# Ontario DZ Exterior Inspection Practice Exam (Sample)

**Study Guide** 



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### **Questions**



- 1. When inspecting tires, why is tread depth important?
  - A. It affects the vehicle's aesthetic appeal
  - B. It influences fuel consumption rates
  - C. It is crucial for adequate grip and safety
  - D. It determines the tire warranty length
- 2. What should be the focus when backing as close as possible?
  - A. Minimizing distance from an object
  - B. Speed of the maneuver
  - C. Using only one mirror
  - D. Adjusting seat height
- 3. During the air suspension inspection procedure, what is an important aspect to check regarding the air bag?
  - A. It must be inflated with no visible damage
  - B. It should be adjusted for comfort
  - C. It must be replaced if damaged
  - D. It should be minimized in size
- 4. What is the classification of a tire with a leak that can be felt or heard?
  - A. Minor
  - B. Major
  - C. Moderate
  - D. Critical
- 5. What should be the outcome of a successful exterior inspection?
  - A. A list of cosmetic issues
  - B. Vehicle readiness for safe operation
  - C. Identification of luxury features
  - D. None of the above

- 6. What does a brake fluid leak cause in a vehicle?
  - A. Increased fuel consumption
  - B. Lower engine power
  - C. Malfuntion or failure in the brakes
  - D. Reduced suspension efficiency
- 7. What is included in the exterior inspection of a commercial vehicle?
  - A. A visual inspection of the interior components
  - B. A thorough assessment of exterior components
  - C. Only checking the tires and brakes
  - D. A review of the maintenance log
- 8. What is the significance of using wheel chocks during air system tests?
  - A. To prevent the vehicle from rolling
  - B. To enhance brake performance
  - C. To measure air pressure accurately
  - D. To secure air leaks
- 9. What should be noted about visible damage to the frame or cargo body?
  - A. It is typically a minor defect
  - B. It might indicate a major defect if serious
  - C. It should always be ignored
  - D. It is irrelevant in inspections
- 10. What is the first step you should take when preparing for a backing skills test?
  - A. Get out and circle check
  - B. Use 4-way and sound electric horn
  - C. Reverse at walking pace
  - D. Limit pull-ups

### **Answers**



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



### **Explanations**



#### 1. When inspecting tires, why is tread depth important?

- A. It affects the vehicle's aesthetic appeal
- B. It influences fuel consumption rates
- C. It is crucial for adequate grip and safety
- D. It determines the tire warranty length

Tread depth is crucial for adequate grip and safety because the tread of a tire is responsible for channeling water away from the tire's contact patch with the road, thereby reducing the risk of hydroplaning. Adequate tread depth ensures that tires can maintain traction on various surfaces, including wet or slippery conditions, which is essential for effective braking, steering, and overall vehicle control. When tires have insufficient tread depth, their performance can be significantly compromised. This lack of grip can lead to longer stopping distances, decreased handling capabilities, and an increased risk of accidents. In addition, proper tread depth helps distribute the weight of the vehicle evenly and optimizes performance under different driving conditions, contributing to the safety and stability of the vehicle. Focusing on the other options, aesthetic appeal, fuel consumption, and warranty length are secondary considerations compared to the fundamental safety aspect provided by adequate tread depth. Thus, while those factors may have their relevance, they do not impact the primary function of the tires in terms of safety and performance as directly as tread depth does.

# 2. What should be the focus when backing as close as possible?

- A. Minimizing distance from an object
- B. Speed of the maneuver
- C. Using only one mirror
- D. Adjusting seat height

The focus when backing as close as possible should be on minimizing the distance from an object. This approach ensures that you maintain safety and precision during the maneuver. By concentrating on the proximity to the object, you can better judge your vehicle's position in relation to it, which is crucial for avoiding collisions and ensuring that clearance is adequate. You will also have the opportunity to utilize your mirrors effectively, as well as other reference points in your environment, to assist in guiding the vehicle safely. The other options involve factors that, while relevant to overall driving and safety, do not directly address the core objective of backing close to an object. For instance, speeding through the maneuver increases the risk of accidents and decreases the driver's ability to respond to immediate hazards. Relying on just one mirror could limit visibility and awareness, amending the effectiveness of the approach, and adjusting seat height may enhance comfort or visibility but does not directly influence the specific focus required in this scenario. Focusing on minimizing distance directly aligns with the goal of practicing precision and safe vehicle control when reversing.

