

ICBC British Columbia Written Exam Practice Test 2026 (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of questions,

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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. Don't worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.

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.

7. Use Other Tools

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!

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Questions

- 1. In which situation is it permissible to use a hand-held device while driving?**
 - A. While stopped at a red light**
 - B. Never, all use is prohibited**
 - C. While driving in a parking lot**
 - D. Only while parked in a safe location**
- 2. What is the purpose of safety belts?**
 - A. To keep passengers comfortable**
 - B. To prevent injury in case of a collision**
 - C. To ensure everyone stays awake**
 - D. To aid in steering control**
- 3. When do you have the right of way when turning left?**
 - A. Whenever you choose**
 - B. At an intersection with a green light, but yield to oncoming traffic**
 - C. When a pedestrian is waiting**
 - D. Only when no vehicles are around**
- 4. What should a driver do when a pedestrian is at a crosswalk?**
 - A. Speed up to pass them**
 - B. Yield and let them cross**
 - C. Honk to warn them**
 - D. Continue driving at normal speed**
- 5. What should you do if another driver is tailgating you?**
 - A. Accelerate to increase distance**
 - B. Change lanes or pull over safely to let them pass**
 - C. Brake suddenly to alert them**
 - D. Ignore them and maintain speed**

- 6. What is a common cause of accidents in parking lots?**
- A. Speeding**
 - B. Distracted driving and not looking for pedestrians**
 - C. Poor lighting**
 - D. Faulty vehicle equipment**
- 7. What is the purpose of the 2-second rule in driving?**
- A. To time how long it takes to reach a destination**
 - B. To maintain a safe following distance**
 - C. To regulate speed in construction zones**
 - D. To estimate the time between traffic lights**
- 8. How can you identify a pedestrian-controlled crosswalk?**
- A. It has a stop sign for vehicles**
 - B. It has signals that can be activated by pedestrians**
 - C. It is marked only with paint on the road**
 - D. It includes a speed bump for safety**
- 9. What is the penalty for driving without insurance?**
- A. Community service only**
 - B. Fines and potential vehicle impoundment**
 - C. Warning citation only**
 - D. Mandatory driving course**
- 10. What does it indicate if a light is flashing red at an intersection?**
- A. You can continue through the intersection without stopping**
 - B. Stop, then proceed when safe**
 - C. Yield to pedestrians only**
 - D. It's a malfunctioning signal**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. In which situation is it permissible to use a hand-held device while driving?

- A. While stopped at a red light**
- B. Never, all use is prohibited**
- C. While driving in a parking lot**
- D. Only while parked in a safe location**

The correct answer indicates that all use of hand-held devices while driving is prohibited. This law is enacted to enhance safety by minimizing distractions. Even situations where the vehicle may appear to be stationary—such as being stopped at a red light or driving in a parking lot—can lead to significant distractions, increasing the risk of accidents. In practice, using a hand-held device diverts attention away from the road, which could ultimately result in dangerous driving behaviors. It is important for drivers to remain fully engaged with their driving task at all times. The overarching legal framework aims to promote safe driving practices and to protect all road users, ensuring that the risk of collisions resulting from distracted driving is significantly reduced. Therefore, the clear directive is that any use of hand-held devices while driving is not permissible, aligning with public safety measures aimed at reducing distractions on the road.

2. What is the purpose of safety belts?

- A. To keep passengers comfortable**
- B. To prevent injury in case of a collision**
- C. To ensure everyone stays awake**
- D. To aid in steering control**

Safety belts are designed primarily to prevent injury in the event of a collision. When a vehicle experiences a sudden stop or impact, safety belts restrain occupants and help keep them securely in their seats. This function significantly reduces the risk of serious injuries or fatalities by preventing ejection from the vehicle and minimizing movement within the cabin during a crash. In essence, safety belts are critical for enhancing passenger safety by absorbing some of the forces involved in an accident and distributing them across stronger parts of the body, thereby reducing the likelihood of harm. Comfort, staying awake, and steering control do not relate directly to the primary function of safety belts. While comfort may be a secondary benefit for some passengers, it is not the reason for their existence. Safety belts do not influence alertness or prevent fatigue, nor do they serve any function related to vehicle steering control. Their sole purpose is focused on protecting individuals during a vehicular accident, making their role essential for road safety.

