

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 lock the front tire while stopping, what should you do?**
 - A. Squeeze harder on the front brake**
 - B. Release and reapply the front brake**
 - C. Turn away from traffic**
 - D. Release and reapply the rear brake**

- 2. What should you do if a parked car door opens into your path?**
 - A. Swerve into the lane of traffic.**
 - B. Wave at the driver.**
 - C. Stop immediately in the path of the door.**
 - D. Steer away from the opening door and maintain a safe distance.**

- 3. When riding at night, you should?**
 - A. Reduce your speed because it is harder to see something lying in the road.**
 - B. Increase your speed to reach destination faster.**
 - C. Turn on high beams and ride fast.**
 - D. Stop riding until daylight.**

- 4. You are preparing to move to the left lane, as pictured below. To spot vehicles moving beside you, it is best to:**
 - A. Turn your head to the left**
 - B. Turn your head to the right**
 - C. Look only in the mirrors**
 - D. Close your eyes**

- 5. Which body position helps you ride over a road obstacle safely?**
 - A. Lean forward aggressively**
 - B. Stand on pegs**
 - C. Rise slightly off the seat**
 - D. Sit straight with elbows locked**

- 6. In California, is lane splitting allowed, and what is the general condition?**
- A. Yes; lane splitting is legal when done safely and with traffic moving in the same direction**
 - B. Yes; lane splitting is legal when vehicles are stopped and you squeeze between them**
 - C. No; lane splitting is never allowed**
 - D. Yes; Lane splitting is legal on any road regardless of traffic flow**
- 7. If you must ride in wet or slick conditions, how should you adjust your following distance?**
- A. Increase to more than 4 seconds and reduce speed**
 - B. Keep the same distance and speed**
 - C. Decrease to 1 second**
 - D. Turn off your headlights**
- 8. Alcohol enters the bloodstream and quickly reaches the brain. Which of the following is affected first?**
- A. Coordination**
 - B. Judgement**
 - C. Reflex speed**
 - D. Vision**
- 9. A primary cause of single-vehicle motorcycle collisions is what?**
- A. Riding in rain.**
 - B. Brakes failing.**
 - C. Motorcyclists running wide in a curve or turn and colliding with an object.**
 - D. Potholes.**
- 10. What is the primary purpose of using a horn on a motorcycle?**
- A. To warn others of your presence and prevent a collision, not to express anger.**
 - B. To signal your intent to pass.**
 - C. To communicate with other riders.**
 - D. To show off your speed.**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. If you lock the front tire while stopping, what should you do?

- A. Squeeze harder on the front brake**
- B. Release and reapply the front brake**
- C. Turn away from traffic**
- D. Release and reapply the rear brake**

When a front tire locks, you've lost traction and can start to skid. The right move is to ease off the front brake just enough to let the wheel start spinning again, then reapply the brake smoothly to regain traction. This modulation helps you maintain control and still stop efficiently. Squeezing harder would worsen the skid, and relying only on the rear brake won't help the locked front wheel. Turning away from traffic isn't an immediate braking fix in this situation.

2. What should you do if a parked car door opens into your path?

- A. Swerve into the lane of traffic.**
- B. Wave at the driver.**
- C. Stop immediately in the path of the door.**
- D. Steer away from the opening door and maintain a safe distance.**

When a parked car door opens into your path, the priority is to avoid the sudden obstacle and keep your speed and lane position under control. The safest move is to steer away from the opening door and maintain a safe distance, because this creates the most room to avoid contact with the door and gives you time to react to any movement from the car or other drivers. Steering away rather than toward traffic reduces the chance of a collision with the door or with other vehicles that might not anticipate a rider swerving. Stopping directly in the door's path or trying to wave the driver across doesn't remove the hazard and can put you at risk of rear-end impact or a sudden stop in a vulnerable position. Quick, smooth steering away from the door while maintaining a safe margin lets you pass the hazard with less risk.

3. When riding at night, you should?

- A. Reduce your speed because it is harder to see something lying in the road.**
- B. Increase your speed to reach destination faster.**
- C. Turn on high beams and ride fast.**
- D. Stop riding until daylight.**

Night riding requires reducing speed because visibility is greatly reduced after dark. With limited light and potential glare from oncoming vehicles, you have less time to notice hazards like debris, animals, or potholes, so slowing down gives your eyes a chance to pick up what's ahead and gives you more time to react. This cautious pace helps you maintain control and avoid sudden moves that could lead to a crash on a dark road. High beams can create blind spots for others and speeding provides even less time to respond, making the safer choice to ride more slowly a practical and protective approach.

4. You are preparing to move to the left lane, as pictured below. To spot vehicles moving beside you, it is best to:

- A. Turn your head to the left**
- B. Turn your head to the right**
- C. Look only in the mirrors**
- D. Close your eyes**

Before moving to another lane on a motorcycle, you must actively check your blind spots by turning your head and looking over your shoulder in the direction you plan to move. Turning your head to the left lets you see vehicles that may be riding alongside or a bit behind you in the left lane, which mirrors alone might not reveal. This quick head check gives you a real sense of how much space you have and whether it's safe to merge. Relying only on mirrors isn't enough because they don't always show vehicles in your blind spots, especially in lanes next to you. Turning your head to the right wouldn't help you spot left-side traffic you're about to enter, and closing your eyes is obviously unsafe. Do a quick shoulder check, then signal and merge when it's clear.