- 3. During the air suspension inspection procedure, what is an important aspect to check regarding the air bag?
  - A. It must be inflated with no visible damage
  - B. It should be adjusted for comfort
  - C. It must be replaced if damaged
  - D. It should be minimized in size

The correct answer emphasizes the importance of ensuring that the air suspension system's airbags are fully inflated and free from visible damage. Airbags play a crucial role in the overall performance and safety of the vehicle's suspension system, providing a smooth ride by adjusting to varying loads and road conditions. When the airbags are properly inflated, they can effectively support the weight of the vehicle and maintain optimal clearance from the road. Any visible damage, such as cracks, tears, or deformation, can indicate a potential failure in the air suspension system, which could lead to compromised vehicle handling, increased wear on other components, and a decrease in passenger comfort and safety. In contrast, focusing on comfort adjustments, suggesting size minimization, or recommending replacement purely based on perceived damage without assessing the inflation status does not address the immediate safety concerns associated with the air bag's integrity. Thus, the inspection procedure prioritizes checking for proper inflation and visible damage as the most critical factors to ensure safe and functional operation of the air suspension system.

- 4. What is the classification of a tire with a leak that can be felt or heard?
  - A. Minor
  - **B.** Major
  - C. Moderate
  - D. Critical

A tire with a leak that can be felt or heard is classified as a major issue because it indicates a significant loss of air pressure that can affect the tire's performance and safety. A major leak suggests that the tire may not be able to maintain adequate pressure while in use, which can lead to handling problems, reduced traction, and increased wear on the tire. In contrast, a minor leak would not typically be noticeable either audibly or through a change in feel, and moderate leaks might show some signs but would not be as severe or immediate as a major leak. A critical classification would imply a more urgent threat to safety, such as a blowout or complete failure, which is not the case with a leak that is merely felt or heard. Hence, categorizing this type of leak as major aligns with the potential risk it poses while driving.

# 5. What should be the outcome of a successful exterior inspection?

- A. A list of cosmetic issues
- B. Vehicle readiness for safe operation
- C. Identification of luxury features
- D. None of the above

A successful exterior inspection of a vehicle is primarily focused on determining its readiness for safe operation. This involves assessing key components such as the condition of the tires, brakes, lights, and overall structural integrity to ensure that the vehicle is safe to drive. The main goal of the inspection is to identify any mechanical or safety issues that could pose a risk to the driver or others on the road. While identifying cosmetic issues can certainly be part of an exterior inspection, these concerns do not impact safety and therefore do not represent a successful outcome in terms of operational readiness. Similarly, noting luxury features, while interesting, is not relevant to the vehicle's operational capability or safety. Thus, the correct answer emphasizes the critical importance of ensuring that the vehicle is fully capable and safe for operation, aligning with the overall goal of vehicle inspections.

#### 6. What does a brake fluid leak cause in a vehicle?

- A. Increased fuel consumption
- B. Lower engine power
- C. Malfuntion or failure in the brakes
- D. Reduced suspension efficiency

A brake fluid leak primarily leads to malfunction or failure in the brakes because brake fluid is essential for the hydraulic system that enables the brake components to function properly. When there is a leak, the pressure within the brake system can drop, resulting in insufficient hydraulic force needed to engage the brake pads against the rotors. This can lead to progressively reduced braking effectiveness, increased stopping distances, and potentially complete brake failure. Therefore, maintaining proper brake fluid levels and ensuring there are no leaks is critical for safe vehicle operation. The other options relate to different vehicle systems that are not directly impacted by brake fluid. Increased fuel consumption and lower engine power are typically associated with engine performance issues rather than brake systems, while reduced suspension efficiency pertains to the vehicle's shock absorption and stability, which brake fluid does not influence.

