

New Hampshire Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Practice Test (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. What should a driver do before driving in mountainous terrain?**
 - A. Shift to a higher gear**
 - B. Check the weight of the load**
 - C. Increase tire pressure**
 - D. Avoid using brakes**
- 2. Which of these is true about hazardous materials?**
 - A. All hazardous materials present a health and safety threat.**
 - B. Every truck carrying any amount of hazardous materials must have placards.**
 - C. All public roads allow trucks carrying hazardous materials if they are loaded correctly.**
 - D. Only certain hazardous materials require special permits.**
- 3. What should you look for during a pre-trip inspection?**
 - A. The cleanliness of the vehicle**
 - B. Brakes, lights, and tires**
 - C. The driver's comfort**
 - D. The vehicle's color**
- 4. What is a common result of driving with poorly maintained brakes?**
 - A. Decreased fuel efficiency**
 - B. Increased stopping distances and the potential for brake failure**
 - C. Less wear on tires**
 - D. Improved handling of the vehicle**
- 5. How often should a commercial driver perform pre-trip inspections?**
 - A. Once a month**
 - B. Before each trip**
 - C. Every week**
 - D. Only when it has rained**

- 6. What can cause you to get hung up on railroad tracks?**
- A. You try to shift gears when crossing**
 - B. You cross double tracks too slowly**
 - C. The tracks have a steep approach**
 - D. Your vehicle is too long for the crossing**
- 7. Which of the following can keep you from being distracted while you drive?**
- A. Try to use communication devices only in light traffic**
 - B. Constantly review your maps and your route plan as you drive**
 - C. Pre-load your favorite CDs or cassette tapes**
 - D. Change radio stations frequently to stay alert**
- 8. How should your vehicle's outside mirrors be adjusted?**
- A. Some part of the vehicle should be showing**
 - B. You should have no blind spot**
 - C. You can see your entire vehicle**
 - D. The mirrors should only show the road behind**
- 9. When you are passing another vehicle, pedestrian, or bicyclist, you should assume that:**
- A. They may move into your traffic lane.**
 - B. They know you want to pass.**
 - C. They see your vehicle.**
 - D. They will maintain their course.**
- 10. When driving in cold weather, your tire tread should:**
- A. Provide enough traction to steer and push the vehicle through snow**
 - B. Be checked every 100 miles or every two hours**
 - C. Be double the depth required in normal weather**
 - D. Be replaced with summer tires for better performance**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What should a driver do before driving in mountainous terrain?

- A. Shift to a higher gear**
- B. Check the weight of the load**
- C. Increase tire pressure**
- D. Avoid using brakes**

Before driving in mountainous terrain, it is essential for a driver to check the weight of the load. This is because the weight directly impacts how a vehicle handles on inclines and declines. A heavier load can create more strain on the engine, increase stopping distances, and affect overall vehicle stability. In mountainous areas, drivers need to ensure that their vehicle's weight complies with regulations and does not exceed the vehicle's weight capacity. Additionally, the weight distribution must be appropriate to ensure effective braking and handling, especially on steep grades. Knowing the weight allows drivers to make informed decisions about gear selection, speed, and braking tactics, which are crucial for safe operation in such challenging conditions.

2. Which of these is true about hazardous materials?

- A. All hazardous materials present a health and safety threat.**
- B. Every truck carrying any amount of hazardous materials must have placards.**
- C. All public roads allow trucks carrying hazardous materials if they are loaded correctly.**
- D. Only certain hazardous materials require special permits.**

The statement that all hazardous materials present a health and safety threat is valid because hazardous materials are defined as substances that can pose a significant risk to health, safety, property, or the environment when improperly managed. This inherent risk comes from the chemical properties of these materials, which can cause harm through exposure, spills, or accidents. While it may be true that not all hazardous materials pose the same level of threat, the classification centers on the potential for harm, hence considering all hazardous materials as a threat is a cautious and justified perspective for safety regulations and response planning. The other choices provide specific conditions which may not universally apply; for instance, not every truck carrying hazardous materials requires placards if the materials are below a certain quantity—hence, the dangers posed by those materials may require careful assessment rather than outright classification. Additionally, public road accessibility can vary based on regulations, and not all hazardous materials require special permits. Therefore, understanding that hazardous materials can pose threats allows for better risk management and safety protocols.

