JJ Keller Entry Level Driver Training for CDL (Commercial Driver's License) Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide

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Questions

1. What behavior should you avoid while driving to reduce the risk of an accident?

A. Keeping a safe following distance.

B. Using distractions like your phone.

C. Checking your blind spot.

D. Using turn signals.

2. Which of the following behaviors may indicate that another driver is distracted?

A. Exceeding the speed limit consistently

B. Making sudden or erratic speed changes

C. Driving steadily within the speed limit

D. Maintaining a safe following distance

3. In a well-maintained vehicle, how are road shocks managed by the suspension system?

A. They are eliminated entirely

B. They are absorbed by the tires

C. They are distributed evenly throughout the frame

D. They increase fuel consumption

4. To whom must you report a hazardous materials incident by phone?

A. Local emergency services

B. National Response Center

C. Environmental Protection Agency

D. Department of Transportation

5. What component takes the power generated by the engine and applies it to the tractor's drive wheels?

A. Suspension system

B. Transmission

C. Drivetrain

D. Brake system

6. When transporting hazardous materials, what must you carry that is readily available?

A. Hazardous waste manifest

B. Emergency response information

C. Driver's license

D. Shipping documents

7. How frequently should you check your mirrors while driving?

A. Every 2 seconds

B. Every 4 seconds

C. Every 6 seconds

D. Every 10 seconds

8. Why is it important to park in a secure location at truck stops?

A. To conserve fuel

B. To prevent vehicle theft or damage

C. To comply with parking regulations

D. To maintain a vehicle's warranty

9. When is it appropriate to use your four-way flashers?

A. When you are parked on a busy street.

B. When slowing down unexpectedly.

C. When your vehicle is out of fuel.

D. When changing lanes.

10. Which example illustrates a physical distraction while driving?

A. Listening to music

B. Changing the radio station

C. Eating a cheeseburger and fries

D. Having a conversation with a passenger

Answers

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

Explanations

1. What behavior should you avoid while driving to reduce the risk of an accident?

A. Keeping a safe following distance.

B. Using distractions like your phone.

C. Checking your blind spot.

D. Using turn signals.

Avoiding distractions such as using your phone while driving is crucial for reducing the risk of an accident. Distractions take your attention away from the driving task, impairing your ability to respond to changing traffic conditions, pedestrians, or potential hazards. Research shows that distracted driving significantly increases the likelihood of crashes, making it one of the most critical behaviors to avoid. Driving requires full concentration, and engaging with a phone or similar distractions diverts your focus from the road, increasing the chances of an accident. In contrast, maintaining a safe following distance, checking your blind spots, and using turn signals are all positive behaviors that enhance road safety and awareness.

2. Which of the following behaviors may indicate that another driver is distracted?

A. Exceeding the speed limit consistently

B. Making sudden or erratic speed changes

C. Driving steadily within the speed limit

D. Maintaining a safe following distance

Making sudden or erratic speed changes can be a clear indication that a driver is distracted. When a driver is attentive and focused on the road, they generally maintain a consistent speed and are able to adjust their speed smoothly in response to changing road conditions, traffic patterns, and signals. Distracted driving often leads to an inability to react appropriately to the flow of traffic; this might manifest as sudden acceleration or deceleration, or erratic behavior in terms of speed. Such actions can be attributed to distractions, whether they stem from mobile devices, conversations, or other diversions that divert attention from driving responsibilities. On the other hand, behaviors like consistently exceeding the speed limit, driving steadily within the speed limit, and maintaining a safe following distance, do not serve as clear indicators of distraction. Instead, maintaining a safe following distance and adhering to the speed limit suggest that a driver is likely paying attention to the driving task and managing their vehicle appropriately.

3. In a well-maintained vehicle, how are road shocks managed by the suspension system?

A. They are eliminated entirely

B. They are absorbed by the tires

C. They are distributed evenly throughout the frame

D. They increase fuel consumption

The suspension system is designed to manage road shocks by distributing them evenly throughout the vehicle's frame. This distribution helps to maintain stability and control, allowing for a smoother ride. When shocks from the road impact the vehicle, the suspension absorbs and mitigates these forces, preventing them from being transmitted directly to the frame and the occupants. This effective management of road shocks contributes to vehicle handling and comfort, ensuring that the driver maintains control even when encountering rough terrain or bumps in the road. In contrast, while tires do play a role in absorbing some road shocks, they are not the primary mechanism for managing these shocks as part of a well-functioning suspension system. The idea that road shocks could be completely eliminated misrepresents the nature of driving conditions; shocks will always occur to some extent. Additionally, managing shocks does not inherently lead to increased fuel consumption; in fact, a well-functioning suspension can enhance fuel efficiency by maintaining proper contact between the tires and the road.

4. To whom must you report a hazardous materials incident by phone?

A. Local emergency services

B. National Response Center

C. Environmental Protection Agency

D. Department of Transportation

Reporting a hazardous materials incident by phone to the National Response Center is crucial because this center is specifically designated to receive reports of hazardous material spills and incidents. The National Response Center operates as a federal point of contact for such reports, ensuring that necessary information can be rapidly disseminated to appropriate federal and state agencies for a coordinated response. This prompt reporting is essential to manage risks effectively, ensure public safety, and facilitate a proper cleanup process. While local emergency services, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Transportation are all important entities in managing hazardous material situations, they may not be the most immediate point of contact in the event of an incident. The National Response Center serves as the first notification framework, allowing for swift action and subsequent notifications to be handled appropriately by local or other relevant agencies.

