

AMERICAN SAFETY COUNCIL DEFENSIVE DRIVING PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

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Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	15

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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. What are the economic costs of motor vehicle crashes annually?**
 - A. \$100 billion annually
 - B. \$230.6 billion annually
 - C. \$150 billion annually
 - D. \$300 billion annually
- 2. Which of the following is NOT considered an example of aggressive driving?**
 - A. Following too closely
 - B. Exceeding the speed limit
 - C. Using turn signals appropriately
 - D. Making unsafe lane changes
- 3. On average, how many people are killed on roadways every hour?**
 - A. 1 person
 - B. 2 people
 - C. 3 people
 - D. 4 people
- 4. What is the purpose of hazard lights?**
 - A. To indicate a lane change
 - B. To warn other drivers of a temporary road hazard or to signal for assistance
 - C. To display the vehicle's speed
 - D. To communicate with pedestrians
- 5. How can you improve your visibility in adverse weather conditions?**
 - A. Turn off your headlights
 - B. Increase your speed
 - C. Use your wipers and headlights
 - D. Drive with your windows down
- 6. What behavior is considered endangering others while driving?**
 - A. Enjoying the drive
 - B. Making safe lane changes
 - C. Failing to obey traffic lights
 - D. Using the vehicle's mirrors

7. When is it important to use turn signals?

- A. Only when you are driving in residential areas
- B. Every time you change lanes or make a turn
- C. When other drivers are around
- D. Only during inclement weather

8. Is it legal to pull over on a freeway to walk around in some states?

- A. Yes, in every state
- B. Yes, but only during daylight
- C. No, it's illegal in some states
- D. No, it's illegal everywhere

9. What should you do if you feel emotional distress before driving?

- A. Drive immediately to distract yourself
- B. Take a moment to recognize your anger
- C. Call someone for an emergency trip
- D. Focus on the destination

10. What role does speed play in defensive driving?

- A. Increased speed helps prevent accidents
- B. Driving slower than the speed limit improves safety
- C. Always driving at the speed limit is enough
- D. Speed has no impact on defensive driving

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What are the economic costs of motor vehicle crashes annually?

- A. \$100 billion annually
- B. \$230.6 billion annually**
- C. \$150 billion annually
- D. \$300 billion annually

The choice indicating \$230.6 billion annually as the economic costs of motor vehicle crashes is based on extensive research and data analysis conducted by various safety organizations and government agencies. This figure encompasses a wide range of costs associated with motor vehicle collisions, including medical expenses, lost productivity, property damage, and other related costs to society and the economy. This comprehensive estimate highlights the significant financial impact that motor vehicle crashes have on individuals, families, businesses, and communities. Understanding this economic burden emphasizes the importance of defensive driving practices and implementing safety measures to reduce the frequency and severity of accidents. By recognizing the substantial cost of traffic incidents, drivers may be more inclined to adopt safer driving habits, which ultimately contributes to a decrease in crashes and the associated economic ramifications.

2. Which of the following is NOT considered an example of aggressive driving?

- A. Following too closely
- B. Exceeding the speed limit
- C. Using turn signals appropriately**
- D. Making unsafe lane changes

Using turn signals appropriately is an example of safe and responsible driving behavior. Turn signals are essential for communicating intentions to other road users, which helps maintain safety and predictability on the road. By using turn signals correctly, a driver fosters a cooperative driving environment, reducing the chances of misunderstandings and potential accidents. In contrast, options such as following too closely, exceeding the speed limit, and making unsafe lane changes are all indicative of aggressive driving. These behaviors demonstrate a lack of consideration for the safety of others and a tendency to prioritize speed or assertiveness over responsible driving practices. They can lead to dangerous situations and increase the likelihood of accidents.

3. On average, how many people are killed on roadways every hour?

- A. 1 person
- B. 2 people
- C. 3 people**
- D. 4 people

The statistic indicating that, on average, three people are killed on roadways every hour reflects the ongoing issue of traffic safety and the impact of motor vehicle accidents. This number highlights the severity of the situation and underscores the importance of defensive driving strategies. Understanding this average can help drivers appreciate the risks involved in driving and motivate them to adopt safer driving behaviors. By being aware of such statistics, drivers may take extra precautions, like remaining attentive and minimizing distractions, which can ultimately save lives. This realization reinforces the vital role that every driver plays in contributing to road safety and reducing fatal accidents.

4. What is the purpose of hazard lights?

- A. To indicate a lane change
- B. To warn other drivers of a temporary road hazard or to signal for assistance**
- C. To display the vehicle's speed
- D. To communicate with pedestrians

The purpose of hazard lights is to warn other drivers of a temporary road hazard or to signal for assistance. When activated, hazard lights flash simultaneously from both the front and rear of the vehicle, making it clear to other motorists that there is a situation requiring caution or awareness. This may be needed if a vehicle is stalled, involved in an accident, or is otherwise unable to move safely. By using hazard lights, drivers can alert those around them to take appropriate measures to avoid potential danger, ensuring a safer environment on the road. The other options do not accurately reflect the primary function of hazard lights. A lane change is typically indicated with turn signals, not hazard lights. Displaying a vehicle's speed is unrelated to hazard lights and is usually indicated by the speedometer or speed limit signs. Communicating with pedestrians involves different means, such as eye contact or signaling, rather than the use of hazard lights.

