

CDL Class B Pre Trip Inspection 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. What is a sign of a correctly installed alternator in the engine compartment?**
 - A. Loosely fitted**
 - B. Clean and rust-free**
 - C. Securely mounted with no visible damage**
 - D. Color-coded per manufacturer**

- 2. What is a common sign of a problem with the steering system?**
 - A. Excessive play in the steering wheel or unusual noises while turning**
 - B. Squeaking sound from the brake pedals**
 - C. Difficulty shifting gears smoothly**
 - D. Vibration through the accelerator pedal**

- 3. What is the minimum distance for reflective markers from the road?**
 - A. It should be placed at least 5 feet from the road**
 - B. It should be visible and properly placed according to regulations**
 - C. It must be within 10 yards of the vehicle**
 - D. It should be at eye level for pedestrians**

- 4. What critical components should be inspected within the brake system?**
 - A. Brake linings, drums, and hoses**
 - B. Windshield wipers and fluid levels**
 - C. Exhaust system and muffler**
 - D. Electrical connections and fuse box**

- 5. What is the purpose of U bolts in relation to the springs?**
 - A. To connect springs to the chassis**
 - B. To dampen vibrations**
 - C. To support engine weight**
 - D. To align the wheels**

- 6. Why is it essential to check the load securement system?**
- A. To prevent shifting or falling cargo during transport**
 - B. To maximize fuel efficiency**
 - C. To ensure compliance with manufacturer specifications**
 - D. To maintain bodywork integrity of the vehicle**
- 7. How often should fluid levels such as engine oil and coolant be checked?**
- A. Regularly as part of the pre-trip inspection**
 - B. Once a month**
 - C. Only during oil changes**
 - D. Only when the vehicle is not in use**
- 8. Which of the following is NOT a recommended check for the inner side wall of a tire?**
- A. No cuts**
 - B. Number of visible leaks**
 - C. No bulges**
 - D. No abrasions**
- 9. Which part of the vehicle's exterior should be inspected for damage during a pre-trip?**
- A. The windshield wipers**
 - B. The tires only**
 - C. The lights and reflective surfaces**
 - D. The fender skirts**
- 10. What should be checked regarding the stickers on the windshield?**
- A. All stickers are required**
 - B. No illegal stickers are present**
 - C. Stickers must be colorful**
 - D. Stickers must show the vehicle's registration**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is a sign of a correctly installed alternator in the engine compartment?

- A. Loosely fitted**
- B. Clean and rust-free**
- C. Securely mounted with no visible damage**
- D. Color-coded per manufacturer**

A correctly installed alternator in the engine compartment should be securely mounted with no visible damage. This means that it is firmly attached to its mounting bracket, which prevents it from moving or vibrationally loosening during operation. A secure fit ensures that the alternator can function effectively, maintaining the electrical system of the vehicle by generating the necessary voltage. Visible damage, such as cracks, dents, or evidence of wear, could indicate that the alternator is compromised and might lead to failure, resulting in electrical issues while driving. Therefore, the condition of the alternator as secure and undamaged is crucial for reliability and performance. Other factors like being clean and rust-free or color-coded per manufacturer are positive signs, but they do not directly address the mechanical aspects of installation, which are key to ensuring proper function. A loosely fitted alternator would jeopardize its operation, potentially leading to electrical failure or damage to other engine components.

2. What is a common sign of a problem with the steering system?

- A. Excessive play in the steering wheel or unusual noises while turning**
- B. Squeaking sound from the brake pedals**
- C. Difficulty shifting gears smoothly**
- D. Vibration through the accelerator pedal**

Excessive play in the steering wheel or unusual noises while turning are significant indicators of potential issues with the steering system. This symptom suggests that there might be wear in the steering components, such as the tie rod ends, steering gear, or related linkages. If these components become loose or damaged, they can lead to decreased steering responsiveness and precision, which can create safety hazards while driving. Noises during steering could indicate problems like low power steering fluid, damaged seals, or failing power steering pumps, all of which compromise the safe operation of the vehicle. Thus, noticing excessive play or odd sounds can prompt the driver to investigate further and potentially prevent more serious mechanical failures or accidents. The other options relate to different vehicle systems or components. For instance, a squeaking sound from the brake pedals mainly points to issues with the braking system, while difficulty in shifting gears generally relates to the transmission, and vibrations through the accelerator pedal may suggest issues with the drivetrain or engine. Each of these symptoms pertains to distinct vehicle systems and does not directly indicate a steering system problem.

