

COMMERCIAL DRIVER LICENSE (CDL) CLASS B PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

<https://cdl-classb.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. How can you identify if your vehicle is equipped with antilock brakes?**
 - A. If it was manufactured on or after March 1, 1998
 - B. If it has a dual air brake system
 - C. If it has a visible antilock system indicator
 - D. If it is a combination vehicle only
- 2. What is the purpose of a hazardous materials placard?**
 - A. To identify the driver of the vehicle
 - B. To warn others of hazardous materials
 - C. To show the vehicle's registration
 - D. To indicate the weight limit of the vehicle
- 3. What is a consequence of carrying an overloaded vehicle?**
 - A. Improved gas mileage
 - B. Increased control
 - C. Reduced vehicle control
 - D. Better braking performance
- 4. What does "overloaded" mean in relation to commercial vehicles?**
 - A. Not enough weight for safety
 - B. Carrying more weight than rated capacity
 - C. Carrying exactly the rated capacity
 - D. Weights that are equally distributed
- 5. If driving a 30-foot vehicle at 55 MPH, how many seconds of following distance should be maintained?**
 - A. Three seconds
 - B. Four seconds
 - C. Five seconds
 - D. Six seconds
- 6. What is the primary purpose of downshifting?**
 - A. To activate the retarder
 - B. To save fuel
 - C. To control speed and improve braking
 - D. To increase engine power

- 7. What is the minimum number of tiedowns for any flatbed load?**
- A. One
 - B. Two
 - C. Three
 - D. Four
- 8. What is a supply pressure gauge used for?**
- A. It shows the temperature of the air in the tank
 - B. It indicates how much air pressure you have in your tank
 - C. It monitors fuel levels in the vehicle
 - D. It measures brake pad wear
- 9. What should a driver do to maintain control while using ABS brakes?**
- A. Apply the brakes hard
 - B. Steer smoothly while braking
 - C. Release the brake pedal completely
 - D. Brake only when necessary
- 10. What is required before a CDL driver can transport passengers?**
- A. A passenger endorsement must be obtained
 - B. Only a commercial driver's license is sufficient
 - C. A background check is mandatory
 - D. No additional requirements are needed

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. How can you identify if your vehicle is equipped with antilock brakes?

A. If it was manufactured on or after March 1, 1998

B. If it has a dual air brake system

C. If it has a visible antilock system indicator

D. If it is a combination vehicle only

The correct answer highlights that vehicles manufactured on or after March 1, 1998, are required by federal regulations to be equipped with antilock braking systems (ABS). This standard applies to commercial vehicles and is in place to improve safety by preventing wheel lockup during hard braking, thus maintaining better control. While other options may imply certain circumstances under which a vehicle could have antilock brakes, they do not provide the same definitive identification criterion as the production date does. For instance, a dual air brake system might be found on vehicles regardless of their ABS status, and a visible antilock system indicator would only confirm the presence of ABS but is not a robust guideline for determining if a vehicle was originally equipped with such systems. The mention of combination vehicles does not apply, as ABS requirements extend beyond just that category; hence, it's the manufacture date that serves as the most reliable indicator for confirming the presence of antilock brakes.

2. What is the purpose of a hazardous materials placard?

A. To identify the driver of the vehicle

B. To warn others of hazardous materials

C. To show the vehicle's registration

D. To indicate the weight limit of the vehicle

The purpose of a hazardous materials placard is to warn others of hazardous materials being transported in the vehicle. These placards are essential for safety because they convey vital information to emergency responders and others in proximity to the vehicle. By displaying the appropriate placard, it alerts people to the potential dangers associated with the materials, allowing them to take necessary precautions in case of an accident or spill. Each placard depicts a specific type of hazardous material, following regulations set by agencies such as the Department of Transportation (DOT). This helps ensure that all individuals—including emergency personnel—are aware of the specific risks involved, facilitating a more informed and safer response in emergency situations.

3. What is a consequence of carrying an overloaded vehicle?

A. Improved gas mileage

B. Increased control

C. Reduced vehicle control

D. Better braking performance

Carrying an overloaded vehicle significantly impacts its control. When a vehicle is overloaded, it affects the vehicle's weight distribution, center of gravity, and overall stability. This imbalance can make it more difficult for the driver to steer, resulting in decreased maneuverability and increased risk of rollovers, especially in turns or sudden lane changes. Moreover, an overloaded vehicle struggles to respond effectively to driver inputs, which can lead to longer stopping distances and an increased chance of accidents. In contrast to the correct choice, improved gas mileage, increased control, and better braking performance would all suggest positive outcomes of carrying excess weight, which is not the case. Overloading places additional stress on components like the brakes and tires, compromising their functionality and safety, rather than enhancing them. Understanding the ramifications of vehicle load is fundamental for safe operation and adherence to regulatory weight limits.

4. What does "overloaded" mean in relation to commercial vehicles?

- A. Not enough weight for safety
- B. Carrying more weight than rated capacity**
- C. Carrying exactly the rated capacity
- D. Weights that are equally distributed

In the context of commercial vehicles, "overloaded" specifically refers to a vehicle carrying more weight than its rated capacity. Each commercial vehicle has a designated weight limit, which is determined by factors such as the vehicle's design, engineering specifications, and safety standards. Exceeding this limit can have serious consequences for both the vehicle's performance and safety on the road. An overloaded vehicle may struggle with handling, braking, and acceleration, making it harder to control. It can also lead to increased wear and tear on the vehicle, potentially causing mechanical failures. Moreover, operating a vehicle beyond its rated capacity poses dangers to other road users. Ensuring that a vehicle is within its safe weight limits is crucial for safe operation and compliance with transportation regulations. This is particularly important in the commercial sector, where strict rules govern weight limits for safety and highway integrity.