5. How can you improve your visibility in adverse weather conditions?

- A. Turn off your headlights
- B. Increase your speed
- C. Use your wipers and headlights**
- D. Drive with your windows down

Using your wipers and headlights is crucial for improving visibility in adverse weather conditions such as rain, fog, or snow. When visibility is diminished, activating your windshield wipers ensures that the rain or snow is cleared from your windshield, providing a clearer view of the road ahead. Additionally, turning on your headlights enhances your visibility to other drivers, making your vehicle more conspicuous in low-light situations. This is particularly important in adverse weather, as it helps to illuminate the road and signals your presence to others on the road. In contrast, turning off your headlights would drastically reduce visibility, while increasing your speed can be dangerous as it may lessen your ability to react to unforeseen circumstances in poor conditions. Driving with windows down can create distractions and doesn't effectively address the issue of reduced visibility from weather elements.

6. What behavior is considered endangering others while driving?

- A. Enjoying the drive
- B. Making safe lane changes
- C. Failing to obey traffic lights**
- D. Using the vehicle's mirrors

Failing to obey traffic lights is a behavior that significantly endangers others while driving. Traffic lights are critical components of road safety, designed to regulate the flow of vehicles and pedestrians at intersections. When a driver ignores these signals, it creates a high risk of collisions, as other road users, including vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians, expect drivers to follow the rules of the road. This disregard for traffic lights can lead to serious accidents, injuries, or even fatalities, as it disrupts the orderly movement of traffic and hampers the predictability that is essential for safe driving. Other behaviors, like enjoying the drive, making safe lane changes, and using the vehicle's mirrors, are part of responsible driving practices. They do not pose an immediate danger to other road users when executed correctly. In contrast, ignoring traffic signals is a clear violation of traffic laws and has the potential to cause significant harm on the road.

7. When is it important to use turn signals?

- A. Only when you are driving in residential areas
- B. Every time you change lanes or make a turn**
- C. When other drivers are around
- D. Only during inclement weather

Using turn signals is essential every time you change lanes or make a turn because they communicate your intended actions to other drivers and pedestrians. This communication is crucial for promoting safety on the roads, as it helps others anticipate your maneuver and adjust their behavior accordingly. By signaling your intentions, you reduce the risk of collisions and create a smoother flow of traffic. It is a fundamental aspect of responsible driving that ensures everyone on the road is aware of your movements, which is especially important in maintaining a safe driving environment.

8. Is it legal to pull over on a freeway to walk around in some states?

- A. Yes, in every state
- B. Yes, but only during daylight
- C. No, it's illegal in some states**
- D. No, it's illegal everywhere

In some states, it is indeed illegal to pull over on a freeway to walk around. Freeways are designed for high-speed traffic, and stopping on them can pose significant safety risks not only to the stopped vehicle occupants but also to other drivers. Each state has its own traffic laws governing the use of freeways, and many explicitly prohibit stopping unless it is an emergency situation, such as a mechanical failure or an accident. Legal statutes are typically aimed at minimizing hazards associated with sudden stops on busy thoroughfares where vehicles are traveling at high speeds. Therefore, it's crucial for drivers to be aware of the laws in their specific state regarding stopping on freeways. This knowledge helps ensure both personal safety and compliance with local traffic regulations.

9. What should you do if you feel emotional distress before driving?

- A. Drive immediately to distract yourself
- B. Take a moment to recognize your anger**
- C. Call someone for an emergency trip
- D. Focus on the destination

Recognizing your anger or emotional distress before driving is crucial for ensuring your safety and the safety of others on the road. When you take a moment to acknowledge your feelings, you give yourself the opportunity to assess how those emotions might affect your driving abilities. Emotional distress can impair your judgment, reaction time, and overall focus, which are all critical for safe driving. By taking the time to process your emotions, you may decide to wait until you feel more composed or seek alternative methods of transportation, ultimately preventing potentially dangerous situations. Other options do not prioritize emotional awareness in a way that promotes safety. Driving immediately to distract yourself fails to address the underlying emotional state, which could lead to impaired decision-making. Calling someone for an emergency trip might not address your emotional readiness to drive, and focusing solely on the destination ignores the importance of being mentally prepared for the journey ahead. Recognizing and managing your emotions is a vital step toward safe driving.

10. What role does speed play in defensive driving?

- A. Increased speed helps prevent accidents
- B. Driving slower than the speed limit improves safety**
- C. Always driving at the speed limit is enough
- D. Speed has no impact on defensive driving

The choice that states driving slower than the speed limit improves safety highlights an essential aspect of defensive driving. While speed limits are established based on ideal driving conditions, various factors such as road conditions, weather, traffic, and visibility can warrant a reduction in speed to enhance safety. Driving at a slower speed allows for greater reaction time to unexpected events, such as pedestrians appearing suddenly, vehicles stopping unexpectedly, or weather changes impacting road conditions. It helps in maintaining control over the vehicle, enabling the driver to maneuver safely and react appropriately to any hazards. Additionally, slower speeds contribute to a more defensive approach, where the driver is aware and prepared for potential dangers rather than simply adhering to traffic laws. In contrast, speeding can increase the severity of accidents, reduce reaction time, and impair decision-making, making it more challenging to respond to dangers on the road. Thus, the emphasis on adjusting speed for safety underscores the core principles of defensive driving, which prioritizes proactive measures to prevent accidents.

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://americansafetydefensivedriving.examzify.com>

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

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