3. When do you have the right of way when turning left?

- A. Whenever you choose
- B. At an intersection with a green light, but yield to oncoming traffic**
- C. When a pedestrian is waiting
- D. Only when no vehicles are around

When making a left turn at an intersection with a green light, you do have the right of way, but it's important to note that you must yield to oncoming traffic. This means that while your signal indicates that you can turn, you must ensure it is safe to do so. If there are oncoming vehicles, you are required to wait until those vehicles have passed before completing your left turn. This rule is in place to prevent potential collisions and ensure the safety of all road users. In contrast, making a left turn without consideration of oncoming traffic would be dangerous and could lead to accidents. Therefore, even with a green light, always prioritize the presence of surrounding vehicles when planning your turn.

4. What should a driver do when a pedestrian is at a crosswalk?

- A. Speed up to pass them
- B. Yield and let them cross**
- C. Honk to warn them
- D. Continue driving at normal speed

When a pedestrian is at a crosswalk, the correct action is to yield and let them cross. This is crucial not only for the safety of the pedestrian but also in accordance with traffic laws. In British Columbia, drivers are required to give the right of way to pedestrians at marked and unmarked crosswalks, which helps to ensure that pedestrians can navigate roadways safely. Yielding allows the pedestrian to cross the road without unnecessary delays and reinforces the duty of care that drivers owe to vulnerable road users. It promotes a culture of safety and shared respect on the road, which is essential for preventing accidents and injuries. The other options present actions that could endanger the pedestrian. Speeding up to pass them or continuing to drive at normal speed can lead to potentially serious situations, especially if the pedestrian begins crossing. Honking may startle the pedestrian and does not serve to facilitate their safe crossing; it can create confusion instead. Therefore, the only responsible choice in this situation is to yield and let the pedestrian cross safely.

5. What should you do if another driver is tailgating you?

- A. Accelerate to increase distance**
- B. Change lanes or pull over safely to let them pass**
- C. Brake suddenly to alert them**
- D. Ignore them and maintain speed**

When another driver is tailgating you, the safest and most effective response is to change lanes or pull over safely to let them pass. This approach helps to de-escalate a potentially dangerous situation and prioritizes safety for both yourself and the tailgating driver. By allowing them to pass, you reduce the likelihood of a rear-end collision, which can occur if a tailgater misjudges the distance or speed at which you're driving. Maintaining your speed or braking suddenly, as suggested by other options, can aggravate the situation and put you at risk of an accident. Accelerating to increase distance may seem like a good idea, but it may also lead to increased tension between you and the tailgater. Therefore, the most prudent course of action is to safely change lanes or pull over, ensuring a smoother driving experience and promoting road safety.

6. What is a common cause of accidents in parking lots?

- A. Speeding**
- B. Distracted driving and not looking for pedestrians**
- C. Poor lighting**
- D. Faulty vehicle equipment**

Distracted driving and not looking for pedestrians is indeed a common cause of accidents in parking lots. These areas often feature a mix of vehicles and pedestrians in close proximity, creating unique challenges for drivers. When drivers are distracted—whether by mobile devices, conversation, or general inattention—they might overlook pedestrians who may be walking between parked cars or moving through aisles. Additionally, parking lots often have various activities happening at once, such as people loading and unloading their vehicles, shopping cart movement, or children playing, which can distract drivers further and contribute to accidents. While speeding can occur in parking lots, it is usually less of a factor due to the typically reduced speed limits and the design of these areas. Poor lighting can affect visibility during nighttime driving but is not as prevalent during the day when most parking lot activities occur. Faulty vehicle equipment can contribute to accidents but is a less common factor specifically in parking lots, where the need for maneuverability and awareness is greater than on regular roadways. Therefore, the emphasis on distraction and awareness around pedestrians makes it crucial for drivers to stay focused to avoid accidents in such environments.

