

DPS COPS Practice Exam (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

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- 1. Which driving behavior could lead to an accident according to safety standards?**
 - A. Being alert to surroundings**
 - B. Continuously backing up in a hazardous situation**
 - C. Maintaining consistent speed in traffic**
 - D. Using turn signals properly**

- 2. What is the control assessment when a driver makes a second stop when it is needed?**
 - A. Good**
 - B. Fair**
 - C. Bad**
 - D. Excellent**

- 3. What does rolling back across a street or intersection generally indicate in a driving evaluation?**
 - A. Fair control**
 - B. Poor observation skills**
 - C. Satisfactory positioning**
 - D. Failing control**

- 4. What does it indicate if a driver misses applying the brakes?**
 - A. Good control**
 - B. Fair control**
 - C. Bad control**
 - D. Excellent decision-making**

- 5. What might indicate fair control during driving, according to observations?**
 - A. Consistently using turn signals**
 - B. Hesitating at critical junctions**
 - C. Following other vehicles too closely**
 - D. Making smooth lane changes**

- 6. What role does public perception play in law enforcement practices?**
- A. It solely determines the funding for police departments**
 - B. It influences community cooperation and effectiveness of policing efforts**
 - C. It has no effect on the methods police use**
 - D. It primarily affects media coverage of incidents**
- 7. What is the evaluation for signaling less than 3 seconds before exiting a parked position?**
- A. Good**
 - B. Fair**
 - C. Bad**
 - D. Excellent**
- 8. What is a sign of fair control in driving?**
- A. Consistent steering methods**
 - B. Maintaining a firm grip on the steering wheel**
 - C. Failing to slow down**
 - D. Brake releases before the car stops**
- 9. What is an example of a proactive policing strategy?**
- A. Increasing daytime patrols in wealthy neighborhoods**
 - B. Increasing patrols in high-crime areas to deter crime before it happens**
 - C. Conducting traffic stops randomly**
 - D. Waiting for crimes to occur before responding**
- 10. What is the result of continuing to back up when a combination vehicle is jackknifed?**
- A. Proper maneuvering**
 - B. Loss of vehicle control**
 - C. Improved spatial awareness**
 - D. Successful navigation**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which driving behavior could lead to an accident according to safety standards?

- A. Being alert to surroundings**
- B. Continuously backing up in a hazardous situation**
- C. Maintaining consistent speed in traffic**
- D. Using turn signals properly**

The behavior of continuously backing up in a hazardous situation is considered a significant risk according to safety standards because it can lead to various dangerous scenarios. When a driver backs up without clear visibility or awareness of their surroundings, they may not be able to anticipate obstacles, pedestrians, or other vehicles that could lead to a collision. This action is especially perilous in crowded or tight spaces, where other drivers and pedestrians may not expect a vehicle to move in reverse. In contrast, the other behaviors listed are all examples of safe driving practices. Being alert to one's surroundings helps drivers to make informed decisions and respond to potential hazards effectively. Maintaining a consistent speed minimizes the likelihood of unexpected changes in traffic flow, while using turn signals properly ensures clear communication with other drivers, enhancing overall safety on the road. Each of these actions contributes to a safer driving environment, underscoring the risks associated with backing up inappropriately.

2. What is the control assessment when a driver makes a second stop when it is needed?

- A. Good**
- B. Fair**
- C. Bad**
- D. Excellent**

When assessing a driver's control during a second stop, it's important to recognize the implications of this action. Making a second stop can indicate an issue with decision-making or situational awareness, suggesting that the driver may not have adequately controlled their response the first time. In contexts such as driving assessments, a second stop often points to a failure to effectively manage a situation, which could imply a lack of confidence or proficiency in handling the driving task. Thus, characterizing this as "bad" reflects an understanding that the driver needs improvement in their ability to assess situations and take appropriate actions without reverting to unnecessary stops. This choice highlights the importance of developing better situational awareness and decision-making skills for safer driving. By making a second stop when it is not essential, the driver could create potential hazards or disruptions in traffic flow, which further exacerbates the evaluation of their control over the vehicle.

