

MTA Surface Line Dispatcher (SLD) Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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Questions

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- 1. Which activities are prohibited among employees while on duty?**
 - A. Reading and writing**
 - B. Listening to music**
 - C. Loafing and gambling**
 - D. Having coffee breaks**
- 2. What is typically required of drivers to avoid fines related to idling?**
 - A. Keeping the bus engine running at all times**
 - B. Turning off the bus engine when not in use**
 - C. Using alternative fuels only**
 - D. Reducing passenger load**
- 3. What is the minimum amount of oil or fuel that must be reported to the office of system safety and command center?**
 - A. 2 gallons**
 - B. 3 gallons**
 - C. 5 gallons**
 - D. 10 gallons**
- 4. What should a Surface Line Dispatcher prioritize during service disruptions?**
 - A. Changing the route of all vehicles**
 - B. Implementing safety protocols and ensuring passenger information**
 - C. Increasing service frequency**
 - D. Performing financial audits**
- 5. What is the minimum distance a bus must maintain from curbed or parked vehicles when operating?**
 - A. 2 feet**
 - B. 4 feet**
 - C. 6 feet**
 - D. 8 feet**

- 6. Who is responsible for red light violations while operating an authority bus?**
- A. The passengers on the bus**
 - B. The authority management**
 - C. The operators of the bus**
 - D. The bus maintenance team**
- 7. What circumstances allow for the easing of the 8-hour rule restriction?**
- A. Employee discretion**
 - B. General manager or chief officer declaration**
 - C. Employee's request**
 - D. Union agreement**
- 8. How soon must an employee notify authorities about a traffic infraction conviction?**
- A. Within 2 days**
 - B. Within 5 days**
 - C. Within 10 days**
 - D. Within 1 week**
- 9. How often should transit equipment be maintained?**
- A. Every three years**
 - B. Regularly, as per manufacturer guidelines and industry standards**
 - C. Only when problems are reported**
 - D. At the end of the transit year**
- 10. At what distance should a bus signal for an exit off a highway?**
- A. 200 feet**
 - B. 250 feet**
 - C. 300 feet**
 - D. 350 feet**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which activities are prohibited among employees while on duty?

- A. Reading and writing**
- B. Listening to music**
- C. Loafing and gambling**
- D. Having coffee breaks**

The correct choice highlights that loafing and gambling are prohibited activities among employees while on duty. This prohibition is significant for maintaining professionalism, safety, and productivity within the work environment. Loafing refers to wasting time or engaging in idle behavior during work hours, which can negatively impact service efficiency and the overall functioning of the organization. Gambling is a further distraction that can lead to a loss of focus and may also create an uncomfortable or hostile work environment among peers. Maintaining a high level of focus and professionalism is crucial in a role such as a Surface Line Dispatcher, where decisions made can affect public transportation efficiency, safety, and customer service. Thus, prohibiting loafing and gambling helps ensure that employees remain vigilant and dedicated to their responsibilities while on duty.

2. What is typically required of drivers to avoid fines related to idling?

- A. Keeping the bus engine running at all times**
- B. Turning off the bus engine when not in use**
- C. Using alternative fuels only**
- D. Reducing passenger load**

Turning off the bus engine when not in use is a standard practice designed to reduce unnecessary emissions and noise pollution. This practice aligns with various environmental regulations aimed at minimizing air pollution, particularly in urban areas where idling can contribute significantly to poor air quality. Idling not only wastes fuel but also increases wear and tear on the vehicle, leading to higher maintenance costs over time. By promoting the practice of shutting down the engine during extended stops or when passengers are boarding or disembarking, jurisdictions can enforce limits on idling time. These measures not only help avoid fines that may be imposed by local laws regarding excessive idling but also play a role in promoting environmentally responsible behavior among drivers. Hence, it's essential for drivers to adopt this practice to comply with regulations and contribute positively to public health and environmental sustainability.

3. What is the minimum amount of oil or fuel that must be reported to the office of system safety and command center?

- A. 2 gallons**
- B. 3 gallons**
- C. 5 gallons**
- D. 10 gallons**

The minimum amount of oil or fuel that must be reported to the office of system safety and command center is established at 5 gallons. This threshold is significant for safety and environmental reasons, as spills or leaks of this quantity could potentially pose a risk to both operational safety and environmental integrity. By requiring reporting at this level, the organization ensures that appropriate measures can be taken to address any leaks or spills promptly and effectively, minimizing risks to personnel and the surrounding community. Understanding this requirement is crucial for maintaining compliance with safety regulations and ensuring proper response protocols are followed in case of a fuel-related incident.

4. What should a Surface Line Dispatcher prioritize during service disruptions?

- A. Changing the route of all vehicles**
- B. Implementing safety protocols and ensuring passenger information**
- C. Increasing service frequency**
- D. Performing financial audits**

During service disruptions, a Surface Line Dispatcher should prioritize implementing safety protocols and ensuring passenger information. This focus is crucial because the safety of passengers and staff is paramount during any service interruption. Disruptions can lead to unforeseen hazards such as crowded conditions, potential confusion, or safety risks, especially in high-traffic areas. Additionally, effective communication with passengers is vital during these times. Providing timely, accurate information helps to manage passenger expectations, reduce anxiety, and ensure they understand alternate travel options or potential delays. This approach promotes a positive perception of the service despite disruptions. The other options, while they may have their place during regular operations or in different contexts, do not prioritize the immediate needs for safety and communication that are critical during service disruptions. Changing the route of all vehicles could create confusion and safety issues if not managed properly. Increasing service frequency may not be feasible during disruptions and could strain resources. Performing financial audits is unrelated to the immediate challenges faced during service interruptions and does not address the needs of passengers or the operational safety required in such scenarios.

