

# Ontario DZ Exterior Inspection 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. Which term describes the defect of broken or damaged mirrors/glass?**
  - A. Major defect**
  - B. Minor defect**
  - C. Severe defect**
  - D. Critical defect**
- 2. For inspecting hardware that attaches the suspension system, what is necessary?**
  - A. Only visual inspection**
  - B. Replacement of all hardware**
  - C. A detailed mechanical test**
  - D. Listening for unusual sounds**
- 3. What are you looking for in a visual inspection of the vehicle's body?**
  - A. Signs of wear on the tires**
  - B. Signs of damage, rust, and corrosion that may affect vehicle integrity**
  - C. Presence of any stickers or decals**
  - D. Overall cleanliness of the vehicle**
- 4. 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**
- 5. How many minutes should the air pressure rise from 85 to 100 psi to be considered a minor defect?**
  - A. Less than 1 minute**
  - B. 1 minute**
  - C. 2 minutes**
  - D. 3 minutes**

**6. What minimum tire tread depth should the front tires meet?**

- A. 1.0 mm**
- B. 2.0 mm**
- C. 3.0 mm**
- D. 4.0 mm**

**7. What should drivers do if they discover a malfunction during an exterior inspection?**

- A. Note it for the next inspection**
- B. Address the issue immediately**
- C. Ignore it if it's minor**
- D. Continue driving without concern**

**8. 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**

**9. How should you handle any missing or damaged safety equipment?**

- A. Notify a supervisor and proceed with the inspection**
- B. Replace the equipment before operating the vehicle**
- C. Mark the equipment as out of service**
- D. Use alternative equipment until replaced**

**10. When inspecting tires, which action is considered acceptable?**

- A. Pressing the tire on the ground**
- B. Listening for leaks**
- C. Checking the tire pressure alone**
- D. Only visual inspection**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Which term describes the defect of broken or damaged mirrors/glass?**

- A. Major defect**
- B. Minor defect**
- C. Severe defect**
- D. Critical defect**

The term that describes the defect of broken or damaged mirrors or glass is often considered a minor defect. This classification is based on the potential impact it has on the overall safety and functionality of the vehicle. Minor defects typically refer to issues that can be corrected without significant immediate risk to the operation of the vehicle, yet they should be addressed promptly to prevent further complications. In the case of broken or damaged glass, while it is an issue that should not be overlooked—especially considering visibility and safety concerns—it may not render a vehicle inoperable or unsafe in the immediate sense. Therefore, categorizing it as a minor defect acknowledges its importance while still allowing for some level of operational functionality. The other classifications, such as major, severe, or critical defects, usually denote more serious conditions that could pose immediate risks to safety or significantly impair the vehicle's operation. In summary, the appropriate classification of broken or damaged mirrors or glass as a minor defect reflects its impact on vehicle safety, emphasizing the need for attention without necessitating urgent removal from the road.

**2. For inspecting hardware that attaches the suspension system, what is necessary?**

- A. Only visual inspection**
- B. Replacement of all hardware**
- C. A detailed mechanical test**
- D. Listening for unusual sounds**

For inspecting hardware that attaches the suspension system, a visual inspection is crucial. This method allows you to examine the physical condition of the hardware, identifying any signs of wear, corrosion, or fatigue. Visual checks help confirm that all components are secure and properly installed, which is vital for the safety and performance of the suspension system. While other methods like detailed mechanical tests or listening for unusual sounds can provide additional insights into potential issues, they are not strictly necessary for the initial examination of hardware. A thorough visual inspection often suffices to determine the immediate state of the suspension attachments. Replacement of all hardware is not typically required unless specific damage or failure is evident. Thus, focusing on visual inspection provides a foundational and effective approach when assessing the hardware of the suspension system.

### 3. What are you looking for in a visual inspection of the vehicle's body?

- A. Signs of wear on the tires
- B. Signs of damage, rust, and corrosion that may affect vehicle integrity**
- C. Presence of any stickers or decals
- D. Overall cleanliness of the vehicle

In a visual inspection of the vehicle's body, one of the primary focuses is identifying signs of damage, rust, and corrosion that may impact the vehicle's integrity. These factors are critical because the structural integrity of a vehicle can significantly affect its safety and performance. Damage such as dents or scratches might not only indicate a previous accident, but they can also lead to rust if the underlying metal is exposed to moisture and other environmental factors. Similarly, corrosion can weaken critical components of the vehicle, making it important to detect these issues early. While other facets of a vehicle, like tire wear, stickers, and cleanliness, are relevant in certain contexts, they do not directly correlate with the vehicle's structural integrity. Tire wear is more about the vehicle's performance and handling, rather than the body integrity, and while stickers might inform about the vehicle's history or ownership, they do not affect safety or function. Cleanliness can be an aesthetic concern but doesn't directly impact the safety or functionality of the vehicle as much as signs of damage or corrosion. Hence, focusing on structural integrity through identifying damage, rust, and corrosion is paramount during the visual inspection.

