

# North Carolina State Safety Car Inspection Certification Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

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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 is the minimum tread depth required for a tire to pass inspection?**
  - A. 4/32"**
  - B. 3/32"**
  - C. 2/32"**
  - D. 1/32"**
  
- 2. Are emissions tests valid if the vehicle has an engine swap?**
  - A. Yes, for all engine types**
  - B. No, they are invalid in all cases**
  - C. It depends on compliance with emissions standards for the engine type and year of vehicle**
  - D. They are considered valid only if the original engine is used**
  
- 3. What is one aspect that must be tested during a vehicle inspection?**
  - A. The vehicle's exhaust emissions must be within legal limits**
  - B. The exterior color of the vehicle must be uniform**
  - C. The horn must produce a loud sound**
  - D. The headlights must have a minimum wattage**
  
- 4. What must be done if a notice of deficiency is issued during an inspection?**
  - A. The vehicle owner must ignore the notice**
  - B. The vehicle owner must correct the deficiencies and return for a re-inspection**
  - C. The vehicle owner can postpone repairs for 30 days**
  - D. The vehicle owner must sell the vehicle**
  
- 5. Is the headlight aim checked during every initial safety inspection?**
  - A. No, it is not checked**
  - B. Yes, it must be checked**
  - C. Only for certain vehicles**
  - D. Yes, but only for motorcycles**

- 6. What is checked concerning the windshield during an inspection?**
- A. Only the tint level**
  - B. The amount of dirt on the glass**
  - C. Cracks or damage that may obstruct the driver's view**
  - D. Color of the windshield seal**
- 7. If a vehicle is equipped with two fog lights, how many must work for it to pass inspection?**
- A. Both must work**
  - B. Only one must work**
  - C. Fog lights don't apply to inspections**
  - D. Only if they are aftermarket**
- 8. What is necessary for the air conditioning system to be checked during inspection?**
- A. It should make a loud noise**
  - B. It should blow cold air, indicating it functions effectively and is in good condition**
  - C. It must be freezing cold**
  - D. It does not need to be checked**
- 9. Why is it important for a vehicle's tires to be assessed during an inspection?**
- A. To ensure they are of a preferred brand**
  - B. To measure the tread depth and condition**
  - C. To check for the color of the tires**
  - D. Tires do not need to be inspected**
- 10. When is a tire required to be removed during a safety inspection?**
- A. When there is visible tread wear**
  - B. When you hear any noise: metal on metal**
  - C. When the tire pressure is low**
  - D. When the tire has a puncture**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What is the minimum tread depth required for a tire to pass inspection?**

- A. 4/32"
- B. 3/32"
- C. 2/32"**
- D. 1/32"

The minimum tread depth required for a tire to pass inspection in North Carolina is 2/32 of an inch. This standard is established to ensure that tires have adequate traction and performance for safe driving conditions, particularly in wet or slippery situations. Tires with insufficient tread depth can lead to reduced grip on the road, increasing the likelihood of skidding or losing control of the vehicle. Maintaining a tread depth of at least 2/32 of an inch allows for better water dispersion, which helps prevent hydroplaning. When the tread wears down beyond this point, it compromises the tire's ability to maintain contact with the road, affecting overall safety. In the context of tire inspection, standards like this are essential for both vehicle owners and inspectors to ensure compliance with safety regulations. Understanding these requirements helps individuals recognize when tires need to be replaced, thereby promoting safer driving practices and enhancing road safety for everyone.