5. What is the minimum distance a bus must maintain from curbed or parked vehicles when operating?

- A. 2 feet**
- B. 4 feet**
- C. 6 feet**
- D. 8 feet**

The correct answer is that a bus must maintain a minimum distance of 4 feet from curbed or parked vehicles when operating. This distance is crucial for ensuring the safety of both the bus passengers and individuals who may be getting in and out of parked vehicles. Maintaining a safe distance minimizes the risks of accidents or collisions, particularly in urban environments where vehicle and pedestrian movement is frequent. In addition, keeping this distance helps drivers maneuver safely around obstacles while adhering to traffic regulations. This practice also contributes to smoother traffic flow, as it allows for the safe passage of other vehicles that may be traveling alongside or around the bus. Proper training and adherence to these distance requirements are essential for all surface line operators to prevent incidents and ensure overall traffic safety.

6. Who is responsible for red light violations while operating an authority bus?

- A. The passengers on the bus**
- B. The authority management**
- C. The operators of the bus**
- D. The bus maintenance team**

The operators of the bus are responsible for red light violations while operating an authority bus because they are in control of the vehicle and are accountable for adhering to traffic laws and regulations. As trained professionals, bus operators have a duty to ensure the safety of their passengers and the general public by following all traffic signals, including red lights. This responsibility includes making sound judgment calls regarding when to stop or proceed at intersections. While other parties, such as management or the maintenance team, contribute to overall safety and operational standards, the direct responsibility for obeying traffic signals falls squarely on the operators themselves, as they are actively driving the bus at the time of any potential violation.

7. What circumstances allow for the easing of the 8-hour rule restriction?

- A. Employee discretion**
- B. General manager or chief officer declaration**
- C. Employee's request**
- D. Union agreement**

The easing of the 8-hour rule restriction is typically governed by the protocols established within the organization's operational framework. When the general manager or a chief officer makes a declaration, it indicates that there is an official acknowledgment of specific circumstances or conditions that warrant an exception to the standard regulations. This top-level authority is necessary as it ensures that any deviations from the set rules are justified and documented, maintaining safety and compliance within the operation. This option underscores the importance of having a structured approach to rule enforcement, where changes or exceptions are not made at an individual level but rather through a centralized decision-making process. Such an approach helps in maintaining operational integrity and safety standards while allowing for flexibility when unforeseen circumstances arise.

8. How soon must an employee notify authorities about a traffic infraction conviction?

- A. Within 2 days**
- B. Within 5 days**
- C. Within 10 days**
- D. Within 1 week**

An employee is required to notify authorities about a traffic infraction conviction within 5 days. This time frame is established to ensure that any necessary actions can be taken promptly regarding the employee's driving record, which can have implications for their job responsibilities, especially if their role involves operating a vehicle. Timely reporting helps maintain safety standards, ensure compliance with regulations, and facilitate any necessary follow-up actions by the employer or related authorities. Other time frames, like 2 days, 10 days, or 1 week, are not in line with the established requirement and could lead to potential issues for the employee if not reported within the mandated period.

9. How often should transit equipment be maintained?

- A. Every three years
- B. Regularly, as per manufacturer guidelines and industry standards**
- C. Only when problems are reported
- D. At the end of the transit year

Transit equipment maintenance is crucial for ensuring safety, reliability, and efficiency in service operations. The correct approach to maintenance is to follow manufacturer guidelines and industry standards, which dictate a regular maintenance schedule based on the specific needs and usage of the equipment. This includes preventive maintenance, which can help identify potential issues before they lead to failures or costly repairs. Regular maintenance checks might involve inspections, lubrication, cleaning, and repairs as necessary, allowing transit agencies to keep their equipment in optimal condition and minimize service disruptions and accidents. This proactive approach not only enhances the lifespan of the equipment but also ensures compliance with safety regulations and operational standards, thereby protecting both staff and passengers. Each piece of transit equipment can have varying needs based on its design, usage, and operating environment, hence the importance of adhering to manufacturer recommendations specific to that equipment type. Options that suggest less frequent maintenance, such as every three years, only when problems are reported, or at the end of the transit year, do not align with the proactive approach emphasized in industry best practices. Such infrequent maintenance could jeopardize both safety and operational efficiency.

10. At what distance should a bus signal for an exit off a highway?

- A. 200 feet
- B. 250 feet**
- C. 300 feet
- D. 350 feet

A bus should signal for an exit off a highway at a distance of 250 feet. This distance is important for ensuring safety and efficiency when maneuvering the vehicle. Signaling at this distance provides adequate warning to other drivers and ensures that the bus has enough time to safely change lanes and prepare to make the exit. It gives approaching vehicles enough time to react if necessary, while also adhering to standard signaling practices that promote orderly traffic flow. This distance helps prevent potential accidents and ensures that all road users are aware of the bus's intentions well in advance.