

CDL CLASS B PRE TRIP INSPECTION PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



Prepare with structure. Pass with confidence



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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. Which of the following is NOT a requirement for the driveshaft during a pre-trip inspection?**
 - A. Must be securely mounted
 - B. Must be painted
 - C. Must not be broken
 - D. Must not be bent

- 2. Where can you find the vehicle's tire pressure specifications?**
 - A. On the dashboard displays
 - B. On the engine cover
 - C. On the door jamb plate or within the vehicle's owner's manual
 - D. Only in maintenance logs

- 3. What is the role of the governor in an air brake system?**
 - A. To control the air pressure levels within the system
 - B. To regulate the speed of the vehicle
 - C. To activate the brake lights
 - D. To maintain tire pressure

- 4. How can you identify a fuel leak?**
 - A. By checking coolant levels regularly
 - B. By looking for signs of fuel pooling on the ground or the smell of gasoline
 - C. By inspecting the air filter
 - D. By monitoring the oil levels

- 5. When should you report deficiencies found during the inspection?**
 - A. At the end of the week
 - B. Immediately, before operating the vehicle
 - C. After a long trip
 - D. Only if they seem serious

- 6. Which of the following is NOT an acceptable condition for a windshield during a pre-trip inspection?**
- A. Not cracked
 - B. Not broken
 - C. Securely mounted
 - D. Bent
- 7. What is a key requirement for the lower drag link?**
- A. It must be flexible
 - B. It should be not bent
 - C. It can be cracked
 - D. It should be loose
- 8. What is the main purpose of a pre-trip inspection?**
- A. To ensure the vehicle looks good
 - B. To identify issues that could affect safety during operation
 - C. To assess the fuel efficiency of the vehicle
 - D. To comply with legal requirements
- 9. What should the coolant reservoir level indicate?**
- A. It should be empty for easy filling
 - B. It should be at or above the minimum level indicated on the reservoir
 - C. It should reach the maximum level at all times
 - D. It should fluctuate based on engine temperature
- 10. What should be done if a tire is found to be under-inflated during a pre-trip inspection?**
- A. Ignore it, as it will self-correct once on the road
 - B. Measure it again after driving for a short distance
 - C. Inflate it to the proper pressure before proceeding
 - D. Only check it after the trip is completed

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which of the following is NOT a requirement for the driveshaft during a pre-trip inspection?

- A. Must be securely mounted
- B. Must be painted**
- C. Must not be broken
- D. Must not be bent

The driveshaft's primary function is to transfer power from the engine to the wheels, and during a pre-trip inspection, several key criteria are assessed to ensure its proper functioning and safety. The requirement for a driveshaft to be securely mounted, not broken, and not bent are critical to maintaining the vehicle's operational integrity and performance. A securely mounted driveshaft ensures that it remains fixed in the correct position during vehicle operation, which is essential for preventing potential operational failures and ensuring a safe driving experience. Additionally, a driveshaft that is not broken or bent is crucial; any damage in these forms can lead to severe mechanical issues, including vibrations or even complete failure while driving, which can compromise vehicle control. While the appearance of a driveshaft can be important in some contexts, such as for aesthetics or corrosion prevention, the requirement that a driveshaft must be painted is not essential for its functional reliability. The safety and capability of the driveshaft depend more on its structural integrity and secure mounting rather than its color or paint condition. Thus, painting is not a requirement for the driveshaft during a pre-trip inspection, distinguishing it from the other critical safety-related checks.

2. Where can you find the vehicle's tire pressure specifications?

- A. On the dashboard displays
- B. On the engine cover
- C. On the door jamb plate or within the vehicle's owner's manual**
- D. Only in maintenance logs

The vehicle's tire pressure specifications can be found on the door jamb plate or within the vehicle's owner's manual. The door jamb plate, often located on the driver's side door frame, provides essential information including the recommended tire pressures for both front and rear tires. This information is crucial for maintaining proper vehicle handling, safety, and fuel efficiency. In addition, the owner's manual contains detailed specifications, including tire pressure recommendations, alongside other important information and guidelines for the vehicle's maintenance. Proper tire pressure is key in preventing blowouts and promoting optimal tire wear, making it critical for drivers to refer to these resources for accurate information. While it may seem logical that tire pressure specifications could appear on the dashboard displays, the dashboard is generally reserved for indicators and alerts rather than providing safety specifications. Similarly, the engine cover does not typically contain tire information, as it is focused on engine-related specifics. Maintenance logs document servicing and repairs but do not usually include the recommended tire pressure at a glance, which is why they are not a reliable resource for this information.

