

# North Carolina State Safety Car Inspection Certification Practice Exam (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**

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- 1. How should the fuel system be observed during an inspection?**
  - A. For color changes in the fuel**
  - B. For leaks or damages that may lead to fuel seepage or odors, indicating a potential hazard**
  - C. For rust and corrosion on metal parts**
  - D. For unusual noises during vehicle operation**
  
- 2. Which of the following is true about tires that have been repaired by plugging?**
  - A. They are always deemed unsafe**
  - B. They pass as long as the plug is in the tread**
  - C. They fail if done by an unlicensed person**
  - D. They must be replaced, not repaired**
  
- 3. Can a vehicle with a failed inspection be cited for not having a valid inspection sticker?**
  - A. Yes, it can receive a citation**
  - B. No, it cannot be cited**
  - C. Only if it's been over a month since the failure**
  - D. Only if the vehicle is more than ten years old**
  
- 4. When can vehicles be inspected at any licensed inspection station?**
  - A. Only during certain months each year**
  - B. Most can be inspected at any station unless it is an emissions testing area with specific regulations**
  - C. Only if the vehicle is under a certain age**
  - D. At any time if the owner has a special permit**
  
- 5. Is it permissible for a station to charge tax on a safety inspection?**
  - A. Yes, always**
  - B. No, it is not allowed**
  - C. Only for certain vehicles**
  - D. Yes, but only for certain services**

**6. What is checked regarding the battery and electrical system during an inspection?**

- A. The battery must be replaced every year**
- B. The battery terminals must be clean, and connections should be secure and free from corrosion**
- C. The battery should be fully charged at all times**
- D. The electrical system should include a backup battery**

**7. How should engine belts be evaluated during an inspection?**

- A. They should be checked for rust and corrosion**
- B. They must be checked for wear, cracking, or excessive looseness**
- C. They should be replaced regardless of condition**
- D. They do not require inspection unless damaged**

**8. Will the DMV notify an inspector mechanic when their license is about to expire?**

- A. Yes, a notification is sent**
- B. No, they will not notify**
- C. Only if asked**
- D. Yes, via email only**

**9. What should an inspector check for regarding the brake system?**

- A. Only the brake lights**
- B. The overall effectiveness of the brakes**
- C. Only the mechanical components**
- D. The aesthetics of the brake pads**

**10. Is a vehicle required to be elevated during an inspection?**

- A. Only if it is a truck**
- B. No, it can remain on the ground**
- C. Yes, using a lift or floor jack**
- D. Only during emissions testing**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. How should the fuel system be observed during an inspection?**

- A. For color changes in the fuel**
- B. For leaks or damages that may lead to fuel seepage or odors, indicating a potential hazard**
- C. For rust and corrosion on metal parts**
- D. For unusual noises during vehicle operation**

During an inspection of the fuel system, the primary focus should be on identifying leaks or damages that could lead to fuel seepage or generate odors, which signal a potential fire hazard or other severe safety risks. This assessment is crucial because a compromised fuel system can lead to leaks that not only endanger the vehicle's operation but also pose threats to the driver, passengers, and the environment. Detecting leaks, such as fuel dripping from lines, around the fuel tank, or injector seals, is essential in ensuring the vehicle operates safely and efficiently. Additionally, noticing any abnormal fuel odors can alert the inspector to issues that may not be visually apparent. Performing a thorough inspection for any visible damages or signs of wear in the fuel lines, fittings, and connections helps maintain the integrity of the fuel system and ensures that it functions properly without risk of hazardous conditions. While observing for color changes in fuel, rust or corrosion, and unusual noises may be relevant to different aspects of vehicle maintenance, they do not specifically address the immediate and critical concerns associated with the fuel system's integrity and safety. Therefore, focusing on leaks and damage is the most appropriate approach during an inspection of the fuel system.

