

# California DMV M1 Motorcycle License 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. If you stop at an intersection and plan to turn right, from which portion of the lane is it usually best to turn?**
  - A. The left portion.**
  - B. The center portion.**
  - C. The right portion.**
  - D. The shoulder.**
  
- 2. When you see a car signaling a left turn, what should you do as a motorcycle rider?**
  - A. Slow down and move away from the approaching vehicle**
  - B. Honk to alert the driver**
  - C. Speed up to pass on the left**
  - D. Stay at your current speed**
  
- 3. What is the statement that best describes the cause of most motorcycle/vehicle collisions at intersections?**
  - A. Drivers entering a rider's right of way**
  - B. Riders running red lights**
  - C. Vehicles making U-turns**
  - D. Weather conditions for riders**
  
- 4. During a turn, the rider should lean:**
  - A. Lean away from the curve.**
  - B. Keep the body upright and do not lean.**
  - C. Turn the handlebars in the opposite direction.**
  - D. Lean the motorcycle in the direction of the curve.**
  
- 5. With a properly adjusted mirror, you can see**
  - A. Only traffic ahead**
  - B. The entire lane behind you**
  - C. Part of the lane beside you and behind you**
  - D. Only the vehicle directly behind**

- 6. If you flee from a police vehicle and a death occurs during the pursuit, you are subject to**
- A. Probation**
  - B. Imprisonment in a state prison for six years**
  - C. Death penalty**
  - D. Fine only**
- 7. In group riding, which position(s) are usually best to ride in?**
- A. Position 2 and 3**
  - B. Position 1**
  - C. Position 4**
  - D. Center lane**
- 8. If you ride over a pothole, what is usually the best action?**
- A. Brake hard before pothole**
  - B. Look down at the pavement**
  - C. Look straight ahead and rise slightly off the seat**
  - D. Turn the handlebars sharply**
- 9. A properly adjusted mirror allows you to see which of the following?**
- A. The area directly in front of the bike**
  - B. Part of the lane beside you and behind you**
  - C. The entire road behind you**
  - D. Only the vehicle directly behind**
- 10. When turning, you should:**
- A. Look through the turn**
  - B. Look through the turn to where you want to go**
  - C. Look at your speedometer**
  - D. Look at the rearview mirror**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. If you stop at an intersection and plan to turn right, from which portion of the lane is it usually best to turn?**

- A. The left portion.**
- B. The center portion.**
- C. The right portion.**
- D. The shoulder.**

The best lane position for turning right from a stop is the center portion. This spot gives you a stable path to complete the turn, keeps you in a clear line of sight for cross-traffic and pedestrians, and offers space to swing into the new direction without clipping a curb or being squeezed by vehicles in the adjacent lane. Being too far to the left can put you into the path of vehicles in the lane you're crossing or turning from, while hugging the right edge or curb narrows your turning space and increases the risk of hitting the curb or being boxed in by other vehicles. The shoulder is not a safe or legal lane to use for a turn and often has debris and other hazards. So riding from the center portion provides the safest, most controlled turn.

**2. When you see a car signaling a left turn, what should you do as a motorcycle rider?**

- A. Slow down and move away from the approaching vehicle**
- B. Honk to alert the driver**
- C. Speed up to pass on the left**
- D. Stay at your current speed**

Anticipating how a turning vehicle will move and creating space is essential for motorcyclists. If a driver signals a left turn, they may swing across your lane as they complete the turn. Slowing down gives you more time to react, and moving away from the approaching vehicle increases the distance between you and their path, reducing the chance of being struck if the driver turns. Hearing a horn or speeding up to pass on the left doesn't reliably resolve the risk and can put you in the other vehicle's blind spots or even in your own danger zone. Staying at the same speed offers no additional margin of safety.

**3. What is the statement that best describes the cause of most motorcycle/vehicle collisions at intersections?**

- A. Drivers entering a rider's right of way**
- B. Riders running red lights**
- C. Vehicles making U-turns**
- D. Weather conditions for riders**

The main idea here is that failing to yield the right of way at intersections is the most common cause of crashes involving motorcycles. In practice, a driver may turn or enter an intersection without checking for motorcycles, or misjudge the motorcycle's speed, causing a collision even though the rider had the legal right of way. Motorists must yield to motorcycles just as they would to any other vehicle when the rider has the right of way, and riders should position themselves to be seen and anticipate actions from other drivers. While running red lights by riders, U-turns, or adverse weather can contribute to crashes, they do not account for the majority of intersection collisions the way failure to yield does.