5. If driving a 30-foot vehicle at 55 MPH, how many seconds of following distance should be maintained?

- A. Three seconds
- B. Four seconds
- C. Five seconds**
- D. Six seconds

Maintaining a safe following distance is crucial for the safe operation of a large vehicle, such as a 30-foot vehicle. The guideline for determining the following distance is often based on the speed of the vehicle. A commonly recommended practice is to maintain at least one second of distance for every ten feet of vehicle length. In this case, you have a 30-foot vehicle traveling at 55 MPH. Following the guideline, you would multiply the vehicle length by the appropriate factor for speed. Since the vehicle is 30 feet long, a three-second rule would not provide sufficient space to react in emergency situations, especially at 55 MPH. On the other hand, increasing the following distance to four seconds is advisable in normal driving conditions. However, at higher speeds, such as 55 MPH, you may need to allow for more time to react due to increased stopping distance and reaction time. This makes five seconds an even more prudent choice, particularly given the potential for sudden stops or hazards on the road. Ultimately, the recommendation of maintaining a six-second following distance for a 30-foot vehicle traveling at 55 MPH is aimed at ensuring adequate time to react to unforeseen circumstances, providing a buffer that enhances overall safety. This extended distance allows for

6. What is the primary purpose of downshifting?

- A. To activate the retarder
- B. To save fuel
- C. To control speed and improve braking**
- D. To increase engine power

Downshifting primarily serves the purpose of controlling speed and improving braking, especially in heavy vehicles such as those driven by CDL Class B license holders. When a driver downshifts, they shift to a lower gear, which increases the engine's RPM and allows the engine to provide more engine braking force. This action can reduce the reliance on the traditional brakes, which can help prevent brake overheating during long descents or when navigating challenging terrain. Additionally, downshifting ensures that the vehicle maintains better traction and stability while slowing down, making it safer and more manageable, especially in situations where rapid deceleration is needed. The ability to maintain control over the vehicle's speed is crucial, particularly in commercial driving where cargo weight and road conditions can significantly impact vehicle dynamics.

7. What is the minimum number of tiedowns for any flatbed load?

- A. One
- B. Two**
- C. Three
- D. Four

The minimum requirement for tiedowns on a flatbed load is two. Using at least two tiedowns ensures that the load is securely fastened and stable during transportation, minimizing the risk of shifting or falling off the vehicle. This is crucial for maintaining safety on the road for both the driver and other road users. When securing a flatbed load, it is important that the tiedowns are properly placed to prevent any movement in any direction. Having only one tiedown might not provide adequate security and could lead to dangerous situations if the load shifts. While more tiedowns can offer increased stability, the rule establishes two as the baseline for ensuring loads are transported safely.

8. What is a supply pressure gauge used for?

- A. It shows the temperature of the air in the tank
- B. It indicates how much air pressure you have in your tank**
- C. It monitors fuel levels in the vehicle
- D. It measures brake pad wear

The supply pressure gauge is crucial for monitoring the air pressure within the air braking system of a commercial vehicle. It specifically indicates how much air pressure is available in the air tank, allowing the driver to ensure that the system has adequate pressure for safe operation of the brakes. Maintaining this pressure is essential for effective brake function and overall vehicle control, as insufficient air pressure can lead to brake failure. This gauge helps prevent such scenarios by alerting the driver to any potential issues with air supply. The focus on air pressure is vital for the braking system, distinguishing this function from monitoring fuel levels, measuring brake pad wear, or showing air temperature, which are unrelated to the supply pressure gauge's intended use.

9. What should a driver do to maintain control while using ABS brakes?

- A. Apply the brakes hard
- B. Steer smoothly while braking**
- C. Release the brake pedal completely
- D. Brake only when necessary

To maintain control while using Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) brakes, it is important for a driver to steer smoothly while braking. ABS is designed to prevent wheel lock-up during hard braking, allowing for better control of the vehicle. When a driver applies the brakes firmly but steers smoothly, it enables them to maintain steering control while the system modulates braking pressure as needed. If hard braking is applied without proper steering input, the vehicle may still skid or lose control, despite the ABS's capabilities. Conversely, if the brake pedal is released completely, it can negate the benefits of the ABS, as the system requires continuous braking pressure to function effectively. It is also important not to overuse the brakes and to brake only when necessary; however, this does not directly relate to maintaining control during an ABS situation. Thus, the best practice is to steer smoothly while applying the brakes to ensure the driver retains maximum control of the vehicle.

10. What is required before a CDL driver can transport passengers?

- A. A passenger endorsement must be obtained**
- B. Only a commercial driver's license is sufficient
- C. A background check is mandatory
- D. No additional requirements are needed

A passenger endorsement must be obtained before a CDL driver can transport passengers. This requirement ensures that drivers have additional training and knowledge related to safely managing passenger vehicles, including understanding the unique responsibilities associated with passenger transport, such as the need for special safety protocols and adherence to regulations. Obtaining a passenger endorsement typically involves passing a written test specific to passenger transportation and may also require a skills test. This endorsement is crucial for ensuring that drivers are equipped to handle the complexities of transporting groups of people, which can involve different dynamics compared to driving freight. The other options do not meet the regulatory requirements set forth for CDL drivers and do not address the necessary knowledge and skills that a driver must possess to ensure passenger safety.

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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-classb.examzify.com>

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

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