

CDL VEHICLE COMBINATION PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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

<https://cdl-vehiclecombination.examzify.com>



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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 should you do if your vehicle combination experiences a tire blowout?**
 - A. Accelerate to regain control
 - B. Stay calm, maintain control, and gradually slow down
 - C. Immediately pull over
 - D. Shift into neutral
- 2. What should be checked for hazards before beginning to couple?**
 - A. Your path
 - B. The weather conditions
 - C. The trailer load
 - D. The braking system
- 3. Why is it important to check the trailer load before departure?**
 - A. To ensure proper weight distribution
 - B. To make loading easier in the future
 - C. To meet aesthetic standards
 - D. To increase fuel efficiency
- 4. What is the purpose of locking tractor glad hands to each other when not in use?**
 - A. To keep the glad hands warm
 - B. To keep dirt and water out of the air lines
 - C. To prevent the glad hands from breaking
 - D. To ensure they are easy to find
- 5. What is the ideal amount of space between the upper and lower fifth wheel after coupling?**
 - A. One inch
 - B. Two inches
 - C. None
 - D. Five inches

- 6. What does it indicate if the fifth wheel locking lever is not locked after the jaws close around the kingpin?**
- A. The coupling is secure
 - B. The coupling is not right and needs adjustment
 - C. The trailer is too heavy
 - D. The trailer is aligned correctly
- 7. To prevent a rollover, what is one of the recommended driver methods?**
- A. Keep cargo as high as possible
 - B. Go quickly around turns
 - C. Keep the cargo close to the ground
 - D. Brake hard before entering a turn
- 8. What should be done if the trailer breaks away from the tractor?**
- A. Immediately stop driving
 - B. Engage the trailer's emergency brakes to prevent rolling
 - C. Call for roadside assistance
 - D. Reattach the trailer as quickly as possible
- 9. What is the risk of not adjusting load distribution properly in a trailer?**
- A. Increased fuel consumption
 - B. Difficulty in steering
 - C. Potential for rollovers
 - D. Longer stopping distances
- 10. Why is it critical for combination vehicle drivers to manage blind spots?**
- A. To improve fuel efficiency
 - B. To avoid accidents with visible vehicles only
 - C. To enhance the speed of travel
 - D. To avoid collisions with vehicles or pedestrians that are not visible

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What should you do if your vehicle combination experiences a tire blowout?

- A. Accelerate to regain control
- B. Stay calm, maintain control, and gradually slow down**
- C. Immediately pull over
- D. Shift into neutral

When a tire blowout occurs in a vehicle combination, it's critical to maintain control of the vehicle to ensure safety for yourself and others on the road. The proper response involves staying calm, which allows you to think clearly and take the right action. Gradually slowing down is essential because sudden actions, such as hard braking or swerving, can lead to loss of control and potentially cause an accident. Maintaining control while reducing speed helps you steer the vehicle safely to the side of the road without abrupt movements that can destabilize the combination. It's important to avoid accelerating in response to the blowout, as this could exacerbate the situation and lead to more dangerous outcomes. Instead, a measured approach ensures you can bring the vehicle to a stop safely and respond appropriately once stopped. Shifting into neutral or immediately pulling over can also have their risks in an emergency situation, particularly if they cause an abrupt change in speed or momentum that can be hard to manage while dealing with a blowout. Hence, the recommended approach focuses on maintaining control and practicing gradual deceleration.

2. What should be checked for hazards before beginning to couple?

- A. Your path**
- B. The weather conditions
- C. The trailer load
- D. The braking system

Before beginning to couple, checking your path for hazards is crucial because it directly ensures safety during the maneuver. Hazards could include obstacles, uneven surfaces, other vehicles, pedestrians, or anything else that could impede the coupling process or pose a risk during movement. Ensuring a clear path allows the driver to maneuver safely and effectively, reducing the likelihood of accidents or damage. While the other options, such as weather conditions, trailer load, and braking system, are important checks to consider as part of overall vehicle safety, they are less directly related to the immediate action of coupling. Weather conditions can affect visibility or traction, the trailer load impacts the vehicle's handling and stability, and the braking system is vital for stopping and control. However, none of these factors are as directly tied to the clear area needed to couple effectively as ensuring that your path is free of hazards.

3. Why is it important to check the trailer load before departure?

- A. To ensure proper weight distribution**
- B. To make loading easier in the future
- C. To meet aesthetic standards
- D. To increase fuel efficiency

It is crucial to check the trailer load before departure to ensure proper weight distribution. This aspect is vital for several reasons related to vehicle safety and performance. Proper weight distribution affects the stability of the vehicle, ensuring that the load is evenly distributed across the axles. This helps prevent excessive wear on tires, improves handling and braking, and reduces the risk of tipping over or losing control, especially during turns or in adverse weather conditions. Additionally, correct weight distribution ensures compliance with legal weight limits, which helps avoid fines and penalties. While the other options mention loading ease, aesthetic standards, and fuel efficiency, they are not as critical as maintaining proper weight distribution for safety and operational effectiveness. Addressing weight concerns mitigates the risk of accidents and enhances the overall efficiency of transporting goods.

4. What is the purpose of locking tractor glad hands to each other when not in use?

- A. To keep the glad hands warm
- B. To keep dirt and water out of the air lines**
- C. To prevent the glad hands from breaking
- D. To ensure they are easy to find

Locking tractor glad hands to each other when not in use primarily serves to keep dirt and water out of the air lines. This is crucial because the glad hands are responsible for connecting the air supply between the tractor and the trailer. Any contamination or moisture in the air lines can lead to malfunctioning brakes or other pneumatic systems, which can compromise safety on the road. By securing them together, you effectively block any environmental contaminants from entering, thus maintaining the integrity and functionality of the air system. While other options discuss potential benefits like warmth or accessibility, the key purpose is the prevention of foreign materials entering the air lines, which is fundamental for ensuring reliable operation and safety.

