

Alabama CDL Class A Permit Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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.

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!

Questions

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- 1. The distance you should look ahead of your vehicle while driving at low speeds is:**
 - A. 1 block**
 - B. 1 mile**
 - C. 1 foot**
 - D. 2 blocks**

- 2. When road conditions are slippery, what is the recommended way to make turns?**
 - A. Make turns as gently as possible.**
 - B. Turn quickly to regain control.**
 - C. Brake hard while turning.**
 - D. Accelerate through the turn.**

- 3. Aggressive driving is defined as:**
 - A. Driving a vehicle in a selfish, bold, pushy manner**
 - B. Following at a safe distance**
 - C. Keeping to posted speed limits**
 - D. Sharing the road with others respectfully**

- 4. What is emergency stab braking?**
 - A. Brake as hard as you can, release when the wheels lock, and reapply when the wheels start rolling**
 - B. Lightly press the brakes to avoid wheel lock**
 - C. Stop by using the parking brake only**
 - D. Shift to neutral to reduce speed**

- 5. What is the main safety purpose of knowing escape ramp locations on your route?**
 - A. Provide an emergency exit if the vehicle loses control on grade**
 - B. Improve fuel economy**
 - C. Allow you to bypass rest stops**
 - D. No practical purpose**

- 6. When driving on roads where truck speed limits are lower than cars, you should**
- A. Use extra caution when changing lanes or passing**
 - B. Follow closely to reduce lane changes**
 - C. Maintain the same speed as cars for consistency**
 - D. Ignore the difference and drive as you wish**
- 7. Which statement about tires is true?**
- A. You should inspect your tires every 2 hours or every 100 miles when driving in hot weather**
 - B. Tires require no inspection during hot weather**
 - C. You should inspect tires only before trips**
 - D. Tires can be ignored unless there is a leak**
- 8. In drum brake systems, which component causes the shoes to press against the drum?**
- A. S-cam**
 - B. Master cylinder**
 - C. Wheel cylinder**
 - D. Brake shoe lever**
- 9. If the spring brakes are on, when should you push the brake pedal?**
- A. never**
 - B. before starting the engine**
 - C. Only when in reverse**
 - D. When the parking brake is engaged**
- 10. If you are not sure what to use to put out hazardous materials fires, you should:**
- A. Wait on qualified firefighters**
 - B. Use water immediately**
 - C. Use a standard fire extinguisher**
 - D. Try to fight it yourself**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. The distance you should look ahead of your vehicle while driving at low speeds is:

- A. 1 block**
- B. 1 mile**
- C. 1 foot**
- D. 2 blocks**

When you're moving slowly, you want your eyes to see hazards far enough ahead to react smoothly, but not so far that you lose awareness of what's happening right in front of you. Looking about one block ahead provides that balance: you can spot pedestrians stepping into the road, traffic slowing or stopping ahead, or a door opening in your path, giving you enough time to ease off the accelerator, brake gently, or steer as needed. If you look too far ahead, like a mile, you're not focused on the immediate cues and may miss hazards that appear close by, or you might overreact. If you look only a foot ahead, you don't have time to react to anything that could appear a little farther down the road. Looking two blocks ahead is longer than typically needed for slow-speed driving and can reduce your attention to nearby conditions. So, at low speeds, aiming roughly one block ahead keeps you prepared for the next actions you'll need to take while staying aware of what's happening right in front of you.

2. When road conditions are slippery, what is the recommended way to make turns?

- A. Make turns as gently as possible.**
- B. Turn quickly to regain control.**
- C. Brake hard while turning.**
- D. Accelerate through the turn.**

On slippery pavement, tires have less grip, so smooth, gradual actions are essential to keep control. Making turns as gently as possible helps maintain traction by avoiding sudden weight shifts and abrupt changes in speed or direction that can cause the vehicle to skid. The key is to enter the turn slowly, apply steering inputs smoothly, and avoid braking hard or accelerating hard while in the turn. If you feel the vehicle starting to slide, ease off the accelerator, avoid sudden steering corrections, and steer calmly toward the direction you want to go. After the turn, slowly resume acceleration as traction returns.

3. Aggressive driving is defined as:

- A. Driving a vehicle in a selfish, bold, pushy manner**
- B. Following at a safe distance**
- C. Keeping to posted speed limits**
- D. Sharing the road with others respectfully**

Aggressive driving is operating a vehicle in a selfish, bold, pushy manner that disregards safety and the rights of others. This describes actions where a driver puts personal convenience above everyone else's safety, such as tailgating, weaving through traffic, or making abrupt, unsafe moves to intimidate others. These behaviors increase the risk of crashes and are what the term aims to capture in driver training. The other statements describe safe, lawful driving—keeping a safe following distance, obeying speed limits, and sharing the road respectfully—which do not reflect aggression.

4. What is emergency stab braking?

- A. Brake as hard as you can, release when the wheels lock, and reapply when the wheels start rolling**
- B. Lightly press the brakes to avoid wheel lock**
- C. Stop by using the parking brake only**
- D. Shift to neutral to reduce speed**

Emergency stab braking is a technique used when you need the fastest possible stop in a vehicle without ABS. You press the brake pedal as hard as you can and hold it until the wheels lock. When you feel the wheels locking, release the brake just enough for them to start rolling again, then immediately reapply the brakes to continue braking. This quick on/off action helps you achieve maximum deceleration while still allowing you to steer around obstacles, since locked wheels can't be steered. If your vehicle has ABS, you should brake firmly and steer, letting the system manage wheel lock rather than pumping the brakes manually.