3. What is the minimum distance for reflective markers from the road?

- A. It should be placed at least 5 feet from the road**
- B. It should be visible and properly placed according to regulations**
- C. It must be within 10 yards of the vehicle**
- D. It should be at eye level for pedestrians**

The correct answer emphasizes that reflective markers must be visible and correctly positioned in accordance with established regulations. This is critical for safety, as reflective markers are meant to enhance visibility, especially in low light conditions or poor weather. Proper placement ensures that drivers can easily identify obstacles or the presence of a vehicle, contributing to overall road safety. While there are specific guidelines regarding the distance of markers from the road, it is the visibility and adherence to regulations that are paramount. Each jurisdiction may have unique requirements, but the focus should always be on ensuring markers are adequately visible to alert drivers. The other options focus on different aspects of positioning reflective markers, but none capture the comprehensive requirement of visibility in accordance with regulations, making the second choice the most pertinent correct answer.

4. What critical components should be inspected within the brake system?

- A. Brake linings, drums, and hoses**
- B. Windshield wipers and fluid levels**
- C. Exhaust system and muffler**
- D. Electrical connections and fuse box**

The brake system is one of the most crucial safety components of any vehicle, especially for those operating with a Class B CDL. Inspecting the brake system involves checking several critical components to ensure that they are functioning properly and are in good condition. Focusing on the correct answer, inspecting brake linings, drums, and hoses is essential because: - **Brake Linings**: These are the material that makes contact with the brake drum to create friction and reduce speed. Worn or damaged linings can lead to reduced braking efficiency, increasing the risk of an accident. - **Brake Drums**: The drums house the brake linings and are a critical part of the braking process. Inspecting them ensures that they are not cracked, warped, or excessively worn, which could prevent the brakes from working effectively. - **Brake Hoses**: These carry the brake fluid to the brake components. Inspecting hoses for cracks, leaks, or weak spots is vital, as any failure in the hose can lead to a complete loss of braking capability. In summary, these components are integral to the performance and safety of the vehicle's braking system. Regular inspection as part of the pre-trip process helps to identify issues before they result in mechanical failure,

5. What is the purpose of U bolts in relation to the springs?

A. To connect springs to the chassis

B. To dampen vibrations

C. To support engine weight

D. To align the wheels

U bolts play a critical role in connecting the suspension springs to the chassis of a vehicle. Their primary function is to clamp the leaf springs securely to the axle and subsequently to the frame or chassis. This connection is essential for maintaining proper alignment and stability of the vehicle's suspension system during operation. When the vehicle is in motion, the U bolts hold the springs in place, allowing them to absorb road shocks and vibrations. They provide structural integrity, ensuring that the springs function correctly in supporting the weight of the load and maintaining the vehicle's ride height. Proper attachment via U bolts is key to achieving safe handling and ride quality, as any loosening or failure of these bolts could lead to suspension issues. The other choices address functions that do not directly pertain to the specific role of U bolts. For instance, while dampening vibrations and supporting engine weight are relevant to vehicle dynamics, they are not the primary function of U bolts in relation to the springs. Similarly, while wheel alignment is crucial for overall vehicle safety and performance, it is not managed by U bolts specifically. Therefore, the correct understanding of the purpose of U bolts highlights their essential role in connecting springs to the chassis, which is foundational for a properly functioning suspension system.