3. What is the role of the governor in an air brake system?

A. To control the air pressure levels within the system

B. To regulate the speed of the vehicle

C. To activate the brake lights

D. To maintain tire pressure

The role of the governor in an air brake system is to control the air pressure levels within the system. It is a critical component that manages the pressure of the compressed air used for braking. When the air pressure in the storage tanks exceeds a specified limit, the governor will activate a signal to stop the air compressor from delivering more air, which helps prevent over-pressurization. Conversely, when the air pressure drops below a certain level, the governor will signal the compressor to start supplying air again, ensuring that the braking system has the necessary pressure to operate effectively. This periodic cycling of pressure helps maintain optimum braking performance and ensures safety while driving. Understanding the function of the governor is essential for properly assessing the overall functionality of the air brake system during a pre-trip inspection.

4. How can you identify a fuel leak?

A. By checking coolant levels regularly

B. By looking for signs of fuel pooling on the ground or the smell of gasoline

C. By inspecting the air filter

D. By monitoring the oil levels

Identifying a fuel leak is primarily done by looking for signs of fuel pooling on the ground or detecting the smell of gasoline. When a fuel leak occurs, gasoline may escape from the fuel system and collect on the ground beneath the vehicle. This pooling can be visually observed during a pre-trip inspection, especially if the vehicle has been parked in the same spot for a while. Additionally, the strong odor of gasoline can indicate a leak, even if there are no visible pools. These signs are critical for ensuring safety and preventing fire hazards. The other options, while important for vehicle maintenance, do not directly relate to identifying fuel leaks. Checking coolant levels, for instance, is vital for engine overheating issues but does not provide information about fuel integrity. Inspecting the air filter focuses on the engine's air intake system and does not help detect fuel issues. Monitoring oil levels is essential for engine lubrication and performance but is unrelated to fuel leakage. Thus, option B is the most relevant choice for identifying a fuel leak effectively.

5. When should you report deficiencies found during the inspection?

A. At the end of the week

B. Immediately, before operating the vehicle

C. After a long trip

D. Only if they seem serious

Reporting deficiencies found during the inspection immediately, before operating the vehicle, is essential for safety and compliance. This practice ensures that any issues that could affect the vehicle's operation are addressed right away, minimizing the risk of accidents or breakdowns on the road. By promptly reporting deficiencies, drivers can ensure that the necessary repairs are made, and the vehicle is in a safe condition to operate. Delaying the report until the end of the week or after a long trip could lead to dangerous situations if the deficiencies pose a hazard. Moreover, only reporting issues that seem serious undermines the importance of thorough inspections, as even minor deficiencies can contribute to larger problems if ignored. Thus, taking immediate action upon discovering any deficiencies upholds both safety regulations and operational efficiency.

6. Which of the following is NOT an acceptable condition for a windshield during a pre-trip inspection?

- A. Not cracked
- B. Not broken
- C. Securely mounted
- D. Bent**

The answer is "D" because a windshield that is bent does not meet the acceptable condition required for safe operation of a vehicle during a pre-trip inspection. A bent windshield can compromise the integrity of the glass and could affect the driver's visibility, increasing the risk of accidents. During a pre-trip inspection, the windshield must be inspected to ensure it is not only free from cracks and breaks but also properly shaped and securely mounted to maintain structural integrity and visibility. In contrast, the other choices highlight positive conditions necessary for a windshield to be considered safe. A windshield that is not cracked or broken is essential to ensure that there are no obstructions in the driver's line of sight. Additionally, a securely mounted windshield is crucial to prevent it from coming loose while driving, which could be dangerous. Therefore, "D" is the correct choice as it indicates a condition that is unacceptable during the inspection.

