

GENERAL MOTORS AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM (GM ASEP) STEERING AND SUSPENSION PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



Prepare with structure. Pass with confidence



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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

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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 symptom is often associated with worn struts?**
 - A. Decreased fuel efficiency
 - B. Increased body roll during turns
 - C. Faded headlights
 - D. Unresponsive brakes
- 2. What effect does a correctly functioning suspension system have?**
 - A. Decreased ride comfort
 - B. Improved handling and comfort
 - C. Increased vehicle weight
 - D. Poor alignment of wheels
- 3. In a rack and pinion steering system, what converts the rotational motion of the steering wheel into linear motion?**
 - A. The pinion
 - B. The rack
 - C. The steering column
 - D. The steering gear
- 4. What fits into the mounting flange bolt holes to absorb vibration in the rack and pinion assembly?**
 - A. Rubber bushings
 - B. Bearing cups
 - C. Ball nuts
 - D. Locknuts
- 5. What type of joint allows for flexibility in steering systems?**
 - A. Ball joint
 - B. Universal joint
 - C. Tie rod
 - D. Control arm

- 6. What is a common symptom of under-inflated tires?**
- A. Increased fuel efficiency
 - B. Even tire wear
 - C. Poor handling
 - D. Loud tire noise
- 7. Which suspension component primarily manages lateral movement during turns?**
- A. Control arms
 - B. Sway bars
 - C. Struts
 - D. Shock absorbers
- 8. Which tool is not recommended to be used to separate tapered steering components because it can do harm?**
- A. Taper breaker
 - B. Pickle fork
 - C. Tie rod removal puller
 - D. Two hammers
- 9. What is the function of a shock absorber in a suspension system?**
- A. To support the weight of the vehicle
 - B. To dampen the oscillation of springs for a stable ride
 - C. To adjust wheel alignment
 - D. To enhance steering response
- 10. Which issue could be identified by an excessive amount of axial play in a ball joint?**
- A. Excessive tire wear
 - B. Improper steering response
 - C. Increased braking distance
 - D. All of the above

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What symptom is often associated with worn struts?

- A. Decreased fuel efficiency
- B. Increased body roll during turns**
- C. Faded headlights
- D. Unresponsive brakes

Worn struts can significantly affect a vehicle's handling characteristics, particularly in how the suspension responds during cornering. When struts are worn, they lose their ability to effectively dampen the oscillations caused by road irregularities. This leads to increased body roll during turns, as the struts are unable to keep the vehicle body stable and prevent it from leaning excessively over to one side during cornering. Body roll is important for maintaining traction and control, and excessive rolling can lead to a sensation of instability and can make it increasingly difficult to safely maneuver the vehicle. Therefore, the symptom of increased body roll is closely linked to the performance of the struts, making it a clear indicator of wear and the need for potential replacement. In contrast, decreased fuel efficiency, faded headlights, and unresponsive brakes are not directly related to the condition of the struts and are attributed to different vehicle systems or components. These symptoms result from issues with engine performance, electrical components, or braking systems, respectively.

2. What effect does a correctly functioning suspension system have?

- A. Decreased ride comfort
- B. Improved handling and comfort**
- C. Increased vehicle weight
- D. Poor alignment of wheels

A correctly functioning suspension system significantly enhances both handling and ride comfort. This system is designed to absorb shocks from the road and ensure that the vehicle's tires maintain contact with the road surface. By doing so, it allows for improved traction and stability, especially during cornering and maneuvering, which directly contributes to better handling characteristics of the vehicle. Additionally, a properly tuned suspension is crucial for providing a smooth ride over various types of surfaces. It minimizes the impact of bumps and vibrations, leading to increased comfort for the driver and passengers. This balance between handling and comfort is essential in designing vehicles that can perform well while also providing an enjoyable driving experience. The other options do not accurately describe the benefits of a well-functioning suspension system. For instance, decreased ride comfort and increased vehicle weight do not correlate with the desired effects of a good suspension system. Similarly, poor alignment of wheels is a problem that a functioning suspension should help to mitigate rather than contribute to.

