

MISSISSIPPI CDL GENERAL KNOWLEDGE PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

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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 three components add up to your total stopping distance?**
 - A. Perception Distance, Reaction Distance, and Vehicle Weight
 - B. Perception Distance, Reaction Distance, and Braking Distance
 - C. Braking Distance, Road Conditions, and Speed
 - D. Perception Distance, Speed, and Traffic Conditions
- 2. Is stopping always the safest action to take in an emergency situation?**
 - A. Yes, it is always safer to stop
 - B. No, sometimes steering away is safer
 - C. It depends on the vehicle type
 - D. Only if traffic conditions allow
- 3. What should a driver do if they don't remember driving the last few miles?**
 - A. Continue driving and put it out of mind
 - B. Pull over and take a break
 - C. Ignore the situation and stay focused
 - D. Consider it usual among long drives
- 4. While driving a bus, how far should you be able to see behind the bus?**
 - A. 100 feet
 - B. 200 feet
 - C. 150 feet
 - D. 250 feet
- 5. True or False: If you are away from your vehicle for a short time, you do not need to use the parking brake?**
 - A. True
 - B. False
 - C. Only if parked on a flat surface
 - D. Only for emergency stops
- 6. How do you brake when driving a tractor-trailer combination with ABS?**
 - A. Lightly over the brake pedal
 - B. The same as before
 - C. By pumping the brakes
 - D. Gradually applying both pedals

7. What does it mean to recognize overloads in cargo?

- A. Being aware of the maximum number of passengers
- B. Identifying excessive weight on the vehicle
- C. Counting the number of tiedowns used
- D. Monitoring fuel levels

8. How often must Medical Certificates be renewed?

- A. Every year
- B. Every 18 months
- C. Every 2 years
- D. Every 5 years

9. For a 20' load, what is the minimum number of tiedowns needed?

- A. One
- B. Two
- C. Three
- D. Four

10. Which of the following is a prohibited practice described in the manual?

- A. Allowing passengers to eat on the bus
- B. Fueling your bus with passengers on board unless absolutely necessary
- C. Using the bus for personal errands
- D. Talking with passengers while driving

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What three components add up to your total stopping distance?

- A. Perception Distance, Reaction Distance, and Vehicle Weight
- B. Perception Distance, Reaction Distance, and Braking Distance**
- C. Braking Distance, Road Conditions, and Speed
- D. Perception Distance, Speed, and Traffic Conditions

Total stopping distance is a critical concept for drivers, especially for those operating commercial vehicles. It is the sum of three specific distances: perception distance, reaction distance, and braking distance. Perception distance is the distance a vehicle travels while the driver is recognizing a hazard. This is the time it takes for a driver to see and identify a situation that requires stopping. Reaction distance follows, which is the distance your vehicle travels while you are moving your foot from the accelerator to the brake pedal. This occurs after the perception distance and reflects the time it takes to initiate the stopping process. Finally, braking distance is the distance the vehicle travels while coming to a stop once the brakes have been applied. This distance is influenced by various factors including vehicle speed, weight, and road conditions. Together, perception distance, reaction distance, and braking distance form the total stopping distance. Understanding these components is crucial for maintaining safety on the road, as it helps drivers gauge how much space they need to stop safely in different driving scenarios. The other answer choices either include irrelevant components or do not encompass all three necessary aspects of stopping distance, which are critical to accurately calculating how far a vehicle will travel before coming to a complete stop.

2. Is stopping always the safest action to take in an emergency situation?

- A. Yes, it is always safer to stop
- B. No, sometimes steering away is safer**
- C. It depends on the vehicle type
- D. Only if traffic conditions allow

In emergency situations while driving, the best response may not always be to stop. Steering away from danger can often be a safer and more effective maneuver. This is particularly true if stopping suddenly could lead to a violent collision with another vehicle, cause a rear-end crash, or put the driver in a more hazardous position. For example, if a vehicle is suddenly approaching from behind and may not stop in time, steering to the side instead of stopping can help avoid a collision. Additionally, if a driver senses that stopping might lead to skidding or losing control of the vehicle, steering away from potential hazards is often the preferred option. Moreover, in some scenarios, the overall context—including the actions of other vehicles and the road conditions—determines what is safest. Therefore, understanding the environment and being able to make split-second decisions is essential, and simply stopping may not always be the best choice to ensure safety.

