

Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) Bus 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

- 1. In what case can a bus driver refuse to let someone board?**
 - A. If the bus is too full**
 - B. If the passenger is behaving inappropriately or poses a safety risk**
 - C. If the passenger does not have the exact fare**
 - D. If the passenger is not at the designated stop**
- 2. How should a driver react to slow-moving vehicles when preparing to change lanes?**
 - A. Accelerate quickly around them**
 - B. Signal and lane change immediately**
 - C. Wait until a clear opportunity arises**
 - D. Honk to alert them**
- 3. What is one of the factors that can cause skidding?**
 - A. Fuel type**
 - B. Weather**
 - C. Driver age**
 - D. Bus size**
- 4. How many feet is considered a safe following distance when operating a bus on a dry street?**
 - A. 50 ft**
 - B. 60 ft**
 - C. 70 ft**
 - D. 80 ft**
- 5. What is the fare for reduced rates for students with an ID card during designated hours?**
 - A. \$1.00**
 - B. \$0.75**
 - C. \$1.25**
 - D. \$2.00**

- 6. Which part of the bus should be even with the front bumper of a parked car?**
- A. Rear overhang**
 - B. Front overhang**
 - C. Pivot point**
 - D. Center of the bus**
- 7. What is one of the two questions to ask about service animals?**
- A. Is the animal a pet?**
 - B. Is the animal required for a disability?**
 - C. Can the animal perform tricks?**
 - D. What breed is the animal?**
- 8. Which of the following is a free fare rider with specific requirements?**
- A. Teachers in their own municipality**
 - B. Firefighters in full uniform**
 - C. Community volunteers with an ID**
 - D. Bus drivers not on duty**
- 9. When severe weather impacts service, what is a typical CTA response?**
- A. Reduce the number of buses on the road**
 - B. Adjust service routes and schedules**
 - C. Inform passengers of expected delays**
 - D. Increase bus frequency in good weather**
- 10. How does the CTA facilitate bicycle transport on buses?**
- A. By allowing bicycles on board without restrictions**
 - B. By providing bicycle racks on the front of buses**
 - C. By offering bicycle rental services**
 - D. By requiring bicycles to be enclosed**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. In what case can a bus driver refuse to let someone board?

- A. If the bus is too full
- B. If the passenger is behaving inappropriately or poses a safety risk**
- C. If the passenger does not have the exact fare
- D. If the passenger is not at the designated stop

A bus driver can refuse to let someone board primarily if the passenger is behaving inappropriately or poses a safety risk. This is essential for maintaining the safety and comfort of all passengers on board. If a person exhibits disruptive behavior, poses a threat to the driver or other passengers, or is not following safety regulations, the driver has the authority to deny boarding to ensure the well-being of the majority. Safety is a priority in public transportation, and drivers are trained to assess situations that may compromise this safety. This includes recognizing signs of aggression, excessive intoxication, or any other behavior that could lead to a violent or unsafe environment. While there are also other scenarios where boarding might be refused, such as a bus being full or a passenger not having exact fare, those do not directly pertain to immediate safety concerns. Refusing based on behavior or safety risk is a key aspect of a bus driver's responsibility to ensure a secure transit experience for all passengers.

2. How should a driver react to slow-moving vehicles when preparing to change lanes?

- A. Accelerate quickly around them
- B. Signal and lane change immediately
- C. Wait until a clear opportunity arises**
- D. Honk to alert them

When preparing to change lanes, it is crucial for a driver to exercise patience and wait for a clear opportunity to do so. This ensures both the safety of the driver and the occupants of surrounding vehicles, especially when dealing with slow-moving traffic. By waiting for a clear opening, the driver can make a controlled and safe maneuver, reducing the risk of collisions or accidents. In addition, evaluating the traffic conditions allows the driver to assess the speed of nearby vehicles and make informed decisions. It promotes defensive driving behavior, which is essential in dense traffic environments where slow-moving vehicles might pose a challenge. Ultimately, maintaining a cautious approach and only changing lanes when it's safe contributes to both individual safety and the overall efficiency of road use.

3. What is one of the factors that can cause skidding?

- A. Fuel type**
- B. Weather**
- C. Driver age**
- D. Bus size**

Weather is a significant factor that can cause skidding because it directly affects the road conditions. Rain, snow, ice, or even fog can reduce traction between the bus tires and the roadway, making it easier for the vehicle to lose control. For instance, wet or icy surfaces can lead to decreased friction, causing the bus to skid when sudden maneuvers or braking actions are taken. Understanding this influence allows drivers to adjust their driving behavior, such as reducing speed and increasing following distances, to maintain control under adverse conditions. The other factors, while they may influence overall vehicle operation and safety, do not have the same direct and immediate impact on traction and control that weather conditions do. For example, fuel type affects engine performance but doesn't directly relate to skidding. Similarly, driver age and bus size can play roles in operational factors but are not primary considerations when discussing the immediate risk of skidding caused by loss of traction.

4. How many feet is considered a safe following distance when operating a bus on a dry street?

- A. 50 ft**
- B. 60 ft**
- C. 70 ft**
- D. 80 ft**

In the context of operating a bus on a dry street, a following distance of 60 feet is often considered safe to ensure that the driver has adequate time to react to the actions of the vehicle in front. This distance allows for proper reaction time in typical driving conditions, helping to prevent accidents and ensuring the safety of both passengers and pedestrians. Maintaining this following distance becomes even more critical given the larger size and weight of buses compared to standard vehicles, as they require more time and distance to come to a complete stop. The 60-foot recommendation reflects a balance between safety and practical driving scenarios, taking into account factors such as the bus's braking capability and the expected stopping distances in dry conditions. Other distances listed, while they may also be practical in various contexts, either do not provide the same level of safety for a bus in all situations or may not align with standard guidelines for heavy vehicles.