**2. Are emissions tests valid if the vehicle has an engine swap?**

- A. Yes, for all engine types
- B. No, they are invalid in all cases
- C. It depends on compliance with emissions standards for the engine type and year of vehicle**
- D. They are considered valid only if the original engine is used

The correct answer highlights the importance of compliance with emissions standards in relation to the specific engine type and the year of the vehicle. When a vehicle undergoes an engine swap, emissions testing validity depends on whether the new engine meets the regulatory requirements applicable to the vehicle's model year. Each engine is designed to meet specific emissions standards, which can vary widely based on production year, emissions technology, and vehicle classification. If the swapped engine is compliant with the emissions standards that govern the model year of the vehicle, then the emissions tests can indeed be considered valid. This means that prior to the emissions testing, it is essential to verify that the new engine meets the necessary state and federal emissions requirements. This approach ensures that vehicles on the road adhere to environmental regulations intended to reduce air pollution. In contrast, the other options suggest blanket rules that do not take into account the nuances of vehicle compliance and regulatory standards, thereby missing the critical consideration of the specific emissions regulations applicable to both the engine and the vehicle type. Thus, the key takeaway is that engine swaps are not disallowed from emissions testing; instead, it is the adherence to the appropriate emissions standards that determines their validity.

**3. What is one aspect that must be tested during a vehicle inspection?**

- A. The vehicle's exhaust emissions must be within legal limits**
- B. The exterior color of the vehicle must be uniform**
- C. The horn must produce a loud sound**
- D. The headlights must have a minimum wattage**

One key aspect that must be tested during a vehicle inspection is the vehicle's exhaust emissions being within legal limits. This is a crucial component of vehicle safety and environmental standards. Excessive exhaust emissions can indicate poor engine performance or malfunctioning emissions control systems, which can contribute to air pollution and pose health risks. By ensuring that a vehicle's emissions are within legal limits, inspectors help to protect the environment and public health while also ensuring compliance with state and federal regulations. The other choices, while they may pertain to vehicle condition, do not address critical legal or safety requirements necessary for the vehicle's operation. For instance, the uniformity of a vehicle's exterior color or the loudness of the horn may pertain to aesthetics or specific local ordinances but do not impact the vehicle's safety or its emissions. Additionally, focusing solely on the minimum wattage of headlights may not reflect the effectiveness or safety of the headlights themselves in real-world driving conditions.

**4. What must be done if a notice of deficiency is issued during an inspection?**

- A. The vehicle owner must ignore the notice**
- B. The vehicle owner must correct the deficiencies and return for a re-inspection**
- C. The vehicle owner can postpone repairs for 30 days**
- D. The vehicle owner must sell the vehicle**

When a notice of deficiency is issued during a vehicle inspection, it indicates that the vehicle has failed to meet certain safety standards and requires specific corrections to ensure it is roadworthy. The appropriate response for the vehicle owner is to correct the deficiencies indicated in the notice and then return for a re-inspection. This process is essential because it helps to ensure that all safety issues are addressed, thereby promoting road safety and compliance with state regulations. By correcting the noted deficiencies, the vehicle owner demonstrates a commitment to maintaining a safe vehicle. The follow-up re-inspection allows an official to verify that the necessary repairs have been made and that the vehicle now meets the required standards. This is vital not only for the owner's safety but also for the safety of other road users. It is important to approach such notices proactively rather than ignoring them or delaying necessary repairs.

**5. Is the headlight aim checked during every initial safety inspection?**

- A. No, it is not checked**
- B. Yes, it must be checked**
- C. Only for certain vehicles**
- D. Yes, but only for motorcycles**

The headlight aim is indeed checked during every initial safety inspection as part of ensuring that vehicles meet the necessary safety standards for operation on public roads. Properly aimed headlights are crucial for both the driver's visibility and other road users' safety, as misaligned headlights can lead to inadequate illumination of the roadway or blinding oncoming drivers. This check is a standard part of the inspection process to verify that the vehicle adheres to the required legal specifications for headlight performance. Ensuring that headlights are functioning correctly contributes to overall road safety and helps prevent accidents caused by poor visibility conditions.

**6. What is checked concerning the windshield during an inspection?**

- A. Only the tint level**
- B. The amount of dirt on the glass**
- C. Cracks or damage that may obstruct the driver's view**
- D. Color of the windshield seal**

During a vehicle inspection, the primary concern regarding the windshield is ensuring that it is free of cracks or damage that may obstruct the driver's view. This is crucial for maintaining visibility and ensuring safe driving conditions. Any obstruction can hinder the driver's ability to see the road, other vehicles, or pedestrians, which directly affects safety. Inspectors look for cracks, chips, or any other forms of damage that might interfere with the driver's line of sight and could potentially lead to accidents. While other factors, such as tint level, dirt accumulation, and the condition of the windshield seal, may also be considered during an inspection, they are not the primary focus. Ensuring that the windshield is intact and clear is essential for the overall operational safety of the vehicle.