**2. Which of the following is true about tires that have been repaired by plugging?**

- A. They are always deemed unsafe**
- B. They pass as long as the plug is in the tread**
- C. They fail if done by an unlicensed person**
- D. They must be replaced, not repaired**

The statement that tires that have been repaired by plugging pass as long as the plug is in the tread is true because tire plugs are considered an acceptable method of repairing punctures that occur in the tread area, where the tire maintains its structural integrity. When properly installed, a tire plug can effectively seal the puncture and restore the tire's air retention and performance. It is important to note, however, that this is specific to punctures in the tread area only, and plugs should not be used for sidewall damage or when the tire has other underlying issues. While repairs should always comply with safety standards set by relevant authorities, a properly done plug in the tread does meet the criteria for passing inspection. In practice, options emphasizing that tire repairs are always unsafe, are dependent on the repair being conducted by a licensed individual, or that tires must be replaced entirely do not reflect the standards of tire repair as accepted in safety inspections.

**3. Can a vehicle with a failed inspection be cited for not having a valid inspection sticker?**

- A. Yes, it can receive a citation**
- B. No, it cannot be cited**
- C. Only if it's been over a month since the failure**
- D. Only if the vehicle is more than ten years old**

A vehicle that has failed inspection is required by law to have a valid inspection sticker. If a vehicle is found to be operating on the road without a current and valid inspection sticker following a failed inspection, it can indeed be cited by law enforcement. The purpose of the inspection sticker is to indicate that the vehicle has passed safety and emissions standards; when a vehicle fails to pass these standards, it is not compliant with the requirements set forth by the state. Failure to comply with these regulations can lead to additional penalties, including fines or further citations. The implication is that maintaining a valid inspection sticker is critical for lawful operation on public roads, ensuring both safety and adherence to state laws. Therefore, it is essential for vehicle owners to rectify any issues that led to a failed inspection promptly to avoid any legal repercussions associated with not having a valid inspection sticker.

**4. When can vehicles be inspected at any licensed inspection station?**

- A. Only during certain months each year**
- B. Most can be inspected at any station unless it is an emissions testing area with specific regulations**
- C. Only if the vehicle is under a certain age**
- D. At any time if the owner has a special permit**

Vehicles can be inspected at any licensed inspection station unless they fall under specific regulations that pertain to emissions testing areas. This policy allows most vehicles to be inspected at their convenience, provided that they do not require emissions testing that is limited to designated facilities. In North Carolina, emissions testing is a requirement for certain vehicles based on age, type, and geographic location. Therefore, vehicles that do not fall into these specific categories can be inspected at any licensed inspection station across the state, streamlining the process for vehicle owners and ensuring that they have easy access to inspection services without being limited by time of year or age restrictions.

## 5. Is it permissible for a station to charge tax on a safety inspection?

- A. Yes, always
- B. No, it is not allowed**
- C. Only for certain vehicles
- D. Yes, but only for certain services

A station is prohibited from charging tax on safety inspections because safety inspections are considered a mandated service provided by the state. The North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles outlines that inspection fees are regulated, and any tax added to these fees would violate the standardized pricing structure set forth for safety inspections. In the context of vehicle regulations and safety standards in North Carolina, individuals pay a set fee for the inspection, which covers the cost of conducting the inspection to ensure that vehicles meet safety requirements. Adding tax to this fee would not align with the state's intent to maintain affordability and uniformity in vehicle inspections. Therefore, the correct understanding is that safety inspection fees are exempt from additional taxation, ensuring that the essential service remains accessible to all vehicle owners in the state.

## 6. What is checked regarding the battery and electrical system during an inspection?

- A. The battery must be replaced every year
- B. The battery terminals must be clean, and connections should be secure and free from corrosion**
- C. The battery should be fully charged at all times
- D. The electrical system should include a backup battery

The correct choice focuses on the importance of ensuring that battery terminals are clean and that connections are secure and free from corrosion. This is vital for the efficient operation of the vehicle's electrical system. Dirty or corroded battery terminals can lead to poor electrical connections, causing issues such as difficulty starting the vehicle, dimming lights, or malfunctioning electrical components. A clean connection allows for optimal electrical flow, ensuring that various vehicle systems operate correctly and reducing the risk of breakdowns. Regular inspections emphasize the necessity of maintaining these connections to prevent safety hazards and promote vehicle reliability. The other options do not align with standard inspection practices. For instance, while battery performance is important, replacing the battery every year is not a requirement and can lead to unnecessary costs. The idea that the battery should always be fully charged fails to take into account the natural discharge that occurs; thus, it is more crucial to ensure the electrical system operates efficiently rather than focus solely on the battery's charge state. Lastly, including a backup battery is not a standard requirement for most vehicles during regular inspections, making it less relevant in this context.

