

ALABAMA CDL CLASS A PERMIT PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

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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. In emergency stab braking, what is the correct sequence of actions?**
 - A. Brake as hard as you can, release when the wheels lock, reapply when the wheels start rolling
 - B. Brake gently, then coast
 - C. Pump the brakes repeatedly
 - D. Hold the brakes in until the vehicle stops
- 2. The low air pressure warning is a signal of which condition?**
 - A. Low air pressure in the system
 - B. High air pressure in the system
 - C. Low fuel level
 - D. Low coolant level
- 3. What does the bridge formula do when axles are placed close together?**
 - A. It permits more weight for the involved axles
 - B. It permits less maximum axle weight for axles that are close together
 - C. It has no effect on axle weight
 - D. It only applies to steer axles
- 4. In a well-maintained air brake system, at what pressure should the air compressor start pumping?**
 - A. 60 psi
 - B. 100 psi
 - C. 80 psi
 - D. 120 psi
- 5. Which statement about brakes is true?**
 - A. Heavier or faster vehicles require more heat to stop
 - B. Brakes generate less heat when heavy
 - C. Heat is not a factor in stopping
 - D. Brakes always stay cool

- 6. If a dual air system has one system low on pressure, what is a likely braking outcome?**
- A. All four wheels will brake with equal efficiency
 - B. Either the front or rear brakes will not be operating fully
 - C. Emergency brakes will automatically engage
 - D. Brakes will apply with maximum force
- 7. Why should you limit the use of your horn?**
- A. It can startle other drivers.
 - B. It wastes fuel.
 - C. It is illegal to use horns.
 - D. It has no effect on safety.
- 8. If you encounter an aggressive driver, the safest first action is to**
- A. Keep your speed and block them
 - B. Make every attempt to get out of their way
 - C. Brake suddenly to warn them
 - D. Speed up to outpace them
- 9. If the speed limit is 55 mph but traffic is moving at 35 mph, what is the safest speed for you to travel?**
- A. 35 mph
 - B. 50 mph
 - C. 55 mph
 - D. 25 mph
- 10. To know when to shift gears, you should monitor which instrument on the dash?**
- A. Tachometer
 - B. Speedometer
 - C. Fuel gauge
 - D. Odometer

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. In emergency stab braking, what is the correct sequence of actions?

- A. Brake as hard as you can, release when the wheels lock, reapply when the wheels start rolling
- B. Brake gently, then coast
- C. Pump the brakes repeatedly
- D. Hold the brakes in until the vehicle stops

Emergency stab braking is about using full braking force to push the brakes to their limit, then releasing briefly when the wheels lock and immediately reapplying once they start rolling again. The idea is to use intense braking to reach the point where tires briefly lock, then regain traction to continue braking effectively. This approach maximizes stopping power on vehicles without ABS. If the vehicle has ABS, you should not release the brakes; keep firm pressure and let the system pulse to prevent wheel lock.

2. The low air pressure warning is a signal of which condition?

- A. Low air pressure in the system
- B. High air pressure in the system
- C. Low fuel level
- D. Low coolant level

The main idea is that the low air pressure warning signals a drop in the air brake system's pressure. Air brakes rely on stored compressed air to operate, so when the pressure falls below a safe level, the warning lights or buzzer alert you to stop and check for issues like leaks or compressor problems. This warning is specifically about the air pressure in the braking system, not about fuel or coolant levels, and it won't be triggered by high pressure.

3. What does the bridge formula do when axles are placed close together?

- A. It permits more weight for the involved axles
- B. It permits less maximum axle weight for axles that are close together
- C. It has no effect on axle weight
- D. It only applies to steer axles

The bridge formula determines how much weight a group of two or more axles can carry based on how far apart those axles are as they cross a bridge. When axles are placed close together, the load is concentrated over a shorter distance, which increases the bending stress on the bridge. To protect the structure, the formula reduces the maximum allowable weight for that axle group. If axles are spaced farther apart, the load is spread over a longer section of the bridge, allowing more weight for the group. So, axles that are close together must follow a lower maximum axle weight. This rule applies to groups of two or more axles, not just steer axles.

4. In a well-maintained air brake system, at what pressure should the air compressor start pumping?

- A. 60 psi
- B. 100 psi**
- C. 80 psi
- D. 120 psi

Air brake systems use a governor to cycle the compressor between cut-in and cut-out pressures. The compressor starts pumping when system pressure falls to the cut-in point, which is typically about 100 psi, and stops at the cut-out point (around 125 psi). So 100 psi is the correct starting pressure because it's the threshold at which the governor signals the compressor to begin building air again, ensuring there's enough pressure for braking and other functions while avoiding excessive cycling. Pressures like 60 or 80 psi are too low for safe braking, and 120 psi would delay pumping until pressure already dropped further, narrowing the usable range.

