COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE (CDL) HW PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE

SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

https://cdlhw.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.

SAMPLE

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!

SAMPLE

Questions

SAMPLE

1. Which statement best describes the effect of idling on operating costs?

A. Idling Reduces Operating Costs

B. Idling Has No Effect On Operating Costs

C. Idling Increases Operating Costs Due To Wasted Fuel

D. Idling Only Affects Emissions, Not Costs

2. After the vehicle inspection, inspectors will want to look at your CDL, record of duty status, vehicle registration, fuel license, and:

A. insurance card.

B. shipping papers.

C. accident history for the past year.

D. both A and B.

3. Which statement is true regarding the packing group for hazmat shipments?

A. If a packing group exists, it must be listed on the shipping paper.

B. Packing group is always required regardless of material.

C. Packing group is never listed on the shipping paper.

D. Packing group is optional even when it exists.

4. If you find cracked, loose, or damaged suspension components, what is a likely consequence?

A. Improved ride quality

B. Increased fuel economy

C. Reduced ride stability and safety

D. No effect

5. Perception distance is defined as the distance traveled from the time you see a hazard until your brain recognizes it.

A. Your reaction time begins

B. Your brain recognizes it

C. You apply brakes

D. You stop

SAMPLE

6. Which of the following is an important function served by the bill of lading?

A. All of the above

B. It is a contract naming the parties involved, specific rate or charge for transportation, and agreement and stipulations regarding the limitations of the carrier's common law liability.

C. It lists other obligations assumed by the parties or matters agreed upon by them.

D. It is a receipt issued by the carrier to a shipper for goods received for transportation.

7. A 34-hour restart is never mandatory and is optional.

A. True

B. False

C. Not specified

D. Sometimes

8. What is the minimum tread depth for the steer-tire?

A. 2/32 inch

B. 6/32 inch

C. 8/32 inch

D. 4/32 inch

9. Which BASIC is most directly associated with compliance for transporting hazardous materials?

A. Unsafe Driving BASIC

B. Hours-of-Service Compliance BASIC

C. Hazardous Materials Compliance BASIC

D. Driver Fitness BASIC

10. Which statement best describes the primary approach to roadside inspections?

A. Do thorough inspections and keep the vehicle well-maintained.

B. Only carry extra speed and plan routes to avoid weigh stations.

C. Interact with the inspector in a confrontational manner if you disagree.

D. Avoid making eye contact.

SAMPLE

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. Which statement best describes the effect of idling on operating costs?

A. Idling Reduces Operating Costs

B. Idling Has No Effect On Operating Costs

C. Idling Increases Operating Costs Due To Wasted Fuel

D. Idling Only Affects Emissions, Not Costs

Idling uses fuel without doing any productive work, so you're paying for energy that isn't turning miles or providing service. That wasted fuel directly drives up operating costs. Keeping the engine running also adds unnecessary wear and maintenance over time, which can further increase expenses. So, the idea that idling increases operating costs due to wasted fuel is the best description. It's not accurate to say idling reduces costs or has no effect, and while emissions are affected, there's a clear cost impact from the wasted fuel and added wear.

2. After the vehicle inspection, inspectors will want to look at your CDL, record of duty status, vehicle registration, fuel license, and:

A. insurance card.

B. shipping papers.

C. accident history for the past year.

D. both A and B.

When drivers are inspected, the officer checks documents that authorize you to operate and identify what you're carrying. The additional item inspectors want to see alongside the CDL, your hours-of-service record, the vehicle's registration, and the fuel license is the shipping papers. These are the cargo documents that describe what's in the truck, how much you're carrying, and where it's destined to go, and they sometimes include hazard details if you're transporting hazardous materials. The papers must be kept with the load and be readily accessible so responders or inspectors can review them quickly. Insurance cards, while important, aren't the focus of this particular part of the inspection, and accident history isn't a document you carry for inspection purposes.

3. Which statement is true regarding the packing group for hazmat shipments?

A. If a packing group exists, it must be listed on the shipping paper.

B. Packing group is always required regardless of material.

C. Packing group is never listed on the shipping paper.

D. Packing group is optional even when it exists.

Packing group indicates the level of packaging required for a hazmat shipment and is part of the information you must show on the shipping papers. It tells the carrier how intensely the material must be packaged and handled, using designations that reflect the material's hazard level. The statement you're looking for is that if a packing group exists for a material, it must be listed on the shipping paper. That's the rule because the shipping papers are the official guide for carriers to know the proper packaging and handling requirements for each hazmat load. Not every material has a packing group, so it isn't "always" required. And it isn't optional when it does exist, nor is it never listed.

