumed to be impaired to the point that their ability to operate a vehicle safely is compromised. Law enforcement uses this standard to enforce DUI laws and ensure that drivers are not under the influence of alcohol while on the road. It's important for drivers to be aware of this limit to make responsible choices regarding alcohol consumption and driving.

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9. As a novice or beginner driver, what is the recommended following distance behind the vehicle in front of you?

A. 2 seconds

B. 3 seconds

C. 4 seconds

D. 5 seconds

The recommended following distance behind the vehicle in front of you for novice or beginner drivers is indeed 4 seconds. This following distance is crucial for providing adequate space to react to sudden stops or emergencies on the road. By maintaining a 4-second gap, a driver ensures that they have enough time to assess the situation ahead and react appropriately, which is especially important for those who are still gaining experience. This time interval accounts for various factors such as speed, road conditions, and weather, all of which can affect stopping distances. Beginning drivers are often still developing their judgment skills and may not react as quickly as more experienced drivers. Therefore, the 4-second rule helps create a buffer that can prevent rear-end collisions and allow for safer driving practices. In contrast, shorter following distances, such as 2 or 3 seconds, may not provide sufficient reaction time for novice drivers, especially in unexpected situations. A 5-second distance might be more cautious than necessary for many driving situations, though it can be appropriate in specific conditions, such as inclement weather or heavy traffic. Overall, the 4-second following distance strikes a balance between safety and practicality for beginner drivers.

10. What does the Texas "Right to Know" program aim to achieve?

A. Enhance the economy of Texas

B. Promote awareness of hazardous substances

C. Regulate vehicle safety standards

D. Increase revenue from hazardous materials

The Texas "Right to Know" program is designed to promote awareness of hazardous substances that individuals may encounter in their environments, especially in workplaces and communities. This initiative focuses on ensuring that the public has access to information about hazardous substances, their potential health effects, and safe handling practices. By educating residents and workers, the program empowers people to make informed decisions regarding their health and safety in relation to chemical exposures. This awareness is crucial for fostering a safer environment, as it allows individuals to understand the risks associated with various chemicals and encourages proper safety measures when handling or coming into contact with these substances. The program contributes significantly to community health and safety by ensuring that vital information is readily available and understandable to the general public.

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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://texasdeptpublicsafety.examzify.com

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

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