

# Ontario DZ Exterior Inspection 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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# Table of Contents

<b>Copyright</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Table of Contents</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>How to Use This Guide</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Questions</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Answers</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Explanations</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Next Steps</b> .....	<b>17</b>

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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. 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**
  
- 2. What does exposed cords in the tread or outer sidewall of a tire indicate?**
  - A. Minor defect**
  - B. Major defect**
  - C. Trivial issue**
  - D. No issue**
  
- 3. How can you check the adequacy of the spare tire?**
  - A. Verify condition, tread depth, and appropriate inflation level**
  - B. Only check for visible damage to the sidewall**
  - C. Inspect the spare tire while it's still mounted in the trunk**
  - D. Ensure the tire is the same brand as the other tires**
  
- 4. How does the condition of the headlights affect night driving?**
  - A. They improve visibility regardless of condition**
  - B. Dim or foggy headlights can reduce visibility**
  - C. Headlights have no effect on night driving**
  - D. Only high beams matter for visibility at night**
  
- 5. During an In-Cab check, what should be done if the gauges are not working?**
  - A. Document it as a minor issue**
  - B. They must be indicated as malfunctioning**
  - C. It can be ignored until the next inspection**
  - D. They should be replaced immediately**

**6. What is the importance of checking the vehicle's alternator and starter during inspection?**

- A. To ensure the vehicle's paint has no chips**
- B. To confirm reliable electrical performance and vehicle operation**
- C. To assess the condition of the vehicle's tires**
- D. To evaluate the emergency exit functionality**

**7. What potential hazards should be looked out for during an exterior inspection?**

- A. Flat tires and brake wear**
- B. Sharp edges, protruding objects, and materials that could pose a slip hazard**
- C. Low fuel levels and engine noise**
- D. Windshield cracks and visibility obstructions**

**8. What key aspect is checked when observing the braking system's ability to hold the vehicle?**

- A. Brake pedal responsiveness**
- B. Overall brake system efficiency**
- C. Brakes holding the vehicle without movement**
- D. Noise level of the braking system**

**9. How should you inspect the vehicle's coupling devices?**

- A. Check for proper attachment and wear on fifth wheels or trailer hitches**
- B. Inspect only if the vehicle has a trailer attached**
- C. Ensure the devices are painted and free of rust**
- D. Measurement of the device's length and width**

**10. What classification is given if the low-air warning system fails to activate before 55 psi?**

- A. Minor defect**
- B. Major defect**
- C. Critical defect**
- D. No defect**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. 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.

**2. What does exposed cords in the tread or outer sidewall of a tire indicate?**

- A. Minor defect**
- B. Major defect**
- C. Trivial issue**
- D. No issue**

Exposed cords in the tread or outer sidewall of a tire indicate a major defect. This condition suggests that the tire's integrity has been compromised, potentially due to wear, damage, or improper inflation. When the cords, which are the structural elements of the tire, are visible, it poses a significant safety risk, as it can lead to tire failure while driving. A tire with exposed cords is at high risk of blowouts or other serious tire failures, which could lead to loss of control of the vehicle. Therefore, such a finding typically requires immediate action, which could include replacing the tire to ensure the safety of the driver and other road users. Regular inspection for such defects is crucial in maintaining vehicle safety.

### 3. How can you check the adequacy of the spare tire?

- A. Verify condition, tread depth, and appropriate inflation level**
- B. Only check for visible damage to the sidewall**
- C. Inspect the spare tire while it's still mounted in the trunk**
- D. Ensure the tire is the same brand as the other tires**

To ensure the adequacy of a spare tire, it's essential to verify its condition, tread depth, and appropriate inflation level. These factors are critical for the spare tire to function effectively in case of a flat tire. Checking the condition involves looking for any visible signs of wear or damage, such as cracks or punctures. Tread depth is important as it affects traction; an inadequate tread depth can lead to poor handling or hydroplaning. Finally, ensuring the tire is properly inflated is crucial because an under-inflated tire can compromise performance and safety when it is needed. Assessing only the visible damage to the sidewall does not provide a complete picture of the tire's overall suitability for use; other aspects like tread depth and inflation are equally vital. Inspecting the spare tire while it's still mounted in the trunk would limit your ability to examine it fully and check for inflation. Lastly, while it can be beneficial for tires to be of the same brand for consistency, what truly matters for the spare tire's effectiveness is its condition, tread depth, and inflation-level, rather than its brand alignment with the other tires.

