

CDL GENERAL KNOWLEDGE PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

**VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

<https://cdlgeneralknowledge.examzify.com>



Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	15

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

- 1. Which of these statements is true about bad weather driving conditions?**
 - A. Bridges will freeze before roadways when the temperature drops
 - B. Rain does not affect stopping distance
 - C. Snow is less slippery than ice
 - D. Wet roads are safer than dry roads
- 2. What is a recommended strategy to avoid a crash while steering?**
 - A. Make sharp turns when necessary
 - B. Turn the steering wheel as much as possible
 - C. Do not turn more than needed to clear obstacles
 - D. Accelerate through the turn
- 3. Which of the following statements about drinking alcohol is correct?**
 - A. Alcohol improves reaction time
 - B. Only heavy drinkers are at risk
 - C. Alcohol first affects judgment and self-control
 - D. Alcohol has no impact on driving ability until high levels
- 4. Which is a proper technique when going down a steep hill?**
 - A. Coast in neutral
 - B. Maintain steady speed
 - C. Use the brakes constantly
 - D. Shift to a higher gear
- 5. How can you avoid wet brake problems?**
 - A. Accelerate quickly to dry them
 - B. Slow down, shift to a low gear, gently put on the brakes
 - C. Drive with brakes engaged constantly
 - D. Immediately pull over to let them dry
- 6. How long does it take a typical tractor trailer to clear a double track?**
 - A. Less than 10 seconds
 - B. 14 seconds
 - C. More than 15 seconds
 - D. 20 seconds

7. Which statement about speed management is accurate?

- A. You should always drive as fast as possible
- B. You should choose a speed that lets you stop within the distance that you can see ahead
- C. The faster you go, the shorter the stopping distance
- D. Speed limits are optional based on conditions

8. Short-term or daily rental truck drivers often pose a hazard because:

- A. They have more driving experience
- B. They are usually aware of their vehicle size
- C. They are not used to the limited vision
- D. They tend to drive slower than regular drivers

9. During a pre-trip inspection, what should you ensure about the airlines and electrical wiring?

- A. They are clean and dry.
- B. They are secured against snagging, rubbing or wearing.
- C. They can be easily replaced if damaged.
- D. They are not checked regularly.

10. What is a "pull-up" in driving terms?

- A. Accelerating quickly
- B. Pulling forward while backing to reposition a trailer
- C. A sudden stop
- D. Changing lanes without signaling

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. Which of these statements is true about bad weather driving conditions?

- A. Bridges will freeze before roadways when the temperature drops
- B. Rain does not affect stopping distance
- C. Snow is less slippery than ice
- D. Wet roads are safer than dry roads

Bridges will freeze before roadways when the temperature drops because bridges are exposed to the air on both sides and can lose heat more rapidly than roads, which are typically insulated by the ground underneath. This makes bridges particularly vulnerable to icy conditions, even when the surrounding temperatures may not be low enough to freeze other surfaces like asphalt roads. In contrast, rain does affect stopping distance because wet road surfaces provide less traction, resulting in longer stopping distances. Snow is not less slippery than ice; in fact, ice is often more slippery as it provides less friction. Lastly, wet roads are generally considered less safe than dry roads since the presence of water reduces tire traction, increasing the risk of skidding. Therefore, the first statement accurately reflects the behavior of bridge surfaces in relation to weather conditions.

2. What is a recommended strategy to avoid a crash while steering?

- A. Make sharp turns when necessary
- B. Turn the steering wheel as much as possible
- C. Do not turn more than needed to clear obstacles
- D. Accelerate through the turn

The recommended strategy to avoid a crash while steering is to not turn more than needed to clear obstacles. This approach emphasizes the importance of maintaining control of the vehicle by making smooth, measured turns rather than oversteering. When drivers turn too sharply or excessively, they risk losing control, which can lead to skidding or crashing. By only turning as much as necessary to navigate around an obstacle, drivers can keep their vehicle stable and more predictable, reducing the chances of a collision. Additionally, proper steering techniques contribute to safer driving overall, especially in emergency situations where quick reactions are essential.