3. What should a driver do if they don't remember driving the last few miles?

- A. Continue driving and put it out of mind
- B. Pull over and take a break**
- C. Ignore the situation and stay focused
- D. Consider it usual among long drives

When a driver does not remember the last few miles, it indicates potential fatigue or a lapse in attention. In such situations, the safest and most responsible action is to pull over and take a break. This allows the driver to rest, regain focus, and assess their mental and physical state. Driving while experiencing fatigue can significantly increase the likelihood of an accident, so taking the time to step away from driving can prevent dangerous situations. Choosing to continue driving or ignoring the situation does not address the underlying issue of possible distraction or fatigue, which could lead to impaired judgment and slower reaction times on the road. Recognizing that forgetting recent miles is not typical behavior is crucial for maintaining safety while driving, especially on long trips where fatigue can easily set in. Therefore, taking a break is an essential step in ensuring both the driver's safety and the safety of others on the road.

4. While driving a bus, how far should you be able to see behind the bus?

- A. 100 feet
- B. 200 feet**
- C. 150 feet
- D. 250 feet

When driving a bus, it is recommended that you should be able to see at least 200 feet behind the vehicle. This distance allows for a better understanding of the surrounding traffic conditions and helps ensure safety for both the driver and other road users. Visibility is crucial, especially in larger vehicles like buses, which have significant blind spots. Being able to see this distance helps the driver make informed decisions, such as when to back up or change lanes, ultimately contributing to safer maneuvering in various driving situations. The other distance options provided do not meet the recommended visibility requirement. Shorter distances potentially limit the driver's ability to accurately judge the surroundings and respond to hazards, which is especially critical in operating larger vehicles.

5. True or False: If you are away from your vehicle for a short time, you do not need to use the parking brake?

- A. True
- B. False**
- C. Only if parked on a flat surface
- D. Only for emergency stops

The statement is false. Whenever you leave your vehicle, even for a short period, it is important to engage the parking brake. The parking brake is a critical safety feature designed to prevent the vehicle from rolling away, especially on inclines. It ensures that the vehicle remains stationary, providing safety for both the driver and others nearby. There is a common misconception that if a vehicle is parked on a flat surface, the parking brake is unnecessary; however, it's still advisable to use it as a precautionary measure against unforeseen circumstances such as mechanical failures or unexpected movements from the vehicle. Thus, engaging the parking brake is a good practice regardless of the duration of absence or the gradient of the surface on which the vehicle is parked.

6. How do you brake when driving a tractor-trailer combination with ABS?

- A. Lightly over the brake pedal
- B. The same as before**
- C. By pumping the brakes
- D. Gradually applying both pedals

When driving a tractor-trailer combination equipped with Anti-lock Braking System (ABS), the appropriate method for braking is to apply the brakes the same way as you would without ABS. This means firmly and steadily pressing down on the brake pedal to achieve the desired deceleration. The key advantage of ABS is that it prevents the wheels from locking up during hard braking, which allows the driver to maintain steering control. When ABS is functioning, it will automatically modulate the brake pressure to avoid wheel lock, which means that the driver does not need to change their braking habits. This can help in maintaining control of the vehicle, especially on slippery surfaces. Pumping the brakes, as suggested in one of the other choices, is a technique that was once recommended for vehicles without ABS but can be counterproductive in an ABS-equipped vehicle since the system itself is designed to pulse the brakes automatically. The option to lightly over the brake pedal does not take full advantage of ABS capabilities, which can lead to longer stopping distances. Gradually applying both pedals is not specific to the use of ABS and might not provide the most effective or immediate stopping response when needed.

