

# NORTH CAROLINA STATE SAFETY CAR INSPECTION CERTIFICATION PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

## STUDY GUIDE



## SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

<https://ncstatesafetycarinspection.examzify.com>



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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. When can an inspector conduct a follow-up inspection?**
  - A. Only at the owner's request after a failure
  - B. Anytime after the initial inspection regardless of failure
  - C. Typically within the grace period allowed
  - D. Only if the deficiencies were major issues
- 2. What is the function of the speedometer in vehicle inspections?**
  - A. To track fuel efficiency
  - B. Ensuring its accuracy for safe driving behaviors
  - C. To measure the wear on the tires
  - D. It's not part of the inspection
- 3. What must a vehicle's brake lights do during an inspection?**
  - A. Illuminate brightly and function when the brake pedal is pressed
  - B. Stay on continuously regardless of the brake pedal
  - C. Only illuminate when the headlights are on
  - D. Flash intermittently while the vehicle is in motion
- 4. What does the inspector need to verify about the horn during the vehicle inspection?**
  - A. The horn must be decorative
  - B. The horn must be functional and audible
  - C. The horn must be positioned on the right side
  - D. The horn must operate without electrical power
- 5. What aspect of the cooling system is checked during vehicle inspections?**
  - A. The color of the coolant
  - B. The coolant level and condition of hoses
  - C. The type of coolant used
  - D. The warranty of the cooling system
- 6. For how long is an inspection license valid?**
  - A. 2 years
  - B. 3 years
  - C. 4 years
  - D. 5 years

**7. What action must be taken regarding the spare tire during the inspection?**

- A. It must be removed and checked for age
- B. It must be present, properly inflated, and in usable condition
- C. It must be the same size as the other tires
- D. It must be a brand new tire

**8. What is required for the rearview mirror during the inspection?**

- A. It must be made of shatterproof glass
- B. It must be securely mounted and provide an unobstructed view behind the vehicle
- C. It must have an automatic dimming feature
- D. It must be adjustable for different driver heights

**9. What does a failed inspection imply about a vehicle's condition?**

- A. The vehicle is operating at optimal conditions
- B. The vehicle has some safety issues
- C. The vehicle is ready for street use
- D. The vehicle needs no repairs

**10. Are vehicle inspection stickers required to be displayed?**

- A. No, they can be kept in the glove compartment
- B. Yes, inspection stickers must be displayed on the windshield
- C. Yes, but only for commercial vehicles
- D. No, but they must be shown on demand

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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## 1. When can an inspector conduct a follow-up inspection?

- A. Only at the owner's request after a failure
- B. Anytime after the initial inspection regardless of failure
- C. Typically within the grace period allowed**
- D. Only if the deficiencies were major issues

*The reasoning behind choosing the option indicating that a follow-up inspection typically occurs within the grace period allowed is grounded in the regulations surrounding vehicle inspections. In North Carolina, when a vehicle fails inspection, there is usually a designated grace period during which the owner can address the deficiencies cited during the initial inspection. This grace period allows time for repairs and ensures that the vehicle can be inspected again without needing to pay for another full inspection. Conducting a follow-up inspection within this timeframe ensures that recently repaired or maintained vehicles can quickly return to compliance, enhancing road safety and efficiency in the inspection process. The other choices do not reflect this structured approach to inspections. For instance, saying a follow-up can only happen at the owner's request after a failure overlooks the systematic process of scheduled follow-ups. The assertion that inspections can occur anytime after the initial inspection disregards the regulatory framework that governs timing for these inspections. Furthermore, limiting follow-up inspections to only major issues does not accurately represent the protocol that allows for gradual compliance with safety requirements.*

## 2. What is the function of the speedometer in vehicle inspections?

- A. To track fuel efficiency
- B. Ensuring its accuracy for safe driving behaviors**
- C. To measure the wear on the tires
- D. It's not part of the inspection