3. What does rolling back across a street or intersection generally indicate in a driving evaluation?

- A. Fair control**
- B. Poor observation skills**
- C. Satisfactory positioning**
- D. Failing control**

Rolling back across a street or intersection during a driving evaluation typically indicates a lack of control over the vehicle, which aligns with the notion of failing control. This behavior suggests that the driver is unable to maintain their position within their lane or is having difficulty managing the vehicle's movements appropriately. Such actions can be indicative of poor handling skills, inadequate response to the situation, or an inability to gauge the necessary adjustments required when navigating through intersections. Therefore, this behavior is concerning and demonstrates that the driver may not be ready for safe operation of a vehicle, as maintaining control is critical for safe driving practices.

4. What does it indicate if a driver misses applying the brakes?

- A. Good control**
- B. Fair control**
- C. Bad control**
- D. Excellent decision-making**

Missing the application of the brakes typically indicates a lack of control over the vehicle. When a driver fails to brake when necessary, it suggests an inability to respond appropriately to a driving situation, which can lead to dangerous outcomes such as collisions or loss of vehicle control. Control of a vehicle encompasses the driver's ability to make timely decisions and execute necessary maneuvers, such as braking, to safely navigate the road. In the context of driving, good control involves the ability to effectively manage speed, direction, and the vehicle's interaction with the environment. Failing to apply the brakes when required shows that the driver is not fully engaged or aware of their surroundings, thus demonstrating bad control rather than good or excellent decision-making. Overall, this behavior raises concerns about the driver's situational awareness and response capabilities on the road.

5. What might indicate fair control during driving, according to observations?

- A. Consistently using turn signals**
- B. Hesitating at critical junctions**
- C. Following other vehicles too closely**
- D. Making smooth lane changes**

The best indication of fair control during driving is making smooth lane changes. This behavior demonstrates a driver's ability to smoothly adjust their vehicle's position on the road without abrupt movements, which is a crucial aspect of good driving control. Smooth lane changes indicate that the driver has a good awareness of their surroundings and is capable of executing their intentions safely, aligning with defensive driving principles. In contrast, consistently using turn signals is essential for communication with other road users but does not alone indicate overall control. Hesitating at critical junctions may show indecision or uncertainty, which can compromise safety rather than reflect control. Similarly, following other vehicles too closely represents poor control; it can lead to accidents, as it reduces the driver's ability to react to sudden stops or changes in traffic conditions. Good driving control is largely about maintaining stability, predictability, and awareness on the road, all of which are exemplified by making smooth lane changes.

6. What role does public perception play in law enforcement practices?

- A. It solely determines the funding for police departments**
- B. It influences community cooperation and effectiveness of policing efforts**
- C. It has no effect on the methods police use**
- D. It primarily affects media coverage of incidents**

Public perception plays a crucial role in law enforcement practices because it directly influences how communities collaborate with police and the overall effectiveness of policing efforts. When a community has a positive view of law enforcement, residents are more likely to engage with police, report crimes, and work together on community safety initiatives. This cooperative relationship fosters trust, leading to a more effective policing environment where officers can better serve and protect the community. On the other hand, negative perceptions can create barriers between the police and the community, resulting in decreased cooperation. Citizens may feel less inclined to report crimes or participate in community safety programs if they distrust the police, hampering law enforcement's ability to maintain order and respond to incidents effectively. Understanding this dynamic is critical for law enforcement agencies as they strive to improve their relationships with the communities they serve and enhance the overall safety and well-being of those communities.