5. What component takes the power generated by the engine and applies it to the tractor's drive wheels?

A. Suspension system

B. Transmission

C. Drivetrain

D. Brake system

The drivetrain is the correct answer because it encompasses the components that transfer power from the engine to the drive wheels of the tractor. This includes not only the transmission but also the driveshafts, axles, and differentials, which together work to ensure that the power generated by the engine is effectively applied to the wheels for movement. The drivetrain's primary function is crucial in vehicle operation, as it allows the vehicle to move by converting the engine's output into rotational force that turns the wheels. This system is designed to work in conjunction with various other components, ensuring the vehicle responds appropriately to driver inputs and road conditions. While the transmission is a vital part of the drivetrain, it specifically is responsible for adjusting engine power and torque before sending it to the wheels. The suspension system, on the other hand, is primarily responsible for handling the vehicle's stability and ride quality, while the brake system is focused on stopping the vehicle rather than transferring power for movement.

6. When transporting hazardous materials, what must you carry that is readily available?

A. Hazardous waste manifest

B. Emergency response information

C. Driver's license

D. Shipping documents

When transporting hazardous materials, it is essential to carry emergency response information that is readily available. This information is crucial as it provides first responders with the necessary guidelines, instructions, and safety measures to manage potential incidents involving hazardous materials. This could include spill containment procedures, exposure treatment recommendations, and potential hazards associated with the materials being transported. Having this information readily accessible ensures that in the event of an emergency—whether it's a spill, leak, or accident—the appropriate actions can be rapidly executed to mitigate risks, protect health, and ensure the safety of the surrounding community and environment. This requirement underscores the importance of preparedness and crisis management in the transportation of hazardous materials. While other options like a hazardous waste manifest, driver's license, or shipping documents might be relevant in the context of hazardous materials transport, they do not specifically address the immediate emergency response needs that the emergency response information provides.

7. How frequently should you check your mirrors while driving?

A. Every 2 seconds

B. Every 4 seconds

C. Every 6 seconds

D. Every 10 seconds

Checking your mirrors every 4 seconds is crucial for safe driving, particularly for commercial drivers who are operating larger vehicles with more blind spots. This frequent checking allows drivers to stay aware of their surroundings, including other vehicles, pedestrians, and potential hazards. By observing your mirrors at this interval, you can quickly react to changes in traffic, such as vehicles entering your blind spots or sudden movements from other drivers. This practice helps in maintaining overall situational awareness, which is essential to avoid collisions and ensure safe lane changes or maneuvers. While checking mirrors every 2 or 6 seconds may seem reasonable, overly frequent checks could lead to distractions from the road or inadequate time to process information. Likewise, waiting 10 seconds could result in a delayed reaction to critical situations, as you may miss important developments around you during that time. Therefore, the 4-second interval strikes an effective balance between being vigilant and maintaining focus on the road ahead.

8. Why is it important to park in a secure location at truck stops?

A. To conserve fuel

B. To prevent vehicle theft or damage

C. To comply with parking regulations

D. To maintain a vehicle's warranty

Parking in a secure location at truck stops is vital primarily to prevent vehicle theft or damage. Truck stops often serve as busy hubs for many drivers, which can unfortunately attract criminal activity. By choosing a secure location, a driver significantly reduces the risk of their vehicle being targeted for theft, vandalism, or other types of damage. While conserving fuel, complying with parking regulations, and maintaining a vehicle's warranty are important considerations, they do not directly address the immediate risks associated with parking in unsecured areas. Secure locations typically provide better lighting, surveillance, and sometimes security personnel, all of which contribute to the safety of the vehicle and its contents. This choice prioritizes the protection of the driver's livelihood and peace of mind while resting or taking a break from driving.

9. When is it appropriate to use your four-way flashers?

A. When you are parked on a busy street.

B. When slowing down unexpectedly.

C. When your vehicle is out of fuel.

D. When changing lanes.

Using your four-way flashers is appropriate in situations where you need to alert other drivers to a potential hazard. In the case of slowing down unexpectedly, activating your flashers communicates to vehicles behind you that there is a reason for your sudden change in speed, helping to prevent collisions and maintain safety on the road. When parked on a busy street, while it may seem reasonable to use flashers to signal your presence, the primary intent of four-way flashers is to warn of a hazard, making it less suitable than the unexpected slowing scenario. If your vehicle runs out of fuel, you would typically pull over and may use flashers, but that is not a proactive warning about a decreasing speed. Changing lanes usually requires signaling with turn indicators, as it's a normal driving action rather than an indication of a hazard requiring all four lights. Thus, using flashers when slowing down unexpectedly is the most appropriate and safety-enhancing choice in the given options.

10. Which example illustrates a physical distraction while driving?

A. Listening to music

B. Changing the radio station

C. Eating a cheeseburger and fries

D. Having a conversation with a passenger

The correct answer highlights a scenario where the driver is engaged in an activity that requires physical manipulation, diverting their attention away from the act of driving. Eating a cheeseburger and fries not only involves the use of hands to handle food but can also cause the driver to look away from the road, increasing the risk of an accident. Engaging in this kind of physical distraction may require the driver to focus on coordinating the act of eating, which can lead to a decreased ability to respond to driving conditions such as traffic signals, pedestrians, or other vehicles. It encompasses both visual and manual distractions, as the driver is physically involved in eating, which can impair their ability to maintain proper control over the vehicle. In contrast, listening to music and having a conversation with a passenger primarily engage auditory senses rather than requiring a physical response that can divert attention from the road. Changing the radio station, while potentially distracting, often involves a brief and less demanding interaction compared to the more complex act of eating while driving.