5. What is the main safety purpose of knowing escape ramp locations on your route?

- A. Provide an emergency exit if the vehicle loses control on grade**
- B. Improve fuel economy**
- C. Allow you to bypass rest stops**
- D. No practical purpose**

Escape ramps exist for downhill safety when braking isn't enough. On long descents, brakes can overheat or fail, and a truck can quickly gain speed beyond what you can control. Knowing where these ramps are lets you reach a designated area designed to safely stop a heavy vehicle without crashing, protecting you, other road users, and the truck. They work by guiding the vehicle onto a long, energy-absorbing surface that slows you down gradually and prevents a run-away situation. That's why this answer is best: it highlights the primary purpose—an emergency stop option when downhill braking fails. Escape ramps aren't meant to improve fuel economy or let you bypass rest stops, and they do have a practical safety role in route planning and emergency response.

6. When driving on roads where truck speed limits are lower than cars, you should

- A. Use extra caution when changing lanes or passing**
- B. Follow closely to reduce lane changes**
- C. Maintain the same speed as cars for consistency**
- D. Ignore the difference and drive as you wish**

When trucks are limited to lower speeds than cars, the key risk is the increased chance of a crash during lane changes and passing due to trucks' slower acceleration, longer stopping distance, and large blind spots. Because of these factors, you should use extra caution when changing lanes or passing. Give yourself plenty of space, signal early, and check both mirrors and all blind spots before moving. When you do pass, do it promptly and safely, then return to your lane as soon as you can see the truck clearly in your rear-view mirror to avoid lingering in its blind spots. The other approaches ignore these safety realities: following closely to avoid lane changes makes it hard to react if the truck slows or shifts unexpectedly; maintaining the same speed as cars doesn't account for the truck's slower acceleration and braking; and driving as you wish while ignoring the speed difference creates unnecessary danger for everyone on the road.

7. Which statement about tires is true?

- A. You should inspect your tires every 2 hours or every 100 miles when driving in hot weather**
- B. Tires require no inspection during hot weather**
- C. You should inspect tires only before trips**
- D. Tires can be ignored unless there is a leak**

In hot weather, tires are more vulnerable because heat drives up pressure and accelerates wear, which can lead to blowouts or sudden failures if problems go unnoticed. That makes frequent tire checks during travel essential. The best guidance is to inspect tires every two hours or every 100 miles when you're driving in hot conditions, so you can catch issues like slow leaks, cuts, bulges, tread wear, or objects embedded in the tread before they become dangerous. Before trips alone isn't enough because tire conditions can change once you're on the road. Ignoring tires or assuming nothing can go wrong unless there's an obvious leak also isn't safe, since heat and road conditions can create problems that aren't immediately visible. Regular, thorough checks should include looking at tread depth and wear, sidewall damage, objects in the tread, and confirming proper inflation with a reliable gauge.

8. In drum brake systems, which component causes the shoes to press against the drum?

- A. S-cam**
- B. Master cylinder**
- C. Wheel cylinder**
- D. Brake shoe lever**

In drum brakes, the part that actually makes the shoes press against the drum is the S-cam. When you apply the brakes, hydraulic pressure from the master cylinder reaches the wheel cylinders, which push a rod that rotates the S-cam. As the S-cam turns, its cam profile spreads the two brake shoes outward toward the drum, forcing them into contact and creating the braking friction. The wheel cylinders provide the force, and other components like the brake shoe levers help mount and support the shoes, but the S-cam is the mechanism that converts that hydraulic action into the outward movement that presses the shoes against the drum.

9. If the spring brakes are on, when should you push the brake pedal?

- A. never**
- B. before starting the engine**
- C. Only when in reverse**
- D. When the parking brake is engaged**

Spring brakes are the emergency/parking brakes that are held off by air pressure and applied by springs when that pressure is released. They stay engaged until you actively release them with the proper air-pressure control, not by pressing the foot pedal. The service brake pedal controls the regular braking system, but it does not release the spring brakes. So when the spring brakes are on, pushing the brake pedal won't disengage them and can lead to unexpected or unsafe braking conditions. Release the spring brakes using the appropriate air-pressure control, then use the service brakes as needed for normal stopping. That's why the correct answer is never.

10. If you are not sure what to use to put out hazardous materials fires, you should:

- A. Wait on qualified firefighters**
- B. Use water immediately**
- C. Use a standard fire extinguisher**
- D. Try to fight it yourself**

Hazardous materials fires require trained responders with the right protective gear and knowledge of the specific material involved. If you're unsure what to use, you should not try to fight the fire yourself. Different chemicals react differently with water or with common extinguishing agents, and using the wrong method can make the fire worse, release toxic fumes, or endanger you and others. Qualified firefighters will identify the substance, assess the risks, and choose the appropriate suppression technique and agent, plus take steps to contain the spread and protect people and the environment. In the meantime, evacuate if you can do so safely, stay upwind, and call emergency services so trained personnel can handle the situation. Waiting for those professionals is the safest course of action.

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://alabamacdlclassa.examzify.com>

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

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