## 7. How should engine belts be evaluated during an inspection?

- A. They should be checked for rust and corrosion**
- B. They must be checked for wear, cracking, or excessive looseness**
- C. They should be replaced regardless of condition**
- D. They do not require inspection unless damaged**

During an inspection, engine belts play a critical role in the overall functionality of the vehicle, as they are responsible for transferring power to various components such as the alternator, water pump, and air conditioning compressor. Therefore, it is essential to check them for specific signs of wear that could indicate potential failure. The correct approach involves evaluating the belts for any signs of wear, such as cracking, fraying, or blistering, which can compromise their performance and lead to breakdowns.

Additionally, checking for excessive looseness is crucial because a belt that is too loose may not effectively transmit power, resulting in poor engine performance or overheating. Ensuring that the belts are in good condition is key to maintaining vehicle reliability and safety. In contrast, checking for rust and corrosion is not relevant to engine belts, as they are typically made of rubber or synthetic materials which are not prone to rust. Automatically replacing belts regardless of their condition is unnecessary and can lead to increased maintenance costs. Lastly, the notion that belts do not require inspection unless damaged undermines proactive maintenance practices, which are vital for vehicle safety and performance. Regular inspections are essential to catch potential issues before they lead to more significant and costly repairs.

## 8. Will the DMV notify an inspector mechanic when their license is about to expire?

- A. Yes, a notification is sent**
- B. No, they will not notify**
- C. Only if asked**
- D. Yes, via email only**

The correct answer indicates that the DMV does not notify an inspector mechanic when their license is about to expire. This means that it is the responsibility of the inspector mechanic to keep track of their own license status and renewal dates. Failing to monitor the expiration can lead to unintentional lapses in certification, which can affect an inspector's ability to perform vehicle inspections legally. By understanding this aspect of licensing, inspector mechanics can ensure they remain compliant and avoid any potential legal issues or fees associated with expired licenses. Regular self-checks and awareness of renewal procedures are essential for maintaining certification in this profession.

**9. What should an inspector check for regarding the brake system?**

- A. Only the brake lights**
- B. The overall effectiveness of the brakes**
- C. Only the mechanical components**
- D. The aesthetics of the brake pads**

An inspector should check for the overall effectiveness of the brakes because this encompasses all aspects of the braking system's functionality. Effective braking is essential for the safety of the vehicle, and a comprehensive inspection includes evaluating the performance of the brake pads, rotors, hydraulic components, and any associated mechanical systems. This ensures that the brakes can achieve adequate stopping power and responsiveness, which is critical for preventing accidents. By focusing solely on mechanical components, brake lights, or aesthetics, one would overlook crucial performance characteristics. It is vital to ensure that the brakes can operate effectively under various conditions, which directly impacts the driver's ability to control the vehicle safely. This thorough assessment is essential in maintaining vehicle safety and compliance with state regulations.

**10. Is a vehicle required to be elevated during an inspection?**

- A. Only if it is a truck**
- B. No, it can remain on the ground**
- C. Yes, using a lift or floor jack**
- D. Only during emissions testing**

The requirement to elevate a vehicle during an inspection is primarily for the purpose of safety and accessibility when assessing various components of the vehicle. Elevating the vehicle allows the inspector to thoroughly examine elements such as the undercarriage, brake system, suspension, and any potential leakages more effectively. Using a lift or floor jack ensures that the inspector has adequate access to all vital parts of the vehicle, which is crucial for conducting a comprehensive safety inspection. This method not only enhances the visibility of crucial components but also helps in adhering to safety protocols, making it easier to identify any issues that may not be visible when the vehicle is on the ground. While trucks may have specific requirements regarding elevation during inspections, the general protocol applies to all vehicle types, making it essential to elevate the vehicle to ensure that all aspects of the inspection are completed thoroughly and effectively.

# 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://ncstatesafetycarinspection.examzify.com>**

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

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