### 4. How does the condition of the headlights affect night driving?

- A. They improve visibility regardless of condition**
- B. Dim or foggy headlights can reduce visibility**
- C. Headlights have no effect on night driving**
- D. Only high beams matter for visibility at night**

The condition of the headlights is critically important for safe night driving, and having dim or foggy headlights can significantly reduce visibility. When headlights are not functioning properly—whether they are dim due to age, dirt, moisture, or damage—they fail to illuminate the road effectively. This can lead to difficulties in seeing obstacles, pedestrians, or other vehicles, thereby increasing the risk of accidents. Good visibility is essential for judging distances accurately and responding to hazards in a timely manner. If the light emitted from the headlights is diminished, the driver's ability to see clearly is compromised, which can lead to poor decision-making in terms of speed and maneuverability on dark roads. Thus, well-maintained headlights not only enhance visibility for the driver but also ensure that others can see the vehicle.

**5. During an In-Cab check, what should be done if the gauges are not working?**

- A. Document it as a minor issue**
- B. They must be indicated as malfunctioning**
- C. It can be ignored until the next inspection**
- D. They should be replaced immediately**

When conducting an In-Cab check, it is crucial to address any malfunctioning gauges properly because these instruments provide essential information about the vehicle's operating state. If the gauges are not working, it is vital to indicate that they are malfunctioning. This ensures that the issue is recognized and documented, prompting necessary repairs or replacements. Malfunctioning gauges can compromise safety, as drivers rely on them for critical information about engine performance, fuel levels, and other vital systems. Documenting the issue accurately also aligns with regulatory standards, as a vehicle that has operational deficiencies should not be deemed fit for use until those deficiencies are resolved. This practice helps maintain safety for both the driver and for others on the road. Thus, acknowledging the malfunction of the gauges is of paramount importance in maintaining overall vehicle safety and integrity.

**6. What is the importance of checking the vehicle's alternator and starter during inspection?**

- A. To ensure the vehicle's paint has no chips**
- B. To confirm reliable electrical performance and vehicle operation**
- C. To assess the condition of the vehicle's tires**
- D. To evaluate the emergency exit functionality**

The significance of checking the vehicle's alternator and starter during inspection lies in their crucial role in the vehicle's electrical system and overall operation. The alternator is responsible for generating electrical power to recharge the battery and power the electrical systems while the engine is running. Meanwhile, the starter is essential for initiating the engine's operation. If either of these components fails, it could lead to a breakdown or starting issues, compromising safety and reliability. By confirming the reliable electrical performance and ensuring the vehicle can be started and maintained under normal operating conditions, you help prevent potential breakdowns and enhance the vehicle's operational efficiency. Conducting this check is vital for maintaining the functionality of essential systems such as lights, climate control, and safety features, which all rely on sufficient electrical power generated by the alternator and properly functioning starting mechanisms.

**7. What potential hazards should be looked out for during an exterior inspection?**

- A. Flat tires and brake wear**
- B. Sharp edges, protruding objects, and materials that could pose a slip hazard**
- C. Low fuel levels and engine noise**
- D. Windshield cracks and visibility obstructions**

During an exterior inspection, it is crucial to identify hazards that can pose a risk to safety and functionality. Sharp edges, protruding objects, and materials that could lead to slips are significant concerns. Sharp edges can cause personal injuries if someone brushes against them, while protruding objects may result in accidents if they obstruct pathways or could snag clothing. Moreover, slip hazards, such as ice, oil spills, or uneven surfaces, can lead to falls, making it imperative to ensure the area around the vehicle is safe for both the operator and any bystanders. The focus on these specific hazards helps ensure that the vehicle is in a safe condition for operation and that the environment surrounding the vehicle does not pose additional risks to safety, which is critical during pre-trip inspections. A thorough understanding of these potential dangers is essential for maintaining not only the vehicle's integrity but also the safety of the driver and others on the road.

