

# California DMV Driver's License Renewal Practice Exam (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. Under a Class C license, a passenger vehicle may tow more than one trailer if the towed loads are small and within legal limits:**
  - A. False**
  - B. True**
  - C. Only when accompanied by a Class B driver**
  - D. Only with a separate tow license**
  
- 2. You are approaching a railroad crossing with no warning devices and you cannot see 400 feet down the tracks in one direction. The speed limit is:**
  - A. 25 mph.**
  - B. 5 mph.**
  - C. 15 mph.**
  - D. 10 mph.**
  
- 3. On a freeway posted for 65 mph, with most other vehicles driving 70 mph or faster, you may legally drive:**
  - A. No faster than 60 mph.**
  - B. No faster than 63 mph.**
  - C. No faster than 65 mph.**
  - D. No faster than 70 mph.**
  
- 4. If there is no crosswalk and you see a pedestrian crossing your lane ahead, you should:**
  - A. Stop and let him/her finish crossing.**
  - B. Honk and proceed.**
  - C. Speed up to pass before they finish.**
  - D. Turn left to avoid them.**
  
- 5. When parking uphill on a two-way street with no curb, the front wheels should be turned toward the right (away from the street).**
  - A. Toward the right (away from the street)**
  - B. Toward the left (toward the street)**
  - C. Straight**
  - D. Downhill toward the curb**

- 6. Which practice is illegal while driving?**
- A. Listening to music through headphones that cover both ears.**
  - B. Listening to music through headphones that cover one ear.**
  - C. Wearing sunglasses while driving at night.**
  - D. Reading a map while stopped at a red light.**
- 7. How long may you use a center left turn lane?**
- A. Indefinitely.**
  - B. Up to 100 feet.**
  - C. Up to 200 feet.**
  - D. Up to 500 feet.**
- 8. Is it important to avoid underestimating the size and speed of an approaching large vehicle or tractor-trailer?**
- A. No**
  - B. Yes**
  - C. Only at night**
  - D. Only in rain**
- 9. Hand-Over-Hand Steering is used:**
- A. Use when you turn at low speeds, park, or recover from a skid**
  - B. Used during high-speed highway driving**
  - C. Only when shifting gears**
  - D. When the vehicle is parked and not moving**
- 10. Unless otherwise posted, what is the maximum speed limit on a two-lane undivided highway and for vehicles towing trailers?**
- A. 65 mph**
  - B. 45 mph**
  - C. 55 mph**
  - D. 35 mph**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Under a Class C license, a passenger vehicle may tow more than one trailer if the towed loads are small and within legal limits:**

**A. False**

**B. True**

**C. Only when accompanied by a Class B driver**

**D. Only with a separate tow license**

With a standard Class C license, you cannot tow more than one trailer. You're allowed to tow a single trailer within the weight limits set for your license, but the license does not cover multi-trailer combinations. To tow more than one trailer, you'd need a higher-class license (such as Class A or Class B) that covers combination vehicles. There isn't an option to rely on another driver or a separate "tow license" to enable multiple trailers under Class C.

**2. You are approaching a railroad crossing with no warning devices and you cannot see 400 feet down the tracks in one direction. The speed limit is:**

**A. 25 mph.**

**B. 5 mph.**

**C. 15 mph.**

**D. 10 mph.**

When visibility at a railroad crossing is limited, you must slow to 15 mph or less. Not being able to see 400 feet down the tracks means a train could be approaching sooner than you expect, so you need extra time to observe, react, and stop if needed. Moving at 15 mph gives you sufficient stopping distance and reduces the risk of colliding with a train that might be hidden from view. The other speeds are too high for this scenario and don't provide the required safety margin.

**3. On a freeway posted for 65 mph, with most other vehicles driving 70 mph or faster, you may legally drive:**

**A. No faster than 60 mph.**

**B. No faster than 63 mph.**

**C. No faster than 65 mph.**

**D. No faster than 70 mph.**

Speed limits are the maximum you may drive on a road. When a freeway is posted at 65 mph, you can legally travel at or below that speed. The fact that most other drivers are going faster doesn't change your limit—you're responsible for obeying the posted limit and driving at a safe speed for conditions. So you may drive up to 65 mph. You can slow down further if conditions require, but you cannot legally exceed 65 mph, even if others are speeding.

**4. If there is no crosswalk and you see a pedestrian crossing your lane ahead, you should:**

- A. Stop and let him/her finish crossing.**
- B. Honk and proceed.**
- C. Speed up to pass before they finish.**
- D. Turn left to avoid them.**

When a pedestrian is crossing in your lane, you must stop and let them finish crossing. Drivers are required to yield to pedestrians in the roadway, and not having a marked crosswalk doesn't change that responsibility. Stopping gives the pedestrian safe passage and prevents a possible collision. Honing your horn or trying to speed up to pass before they finish doesn't give you priority and can startle the pedestrian or force a risky move. Turning left to "avoid" them could put you into oncoming traffic or into the pedestrian's path. Once the person is safely out of your lane, proceed with caution.