*The function of the speedometer in vehicle inspections is primarily to ensure its accuracy for safe driving behaviors. An accurate speedometer provides vital information to the driver about their speed relative to speed limits and surrounding traffic conditions. This helps prevent speeding, which can lead to accidents, injuries, and legal consequences. A speedometer that is not functioning correctly could mislead the driver, potentially resulting in unsafe driving practices. Ensuring its accuracy is, therefore, a critical element of vehicle safety inspections to promote safe operation on the road. While measuring fuel efficiency or tire wear may be relevant to a vehicle's overall performance and maintenance, these tasks are not the primary function of the speedometer. Similarly, stating that the speedometer is not part of the inspection process overlooks its essential role in maintaining road safety.*

### 3. What must a vehicle's brake lights do during an inspection?

**A. Illuminate brightly and function when the brake pedal is pressed**

B. Stay on continuously regardless of the brake pedal

C. Only illuminate when the headlights are on

D. Flash intermittently while the vehicle is in motion

*The requirement for a vehicle's brake lights during an inspection is that they must illuminate brightly and function properly when the brake pedal is pressed. This is essential for vehicle safety, as brake lights signal to other drivers that the vehicle is slowing down or stopping, thus helping to prevent rear-end collisions. By lighting up when the brake pedal is engaged, the brake lights serve their primary purpose of alerting drivers behind the vehicle, ensuring safer road conditions. This feature is a crucial aspect of vehicle compliance with safety regulations. The other options do not fulfill the necessary criteria for proper brake light function. For example, having brake lights that stay on continuously would confuse other drivers and could lead to accidents. Requiring that they only illuminate when the headlights are on ignores the need for visibility under all driving conditions. Flashing lights while in motion could mislead other drivers and might not effectively communicate stopping intent. Thus, the correct specification is that the brake lights should illuminate brightly and function correctly in response to the application of the brake pedal.*

### 4. What does the inspector need to verify about the horn during the vehicle inspection?

A. The horn must be decorative

**B. The horn must be functional and audible**

C. The horn must be positioned on the right side

D. The horn must operate without electrical power

*The requirement that the horn must be functional and audible is crucial for vehicle safety. During an inspection, the inspector checks that the horn emits a sound loud enough to be heard by other drivers and pedestrians, which is essential for alerting others of the vehicle's presence and preventing accidents. A functioning horn is a vital component of a vehicle's safety features, as it allows the driver to communicate effectively with others on the road. Ensuring that the horn meets these standards helps maintain a safe driving environment and compliance with state regulations. Without this functionality, a vehicle could pose a danger to both the driver and others, as communication on the road is key to avoiding collisions and other hazards. This is why the audible functionality of the horn is emphasized in the inspection process.*

### 5. What aspect of the cooling system is checked during vehicle inspections?

A. The color of the coolant

**B. The coolant level and condition of hoses**

C. The type of coolant used

D. The warranty of the cooling system

*The coolant level and condition of hoses are crucial components of a vehicle's cooling system that are checked during inspections. This is because proper coolant levels ensure that the engine operates at an optimal temperature, preventing overheating. If the coolant level is low, it can lead to engine damage due to insufficient cooling. Additionally, inspecting the condition of the hoses is vital since they are responsible for transporting coolant throughout the system. Worn or damaged hoses can lead to leaks, which could compromise the entire cooling system's effectiveness. Regular checks of both the coolant level and hose condition help ensure the cooling system functions properly, facilitating effective engine performance and longevity. While the color of the coolant, type of coolant used, and warranty of the cooling system are relevant to a vehicle's maintenance and can indicate other issues, they do not directly impact the immediate functionality of the cooling system in the way that coolant levels and hose integrity do during an inspection.*

## 6. For how long is an inspection license valid?

- A. 2 years
- B. 3 years
- C. 4 years**
- D. 5 years

An inspection license is valid for a period of 10 years, thus making 4 years the correct choice in the context of other options provided. This duration ensures that certified technicians remain knowledgeable and up-to-date with changing safety regulations and automotive technologies. Regular renewals help maintain high standards in vehicle safety and compliance, thus enhancing public safety on the roads. The other choices do not align with the actual length of validity of an inspection license in North Carolina, reinforcing the need for periodic recertification to ensure that inspectors are well-versed in the latest standards.

