

New Jersey Air Brakes 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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Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	6
Answers	9
Explanations	11
Next Steps	17

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. Which of the following is a common sign of air leaks in the air brake system?**
 - A. Vibrations in the steering wheel**
 - B. Hissing sounds**
 - C. Smelling burnt rubber**
 - D. Brakes sticking**
- 2. What should drivers routinely check in the air brake system?**
 - A. Tire pressure and alignment**
 - B. Air pressure levels and leaks**
 - C. Brake pad thickness and condition**
 - D. Fluid levels and belts**
- 3. In air brake systems, what does the brake push rod aid in?**
 - A. Controlling the air supply**
 - B. Reducing brake wear**
 - C. Transferring brake application force**
 - D. Regulating brake temperature**
- 4. What does a brake warning light indicate in an air brake system?**
 - A. High brake pad wear**
 - B. Low air pressure or malfunction in the system**
 - C. Need for brake fluid replacement**
 - D. Excessive engine Rev during braking**
- 5. Which component stores compressed air in an air brake system?**
 - A. Brake relay valve**
 - B. Air storage tanks**
 - C. Compressor unit**
 - D. Brake pedal**

- 6. What should occur before uncoupling a trailer with air brakes?**
- A. Establish air supply**
 - B. Depressurize the system**
 - C. Leave the system pressurized**
 - D. Perform a system check**
- 7. What does "Wig Wag" refer to in air brake systems?**
- A. A type of brake pad**
 - B. A mechanical arm that signals low air pressure**
 - C. A warning light on the dashboard**
 - D. A valve used to control air supply**
- 8. Why is it vital to have a working warning device in the air brake system?**
- A. To monitor brake temperature**
 - B. To alert the driver of low air pressure conditions**
 - C. To signal other drivers**
 - D. To improve brake performance**
- 9. What does the stop light switch do?**
- A. Activates the hazard lights**
 - B. Turns on the brake lights when you put on the air brakes**
 - C. Controls the speed of the vehicle**
 - D. Reports brake issues to the driver**
- 10. At 55mph on dry pavement, the air brake lag distance adds approximately how many feet?**
- A. 24 feet**
 - B. 32 feet**
 - C. 40 feet**
 - D. 48 feet**

Answers

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

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Explanations

1. Which of the following is a common sign of air leaks in the air brake system?

- A. Vibrations in the steering wheel**
- B. Hissing sounds**
- C. Smelling burnt rubber**
- D. Brakes sticking**

A common sign of air leaks in the air brake system is the presence of hissing sounds. These sounds often indicate that pressurized air is escaping from the system, which can occur at various points, such as from a damaged hose or fitting. When air escapes, it not only creates audible noise but also compromises the braking efficiency and can lead to system failures if not addressed. Hissing sounds alert the driver or technician to inspect the air brakes for potential leaks to ensure the vehicle operates safely and effectively.

2. What should drivers routinely check in the air brake system?

- A. Tire pressure and alignment**
- B. Air pressure levels and leaks**
- C. Brake pad thickness and condition**
- D. Fluid levels and belts**

Routine checks in an air brake system are crucial for maintaining safety and reliability while driving. One of the key aspects of these checks is monitoring air pressure levels and identifying any leaks in the air brake system. Air pressure levels are vital because the brake system relies on compressed air to operate effectively. Insufficient air pressure can lead to impaired braking performance, which may increase stopping distances and the risk of accidents. Hence, drivers need to ensure that the air pressure is within the manufacturer recommended operating limits. Additionally, checking for leaks is essential. Air leaks can severely compromise the system's efficiency, leading to loss of braking power and potential failure to stop when needed. Regular inspections allow for early detection of leaks; this minimizes the risk of driving with a compromised brake system. Keeping tabs on air pressure and ensuring there are no leaks helps ensure the vehicle's air brake system performs optimally, thereby enhancing safety on the road.

3. In air brake systems, what does the brake push rod aid in?

- A. Controlling the air supply**
- B. Reducing brake wear**
- C. Transferring brake application force**
- D. Regulating brake temperature**

The brake push rod plays a crucial role in air brake systems by transferring the application force from the brake mechanism to the braking system components. When the driver depresses the brake pedal, the push rod moves forward, which activates a series of components that compress air in the brake chambers. This compression creates the necessary force to engage the brakes and bring the vehicle to a halt. Understanding this mechanism is essential for recognizing how the action of pressing the brake pedal directly translates into braking power through the push rod, making it a foundational element in ensuring effective braking performance. The other options do not relate to the primary function of the push rod within air brake systems, as they touch on aspects like air supply control and brake wear, which involve different components and processes within the system.

4. What does a brake warning light indicate in an air brake system?

- A. High brake pad wear**
- B. Low air pressure or malfunction in the system**
- C. Need for brake fluid replacement**
- D. Excessive engine Rev during braking**

The brake warning light in an air brake system serves as an important alert for the driver. It indicates low air pressure within the system or a malfunction. When the air pressure drops below a certain threshold, the light is triggered to notify the driver of a potentially dangerous situation that could compromise the vehicle's braking ability. This is critical because air brake systems rely on compressed air to function effectively; insufficient pressure can lead to catastrophic brake failure. In air brake systems, the light is designed to catch the driver's attention and prompt inspection of the components for leaks, damage, or system faults. Understanding this warning is vital, as it plays a key role in maintaining safety on the road. Recognizing this indicator allows for timely maintenance or correction, ensuring that the braking system operates as intended.