7. What does it mean to recognize overloads in cargo?

- A. Being aware of the maximum number of passengers
- B. Identifying excessive weight on the vehicle**
- C. Counting the number of tiedowns used
- D. Monitoring fuel levels

Recognizing overloads in cargo refers to identifying excessive weight on the vehicle. This concept is crucial for ensuring safety and compliance with regulations. Each vehicle has a specific weight limit, including both the gross vehicle weight and the maximum load capacity. Exceeding these limits can lead to various issues, such as difficulty in controlling the vehicle, increased stopping distances, and greater wear on vehicle components. Additionally, being overloaded can result in violations of state and federal laws, leading to fines and penalties. Therefore, understanding and recognizing when cargo exceeds the allowed weight is essential for safe and legal transportation. Other options, while related to vehicle operation, do not directly pertain to the concept of weight overload. Awareness of maximum passenger limits focuses on safety regulations for human occupants rather than cargo weight. Counting tiedowns relates to securing loads, and monitoring fuel levels is about ensuring adequate fuel for the journey, neither of which directly addresses the impact of weight on vehicle performance.

8. How often must Medical Certificates be renewed?

- A. Every year
- B. Every 18 months
- C. Every 2 years**
- D. Every 5 years

Medical Certificates must be renewed every 2 years for commercial drivers. This requirement ensures that drivers regularly undergo medical evaluations to confirm that they are physically qualified to operate commercial vehicles safely. Regular renewals help maintain road safety by identifying any potential health issues that could impair a driver's ability to perform their duties. While some drivers may qualify for a longer duration based on specific medical conditions, the standard renewal period is set at 2 years. Other intervals mentioned, such as annually or every 5 years, do not align with the guidelines established by federal regulations, which specify the 2-year timeframe for most commercial drivers.

9. For a 20' load, what is the minimum number of tiedowns needed?

- A. One
- B. Two**
- C. Three
- D. Four

The minimum number of tiedowns required for a load is determined by its length. For a load that is 20 feet long, the regulation generally stipulates that at least two tiedowns are necessary. The reasoning behind this requirement is based on safety and the need to secure the load adequately to prevent any potential movement during transit. Each tiedown contributes to holding the load in place, especially if the vehicle encounters different driving conditions or stops suddenly. Properly securing the load with at least two tiedowns minimizes the risk of it shifting or falling off the vehicle, thereby ensuring the safety of the driver, other road users, and the integrity of the load itself. For loads longer than 10 feet, the requirement increases, emphasizing that as the load length increases, so must the number of tiedowns to maintain safe transport standards. In this way, two is the correct minimum number of tiedowns for a 20-foot load.

10. Which of the following is a prohibited practice described in the manual?

- A. Allowing passengers to eat on the bus
- B. Fueling your bus with passengers on board unless absolutely necessary**
- C. Using the bus for personal errands
- D. Talking with passengers while driving

The practice described in the manual as prohibited is fueling your bus with passengers on board unless it is absolutely necessary. This safety rule is in place to ensure the wellbeing of passengers, as fueling can create hazards such as spills, fumes, and the potential for fire. Keeping passengers off the bus while it is being fueled minimizes these risks and helps to maintain a safe operating environment. While there are certainly guidelines regarding the other options, they may not carry the same level of prohibited classification. For example, allowing passengers to eat on the bus may be undesirable in terms of cleanliness and maintaining order, but it is not outright prohibited. Similarly, using the bus for personal errands is generally discouraged but could be subject to policies of specific bus companies rather than a universal prohibition. Talking with passengers while driving can also distract the driver, yet it may not be strictly forbidden in all contexts, depending on the circumstances and the driver's ability to maintain focus. The regulation against fueling with passengers onboard is a clear and critical safety procedure that is firmly enforced to protect all individuals involved.

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://mscdlgenknowledge.examzify.com>

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

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