5. What is the ideal amount of space between the upper and lower fifth wheel after coupling?

- A. One inch
- B. Two inches
- C. None**
- D. Five inches

The correct answer is that there should be none, meaning that there should be no space between the upper and lower fifth wheel after they are coupled. When properly coupled, the fifth wheel should make solid contact to ensure a secure connection between the tractor and the trailer. Any gap can indicate a potentially unsafe coupling, which risks instability during towing and could lead to separation of the trailer from the tractor while in motion. Maintaining a secure connection is crucial for the safe operation of a combination vehicle. A properly coupled fifth wheel helps in distributing the weight of the trailer evenly, minimizing the risk of accidents due to trailer sway or disconnecting while driving. Therefore, having no space signifies an optimal and safe coupling, as it indicates that the locking mechanism is engaged correctly, and the two components are securely fastened together.

6. What does it indicate if the fifth wheel locking lever is not locked after the jaws close around the kingpin?

- A. The coupling is secure
- B. The coupling is not right and needs adjustment**
- C. The trailer is too heavy
- D. The trailer is aligned correctly

When the fifth wheel locking lever is not locked after the jaws have closed around the kingpin, it indicates that the connection between the tractor and the trailer is not secure. This condition suggests that the locking mechanism is either malfunctioning or not properly engaged. The fifth wheel is designed to provide a secure connection, and if the locking lever remains unlocked, it means there is a risk of disconnection while the vehicle is in motion, which could lead to serious accidents. A proper coupling involves the jaws effectively gripping the kingpin and the locking lever being fully engaged and in the locked position, ensuring that the trailer remains attached to the vehicle during transport. Therefore, if the locking lever is not secure, it is important to adjust the coupling to ensure it is functioning correctly. This adjustment may involve repositioning the trailer or checking for any issues with the fifth wheel itself to guarantee a safe transport condition. Ensuring that the coupling is right before moving is essential for the safety of both the driver and other road users.

7. To prevent a rollover, what is one of the recommended driver methods?

- A. Keep cargo as high as possible
- B. Go quickly around turns
- C. Keep the cargo close to the ground**
- D. Brake hard before entering a turn

Keeping the cargo close to the ground is a vital method to prevent rollovers in vehicle combinations. When the center of gravity of a truck and trailer is low, the vehicle becomes more stable, which is crucial during turns or maneuvers. A high center of gravity can easily lead to a loss of control and increase the risk of a rollover, especially if the load shifts during transit or if the vehicle encounters uneven road surfaces. Properly securing cargo and distributing weight evenly can significantly reduce the chances of tipping over. The other methods mentioned either contribute to instability or do not address the specific dynamics involved in maintaining balance, making them less effective in preventing rollovers.

8. What should be done if the trailer breaks away from the tractor?

- A. Immediately stop driving
- B. Engage the trailer's emergency brakes to prevent rolling**
- C. Call for roadside assistance
- D. Reattach the trailer as quickly as possible

When a trailer breaks away from the tractor, engaging the trailer's emergency brakes is a critical step to prevent the trailer from rolling uncontrollably. This is particularly important because a runaway trailer can cause significant hazards to other road users and can lead to accidents. The emergency brakes are designed to activate automatically when the trailer separates from the tractor, which helps to secure the trailer and minimize potential damage or injury. While stopping the vehicle and calling for assistance may seem like appropriate responses, they do not address the immediate danger posed by the unbraked trailer. It is essential to take action that ensures safety first, and engaging the emergency brakes does exactly that by stabilizing the trailer in its current position.

9. What is the risk of not adjusting load distribution properly in a trailer?

- A. Increased fuel consumption
- B. Difficulty in steering
- C. Potential for rollovers**
- D. Longer stopping distances

Not adjusting load distribution properly in a trailer can significantly increase the potential for rollovers. When the weight in a trailer is not evenly distributed, it can lead to an unstable center of gravity. This instability becomes more pronounced during turns or abrupt maneuvers, making the trailer more likely to tip over. In such situations, the higher or unevenly distributed weight can cause one side of the trailer to lift off the ground, leading to a loss of control and increasing the risk of a rollover accident. Understanding load distribution is crucial for safe trailer operation. Maintaining an appropriate balance helps ensure that the vehicle handles predictably and reduces the chances of sudden shifts that can destabilize the trailer. While other issues such as increased fuel consumption, difficulty in steering, or longer stopping distances may arise from improper load distribution, the immediate and severe consequence related to safety is the heightened risk of rollovers.

10. Why is it critical for combination vehicle drivers to manage blind spots?

- A. To improve fuel efficiency
- B. To avoid accidents with visible vehicles only
- C. To enhance the speed of travel
- D. To avoid collisions with vehicles or pedestrians that are not visible**

Managing blind spots is crucial for combination vehicle drivers primarily because it helps avoid collisions with vehicles or pedestrians that are not visible. Combination vehicles, which often include large trucks and trailers, have significant blind spots due to their size and design. These blind spots can obscure smaller vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists from the driver's view, increasing the risk of accidents. Being aware of and actively managing these blind spots allows drivers to make safer maneuvers, ensuring they check for obstacles before changing lanes or making turns. This awareness is vital in preventing serious accidents that could result from collisions with other road users who may be positioned in areas not visible to the driver. The importance of managing blind spots goes beyond just avoiding visible vehicles; it encompasses the overall safety of everyone on the road. Therefore, consistently checking blind spots before maneuvering can significantly reduce the likelihood of accidents and enhance road safety for all.

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://cdl-vehiclecombination.examzify.com>

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

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