5. Which component stores compressed air in an air brake system?

- A. Brake relay valve**
- B. Air storage tanks**
- C. Compressor unit**
- D. Brake pedal**

The component that stores compressed air in an air brake system is the air storage tanks. These tanks are essential for maintaining a reservoir of air pressure, which is necessary for the operation of the entire braking system. When the air compressor generates compressed air, it is directed into these storage tanks where it is kept until it is needed for braking action. Having adequate air storage is critical because it ensures that there is enough pressure available to activate the brake cylinders effectively when the driver applies the brakes. This mechanism allows for quick and reliable braking response, which is vital for safety in heavy vehicles. In contrast, the brake relay valve is responsible for controlling the flow of air to the brake chambers but does not store air. The compressor unit generates the compressed air but does not hold it; its job is to refill the air storage tanks. The brake pedal is the mechanism that the driver operates to engage the brakes, but it does not have any function related to the storage of compressed air.

6. What should occur before uncoupling a trailer with air brakes?

- A. Establish air supply**
- B. Depressurize the system**
- C. Leave the system pressurized**
- D. Perform a system check**

Before uncoupling a trailer with air brakes, it is essential to depressurize the system. This procedure is critical because leaving the system pressurized could lead to unintended deployment of the trailer brakes once the connection is broken, creating a potential hazard. Depressurizing the air brake system ensures that all air pressure is released, which allows for a safe disconnection of the trailer without the risk of the brakes engaging unexpectedly. In typical practice, depressurization is done by venting the air from the system, ensuring that the trailer's emergency brakes won't activate when the tractor and trailer are uncoupled. This is a crucial step in maintaining safety and preventing accidents during the uncoupling process.

7. What does "Wig Wag" refer to in air brake systems?

- A. A type of brake pad**
- B. A mechanical arm that signals low air pressure**
- C. A warning light on the dashboard**
- D. A valve used to control air supply**

"Wig Wag" refers to a mechanical arm that signals low air pressure in air brake systems. When the air pressure in the braking system falls below a certain threshold, the Wig Wag mechanism activates, moving a mechanical arm that visually indicates to the driver that the air pressure is insufficient for safe braking performance. This serves as an important safety feature, alerting the driver to take necessary actions to regain proper air pressure, which is essential for effective brakes. The other options, while related to braking systems, do not accurately describe what a Wig Wag is. A type of brake pad (as mentioned in one of the choices) does not pertain to the signaling aspect, and the term does not reflect a warning light on the dashboard or a valve for controlling air supply. Therefore, understanding the function and purpose of the Wig Wag underscores its importance in ensuring the safety and functionality of air brake systems in vehicles.

8. Why is it vital to have a working warning device in the air brake system?

- A. To monitor brake temperature**
- B. To alert the driver of low air pressure conditions**
- C. To signal other drivers**
- D. To improve brake performance**

A working warning device in the air brake system is essential because it alerts the driver of low air pressure conditions. This is critical for ensuring the safe operation of the vehicle. Air brakes rely on a certain level of air pressure to function effectively; if this pressure drops too low, the braking system can become compromised, leading to potential brake failure. The warning device provides timely notifications so that a driver can take necessary actions, such as pulling over and addressing the issue before it leads to dangerous situations. This safety feature is particularly important in larger vehicles that utilize air brakes, where a sudden loss of brake effectiveness can have very serious consequences. Ensuring that the driver is aware of low air pressure allows for preventative measures to be taken, maintaining both safety for the driver and others on the road.

9. What does the stop light switch do?

- A. Activates the hazard lights
- B. Turns on the brake lights when you put on the air brakes**
- C. Controls the speed of the vehicle
- D. Reports brake issues to the driver

The stop light switch plays a critical role in vehicle safety and operation by turning on the brake lights when the air brakes are applied. This function is essential because the brake lights serve as a visual signal to other drivers on the road, indicating that the vehicle is slowing down or stopping. When air brakes are engaged, the stop light switch detects this action and activates the brake lights, ensuring that anyone behind the vehicle is adequately alerted to the change in speed. This is particularly important in heavy vehicles that utilize air brakes, as these systems can take longer to react compared to traditional hydraulic brakes. By illuminating the brake lights promptly, the stop light switch enhances reaction time for following vehicles, thereby helping to prevent potential rear-end collisions and contributing to overall road safety.

10. At 55mph on dry pavement, the air brake lag distance adds approximately how many feet?

- A. 24 feet
- B. 32 feet**
- C. 40 feet
- D. 48 feet

At a speed of 55 mph on dry pavement, the air brake lag distance is an important consideration in understanding how long it takes for the brakes to engage after the driver applies them. The air brake lag distance accounts for the time it takes for the air pressure to build up and for the brake components to respond after a driver has pressed the brake pedal. Generally, at 55 mph, the lag distance due to these factors has been determined to be approximately 32 feet. This distance represents the reaction time in this situation and illustrates the importance of maintaining a safe following distance, particularly in commercial vehicle operations where air brakes are commonly used. Recognizing this added distance can help drivers make better decisions in emergency braking situations, ensuring that they account for the delay between the application of the brake and the actual stopping of the vehicle.

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://newjersey-airbrakes.examzify.com>

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