7. What is the purpose of the 2-second rule in driving?

- A. To time how long it takes to reach a destination
- B. To maintain a safe following distance**
- C. To regulate speed in construction zones
- D. To estimate the time between traffic lights

The purpose of the 2-second rule in driving is to maintain a safe following distance between your vehicle and the one in front of you. This rule is designed to ensure that drivers have enough time to react if the vehicle ahead suddenly stops or encounters a hazard. To apply the 2-second rule, a driver should choose a fixed point on the road, and when the vehicle in front passes that point, the driver should count to two (one thousand one, one thousand two). If the driver's vehicle reaches that same point before completing the count, they are too close and should increase the distance between vehicles. Maintaining a safe following distance is critical for reducing the risk of rear-end collisions and allows ample time for braking and maneuvering safely in various driving conditions. This guideline helps promote safe driving practices, especially in conditions such as wet or slippery roads, where stopping distances can increase significantly. Other choices may involve timing or estimating, but they do not pertain to the fundamental principle of maintaining distance for safety while driving.

8. How can you identify a pedestrian-controlled crosswalk?

- A. It has a stop sign for vehicles
- B. It has signals that can be activated by pedestrians**
- C. It is marked only with paint on the road
- D. It includes a speed bump for safety

A pedestrian-controlled crosswalk is characterized by signals that can be activated by pedestrians, allowing them to safely cross the street. This feature is crucial because it provides pedestrians with the ability to inform drivers that they intend to cross, enhancing safety at busy intersections. When pedestrians press a button, it typically triggers a signal change, such as illuminating a "WALK" sign or activating flashing lights, which alerts drivers to yield to pedestrians. While other options may relate to crosswalks in general, they do not specifically describe the identifying features of a pedestrian-controlled setup. For instance, a stop sign for vehicles primarily governs traffic at intersections but does not signal a pedestrian-controlled situation. Markings on the road may indicate a crosswalk, but without additional signals for pedestrians, it does not qualify as a pedestrian-controlled crosswalk. Finally, a speed bump can enhance safety but does not define whether a crosswalk is pedestrian-controlled. The presence of activatable signals by pedestrians is the key distinguishing feature that confirms a crosswalk is designed to prioritize pedestrian safety and right-of-way.

9. What is the penalty for driving without insurance?

- A. Community service only
- B. Fines and potential vehicle impoundment**
- C. Warning citation only
- D. Mandatory driving course

Driving without insurance in British Columbia carries significant legal repercussions, primarily in the form of fines and the possibility of vehicle impoundment. This is in accordance with the province's stringent regulations aimed at ensuring all drivers maintain financial responsibility. The financial penalties are typically substantial, reflecting the seriousness of the offense. Moreover, if a driver is found to be operating a vehicle without valid insurance, authorities have the discretion to impound the vehicle on the spot. This not only serves as a deterrent but also emphasizes the importance of following the legal requirements for insurance coverage. In contrast, options such as community service, warning citations, or mandatory driving courses do not align with the established penalties for such a serious offense. The focus remains on enforcing financial penalties and ensuring compliance with the law, making the consequences of driving without insurance clear and direct.

10. What does it indicate if a light is flashing red at an intersection?

- A. You can continue through the intersection without stopping
- B. Stop, then proceed when safe**
- C. Yield to pedestrians only
- D. It's a malfunctioning signal

When a traffic light is flashing red at an intersection, it indicates that a driver must come to a complete stop at the intersection. This is similar to a stop sign. After stopping, the driver may proceed only when it is safe to do so, giving consideration to other vehicles and pedestrians. The flashing red light requires clear acknowledgment from the driver that the intersection is treated as a point of caution where safety checks must be made before proceeding. In contrast, the other choices misinterpret the signals' implications. Continuing through the intersection without stopping would violate traffic rules and compromise safety. Yielding to pedestrians only does not encompass the full responsibility of a driver at a flashing red light, as it requires stopping first and checking for any oncoming traffic. Lastly, a malfunctioning signal would typically involve a different type of indication or behavior; a flashing red light is an intentional signal used for managing traffic flow, not an indication of malfunctions. Thus, the requirement to stop and then proceed when safe is the accurate interpretation of a flashing red light.

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://icbcpracticeexam.examzify.com>

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