

# Ohio CDL Practice Test (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 should you do if you encounter a school bus with its stop sign extended?**
  - A. Pass the bus at low speed**
  - B. Stop until the bus retracts its stop sign**
  - C. Honk your horn to alert the driver**
  - D. Speed past quickly**
  
- 2. When is it permissible to exceed the speed limit in a commercial vehicle?**
  - A. During emergencies**
  - B. Only in school zones**
  - C. Never; it is illegal to exceed the speed limit**
  - D. Around construction sites**
  
- 3. What should you do if your engine overheats?**
  - A. Turn off the engine and wait for it to cool down**
  - B. Keep driving to the nearest mechanic**
  - C. Open the hood immediately**
  - D. Continue driving until the warning light goes off**
  
- 4. In Ohio, what is the minimum number of days a driver must keep their driving log for?**
  - A. 3 days**
  - B. 5 days**
  - C. 7 days**
  - D. 10 days**
  
- 5. Why is it important to make emergency plans when you see a hazard?**
  - A. To maintain speed**
  - B. To be prepared for possible action**
  - C. To avoid traffic tickets**
  - D. To ensure passenger comfort**

- 6. What is the recommended following distance in ideal conditions?**
- A. At least two seconds behind the vehicle in front**
  - B. At least three seconds behind the vehicle in front**
  - C. At least four seconds behind the vehicle in front**
  - D. At least five seconds behind the vehicle in front**
- 7. What are the two main types of endorsements for a CDL?**
- A. Passenger and HAZMAT**
  - B. HAZMAT and Tanker**
  - C. Double and Triple trailers**
  - D. Hazardous and Heavy cargo**
- 8. How can aggressive driving be differentiated from road rage?**
- A. Aggressive driving is intentional, road rage is unintentional**
  - B. Aggressive driving is pushy without intent to harm**
  - C. Road rage is simply high speed driving**
  - D. Aggressive driving involves no risky behavior**
- 9. What is an indication of a defect in the suspension system?**
- A. Rough engine sound**
  - B. Fluid leaks in the oil compartment**
  - C. Movement of axle from proper position**
  - D. Squeaks from the brake system**
- 10. What preventive measure can help avoid tire fires?**
- A. Regularly check tire pressure**
  - B. Change oil frequently**
  - C. Keep fuel levels high**
  - D. Rotate tires daily**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What should you do if you encounter a school bus with its stop sign extended?**

- A. Pass the bus at low speed**
- B. Stop until the bus retracts its stop sign**
- C. Honk your horn to alert the driver**
- D. Speed past quickly**

When you encounter a school bus with its stop sign extended, the appropriate action is to stop until the bus retracts its stop sign. This is crucial for the safety of children who may be getting on or off the bus. The extended stop sign indicates that children are present and crossing the roadway, and stopping allows them the necessary time to do so safely without the risk of being struck by a vehicle. It is a legal requirement in most states to stop for school buses when their stop sign is extended, as driving past the bus could result in severe penalties and endanger children's lives. Additionally, other choices do not ensure the safety of children. Passing the bus at low speed could still pose a danger to those who may unexpectedly cross the street. Honking your horn would not be effective in this context and could startle children or other drivers. Speeding past the bus is both illegal and highly reckless, as it puts children in danger. Therefore, stopping until the stop sign retracts is the best practice in this scenario.

**2. When is it permissible to exceed the speed limit in a commercial vehicle?**

- A. During emergencies**
- B. Only in school zones**
- C. Never; it is illegal to exceed the speed limit**
- D. Around construction sites**

In the context of operating a commercial vehicle, it is important to understand that adhering to speed limits is a fundamental rule of road safety. Exceeding the speed limit is generally considered illegal and poses a significant risk not only to the driver and vehicle occupants but also to other road users. This is particularly critical for commercial vehicles, which are often larger, heavier, and have different handling characteristics compared to standard vehicles. Maintaining the legal speed limit helps ensure safe stopping distances and provides adequate reaction time in case of sudden obstacles or emergencies on the road. Regulations for commercial drivers are very stringent, prioritizing safety and compliance with traffic laws. While there might be circumstances where a driver could argue that driving at a higher speed was necessary for safety, such situations do not provide a legal justification to exceed the set speed limits. Therefore, in all scenarios, including emergencies, school zones, or construction sites, the law upholds that commercial vehicle operators must not exceed the posted speed limits. This emphasis on compliance is crucial in fostering safe driving practices and reducing the risk of accidents.