**8. What key aspect is checked when observing the braking system's ability to hold the vehicle?**

- A. Brake pedal responsiveness**
- B. Overall brake system efficiency**
- C. Brakes holding the vehicle without movement**
- D. Noise level of the braking system**

When assessing the braking system's ability to hold the vehicle, the primary focus is on whether the brakes prevent the vehicle from moving when engaged. This is crucial for ensuring that the vehicle remains stationary, especially when parked or on an incline. A well-functioning braking system should securely hold the vehicle in place, indicating it can perform a vital safety function when required. This aspect is fundamental because, without the capability to hold the vehicle, there's an increased risk of unintended movement, which can lead to accidents or injuries. The ability to hold the vehicle is a direct measure of how effectively the braking system can resist motion when needed. Other related factors, such as brake pedal responsiveness or overall brake system efficiency, contribute to the overall performance of the brakes but do not specifically address the holding capability. Additionally, while noise levels may indicate the presence of issues within the braking system, they do not directly assess whether the vehicle can be held in a stationary position. Thus, the correct option emphasizes the critical functional role of the brakes in ensuring the vehicle remains secure when required.

## 9. How should you inspect the vehicle's coupling devices?

**A. Check for proper attachment and wear on fifth wheels or trailer hitches**

**B. Inspect only if the vehicle has a trailer attached**

**C. Ensure the devices are painted and free of rust**

**D. Measurement of the device's length and width**

Inspecting the vehicle's coupling devices is crucial for ensuring safety and functionality, particularly in commercial vehicles that tow trailers. The correct choice emphasizes the importance of checking for proper attachment and wear on fifth wheels or trailer hitches. Proper attachment is paramount as a securely fastened coupling device prevents the trailer from becoming detached while on the road. Additionally, assessing wear on these components is vital; worn-out coupling devices may not hold securely, leading to potential accidents. Other options do not cover the comprehensive safety checks necessary for coupling devices. For instance, inspecting only when a trailer is attached does not promote a full safety assessment. Coupling devices should be examined during routine inspections regardless of whether a trailer is currently being towed, as wear can develop over time. Checking for paint and rust is important for maintenance, but it does not directly address the operational integrity of the coupling devices. Lastly, measuring the length and width, while relevant in specific contexts, does not provide insight into the actual functional safety and condition of the device. Therefore, a thorough inspection of attachment and wear is the most effective way to ensure safe operation.

## 10. What classification is given if the low-air warning system fails to activate before 55 psi?

**A. Minor defect**

**B. Major defect**

**C. Critical defect**

**D. No defect**

A failure of the low-air warning system to activate before reaching 55 psi is classified as a major defect. This classification reflects the critical nature of the air pressure monitoring system in a vehicle. The low-air warning system is designed to alert the driver when air pressure in the braking system is dangerously low, which significantly impacts the vehicle's ability to stop effectively. When this system does not function correctly, particularly at a threshold as critical as 55 psi, it poses a considerable safety risk. This is because the driver may be unaware of a loss of air pressure and could face brake failure, leading to hazardous conditions both for the driver and for others on the road. It is important to address such issues promptly, as they affect the overall safety and compliance of the vehicle under regulatory standards. In comparison, minor defects typically involve less critical systems or minor issues that do not directly compromise safety or operational integrity. Critical defects would suggest immediate and severe safety threats requiring urgent attention, while "no defect" would indicate that the system is operating properly. The classification as a major defect signifies that while it is not an immediate danger, it is serious enough to warrant significant concern and prompt repair.

# 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://ontdzexteriorinspection.examzify.com>**

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

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