3. What should you look for during a pre-trip inspection?

- A. The cleanliness of the vehicle
- B. Brakes, lights, and tires**
- C. The driver's comfort
- D. The vehicle's color

During a pre-trip inspection, it is essential to focus on critical safety aspects of the vehicle that directly impact its operational readiness. This includes examining the brakes, lights, and tires, which are vital components that ensure both the driver's safety and that of other road users. Properly functioning brakes are crucial for stopping the vehicle effectively, lights are necessary for visibility and communication with other drivers, and tires must be in good condition to maintain traction and control. While aspects like cleanliness, driver comfort, and the aesthetic attributes of the vehicle—such as color—are important for overall presentation or personal preference, they do not directly influence the safety and functionality of the vehicle. In a commercial driving context, prioritizing safety features during a pre-trip inspection is paramount in preventing accidents and ensuring compliance with regulations.

4. What is a common result of driving with poorly maintained brakes?

- A. Decreased fuel efficiency
- B. Increased stopping distances and the potential for brake failure**
- C. Less wear on tires
- D. Improved handling of the vehicle

Driving with poorly maintained brakes commonly leads to increased stopping distances and the potential for brake failure. When brakes are not properly maintained, various components such as brake pads, rotors, and hydraulic systems can degrade over time. This degradation can result in a reduced ability to apply sufficient force to stop the vehicle effectively, meaning that when the brakes are engaged, the vehicle takes longer to come to a complete halt. Moreover, when brakes are in poor condition, there is a heightened risk of brake failure. This can occur if components are worn beyond safe limits or if there is an insufficient supply of brake fluid, among other issues. Effective brake systems are critical for safety, particularly for commercial drivers who handle larger vehicles that require more stopping power due to their mass. Hence, understanding the importance of brake maintenance is fundamental for any driver, especially those operating commercial vehicles.

5. How often should a commercial driver perform pre-trip inspections?

- A. Once a month**
- B. Before each trip**
- C. Every week**
- D. Only when it has rained**

Performing pre-trip inspections before each trip is essential for ensuring the safety and functionality of the commercial vehicle. This practice allows the driver to identify any potential issues that may affect vehicle performance, safety, or compliance with regulations. By checking critical components like brakes, lights, tires, and the engine, drivers can prevent breakdowns, accidents, and ensure that they are operating within legal requirements. Regular inspections before every trip promote not only the safety of the driver but also the safety of others on the road, reinforcing responsible driving practices.

6. What can cause you to get hung up on railroad tracks?

- A. You try to shift gears when crossing**
- B. You cross double tracks too slowly**
- C. The tracks have a steep approach**
- D. Your vehicle is too long for the crossing**

Getting hung up on railroad tracks can occur due to a steep approach to the tracks. When the angle of the approach is steep, it can create a situation where the vehicle, especially if it is a larger one, may have difficulty transitioning onto or off of the tracks. This can lead to the vehicle's wheels becoming stuck, especially if the vehicle's ground clearance is low or if it is heavily loaded. The other options present scenarios that may increase the risk of getting into trouble when crossing tracks but do not directly lead to getting hung up in the same way. For instance, trying to shift gears while crossing can distract from navigating the crossing safely, but it's not specifically about being stuck. Crossing double tracks too slowly could also be unsafe, but again, it doesn't directly relate to being stuck; it's more about maintaining an adequate speed to clear the tracks. The length of the vehicle presents challenges at crossings, but it's the steepness of the approach that is the primary cause of being hung up on the tracks as it affects the vehicle's ability to navigate the transition effectively.