5. What is the fare for reduced rates for students with an ID card during designated hours?

- A. \$1.00
- B. \$0.75**
- C. \$1.25
- D. \$2.00

The fare for students with an ID card during designated hours is \$0.75. This reduced fare is part of the Chicago Transit Authority's initiative to provide affordable transportation options for students. The designated hours typically cover times when students are commuting to and from school, promoting accessibility and ease of travel for them. This pricing structure acknowledges the financial constraints that many students experience and underscores the importance of supporting public transportation use among younger populations. In contrast, the other fare options do not reflect the specific reduced rate established for students, which is aimed at making transit more affordable during strategic times.

6. Which part of the bus should be even with the front bumper of a parked car?

- A. Rear overhang
- B. Front overhang
- C. Pivot point**
- D. Center of the bus

The pivot point of the bus is the correct part that should align with the front bumper of a parked car when making a turn. The pivot point is generally located near the front of the bus, just behind the front axle, and is where the bus begins to turn. Proper alignment at this point is crucial for safely navigating turns and ensuring that the bus can clear obstacles, like parked cars, without the rear of the bus clipping the vehicle. When executing a turn, if the pivot point is aligned with the front of the parked car, the driver can better gauge the clearance between the bus's rear and the parked vehicle. This alignment helps in preventing accidents and maintaining a safe distance from other vehicles, a critical aspect of driving a large vehicle like a bus. The other parts of the bus, such as the rear overhang or center, do not provide the same perspective that the pivot point does regarding spatial awareness during turns.

7. What is one of the two questions to ask about service animals?

- A. Is the animal a pet?**
- B. Is the animal required for a disability?**
- C. Can the animal perform tricks?**
- D. What breed is the animal?**

Asking whether the animal is required for a disability is crucial because it directly addresses the legal and practical framework surrounding service animals. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines service animals as dogs specifically trained to perform tasks for individuals with disabilities. This question allows transit personnel to determine if the animal meets the criteria of a service animal, thus ensuring that individuals with disabilities can utilize necessary support while using public transit. In contrast, inquiries regarding whether the animal is a pet, its ability to perform tricks, or its breed do not pertain to the definition or role of a service animal in the context of the law. These questions can lead to misunderstandings about the purpose and rights of individuals relying on service animals, which is why focusing on the requirement of the animal for a disability is essential.

8. Which of the following is a free fare rider with specific requirements?

- A. Teachers in their own municipality**
- B. Firefighters in full uniform**
- C. Community volunteers with an ID**
- D. Bus drivers not on duty**

Firefighters in full uniform are considered free fare riders under specific requirements because they are recognized as individuals who may be responding to emergencies or providing public safety services. This policy is in place to facilitate their rapid response capabilities, reflecting the importance of their role in the community. The other options do not align with the established criteria for free fare. Teachers typically do not receive free fares unless there are specific agreements in place with the municipality, and while community volunteers may benefit from certain discounts, they often need to meet additional criteria or present documentation beyond just an identification card. Similarly, bus drivers who are not on duty are not included in this specific provision, as their fare status generally does not provide for free rides outside of work duties.

9. When severe weather impacts service, what is a typical CTA response?

- A. Reduce the number of buses on the road**
- B. Adjust service routes and schedules**
- C. Inform passengers of expected delays**
- D. Increase bus frequency in good weather**

The typical response of the CTA during severe weather is to adjust service routes and schedules. This is essential in order to ensure the safety of both passengers and operators. Severe weather conditions, such as heavy snowfall, flooding, or extreme winds, can disrupt normal operations and often require modifications to service to maintain safety and reliability. Adjusting routes may involve detouring around hazardous areas, while changes to schedules are implemented to manage reduced travel speeds and ensure that service remains consistent despite the weather challenges. This proactive approach helps in minimizing delays and providing a stable level of service even under adverse conditions, effectively focusing on passenger safety and operational efficiency. Other options, while they may be relevant under different circumstances, do not encompass the primary strategy used during severe weather. For example, reducing the number of buses on the road may lead to longer wait times and less service coverage, which is not aligned with the goal of maintaining service during such conditions. Similarly, although informing passengers of expected delays is important, it is often a consequence of the route and schedule adjustments rather than a fundamental response. Increasing bus frequency in good weather is unrelated to the challenges posed by severe weather and does not apply in this context.

10. How does the CTA facilitate bicycle transport on buses?

- A. By allowing bicycles on board without restrictions**
- B. By providing bicycle racks on the front of buses**
- C. By offering bicycle rental services**
- D. By requiring bicycles to be enclosed**

The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) supports bicycle transport on buses by equipping them with bicycle racks located on the front. This design allows cyclists to conveniently and safely transport their bicycles, enabling them to combine bus travel with cycling. The bicycle racks are typically designed to hold two bicycles and make it easy for riders to load and unload their bikes. This approach promotes the use of public transportation while encouraging sustainable commuting methods. It also accommodates a variety of cycling routes, allowing cyclists to travel greater distances without the need to pedal the entire way. By providing these racks, the CTA not only increases the accessibility of its services for cyclists but also helps to reduce congestion and the environmental impact of personal vehicle use.

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://ctabus.examzify.com>

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