5. Which statement about brakes is true?

- A. Heavier or faster vehicles require more heat to stop**
- B. Brakes generate less heat when heavy
- C. Heat is not a factor in stopping
- D. Brakes always stay cool

Brakes convert the vehicle's kinetic energy into heat energy to slow and stop. The amount of energy that must be dissipated grows with mass and speed: kinetic energy is $\frac{1}{2} m v^2$, so heavier vehicles carry more energy and faster speeds increase energy even more. That means heavier or faster vehicles require more heat to be generated by the brakes to remove that energy and bring the vehicle to a stop. If the brakes can't get rid of heat quickly enough, braking performance drops, a problem known as brake fade. So the true statement is that heavier or faster vehicles require more heat to stop. Brakes do heat up with use, and heat is a crucial factor in stopping, while they do not generate less heat when heavier.

6. If a dual air system has one system low on pressure, what is a likely braking outcome?

- A. All four wheels will brake with equal efficiency
- B. Either the front or rear brakes will not be operating fully**
- C. Emergency brakes will automatically engage
- D. Brakes will apply with maximum force

Dual air brake systems split braking into two independent circuits to provide a backup. If one circuit runs low on pressure, the brakes fed by that circuit can't apply with full force, while the other circuit still works normally. That means you won't have braking on all wheels with the same strength—the brakes on the low-pressure side won't be operating fully, while the other circuit remains able to apply as usual.

7. Why should you limit the use of your horn?

- A. It can startle other drivers.**
- B. It wastes fuel.
- C. It is illegal to use horns.
- D. It has no effect on safety.

Limiting horn use hinges on using it only as a brief, urgent warning. A horn is most effective when you need to alert others to a potential hazard or your presence when eye contact or other signals aren't enough. If you honk too often or for non-emergency reasons, the loud noise can startle drivers, pedestrians, or cyclists and provoke abrupt, risky reactions—like braking hard or swerving—raising the chance of a crash. By keeping honks to genuine emergencies, you preserve its effectiveness and reduce the chance of causing confusion or panic. While laws and enforcement vary, horns aren't universally illegal, and they do contribute to safety when used sparingly.

8. If you encounter an aggressive driver, the safest first action is to

- A. Keep your speed and block them
- B. Make every attempt to get out of their way**
- C. Brake suddenly to warn them
- D. Speed up to outpace them

When you encounter an aggressive driver, the safest move is to create distance and let them go by. Giving them space reduces your exposure to their unpredictable actions and lowers the risk of a collision. If it's safe, ease off the accelerator, signal, and change lanes or pull over so they can pass. Do not engage or try to block them, and avoid braking suddenly or speeding up to outrun them—those actions can escalate the situation and increase danger. The goal is to stay on a predictable path with as much room as possible between you and the aggressive driver.

9. If the speed limit is 55 mph but traffic is moving at 35 mph, what is the safest speed for you to travel?

- A. 35 mph**
- B. 50 mph
- C. 55 mph
- D. 25 mph

When other vehicles are moving slower than the posted limit, the safest approach is to match the flow of traffic. If the speed limit is 55 mph but surrounding traffic is about 35 mph, driving with them around 35 mph keeps your speed consistent with what's happening on the road, reducing the risk of rear-end collisions and the need for abrupt braking or risky lane changes. Going up to the full limit would create a large speed difference with the vehicles ahead, making it harder to react to sudden changes. Driving much slower than the traffic can also cause hazards for others. So the best choice is to travel at about 35 mph, the pace of the traffic.

10. To know when to shift gears, you should monitor which instrument on the dash?

A. Tachometer

B. Speedometer

C. Fuel gauge

D. Odometer

Shifting timing comes from engine speed. The tachometer displays engine RPM, so you can keep the engine in its efficient power range. As you accelerate, shift up before you push the RPM into the red zone, staying within the RPM band where the engine produces good power. If RPM drops too low, you'd downshift to maintain adequate engine torque. The speedometer, fuel gauge, and odometer don't tell you how hard the engine is working, only speed, fuel level, and distance, respectively. So the tachometer is the tool to know when to shift.

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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://alabamacdlclassa.examzify.com>

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

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