3. In a rack and pinion steering system, what converts the rotational motion of the steering wheel into linear motion?

- A. The pinion
- B. The rack**
- C. The steering column
- D. The steering gear

In a rack and pinion steering system, the rack is the component that converts the rotational motion of the steering wheel into linear motion. When the driver turns the steering wheel, this rotational movement is transmitted down the steering column to the pinion gear. The pinion, which is a small gear, engages with the rack, a linear gear that runs horizontally in the steering mechanism. As the pinion rotates, it moves the rack side to side. This side-to-side motion of the rack directly transforms the circular motion of the steering wheel into the necessary linear motion to steer the vehicle's wheels. This essential function allows for precise control and handling of the vehicle while driving.

4. What fits into the mounting flange bolt holes to absorb vibration in the rack and pinion assembly?

- A. Rubber bushings**
- B. Bearing cups
- C. Ball nuts
- D. Locknuts

In a rack and pinion assembly, rubber bushings are specifically designed to fit into the mounting flange bolt holes. Their primary function is to absorb vibrations and provide cushioning between the steering gear and the vehicle's chassis. This absorption of vibration is crucial because it enhances the comfort of the ride by minimizing road noise and harshness felt inside the vehicle while also improving the longevity of the steering components. The use of rubber bushings helps to isolate the steering system from the vehicle body, mitigating the resonance that can occur during driving. This isolation is important for maintaining precise steering control and improving overall handling. In addition to vibration absorption, rubber bushings also assist in accommodating minor misalignments between the steering rack and the vehicle frame. Other options like bearing cups, ball nuts, and locknuts serve different purposes in the steering system. Bearing cups are generally used to support rotation and reduce friction within the assembly, while ball nuts are involved in the mechanism that translates rotational motion into linear motion. Locknuts have a role in securing components in place but do not provide vibrational dampening. Thus, rubber bushings are the component specifically intended for vibration absorption in this context.

5. What type of joint allows for flexibility in steering systems?

- A. Ball joint
- B. Universal joint**
- C. Tie rod
- D. Control arm

A universal joint is designed specifically to allow for flexibility in steering systems. It serves as a coupling that can transmit rotary motion and allows for the misalignment that occurs when the steering components pivot or move. This joint enables the steering shaft to maintain a connection with the steering gear, even as the wheels turn and the steering column may not remain perfectly aligned. The nature of the universal joint's design permits angular movement in multiple directions, which is essential for maintaining smooth steering action as the vehicle navigates turns or uneven terrain. This flexibility is vital for transmitting power and motion while accommodating the various angles that can result from vehicle dynamics. Other components, like ball joints and tie rods, have specific roles within the steering and suspension system but do not inherently provide the same type of flexible movement that a universal joint does. Ball joints primarily facilitate pivoting at the wheel assembly, while tie rods connect various sections of the steering gear to the steering knuckle, maintaining alignment and stability rather than angular flexibility. Control arms serve to position the wheel while providing a pivot point but are not designed for angular motion like a universal joint.

6. What is a common symptom of under-inflated tires?

- A. Increased fuel efficiency
- B. Even tire wear
- C. Poor handling**
- D. Loud tire noise

A common symptom of under-inflated tires is poor handling. When tires are not properly inflated, they can deform more than they should during cornering and straight-line driving, leading to a decreased contact patch with the road. This affects the vehicle's responsiveness and stability, making it harder for the driver to control the vehicle effectively. Under-inflated tires can also cause the vehicle to feel sluggish or heavy during turns, which can be particularly noticeable in emergency maneuvers. Proper tire pressure helps maintain the desired shape of the tire, ensuring optimal handling characteristics for safe driving. In contrast, increased fuel efficiency and even tire wear are typically associated with properly inflated tires, while loud tire noise can result from various factors including tread wear or road conditions, rather than solely from under-inflation.