### 3. What should you do if your engine overheats?

- A. Turn off the engine and wait for it to cool down**
- B. Keep driving to the nearest mechanic**
- C. Open the hood immediately**
- D. Continue driving until the warning light goes off**

If your engine overheats, turning off the engine and waiting for it to cool down is the best course of action. When the engine is running hot, it can lead to serious damage, such as a blown head gasket or warped engine components. By shutting off the engine, you help prevent further damage and allow the engine to cool naturally. Waiting before opening the hood is also essential to avoid injury from steam or hot air escaping. It's important to let the engine cool down to a safe temperature before attempting to inspect it. The other options can exacerbate the problem. Continuing to drive, for instance, can cause more severe engine damage and could potentially lead to complete engine failure. Similarly, opening the hood immediately without giving the engine time to cool can be dangerous due to the risk of burns from hot components or steam. Each of those choices encourages actions that could worsen a situation already presenting significant risks.

### 4. In Ohio, what is the minimum number of days a driver must keep their driving log for?

- A. 3 days**
- B. 5 days**
- C. 7 days**
- D. 10 days**

In Ohio, drivers are required to keep their driving logs for a minimum of 7 days. This requirement is essential for both safety and regulatory compliance, as it enables law enforcement and transportation regulatory authorities to review a driver's history, verify hours of service, and ensure that drivers are adhering to established regulations. Having a reliable log helps prevent fatigue-related accidents by monitoring the amount of time a driver is on the road versus their required rest periods. This practice is rooted in promoting safe driving habits and ensuring that drivers are not overworked, which ultimately benefits all road users.

**5. Why is it important to make emergency plans when you see a hazard?**

- A. To maintain speed**
- B. To be prepared for possible action**
- C. To avoid traffic tickets**
- D. To ensure passenger comfort**

Making emergency plans when you see a hazard is crucial because it allows you to be prepared for possible action. When you identify a potential danger, having a plan in place enables you to respond quickly and effectively, minimizing risks to yourself and others on the road. By anticipating what actions might be necessary—such as braking, steering away, or signaling to other drivers—you enhance your ability to manage the situation safely. Preparation is key in emergencies, as reactive responses can lead to panic or poor decision-making. By considering the best course of action ahead of time, you're able to maintain better control of the vehicle and lessen the likelihood of accidents. This proactive approach is essential for ensuring safety in dynamic and unpredictable driving environments.

**6. What is the recommended following distance in ideal conditions?**

- A. At least two seconds behind the vehicle in front**
- B. At least three seconds behind the vehicle in front**
- C. At least four seconds behind the vehicle in front**
- D. At least five seconds behind the vehicle in front**

In ideal conditions, the recommended following distance is at least four seconds behind the vehicle in front of you. This guideline allows for a safe buffer zone that enables a driver to have ample time to react to any sudden stops or emergencies that may occur. A four-second following distance is particularly important for larger vehicles like trucks, as they require a longer distance to come to a complete stop compared to smaller vehicles. This distance accounts for various factors, including potential changes in speed or direction of the vehicle ahead, as well as any unexpected obstacles that may arise on the road. Additionally, maintaining this time gap can enhance overall safety by reducing the risk of rear-end collisions and providing more time to maneuver safely if required. As conditions deteriorate—such as in poor weather—this following distance should be increased further to accommodate additional stopping time.