7. What is the evaluation for signaling less than 3 seconds before exiting a parked position?

- A. Good**
- B. Fair**
- C. Bad**
- D. Excellent**

Signaling for less than 3 seconds before exiting a parked position is considered "Bad" because it does not meet the general guideline for safe driving practices. Proper signaling is key to ensuring that other road users are aware of a driver's intentions, especially when maneuvering a vehicle from a parked position. The standard practice is to signal well in advance, typically around 3 to 5 seconds prior to the action, allowing sufficient time for nearby drivers and pedestrians to react. Signaling for less than 3 seconds can lead to confusion or potential accidents because it does not provide adequate warning, undermining the effectiveness of the communication. Therefore, this way of signaling falls short of establishing safe driving habits, making it appropriate to categorize it as "Bad." In contrast, longer signaling times would be rated as better, with "Good" or "Excellent" indicating a driver's adherence to optimal signaling practices.

8. What is a sign of fair control in driving?

- A. Consistent steering methods**
- B. Maintaining a firm grip on the steering wheel**
- C. Failing to slow down**
- D. Brake releases before the car stops**

A sign of fair control in driving is characterized by behaviors that demonstrate the driver is effectively managing the vehicle. Among the options, the action of brake releases before the car stops indicates an understanding of vehicle dynamics and control. This involves skillfully modulating brake pressure to ensure a smooth stop, which reflects a driver's ability to anticipate the vehicle's needs and respond appropriately. By releasing the brakes gradually as the vehicle approaches a stop, a driver can prevent abrupt halts, thus providing a smoother and safer driving experience. This is particularly pertinent in maintaining passenger comfort and ensuring that the vehicle remains stable during deceleration. In contrast, the other behaviors mentioned do not necessarily reflect the same level of control. For instance, consistent steering methods and a firm grip on the steering wheel do relate to control but are more focused on the steering aspect rather than the comprehensive management of the vehicle dynamics involved in stopping. Failing to slow down contradicts the principles of safety and control in driving, and therefore does not represent a sign of fair control.

9. What is an example of a proactive policing strategy?

- A. Increasing daytime patrols in wealthy neighborhoods**
- B. Increasing patrols in high-crime areas to deter crime before it happens**
- C. Conducting traffic stops randomly**
- D. Waiting for crimes to occur before responding**

A proactive policing strategy focuses on prevention and aims to deter criminal activity before it occurs rather than simply responding to incidents after they have happened. Increasing patrols in high-crime areas serves as a clear example of this approach. By enhancing police presence in locations where crime is more likely to occur, law enforcement can deter potential offenders and reassure the community, thereby reducing the likelihood of crimes happening in those areas. This strategy is grounded in the idea that visible police presence can act as a deterrent, as potential criminals may think twice about committing a crime if they know that law enforcement is actively monitoring the area. It also fosters community-police partnerships and can lead to increased reporting of potential criminal activity, helping to address issues before they escalate. In contrast, simply increasing daytime patrols in wealthy neighborhoods focuses on a specific demographic rather than addressing areas with higher crime rates. Conducting traffic stops randomly does not align with the proactive intent since it serves more to react to infractions rather than prevent crime. Finally, waiting for crimes to occur before responding is inherently reactive and does not involve any preventative measures whatsoever.

10. What is the result of continuing to back up when a combination vehicle is jackknifed?

- A. Proper maneuvering**
- B. Loss of vehicle control**
- C. Improved spatial awareness**
- D. Successful navigation**

When a combination vehicle is jackknifed, it indicates that the trailer has swung out and is at an angle to the towing vehicle, forming a V-shape. Continuing to back up in this situation exacerbates the loss of vehicle control. As the trailer moves further away from the truck, it becomes increasingly difficult to steer the combination vehicle effectively. Attempting to back up can lead to the trailer swinging wildly, causing the operator to lose steering and control altogether, which may result in dangerous situations or accidents. Stopping or attempting to straighten out the vehicles rather than continuing to back up is crucial to regain control and prevent further complications. Therefore, the outcome of continuing to back up during a jackknife situation is indeed a loss of vehicle control, which leads to potential hazards on the road.

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://dpscops.examzify.com>

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

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