7. Which suspension component primarily manages lateral movement during turns?

- A. Control arms
- B. Sway bars**
- C. Struts
- D. Shock absorbers

The component that primarily manages lateral movement during turns is the sway bar. The sway bar, also known as an anti-roll bar, connects the left and right sides of a vehicle's suspension. Its primary function is to reduce body roll when the vehicle is cornering. By transferring some of the load from one wheel to the other, sway bars enhance stability and improve handling, making the vehicle more predictable during turns. While control arms are essential for suspension geometry, struts provide structural support and shock absorption, and shock absorbers manage rebound and compression of the suspension, none of these components play a direct role in maintaining lateral stability during turns to the extent that sway bars do. Thus, the sway bar is key in mitigating the effects of centrifugal force, ensuring that the vehicle remains level and stable while navigating curves.

8. Which tool is not recommended to be used to separate tapered steering components because it can do harm?

- A. Taper breaker
- B. Pickle fork**
- C. Tie rod removal puller
- D. Two hammers

The correct answer is the pickle fork, as it is known to potentially cause damage when separating tapered steering components. A pickle fork is designed to wedge between components to create separation, which can lead to tearing or damaging the rubber boots on joints such as tie rods or ball joints. This damage can compromise the integrity of the component, leading to future failure and the need for replacement. In contrast, tools like a taper breaker are specifically engineered to separate tapered components safely without causing additional harm. Tie rod removal pullers are designed for the job without tearing or damaging surrounding components. Using two hammers can effectively help to separate parts without the risk of puncturing or tearing protective coverings, making them a safer choice compared to a pickle fork.

9. What is the function of a shock absorber in a suspension system?

- A. To support the weight of the vehicle
- B. To dampen the oscillation of springs for a stable ride**
- C. To adjust wheel alignment
- D. To enhance steering response

The function of a shock absorber in a suspension system is primarily to dampen the oscillation of springs, which contributes significantly to a stable ride for the vehicle. When a vehicle encounters bumps or uneven surfaces, the springs compress and expand to absorb those impacts. However, this compression and rebound can cause the vehicle to bounce excessively, leading to instability and discomfort. Shock absorbers work by providing resistance to the movement of the springs, thereby controlling their oscillation. By slowing down the rate at which the springs move, shock absorbers help maintain tire contact with the road, enhancing traction and stability. This controlled movement results in a smoother ride for passengers and better handling for the vehicle overall. While the other options presented may relate to different aspects of vehicle dynamics, they do not accurately describe the primary purpose of the shock absorber within the suspension system. For instance, supporting the weight of the vehicle and adjusting wheel alignment are functions more closely associated with springs and other suspension components. Enhancing steering response generally involves different systems, such as the steering mechanism itself rather than the shock absorbers, which focus on ride comfort and stability.

10. Which issue could be identified by an excessive amount of axial play in a ball joint?

- A. Excessive tire wear
- B. Improper steering response
- C. Increased braking distance
- D. All of the above**

An excessive amount of axial play in a ball joint can have several significant effects on a vehicle's performance and safety. When there is excessive axial play in the ball joint, it compromises the joint's ability to maintain proper alignment and stability of the steering and suspension systems. Excessive tire wear is a direct consequence of misalignment caused by ball joint failure. When a ball joint has too much play, it affects the positioning of the tires, leading to uneven or excessive wear patterns. This can shorten the life of the tires and require more frequent replacements, ultimately affecting the vehicle's handling and safety. Improper steering response is another critical issue associated with excessive axial play in a ball joint. If the joint is loose, it can lead to delayed or inaccurate steering inputs, making it difficult for the driver to control the vehicle. This can pose a serious safety risk, particularly in situations where precise steering movements are necessary. An increased braking distance can also be a result of compromised suspension components. When the suspension system is unable to effectively transfer force during braking due to a loose ball joint, it may result in longer stopping distances. This is dangerous, especially in emergency situations where quick stops are necessary. Considering these factors, the presence of excessive axial play in a ball

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://gmasepsteeringsuspension.examzify.com>

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

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