**7. If a vehicle is equipped with two fog lights, how many must work for it to pass inspection?**

- A. Both must work**
- B. Only one must work**
- C. Fog lights don't apply to inspections**
- D. Only if they are aftermarket**

For a vehicle equipped with fog lights, the requirement for passing inspection is that fog lights are not subjected to the same scrutiny as other lighting systems such as headlights or taillights. In North Carolina, fog lights are considered optional equipment; therefore, their functionality does not impact the overall pass or fail status during a vehicle inspection. This means that even if the fog lights are inoperative, it does not affect the vehicle's ability to pass inspection. It's important to recognize that while functionality is relevant for certain mandatory safety features of a vehicle, fog lights are not required for compliance with inspection regulations. This distinction allows vehicles to pass inspection even if their fog lights are not functioning.

**8. What is necessary for the air conditioning system to be checked during inspection?**

- A. It should make a loud noise
- B. It should blow cold air, indicating it functions effectively and is in good condition**
- C. It must be freezing cold
- D. It does not need to be checked

For the air conditioning system to pass inspection, it is essential that it blows cold air, indicating that the system is functioning effectively and is in good condition. This requirement ensures that the vehicle's air conditioning system is capable of providing adequate cooling, which is vital for passenger comfort and safety, especially in extreme temperatures. While some noise from the air conditioning system might be normal during operation, loud or unusual noises could indicate an underlying issue that requires attention. Similarly, the air conditioning does not need to be "freezing cold"; simply blowing cool air demonstrates that the system is working properly. The statement that the system does not need to be checked is incorrect, as regular evaluation of the air conditioning system is a standard part of vehicle inspections to ensure optimal performance and safety for occupants.

**9. Why is it important for a vehicle's tires to be assessed during an inspection?**

- A. To ensure they are of a preferred brand
- B. To measure the tread depth and condition**
- C. To check for the color of the tires
- D. Tires do not need to be inspected

Assessing a vehicle's tires during an inspection is crucial because it primarily involves measuring the tread depth and evaluating their condition. Tread depth is significant for maintaining adequate traction, especially in wet or slick conditions, as insufficient tread can lead to hydroplaning and increased stopping distances. Moreover, an inspection can reveal other conditions such as uneven wear, cracks, or bulges, which can indicate issues with wheel alignment, suspension, or tire quality that may compromise safety. Tires do not need to be of a specific brand to meet safety standards; what truly matters is their performance, durability, and adherence to legal and safety requirements. The color of the tires is generally irrelevant to their function and performance. Thus, focusing on tread depth and overall tire condition is essential for ensuring that the vehicle remains safe on the road.

**10. When is a tire required to be removed during a safety inspection?**

- A. When there is visible tread wear**
- B. When you hear any noise: metal on metal**
- C. When the tire pressure is low**
- D. When the tire has a puncture**

A tire is required to be removed during a safety inspection when there is a problem severe enough to potentially compromise the safety and performance of the vehicle. The option regarding hearing metal on metal noise signifies a critical level of damage or wear that requires immediate attention. Such noise typically indicates that parts of the brake system are grinding against one another due to worn components, which could compromise braking performance. Addressing issues that lead to this type of noise is critical for maintaining vehicle safety. If the brake pads are excessively worn, they can cause irreversible damage to the rotors and significantly lessen the effectiveness of the braking system, posing a serious safety risk. In contrast, other options describe conditions that may be concerning but do not inherently require tire removal. For example, visible tread wear could indicate a need for replacement, but unless it's severe enough to create a hazard, the tire might not need to be removed immediately. Similarly, low tire pressure is often a routine maintenance issue rather than a condition that necessitates removal, and a tire with a puncture may be repairable depending on its location and severity.

## 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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