3. Which of the following statements about drinking alcohol is correct?

- A. Alcohol improves reaction time
- B. Only heavy drinkers are at risk
- C. Alcohol first affects judgment and self-control
- D. Alcohol has no impact on driving ability until high levels

The statement that alcohol first affects judgment and self-control is accurate because alcohol acts as a depressant on the central nervous system, which can impair cognitive functions. This impairment affects a person's ability to make sound decisions, assess risks accurately, and control their impulses. When someone consumes alcohol, even in moderate amounts, their ability to judge distances, speeds, and the actions of other drivers can become compromised. This is particularly dangerous when driving, as it can lead to poor decision-making and risky behavior behind the wheel. In contrast, other statements present misconceptions. Alcohol does not improve reaction time; it typically slows down responses. The notion that only heavy drinkers are at risk overlooks the fact that even moderate alcohol consumption can lead to impairment. Lastly, the claim that alcohol has no impact on driving ability until high levels is misleading, as any amount of alcohol can diminish driving performance. Hence, understanding the effects of alcohol on judgment and self-control is critical for safe driving practices.

4. Which is a proper technique when going down a steep hill?

- A. Coast in neutral
- B. Maintain steady speed**
- C. Use the brakes constantly
- D. Shift to a higher gear

Maintaining a steady speed while going down a steep hill is crucial for safe driving, especially in large vehicles that require careful handling due to their weight. When you maintain a steady speed, you control the vehicle's momentum and minimize the risk of losing control. This technique helps in avoiding the overheating of brakes, which can occur if they are applied constantly, and it reduces wear and tear on brake components. By using engine braking, which often involves downshifting to a lower gear when going downhill, you can effectively manage your speed without relying excessively on the brakes. This method takes advantage of the engine's power to slow down the vehicle, providing a safer descent while being more efficient for the truck. Coasting in neutral is dangerous because it reduces your control over the vehicle. Using the brakes constantly can lead to brake failure due to overheating. Shifting to a higher gear when heading downhill can also lead to increased speed and loss of control. Thus, maintaining a steady speed, utilizing the proper gear for engine braking, is the best and safest technique when descending steep hills.

5. How can you avoid wet brake problems?

- A. Accelerate quickly to dry them
- B. Slow down, shift to a low gear, gently put on the brakes**
- C. Drive with brakes engaged constantly
- D. Immediately pull over to let them dry

To avoid wet brake problems effectively, it is important to slow down, shift to a low gear, and gently apply the brakes. This method allows for controlled deceleration, which helps to reduce the chances of the brakes getting too hot too quickly, potentially leading to brake failure. By shifting to a lower gear, you utilize engine braking, which decreases reliance on the brake system itself, minimizing the heat generated from frequent braking. Gently applying the brakes helps wipe off water from the brake shoes and drums or pads, without creating excessive friction that can lead to wear or overheating. This technique facilitates a gradual drying of the brakes rather than risking a sudden application that could create a dangerous situation if traction is lost. Other options do not address the issue as effectively: accelerating quickly could lead to increased wear and diminished control, driving with the brakes engaged constantly would create excessive heat and wear down the braking system, while pulling over might not be practical or safe, especially in high-traffic situations. Therefore, slowing down, shifting gears, and braking gently is the most effective and safe way to manage wet brake issues.

6. How long does it take a typical tractor trailer to clear a double track?

- A. Less than 10 seconds
- B. 14 seconds
- C. More than 15 seconds**
- D. 20 seconds

When considering how long a typical tractor-trailer takes to clear a double track, it's important to account for the length of the vehicle and the speed at which it travels. A double-track railway crossing typically requires a vehicle to safely clear both tracks to avoid any potential hazards, such as an oncoming train. The time taken can vary based on the speed of the tractor-trailer but generally ranges from 15 to 20 seconds. This estimate allows for safe clearance of both tracks and ensures that the vehicle has completely crossed before any trains may approach. Clearances are influenced by factors such as visibility, reaction time, vehicle length, and the specific characteristics of the crossing itself. The chosen time frame of more than 15 seconds is valid because it reflects the need for caution and safety when navigating potential railway crossings, particularly in an environment where large vehicles operate. Therefore, in the context of ensuring safety around railway crossings, the correct choice indicates an understanding of the necessary precautions and spatial requirements associated with larger vehicles in transit.