**7. What are the two main types of endorsements for a CDL?**

- A. Passenger and HAZMAT**
- B. HAZMAT and Tanker**
- C. Double and Triple trailers**
- D. Hazardous and Heavy cargo**

The correct answer is identified as HAZMAT and Tanker because these two endorsements are essential for commercial drivers who wish to transport certain types of cargo. A HAZMAT endorsement is required for drivers transporting hazardous materials, ensuring that they understand the special handling, safety protocols, and regulatory requirements for these dangerous goods. This endorsement is crucial for maintaining safety on the roads, as hazardous materials can pose significant risks to public safety and the environment. A Tanker endorsement, on the other hand, is necessary for drivers who operate vehicles designed to transport liquid cargo in tank-like compartments. Tanker vehicles require specific driving skills due to the unique handling characteristics of liquid cargo, especially when it comes to controlling the vehicle's balance during acceleration, braking, and turning. Both endorsements help ensure that drivers are adequately trained for the responsibilities involved in hauling specific types of cargo, promoting safety for both the driver and the public.

**8. How can aggressive driving be differentiated from road rage?**

- A. Aggressive driving is intentional, road rage is unintentional**
- B. Aggressive driving is pushy without intent to harm**
- C. Road rage is simply high speed driving**
- D. Aggressive driving involves no risky behavior**

Aggressive driving can be characterized as assertive or impatient behavior on the road, often exhibited by actions such as tailgating, weaving in and out of traffic, or running yellow lights. However, it is typically not fueled by the intent to cause harm to others. This differentiates it from road rage, which is a more extreme form of aggression that can lead to confrontations and violence. The correct understanding of aggressive driving being pushy without the intent to harm captures the essence of how it differs from road rage, which often involves malicious intent and can escalate to dangerous confrontations. The other options do not accurately describe the relationship between aggressive driving and road rage. For instance, labeling aggressive driving as intentional and road rage as unintentional misrepresents both concepts, as both can stem from intentional actions by the driver. Describing road rage strictly as high-speed driving oversimplifies it, as road rage can manifest in various aggressive behaviors beyond speed. Lastly, stating that aggressive driving involves no risky behavior contradicts the nature of aggressive driving itself, which often does indeed involve risky maneuvers.

## 9. What is an indication of a defect in the suspension system?

- A. Rough engine sound
- B. Fluid leaks in the oil compartment
- C. Movement of axle from proper position**
- D. Squeaks from the brake system

The movement of the axle from its proper position is a clear indication of a defect in the suspension system because the suspension is responsible for maintaining the correct alignment and positioning of the vehicle's components, including the axle. If the axle shifts out of alignment, it suggests that there may be issues such as worn-out bushings, damaged control arms, or other wear and tear on the suspension components. This misalignment can lead to poor handling, uneven tire wear, and compromised safety while driving. In contrast, rough engine sounds typically relate to issues within the engine itself or the drivetrain, while fluid leaks in the oil compartment indicate problems with the engine's lubrication system or oil containment, not directly related to the suspension. Squeaks from the brake system may point to issues with the brakes but do not provide information about the suspension's integrity. Therefore, the movement of the axle serves as a crucial warning sign that something is amiss in the suspension system, which warrants further inspection and necessary repairs.

## 10. What preventive measure can help avoid tire fires?

- A. Regularly check tire pressure**
- B. Change oil frequently
- C. Keep fuel levels high
- D. Rotate tires daily

Regularly checking tire pressure is an essential preventive measure to help avoid tire fires. When tires are underinflated or overinflated, it can lead to excessive heat buildup during driving. This heat can cause the tire material to degrade, potentially resulting in a blowout or an ignition source that could lead to a tire fire. Maintaining the proper tire pressure ensures that the tires perform efficiently, reducing friction and heat generation. It also promotes even wear, extending the life of the tires and enhancing safety while driving. In contrast, changing oil frequently, keeping fuel levels high, and rotating tires daily, while good maintenance practices, do not directly relate to preventing tire fires. Oil changes and fuel levels typically pertain to engine performance and efficiency rather than tire health. Daily rotation of tires, although beneficial for even tread wear, does not specifically address the risk factors that lead to tire fires. Thus, regular tire pressure checks stand out as the most directly impactful preventive measure against this particular hazard.

## 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://ohio-cdl.examzify.com>**

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

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