### 4. 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.

**5. How many minutes should the air pressure rise from 85 to 100 psi to be considered a minor defect?**

- A. Less than 1 minute**
- B. 1 minute**
- C. 2 minutes**
- D. 3 minutes**

The correct answer indicates that the air pressure rise from 85 to 100 psi should take no more than 2 minutes to be considered a minor defect during an exterior inspection of a vehicle. This timing is significant because it reflects the efficiency of the vehicle's air braking system. In practice, a system that can achieve this pressure increase within 2 minutes demonstrates a properly functioning and adequately maintained air compressor and air brake system. If it takes longer than this threshold, it might suggest issues such as air leaks, insufficient compressor performance, or maintenance needs that could impair the vehicle's braking effectiveness. While the other options suggest shorter or longer time frames, they do not provide the balance that indicates an acceptable, yet cautious, range within which air systems should perform efficiently. Thus, recognizing 2 minutes as the benchmark highlights the importance of maintaining a reliable braking system for safety and compliance.

**6. What minimum tire tread depth should the front tires meet?**

- A. 1.0 mm**
- B. 2.0 mm**
- C. 3.0 mm**
- D. 4.0 mm**

The minimum tire tread depth for front tires is crucial for maintaining adequate traction, particularly under wet or slippery conditions. In Ontario, the legal requirement for the minimum tread depth on commercial vehicles is typically 3.0 mm for the front tires. Having sufficient tread depth allows the tires to effectively channel water away from the contact patch, reducing the risk of hydroplaning and providing better grip during acceleration, braking, and cornering. This is especially important for front tires, as they bear the majority of the steering and braking forces. A depth of 3.0 mm strikes a balance between safety and performance, ensuring that tires can function effectively over a range of driving conditions. Other depth requirements mentioned are either below or above the standard, making them less applicable for ensuring optimal performance and safety during operation. Therefore, 3.0 mm stands out as the appropriate threshold to ensure vehicle safety and compliance with regulations.

## 7. What should drivers do if they discover a malfunction during an exterior inspection?

- A. Note it for the next inspection
- B. Address the issue immediately**
- C. Ignore it if it's minor
- D. Continue driving without concern

When drivers discover a malfunction during an exterior inspection, addressing the issue immediately is crucial for safety and compliance. If a problem is identified, it could potentially lead to serious safety hazards for the driver, passengers, and other road users. Taking prompt action ensures that the vehicle is safe to operate and meets all regulatory requirements. By addressing the malfunction right away, drivers can prevent worsening of the issue, which might lead to more significant repairs and costs. Additionally, immediate action aligns with responsible vehicle operation and maintenance practices, which are essential for commercial drivers who must adhere to specific safety standards. On the other hand, options that suggest noting the issue for the next inspection or ignoring it entirely could lead to dangerous situations. Continuing to drive without resolving a known malfunction undermines vehicle safety and could result in accidents or further mechanical failures.

## 8. 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.

## 9. How should you handle any missing or damaged safety equipment?

- A. Notify a supervisor and proceed with the inspection**
- B. Replace the equipment before operating the vehicle**
- C. Mark the equipment as out of service**
- D. Use alternative equipment until replaced**

Handling missing or damaged safety equipment is crucial for ensuring safety during vehicle operation. The correct approach is to replace the equipment before operating the vehicle because safety equipment is designed to protect both the operator and others on the road. Using a vehicle without functioning safety equipment can increase the risk of accidents and injuries. The responsibility lies in ensuring that all required safety equipment is fully operational and compliant with regulatory standards before the vehicle is put into service. This adherence to safety protocols not only reflects best practices but also aligns with legal requirements for vehicle operation. Other options may seem viable, but they do not adequately prioritize safety. Simply notifying a supervisor without replacing the equipment could lead to a situation where the vehicle is operated in an unsafe condition. Marking equipment as out of service does not offer a solution to the problem nor does it ensure a safe working environment. Using alternative equipment could potentially compromise safety standards if that equipment is not suitable or appropriate for the task at hand. Therefore, replacing the damaged or missing equipment is the most responsible action to safeguard everyone involved.

## 10. When inspecting tires, which action is considered acceptable?

- A. Pressing the tire on the ground**
- B. Listening for leaks**
- C. Checking the tire pressure alone**
- D. Only visual inspection**

Listening for leaks is an acceptable action when inspecting tires because it allows you to detect hissing sounds that may indicate air escaping from a puncture or other damage. This audio cue can provide immediate insight into the condition of the tire and can help identify issues that may not be visible through visual inspection alone. In contrast, the other actions lack sufficient thoroughness or effectiveness in ensuring tire safety. Pressing the tire on the ground could provide some information about the tire's firmness but does not specifically check for leaks or internal damage. Checking the tire pressure alone is important, but it does not encompass the full range of potential issues such as tread wear or sidewall damage. Relying solely on visual inspection means that you may miss problems that are not visible to the eye, such as a slow leak, making it an insufficient method of ensuring tire safety.

# 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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