7. Which statement about speed management is accurate?

- A. You should always drive as fast as possible
- B. You should choose a speed that lets you stop within the distance that you can see ahead**
- C. The faster you go, the shorter the stopping distance
- D. Speed limits are optional based on conditions

Choosing a speed that allows you to stop within the distance you can see ahead is a critical part of safe driving. This principle understands that visibility and distance directly impact your ability to react to sudden changes or obstacles on the road. For instance, if you are driving at a speed that is too fast for the conditions or the visibility ahead, you may not have enough time to stop if a hazard suddenly appears, which can lead to accidents. Speed management is not just about adhering to speed limits but also about adjusting your speed to the conditions of the road, weather, visibility, and traffic. By ensuring that your speed is aligned with these factors, you improve your chances of maintaining control over your vehicle and reacting appropriately to prevent collisions. The other statements do not support safe driving practices. Driving as fast as possible can be dangerous and ignores road conditions, while the idea that faster speeds shorten stopping distances is misleading and contrary to the principle of safe stopping. Lastly, speed limits should be adhered to rather than treated as optional, even though conditions may vary; they are put in place to ensure safety for all road users.

8. Short-term or daily rental truck drivers often pose a hazard because:

- A. They have more driving experience
- B. They are usually aware of their vehicle size
- C. They are not used to the limited vision**
- D. They tend to drive slower than regular drivers

Drivers of short-term or daily rental trucks often pose a hazard primarily because they are not accustomed to the limited visibility associated with larger vehicles. For drivers who typically operate smaller vehicles, transitioning to a truck can present significant challenges due to its size and dimensions. This unfamiliarity can lead to difficulty in judging distances, assessing blind spots, and navigating turns, particularly in urban areas or tight spaces. Since these drivers may lack the experience with the characteristics and handling of a larger vehicle, they might not be as vigilant about their surroundings, thereby increasing the risk of accidents. The other factors mentioned in the choices do not directly relate to the specific challenges faced by rental truck drivers, such as driving experience or awareness of vehicle size.

9. During a pre-trip inspection, what should you ensure about the airlines and electrical wiring?

- A. They are clean and dry.
- B. They are secured against snagging, rubbing or wearing.**
- C. They can be easily replaced if damaged.
- D. They are not checked regularly.

The correct answer emphasizes the importance of securing the airlines and electrical wiring to prevent potential hazards while the vehicle is in operation. Ensuring that these components are secured against snagging, rubbing, or wearing helps to maintain their integrity and function. When airlines or electrical wiring are not properly secured, they may become damaged due to friction or entanglement with other components of the vehicle. This can lead to malfunctions, including air leaks or electrical failures, which pose safety risks while driving. In the context of a pre-trip inspection, a thorough check aids in identifying any potential issues before hitting the road, thereby enhancing vehicle safety. Properly secured airlines and wiring contribute to the reliability of critical systems such as brakes and lights, which are essential for safe driving.

10. What is a "pull-up" in driving terms?

- A. Accelerating quickly
- B. Pulling forward while backing to reposition a trailer**
- C. A sudden stop
- D. Changing lanes without signaling

A "pull-up" refers to the maneuver where a driver pulls forward while backing to reposition a trailer. This technique is commonly used when a driver needs to adjust their trailer's alignment, particularly in tight spaces or challenging angles during backing maneuvers. When a driver finds that they are not properly aligned, executing a pull-up allows them to reposition their vehicle, providing a better angle for backing up again. This process is an essential aspect of safe and effective driving, especially for commercial drivers who frequently handle trailers. Using this technique can help avoid obstacles, minimize the risk of collisions, and ensure that the trailer is properly aligned for the next phase of backing. Recognizing when to do a pull-up is crucial for maintaining control and safety while handling larger vehicles. The other options do not relate to the specific description of a "pull-up" and involve different aspects of driving and vehicle operation.

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://cdlgeneralknowledge.examzify.com>

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

SAMPLE