**5. When parking uphill on a two-way street with no curb, the front wheels should be turned toward the right (away from the street).**

- A. Toward the right (away from the street)**
- B. Toward the left (toward the street)**
- C. Straight**
- D. Downhill toward the curb**

The safety idea is to position the wheels so that if the car starts to roll, it will move away from traffic rather than into it. On an uphill parking situation on a two-way street with no curb, turning the front wheels to the right (toward the road shoulder away from the travel lane) accomplishes this. If gravity tries to move the car, it will tend to roll off the roadway rather than into the traffic lanes, reducing the chance of a collision with oncoming vehicles. Turning the wheels to the left would direct any rolling motion toward the street and traffic, increasing the hazard. Leaving the wheels straight offers no deflection away from traffic. The option about turning downhill toward the curb applies to a different hill scenario (downhill parking with a curb) and isn't the appropriate action here.

**6. Which practice is illegal while driving?**

- A. Listening to music through headphones that cover both ears.**
- B. Listening to music through headphones that cover one ear.**
- C. Wearing sunglasses while driving at night.**
- D. Reading a map while stopped at a red light.**

When you're driving, your hearing helps you notice hazards you might not see, like a horn, siren, or a bike approaching from the side. In California, wearing headphones that cover both ears is illegal because it blocks those important sounds, making it harder to react to danger in time. Using headphones that cover only one ear still leaves one ear open to ambient noise, so it's generally allowed and keeps you safer. Wearing sunglasses at night isn't illegal, though it can reduce visibility in low light. Reading a map while stopped at a red light isn't illegal either, but it's still best to keep your attention on the road and limit fiddling with maps while the vehicle is moving.

**7. How long may you use a center left turn lane?**

- A. Indefinitely.
- B. Up to 100 feet.
- C. Up to 200 feet.**
- D. Up to 500 feet.

The center left turn lane is a shared space for preparing and waiting to make a left turn from either direction, not a through lane. You may use it to set up your left turn, but you must finish the turn and clear the lane within a limited distance to keep traffic moving smoothly. The rule specifies that you can use this lane for up to 200 feet; going longer blocks the lane for others and creates hazards. So, when you're approaching a place to turn left and you enter this lane, plan to complete the turn within about 200 feet or merge back into a through lane if you can't reach your turn in that distance. That's why the best answer is up to 200 feet.

**8. Is it important to avoid underestimating the size and speed of an approaching large vehicle or tractor-trailer?**

- A. No
- B. Yes**
- C. Only at night
- D. Only in rain

Yes. Approaching large vehicles like tractor-trailers can be deceptive: they are longer, heavier, and require more distance and time to stop or maneuver than smaller cars. They also have significant blind spots, so the driver may not see you until it's too late. If you underestimate their size and speed, you might follow too closely, tailgate, or try to pass too soon, increasing the chance of a collision or an abrupt stop. Treat them as capable of occupying more space and moving faster than they appear, and give extra room—maintain a safer following distance and be prepared to slow down or stop earlier. This applies in all conditions, not just at night or in rain.

**9. Hand-Over-Hand Steering is used:**

- A. Use when you turn at low speeds, park, or recover from a skid**
- B. Used during high-speed highway driving
- C. Only when shifting gears
- D. When the vehicle is parked and not moving

Hand-over-hand steering is used when you need large steering inputs at slow speeds, such as turning in tight spaces or parking, and when you must quickly recover from a skid. This technique involves letting one hand cross over the other to continue turning the wheel, giving you more control and the ability to steer through a wide angle precisely while your speed is low. In a skid, turning into the direction you want the wheels to go and using this cross-over motion lets you apply rapid, continuous steering input to regain control. It isn't the method you rely on at higher speeds, where smoother, non-crossing steering (push-pull) is preferred to avoid overcorrection. It also wouldn't be used while the vehicle is parked or during gear shifting, since there's no active turning needed in those situations.

**10. Unless otherwise posted, what is the maximum speed limit on a two-lane undivided highway and for vehicles towing trailers?**

**A. 65 mph**

**B. 45 mph**

**C. 55 mph**

**D. 35 mph**

On two-lane undivided highways in California, the default maximum speed is fifty-five miles per hour, and this limit also applies to vehicles towing trailers unless a speed limit sign says otherwise. The road design—no median, limited passing opportunities—means a lower, safer speed is set by default. So the best answer is fifty-five mph. Higher numbers like sixty-five are for other types of roads with higher posted limits, while lower numbers like forty-five or thirty-five are used in urban areas, school zones, or other special conditions, not the general two-lane undivided highway.

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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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://cadmvdlnrenewal.examzify.com>**

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

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