**4. During a turn, the rider should lean:**

- A. Lean away from the curve.
- B. Keep the body upright and do not lean.
- C. Turn the handlebars in the opposite direction.
- D. Lean the motorcycle in the direction of the curve.**

Turning a motorcycle successfully comes from leaning into the curve with the bike, so the combined center of gravity stays over the tires and the tires can supply the needed centripetal force. Leaning the bike in the direction of the curve helps keep your balance as you follow the turn and prevents the body from pushing outward, which would reduce traction. Staying upright or leaning away shifts weight outside the contact patches and makes the bike more likely to slip outward. Leaning the handlebars the wrong way wouldn't help you follow the curve and would destabilize the path. So, lean the motorcycle in the direction of the curve.

**5. With a properly adjusted mirror, you can see**

- A. Only traffic ahead
- B. The entire lane behind you
- C. Part of the lane beside you and behind you**
- D. Only the vehicle directly behind

Mirrors are adjusted to broaden your view to the sides and behind you, not just straight ahead. When a mirror is set so you can see part of the lane beside you and behind you, you gain awareness of vehicles in the adjacent lane and those approaching from behind. This helps you make safer lane changes and stay out of other drivers' blind spots. Relying on a view that only shows traffic ahead leaves you vulnerable to vehicles in the next lane or traffic closing in from behind. A mirror that shows the entire lane behind isn't practical and still won't help you monitor the side traffic effectively. A view limited to the vehicle directly behind misses the broader picture you need for safe riding. The best fit is a mirror arrangement that includes visibility of part of the lane beside you and behind you, so you can detect nearby vehicles and respond promptly.

**6. If you flee from a police vehicle and a death occurs during the pursuit, you are subject to**

- A. Probation
- B. Imprisonment in a state prison for six years**
- C. Death penalty
- D. Fine only

Fleeing from a pursuing police vehicle and causing a death is treated as a serious felony that involves more than just evading. The law holds you accountable for the dangerous act of escaping custody and the fatal outcome, so the penalty is a prison term in the state system. Six years is the typical amount noted for this offense in these questions, reflecting the gravity of causing a death during an evasion. Probation or a fine alone wouldn't address the deadly consequence, and the death penalty isn't applicable here unless there are very rare, specific circumstances outside the ordinary case.

**7. In group riding, which position(s) are usually best to ride in?**

**A. Position 2 and 3**

**B. Position 1**

**C. Position 4**

**D. Center lane**

In group riding, you gain the most safety from a staggered formation inside a single lane, not riding directly behind one another. The best setup is for two riders to be offset in the lane—one slightly to the left of center and the other slightly to the right. This side-to-side spacing gives you a clearer line of sight to traffic, creates a bigger space cushion between riders, and provides a quicker escape route if the lead rider slows or an obstacle appears. Riding all the way toward the left or right edge or following directly behind another reduces visibility and makes it harder to maneuver around hazards, so the side-by-side staggered arrangement is preferred.

**8. If you ride over a pothole, what is usually the best action?**

**A. Brake hard before pothole**

**B. Look down at the pavement**

**C. Look straight ahead and rise slightly off the seat**

**D. Turn the handlebars sharply**

When you encounter a pothole, your goal is to stay balanced and maintain a smooth, straight path through the hazard. Keeping your eyes up and looking straight ahead helps you steer instinctively toward a safe line and avoid overcorrecting at the moment you hit the hole. Rising slightly off the seat takes some weight off you and lets your legs and hips act as natural shock absorbers, allowing the suspension and tires to respond to the impact without jamming the front wheel or upsetting balance. Braking hard before the pothole or turning the handlebars sharply tend to transfer weight and force in ways that can make you lose traction or control, and looking down at the pavement can cause you to make sudden, unsafe corrections. So, look ahead to where you want to go and ease up slightly off the seat to absorb the bump, keeping a steady, straight line through the obstacle.

**9. A properly adjusted mirror allows you to see which of the following?**

**A. The area directly in front of the bike**

**B. Part of the lane beside you and behind you**

**C. The entire road behind you**

**D. Only the vehicle directly behind**

A properly adjusted mirror is meant to show part of the lane beside you and what's behind you. This view helps you judge gaps and the speed of traffic in adjacent lanes when you're preparing to move over or maintain your position. You won't see the area directly in front of the bike in the mirrors, and you can't see the entire road behind you with them. That's why you still need to do a quick head check over your shoulder before changing lanes or merging. Use both mirrors to monitor traffic, and couple that with a shoulder check for a complete view.

**10. When turning, you should:**

- A. Look through the turn**
- B. Look through the turn to where you want to go**
- C. Look at your speedometer**
- D. Look at the rearview mirror**

When you turn, your eyes lead the bike. Look through the turn to where you want to go. Focusing on the exit point helps you pick the smoothest line and maintain balance, so your steering and lean align with the path you intend to follow. If you fix your gaze on the desired exit, your body naturally follows that trajectory, making the turn more predictable and reducing the chance of overshooting or stopping the arc. It's best to reserve glances for the speedometer or mirrors for before entering or after finishing the turn; during the turn, these distractors can throw off your line and timing.

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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://cadmvm1.examzify.com>**

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

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