7. What is a key requirement for the lower drag link?

- A. It must be flexible
- B. It should be not bent**
- C. It can be cracked
- D. It should be loose

A key requirement for the lower drag link is that it should not be bent. This component plays a critical role in steering and suspension systems, connecting the steering gear to the wheel and allowing for precise control of the vehicle's direction. If the drag link is bent, it can adversely affect the vehicle's handling, lead to uneven tire wear, and potentially cause safety issues while driving. Maintaining a straight and undamaged drag link ensures that the steering response remains accurate and that the vehicle handles predictably. A straight drag link also helps in maintaining proper alignment of the front wheels. This contributes to the overall safety and performance of the vehicle, making regular inspections crucial for identifying any potential bending or deformation.

8. What is the main purpose of a pre-trip inspection?

- A. To ensure the vehicle looks good
- B. To identify issues that could affect safety during operation**
- C. To assess the fuel efficiency of the vehicle
- D. To comply with legal requirements

The main purpose of a pre-trip inspection is to identify issues that could affect safety during operation. This crucial step before driving a commercial vehicle helps ensure that all essential components are in proper working order, thereby preventing potential accidents or breakdowns. During the inspection, the driver checks various aspects such as brakes, lights, tires, and fluid levels, all of which play a vital role in the vehicle's safe operation. By spotting any issues early, a driver can address them proactively, contributing to both their safety and the safety of others on the road. While factors like appearance, fuel efficiency, and legal compliance are also important considerations, the primary focus is on safety. The inspection serves as a fundamental practice for maintaining the overall integrity and reliability of the vehicle, which is essential for safe transportation.

9. What should the coolant reservoir level indicate?

- A. It should be empty for easy filling
- B. It should be at or above the minimum level indicated on the reservoir**
- C. It should reach the maximum level at all times
- D. It should fluctuate based on engine temperature

The correct answer indicates that the coolant reservoir level should be at or above the minimum level marked on the reservoir. This is essential for the proper functioning of the cooling system in a vehicle. Maintaining the coolant within this recommended range ensures that the engine operates at optimal temperatures, preventing overheating and potential engine damage. The coolant reservoir works in conjunction with the radiator to regulate engine temperature by circulating coolant. When the engine heats up, the coolant expands, and some of it may flow into the reservoir. If the coolant level falls below the minimum indication, it may lead to insufficient coolant in the system, which can cause the engine to overheat. Therefore, ensuring that the coolant level is at or above the minimum level is crucial for vehicle safety and performance. Having the reservoir empty for easy filling can lead to immediately operational issues since the system may not be effectively cooled. A requirement for the coolant to be at maximum at all times is not practical, as coolant expands, and this could lead to overflow or pressure issues. Fluctuation of coolant levels based on engine temperature is natural; however, it is vital to monitor that it stays above the minimum level during all operating conditions to prevent overheating.

10. What should be done if a tire is found to be under-inflated during a pre-trip inspection?

- A. Ignore it, as it will self-correct once on the road
- B. Measure it again after driving for a short distance
- C. Inflate it to the proper pressure before proceeding**
- D. Only check it after the trip is completed

If a tire is found to be under-inflated during a pre-trip inspection, it is essential to inflate it to the proper pressure before proceeding. Proper tire inflation is critical for vehicle safety, handling, and fuel efficiency. Under-inflated tires can lead to poor traction, increased tire wear, and the risk of a blowout, which poses a serious hazard on the road. Before taking a commercial vehicle out, ensuring that all tires are inflated to the manufacturer-recommended pressure is a fundamental safety measure. It helps maintain uniform tire wear and optimal contact with the road, contributing to safer driving conditions and better performance. The other options do not address the immediate need to rectify the situation; ignoring the issue, measuring pressure after driving, or only checking after the trip does not mitigate the risks associated with driving on under-inflated tires. Taking preventive action is critical for the safety of the driver, passengers, and other road users.

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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