5. Which body position helps you ride over a road obstacle safely?

- A. Lean forward aggressively**
- B. Stand on pegs**
- C. Rise slightly off the seat**
- D. Sit straight with elbows locked**

Riding over an obstacle safely comes down to letting the bike do the work while you stay balanced and relaxed. Lifting up slightly off the seat lets your hips move with the motorcycle as it climbs and drops over the obstacle, which makes it easier for the suspension to absorb the impact. That small float keeps your weight centered and reduces the jolt that would travel up your arms, helping you maintain grip on the tires and keep steering control. It also frees your legs to act as additional shock absorbers, which smooths out the ride. Leaning forward aggressively would shift too much weight onto the front wheel and can destabilize you as you hit the obstacle. Standing on the pegs is more for off-road or deliberate stance riding and often reduces contact with the bike's weight and balance on pavement. Sitting straight with elbows locked creates a rigid posture that can't absorb bumps and makes you less responsive to changes in the bike's motion. Keeping a light, centered position by rising slightly off the seat helps you ride over road obstacles more smoothly and safely.

6. In California, is lane splitting allowed, and what is the general condition?

- A. Yes; lane splitting is legal when done safely and with traffic moving in the same direction**
- B. Yes; lane splitting is legal when vehicles are stopped and you squeeze between them**
- C. No; lane splitting is never allowed**
- D. Yes; Lane splitting is legal on any road regardless of traffic flow**

Lane splitting in California is allowed, but only under safe conditions and when traffic is moving in the same direction. This means you can ride between lanes to pass cars as long as the surrounding traffic is flowing in the same direction and you do so with safety in mind—avoiding weaving or sudden moves. It's not allowed when vehicles are stopped, and it doesn't apply to every road or to lanes with opposing flow. The correct choice reflects that it's legal only when traffic is moving in the same direction and done safely.

7. If you must ride in wet or slick conditions, how should you adjust your following distance?

- A. Increase to more than 4 seconds and reduce speed**
- B. Keep the same distance and speed**
- C. Decrease to 1 second**
- D. Turn off your headlights**

In wet or slick conditions, traction is reduced and stopping distances are longer, so you need more space to react and stop. The best approach is to increase your following distance to more than four seconds and reduce your speed. A practical way to gauge this is to pick a fixed object ahead and count how many seconds pass from the moment your front wheel passes it until the vehicle in front passes the same object; in rain, aim for at least four seconds (and more in heavier rain). Slower speed combined with extra space helps you stay stable and gives you time to brake smoothly if a hazard appears. Turning off your headlights doesn't help with following distance and makes you harder to see, so it's not advisable. Maintaining the same distance or reducing to one second doesn't provide enough time to stop safely on slick roads.

8. Alcohol enters the bloodstream and quickly reaches the brain. Which of the following is affected first?

- A. Coordination
- B. Judgement**
- C. Reflex speed
- D. Vision

Alcohol first dulls the brain's higher-level thinking, especially the frontal lobe that handles judgment, decision-making, and self-control. When judgment is impaired, a person may misjudge speed, distance, or risk, and make poor driving choices even if they don't yet notice slower reflexes. That early drop in executive function is why judgment is the first function affected. As intoxication deepens, other abilities like reflex speed, coordination, and vision become more noticeably impaired, but the initial sign is a decline in judgment. This is why even small amounts can lead to risky decisions behind the wheel, before you feel noticeably clumsy or see double vision.

9. A primary cause of single-vehicle motorcycle collisions is what?

- A. Riding in rain.
- B. Brakes failing.
- C. Motorcyclists running wide in a curve or turn and colliding with an object.**
- D. Potholes.

The key idea is that many solo motorcycle crashes happen when a rider loses control in a curve and ends up leaving the roadway and hitting a fixed object. In a turn, you must manage speed, steering, and your position in the lane so you stay on your side and don't run wide. If you misjudge the speed or the turn radius, or brake or steer too much while the bike is leaned, you can exit the curve to the outside and strike a guardrail, sign, or other object. That scenario—loss of control in a curve leading to an object collision—is the most common single-vehicle crash pattern for motorcycles. Weather, brake failure, or potholes can contribute to crashes, but they're not the typical single-vehicle crash mechanism described here. To reduce risk, slow before entering curves, pick a safe line through the turn, look through the curve, and avoid heavy braking while leaned. Keeping tires and brakes in good condition also helps maintain control.

10. What is the primary purpose of using a horn on a motorcycle?

- A. To warn others of your presence and prevent a collision, not to express anger.**
- B. To signal your intent to pass.**
- C. To communicate with other riders.**
- D. To show off your speed.**

The horn is a safety device designed to alert others to your presence so a collision can be avoided. It's meant for quick, brief warnings when you need someone to notice you—like a driver turning in your path, a pedestrian stepping into your lane, or a driver changing lanes unexpectedly. It should be used to prevent danger, not to express anger or to signal that you intend to pass. For indicating a lane change or your passing intention, rely on your turn signals and eye contact with other road users. Excessive or aggressive honking can startle people and worsen situations, so keep it brief and appropriate.

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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://cadmvm1.examzify.com>

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

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