SAMPLE

4. If you find cracked, loose, or damaged suspension components, what is a likely consequence?

A. Improved ride quality

B. Increased fuel economy

C. Reduced ride stability and safety

D. No effect

Suspension integrity is essential for keeping the wheels in contact with the road and maintaining stable handling. When parts are cracked, loose, or damaged, they can't properly control weight transfer, absorb shocks, or keep tires aligned. The result is reduced ride stability and safety, with more body sway, unpredictable steering, longer stopping distances, and uneven tire wear. You won't see any improvement in ride quality or fuel economy; in fact, performance and safety are likely to worsen. If you notice damaged suspension components, stop and have the vehicle inspected and repaired before driving again.

5. Perception distance is defined as the distance traveled from the time you see a hazard until your brain recognizes it.

A. Your reaction time begins

B. Your brain recognizes it

C. You apply brakes

D. You stop

Perception distance is the distance your vehicle travels from the moment you first see a hazard to the moment your brain recognizes what it is. This is the processing phase where you identify danger and assess how to respond. It ends at recognition, which is why recognizing the hazard is the best description of this distance. After that, reaction time begins, which is the period from recognition to starting to act (like applying the brakes). The braking distance then follows after brakes are applied until you stop. All three together make up the total stopping distance. Perception time can vary with visibility, fatigue, distractions, and speed; at higher speeds, you cover more distance while you process the hazard. For example, at 60 mph with about 1.5 seconds of perception, you'd travel roughly 132 feet before recognizing the hazard.

6. Which of the following is an important function served by the bill of lading?

A. All of the above

B. It is a contract naming the parties involved, specific rate or charge for transportation, and agreement and stipulations regarding the limitations of the carrier's common law liability.

C. It lists other obligations assumed by the parties or matters agreed upon by them.

D. It is a receipt issued by the carrier to a shipper for goods received for transportation.

A bill of lading serves several key roles in one document. It acts as the contract of carriage between the shipper and the carrier, naming who is involved, laying out the transportation terms, and including the rate or charges and any stipulations about the carrier's liability. It also lists other obligations or matters that both parties have agreed to, such as responsibilities for packaging or delivery instructions. Additionally, it serves as a receipt from the carrier to the shipper, confirming that the goods were received for shipment. Because a bill of lading typically encompasses all of these functions, choosing the option that includes all of them is the best answer. (Note: it can also function as a document of title in some situations, but the listed items cover the core functions.)

SAMPLE

7. A 34-hour restart is never mandatory and is optional.

A. True

B. False

C. Not specified

D. Sometimes

In hours-of-service rules, a 34-hour restart is optional. You're not required to take it; it's a voluntary reset you may use if you need to reset your weekly driving limits. If you do choose to use a restart, it must be at least 34 consecutive hours off duty and must include two periods between 1:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m.

8. What is the minimum tread depth for the steer-tire?

A. 2/32 inch

B. 6/32 inch

C. 8/32 inch

D. 4/32 inch

Steering tires need enough tread to maintain control, especially during braking and while steering through corners or wet roads. That's why the minimum tread depth on front steering tires is set higher than for other tires: 4/32 inch. Among the options, 4/32 inch is the smallest depth that meets this requirement, so it's the correct minimum. The other depths are either shallower than the steer-tire standard or deeper than necessary. To check, measure the tread in several grooves around the tire and ensure no groove is shallower than 4/32 inch on the front tires.

9. Which BASIC is most directly associated with compliance for transporting hazardous materials?

A. Unsafe Driving BASIC

B. Hours-of-Service Compliance BASIC

C. Hazardous Materials Compliance BASIC

D. Driver Fitness BASIC

Understanding which BASIC tracks compliance with hazardous materials regulations. The Hazards Materials Compliance BASIC is the one that directly measures adherence to hazmat rules—proper shipping papers, classification, packaging, labeling, placarding, and training, plus security and emergency response requirements when applicable. This is why it's the best choice: it targets the specific regulatory area involved in transporting hazardous materials. The other BASICS cover different safety aspects—Unsafe Driving looks at driving behavior, Hours-of-Service Compliance concerns logs and work-time rules, and Driver Fitness relates to medical suitability. They're important for overall safety but don't specifically address hazmat regulatory compliance.

SAMPLE

10. Which statement best describes the primary approach to roadside inspections?

A. Do thorough inspections and keep the vehicle well-maintained.

B. Only carry extra speed and plan routes to avoid weigh stations.

C. Interact with the inspector in a confrontational manner if you disagree.

D. Avoid making eye contact.

Roadside inspections are about safety and compliance, making sure your vehicle is in good condition and you're ready to prove it. The best approach is to perform thorough inspections yourself and keep the vehicle well-maintained, with all required records up to date. This readiness helps you comply quickly and cooperatively with the inspector, reducing the chance of penalties and making the process smoother. Avoid actions like trying to dodge inspections or behaving confrontationally; those undermine safety and can lead to more problems. Stay calm, answer honestly, and have your paperwork ready.

SAMPLE

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://cdlhw.examzify.com

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

SAMPLE