6. Why is it essential to check the load securement system?

A. To prevent shifting or falling cargo during transport

B. To maximize fuel efficiency

C. To ensure compliance with manufacturer specifications

D. To maintain bodywork integrity of the vehicle

Checking the load securement system is crucial because it directly impacts the safety of the transport process. Properly secured loads prevent shifting or falling cargo during transit, which can lead to serious accidents and pose dangers to other road users as well as the driver. If a load shifts, it can affect the vehicle's handling, braking efficiency, and overall stability, significantly increasing the risk of a collision. Furthermore, loose or unsecured cargo may fall off the vehicle, creating hazards for other vehicles on the road. This is particularly important for larger vehicles, like those classified under CDL Class B, where the size and weight of the load can complicate control and maneuverability if not secured properly. Ensuring that the load is secured according to safety regulations is therefore a fundamental responsibility of the driver.

7. How often should fluid levels such as engine oil and coolant be checked?

- A. Regularly as part of the pre-trip inspection**
- B. Once a month**
- C. Only during oil changes**
- D. Only when the vehicle is not in use**

Fluid levels, including engine oil and coolant, should be checked regularly as part of the pre-trip inspection. This practice is crucial for maintaining vehicle safety and performance. Regular checks help identify any leaks or fluid losses that could lead to engine overheating or mechanical failure during operation. Incorporating these checks during every pre-trip inspection ensures that the vehicle is in optimal condition for driving, minimizing the risk of breakdowns and ensuring compliance with safety regulations. Monitoring fluid levels frequently allows for proactive maintenance, which can save time and money by addressing potential issues before they lead to more significant problems. Other options suggest less frequent checks, which do not align with best practices for vehicle maintenance. Checking fluid levels only once a month, during oil changes, or when the vehicle is not in use could allow small issues to escalate, potentially compromising safety on the road.

8. Which of the following is NOT a recommended check for the inner side wall of a tire?

- A. No cuts**
- B. Number of visible leaks**
- C. No bulges**
- D. No abrasions**

The reason the number of visible leaks is not a recommended check for the inner side wall of a tire is that tire inspections generally focus on the physical condition of the tire rather than the presence of air leaks on the inner side. When inspecting the inner side wall, the main concerns are related to its structural integrity and surface condition, which include checking for cuts, bulges, and abrasions—issues that can compromise the tire's performance and safety. In contrast, while leaks can be problematic, they are typically assessed through other means, such as checking the air pressure or visual inspection of the outer tire for signs of deflation. Thus, the focus is on ensuring there are no physical defects on the inner side wall itself that could lead to failure while driving.

9. Which part of the vehicle's exterior should be inspected for damage during a pre-trip?

- A. The windshield wipers**
- B. The tires only**
- C. The lights and reflective surfaces**
- D. The fender skirts**

During a pre-trip inspection, it's crucial to check the lights and reflective surfaces as they play a vital role in ensuring visibility and safety on the road. Functioning lights, including headlights, taillights, turn signals, and markers, are necessary for signaling intentions to other drivers and for being visible in low-light conditions. Reflective surfaces also enhance visibility, particularly at night or in adverse weather. By inspecting these components, drivers can identify any issues, such as burned-out bulbs or damaged lenses, before hitting the road. This proactive approach helps prevent accidents, promotes safe driving practices, and ensures compliance with regulations that require operational lighting and visibility features on commercial vehicles. While inspecting the windshield wipers, tires, and fender skirts is also important for a comprehensive pre-trip inspection, the lights and reflective surfaces are particularly critical for safety and legal compliance.

10. What should be checked regarding the stickers on the windshield?

- A. All stickers are required**
- B. No illegal stickers are present**
- C. Stickers must be colorful**
- D. Stickers must show the vehicle's registration**

The correct focus is on ensuring that no illegal stickers are present on the windshield. This is important for compliance with relevant regulations and safety standards. Illegal stickers might include those that obscure the driver's view, contain offensive materials, or are not authorized by local laws. Ensuring that the stickers on the windshield adhere to regulations contributes to both the legality and safety of operating the vehicle, thereby preventing any potential citations or safety hazards while driving. Other options might address various aspects of sticker requirements or aesthetic preferences, but they do not directly relate to the crucial aspect of safety and compliance that selecting the absence of illegal stickers represents.

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://cdlclassbpretripinspection.examzify.com>

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

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