- 7. What is included in the exterior inspection of a commercial vehicle?
  - A. A visual inspection of the interior components
  - B. A thorough assessment of exterior components
  - C. Only checking the tires and brakes
  - D. A review of the maintenance log

In the context of exterior inspection of a commercial vehicle, a thorough assessment of exterior components is crucial for ensuring safety and compliance with regulations. This part of the inspection typically involves a detailed check of various elements, such as lights, mirrors, windshield wipers, body panels, and any components that could affect the vehicle's operation or safety while on the road. This assessment is designed to identify any visible damage, leaks, or wear that could compromise the vehicle's performance or safety. Checking only the tires and brakes does not encompass the full scope of the exterior inspection, which requires evaluating all exterior components rather than focusing on just a couple of critical areas. Additionally, the inclusion of a visual inspection of interior components would fall outside the boundaries of what is typically covered in an exterior inspection. Lastly, while reviewing the maintenance log is important for understanding the vehicle's history and ongoing care, it does not involve the direct inspection of the vehicle's current state. Therefore, the thorough assessment of exterior components is what defines a complete exterior inspection.

- 8. What is the significance of using wheel chocks during air system tests?
  - A. To prevent the vehicle from rolling
  - B. To enhance brake performance
  - C. To measure air pressure accurately
  - D. To secure air leaks

Using wheel chocks during air system tests is crucial for ensuring safety by preventing the vehicle from rolling. When performing tests that involve pressure changes or manipulations of the vehicle's components, such as the air system, there is always a risk that the vehicle could move unintentionally. Wheel chocks act as sturdy blocks that secure the wheels in place, thereby ensuring that the vehicle remains stationary during the testing process. This safety measure protects both the operator and any nearby personnel from potential accidents that could occur if the vehicle were to roll. The other options, while they highlight important aspects of vehicle maintenance and operation, do not pertain directly to the primary function of wheel chocks during air system tests. Enhancing brake performance and securing air leaks relate to the functioning of the braking system itself, while measuring air pressure accurately involves specific gauges and equipment rather than the placement of chocks. Thus, the primary significance of using wheel chocks lies in their role as a safety feature to keep the vehicle stable during inspections or tests.

- 9. What should be noted about visible damage to the frame or cargo body?
  - A. It is typically a minor defect
  - B. It might indicate a major defect if serious
  - C. It should always be ignored
  - D. It is irrelevant in inspections

Visible damage to the frame or cargo body of a vehicle is a critical aspect of safety inspections. When damage is observed, it can be much more than just cosmetic; it might affect the structural integrity of the vehicle or its ability to safely carry cargo. Serious damage could compromise the vehicle's performance, stability, and safety features, potentially leading to dangerous situations on the road. In this context, noting that damage might indicate a major defect is essential. It prompts the need for a thorough assessment to determine if the damage could lead to issues like reduced load-bearing capacity, alignment problems, or potential failure during operation. Recognizing and addressing such issues early is vital not only for compliance with safety regulations but also for preventing accidents and ensuring the reliability of the vehicle.

- 10. What is the first step you should take when preparing for a backing skills test?
  - A. Get out and circle check
  - B. Use 4-way and sound electric horn
  - C. Reverse at walking pace
  - D. Limit pull-ups

The first step in preparing for a backing skills test is to perform a circle check. This involves getting out of the vehicle and inspecting it thoroughly before beginning the maneuver. A circle check is essential for ensuring that the area around the vehicle is clear of obstacles, pedestrians, and other vehicles. It helps the driver identify any potential hazards and ensures safety during the backing process. Conducting a thorough inspection allows the driver to feel confident and aware of their surroundings, which is critical to executing the backing maneuver safely. By identifying any issues upfront, such as low-hanging branches, curbs, or other obstacles that may not be visible from the driver's seat, the driver can avoid accidents and improve their overall performance during the skills test.