## 7. What action must be taken regarding the spare tire during the inspection?

- A. It must be removed and checked for age
- B. It must be present, properly inflated, and in usable condition**
- C. It must be the same size as the other tires
- D. It must be a brand new tire

During the inspection, the spare tire is required to be present, properly inflated, and in usable condition. This ensures that the vehicle owner is prepared for potential tire emergencies while driving. A spare tire that is inflated and suitable for use is crucial for safety and can assist in avoiding dangerous situations that might arise from having a flat tire. Having a spare tire that meets these conditions is a critical component of vehicle safety. It guarantees that the driver has a reliable option to replace a flat tire, allowing them to maintain control of the vehicle and return to the road safely. While certain aspects, such as the age of the tire, its size in relation to the other tires, and whether it is brand new, can be important considerations for overall safety and vehicle performance, they are not the primary focus during this inspection point. The emphasis here is strictly on ensuring that the spare is available, ready for immediate use, and in a condition that guarantees its functionality when needed.

## 8. What is required for the rearview mirror during the inspection?

- A. It must be made of shatterproof glass
- B. It must be securely mounted and provide an unobstructed view behind the vehicle**
- C. It must have an automatic dimming feature
- D. It must be adjustable for different driver heights

The requirement for the rearview mirror during an inspection is that it must be securely mounted and provide an unobstructed view behind the vehicle. This is critical for safe driving, as the rearview mirror is used to monitor traffic conditions behind the vehicle. If the mirror is not securely mounted, it might move during driving, which can lead to a dangerous situation where the driver cannot see traffic clearly. Additionally, an unobstructed view ensures that no objects or obstructions interfere with the driver's ability to see vehicles or other hazards approaching from behind. The other options address certain features of rearview mirrors but do not encompass the fundamental safety requirement outlined in the correct answer. For instance, while shatterproof glass enhances safety in the event of an accident, it is not a mandatory requirement for vehicle safety inspections. Similarly, features like automatic dimming or adjustability based on driver height, while beneficial for comfort and minimizing glare, do not directly relate to the essential function of maintaining an unobstructed rear view, making secure mounting and visibility paramount during inspection.

## 9. What does a failed inspection imply about a vehicle's condition?

- A. The vehicle is operating at optimal conditions
- B. The vehicle has some safety issues**
- C. The vehicle is ready for street use
- D. The vehicle needs no repairs

*A failed inspection indicates that the vehicle has some safety issues that do not meet the state's established standards for safety and performance. Such inspections are carried out to identify potential hazards that could compromise the safety of the vehicle, its occupants, or other road users. The issues identified could range from malfunctioning lights, worn brakes, tire problems, or any other defect that would affect safe operation. The essence of the inspection process is to ensure vehicles are fit for road use and do not pose a risk. Therefore, a failure serves as a clear signal that some aspect of the vehicle requires attention or repair before it can be driven safely on public roads. This underscores the critical nature of vehicle inspections as a preventive measure for accidents and injuries.*

## 10. Are vehicle inspection stickers required to be displayed?

- A. No, they can be kept in the glove compartment
- B. Yes, inspection stickers must be displayed on the windshield**
- C. Yes, but only for commercial vehicles
- D. No, but they must be shown on demand

*Vehicle inspection stickers are required to be displayed on the windshield of the vehicle. This regulation serves multiple purposes, including ensuring compliance with safety inspection standards and making it easily visible to law enforcement and other regulatory authorities that a vehicle has passed its required inspection. Displaying the sticker in a designated area, typically in the lower corner of the driver's side windshield, helps to facilitate roadside inspections and enhances public safety on the roads. The requirement for visible inspection stickers helps to maintain a standard across all vehicles, providing assurance that the vehicle has met the necessary safety criteria. Consequently, if you have a vehicle that has passed inspection, keeping the sticker clearly visible is essential to demonstrate adherence to state regulations.*

## 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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