- 7. Which of the following can keep you from being distracted while you drive?**
- A. Try to use communication devices only in light traffic**
 - B. Constantly review your maps and your route plan as you drive**
 - C. Pre-load your favorite CDs or cassette tapes**
 - D. Change radio stations frequently to stay alert**

Pre-loading your favorite CDs or cassette tapes is a strategy that can help minimize distractions while driving. By preparing your music selection before starting your journey, you avoid the need to handle and adjust devices while driving. This preparation allows you to focus more on the road and your surroundings, reducing the likelihood of becoming distracted by reaching for media or adjusting settings mid-drive. In contrast, using communication devices in light traffic may still present risks if an unexpected situation arises. Constantly reviewing maps or route plans while driving demands attention away from the road, which can be dangerous. Frequently changing radio stations could lead to distractions that take your focus off of driving and the surrounding traffic. Choosing an approach that allows for maximum concentration on driving, like pre-loading music, is the most effective method to reduce distractions.

- 8. How should your vehicle's outside mirrors be adjusted?**
- A. Some part of the vehicle should be showing**
 - B. You should have no blind spot**
 - C. You can see your entire vehicle**
 - D. The mirrors should only show the road behind**

The correct approach to adjusting your vehicle's outside mirrors is to ensure that they provide the best possible view while minimizing blind spots. This is achieved by having a slight portion of the vehicle's side visible in the mirrors. This allows drivers to have a frame of reference for the vehicle's position on the road and to better judge distances when changing lanes or merging. Having a part of the vehicle visible helps in confirming that the driver is aware of their vehicle's dimensions relative to other objects on the road, which is crucial for safe navigation. In contrast, options that suggest having no blind spot or being able to see your entire vehicle are not optimal for safety. It's important to recognize that completely eliminating blind spots can be challenging, and it is usually more practical to reduce them effectively rather than aiming for complete absence. Thus, relying solely on mirrors might create a false sense of security. Additionally, mirrors showing only the road behind doesn't assist with lateral visibility, which is critical when driving in traffic. Therefore, the approach of showing a portion of the vehicle provides a balance of visibility and awareness necessary for safe driving.

9. When you are passing another vehicle, pedestrian, or bicyclist, you should assume that:

- A. They may move into your traffic lane.**
- B. They know you want to pass.**
- C. They see your vehicle.**
- D. They will maintain their course.**

Assuming that other road users, such as vehicles, pedestrians, or bicyclists, may move into your traffic lane is crucial for maintaining safety while passing. This assumption allows you to remain vigilant and prepared for any unexpected actions from those you are overtaking. Drivers must recognize that pedestrians and cyclists may not always be aware of your intentions, and vehicles may shift unexpectedly due to various factors such as distractions or road conditions. By adopting the mindset that these road users could change their position, you increase your chances of avoiding potential collisions. It encourages a defensive driving approach, reminding drivers to maintain a safe distance and be prepared to react if another user moves into their path. This proactive mindset is essential for safe driving practices.

10. When driving in cold weather, your tire tread should:

- A. Provide enough traction to steer and push the vehicle through snow**
- B. Be checked every 100 miles or every two hours**
- C. Be double the depth required in normal weather**
- D. Be replaced with summer tires for better performance**

The correct answer emphasizes the importance of tire tread in maintaining safe traction during cold weather driving conditions. Sufficient tire tread is crucial for allowing the vehicle to effectively grip the road, particularly when navigating through snow or icy surfaces. Treads are designed to channel snow and water away from the tire and help reduce slipping, ensuring better handling and stability while driving in adverse conditions. Proper tread depth is critical because it affects not just traction but also overall vehicle performance and safety. Having adequate tread allows for better control of the vehicle and more effective braking, which is particularly vital in winter weather when stopping distances can be significantly increased. While checking tire condition frequently and considering tire type in winter weather are important, the main focus in this context is on the necessity of having enough tread to ensure proper traction. This is the primary requirement for safe winter driving, making the first choice the most accurate.

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://newhampshirecdl.examzify.com>

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