

School Bus CHP Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

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- 1. What is a key benefit of performing pre-trip inspections on the bus?**
 - A. To know the bus's fuel efficiency**
 - B. To ensure all safety features are functioning**
 - C. To impress the students**
 - D. To reduce maintenance costs**
- 2. When visibility is reduced to ____ feet due to adverse weather conditions, strobe lights on a school bus may be activated.**
 - A. 200**
 - B. 300**
 - C. 500**
 - D. 1000**
- 3. What should the driver do when a pupil is aboard and they need to leave the driver's compartment?**
 - A. Leave the keys in the ignition**
 - B. Engage the parking brake**
 - C. Stop the bus and exit immediately**
 - D. Remove the passenger before leaving**
- 4. Which of the following must be checked during a pre-trip inspection?**
 - A. Only the tires and brakes**
 - B. Windows and mirrors**
 - C. Tires, brakes, lights, and emergency equipment**
 - D. Only the lights**
- 5. What should a driver do at the scene of a school bus accident?**
 - A. Notify only the school district**
 - B. Notify only the CHP**
 - C. Notify only his/her employer**
 - D. Notify all of the above**

- 6. Which of the following mirrors is not required for school buses, Type 1 and Type 11?**
- A. Interior mirror**
 - B. Left and right side mirrors**
 - C. Crossview mirror**
 - D. Left and right side convex mirrors**
- 7. What action should drivers take when a school bus is displaying flashing red lights?**
- A. Immediately stop**
 - B. Slow down**
 - C. Pass with caution**
 - D. Ignore the lights**
- 8. What is the primary role of a safety monitor on a school bus?**
- A. To drive the bus when needed**
 - B. To assist the driver in managing student safety and behavior**
 - C. To maintain a schedule**
 - D. To collect fares from students**
- 9. To which authority must a school bus driver report suspicious activities around a bus?**
- A. Local police department**
 - B. DMV**
 - C. CHP**
 - D. School administration**
- 10. When should the driver open the door of a school bus with the red lights activated?**
- A. Once the traffic has stopped**
 - B. Just enough to activate the red crossing lights**
 - C. As soon as the bus is secured**
 - D. Only during loading and unloading**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is a key benefit of performing pre-trip inspections on the bus?

- A. To know the bus's fuel efficiency**
- B. To ensure all safety features are functioning**
- C. To impress the students**
- D. To reduce maintenance costs**

Conducting pre-trip inspections on a school bus is essential primarily to ensure that all safety features are functioning properly. Safety is the top priority when transporting students, and these inspections help identify any potential issues that could compromise the safety of passengers. By checking elements such as brakes, lights, tires, and other critical components before each trip, the driver can ensure that the bus is in optimal condition, thereby mitigating risks on the road. While other factors may arise from pre-trip inspections, such as reduced maintenance costs and the awareness of fuel efficiency, the primary focus during these inspections is to verify that the vehicle operates safely and complies with safety regulations. This proactive approach helps to prevent accidents and mechanical failures, ultimately safeguarding the well-being of the students and everyone on the road.

2. When visibility is reduced to ____ feet due to adverse weather conditions, strobe lights on a school bus may be activated.

- A. 200**
- B. 300**
- C. 500**
- D. 1000**

When visibility is reduced to 500 feet due to adverse weather conditions, activating the strobe lights on a school bus is crucial for safety. Strobe lights enhance the visibility of the bus, making it easier for other drivers to see it in challenging conditions such as fog, rain, or snow. This practice is vital for ensuring both the safety of the bus passengers and the driving public, as greater visibility helps prevent accidents. While there are other distances where visibility can be concerning, the specific threshold of 500 feet aligns with regulations and safety standards designed for school buses. This standard acknowledges that at this distance, the risk of an accident increases significantly, thus emphasizing the importance of additional visibility measures like strobe lights.

3. What should the driver do when a pupil is aboard and they need to leave the driver's compartment?

- A. Leave the keys in the ignition**
- B. Engage the parking brake**
- C. Stop the bus and exit immediately**
- D. Remove the passenger before leaving**

Engaging the parking brake is essential when a driver needs to leave the driver's compartment while a pupil is aboard. This action ensures that the bus remains securely parked and does not roll away, which could endanger the students on board as well as those nearby. The parking brake acts as a safety mechanism that prevents movement, making it safe for the driver to exit the compartment, especially in situations where students may not be aware of their surroundings. Leaving the keys in the ignition could be risky, as it may lead to unauthorized use of the vehicle by students or others. Exiting the bus immediately without ensuring safety could lead to accidents. Removing a passenger before leaving the driver's area is not practical or necessary and may disrupt the supervision of the student. Thus, engaging the parking brake is the safest and most responsible course of action for the driver's departure from the compartment.

4. Which of the following must be checked during a pre-trip inspection?

- A. Only the tires and brakes**
- B. Windows and mirrors**
- C. Tires, brakes, lights, and emergency equipment**
- D. Only the lights**

During a pre-trip inspection, it is essential to check tires, brakes, lights, and emergency equipment because these components are crucial for the safe operation of the school bus. Tires need to be inspected for proper inflation and tread depth to ensure optimal traction and handling. Brakes are vital for stopping safely; any issues with them could lead to severe accidents. Checking lights ensures that all signaling devices are functioning correctly, which is important for visibility and communication with other road users. Emergency equipment, such as fire extinguishers and first aid kits, needs to be present and properly stocked in case of an emergency. The emphasis on this comprehensive checklist during a pre-trip inspection is part of the broader safety protocols that help prevent accidents and ensure passenger safety. Other choices do not cover the full spectrum of necessary checks, making option C the correct choice.

5. What should a driver do at the scene of a school bus accident?

- A. Notify only the school district**
- B. Notify only the CHP**
- C. Notify only his/her employer**
- D. Notify all of the above**

In the event of a school bus accident, a driver has multiple responsibilities to ensure the safety of those involved and to comply with legal obligations. Notifying the school district is vital as they have a direct interest in any incidents involving their vehicles and can provide necessary support and communication with parents. Informing the California Highway Patrol (CHP) is equally important, as they are responsible for law enforcement and handling crash investigations on highways and public roads, ensuring that safety and legal protocols are followed. Additionally, notifying their employer is necessary because they need to be aware of the situation, possibly for insurance claims, liability issues, and to address the welfare of their employee and any passengers. Informing all relevant parties helps create a comprehensive response to the accident, ensuring all bases are covered for legal, safety, and operational reasons.

6. Which of the following mirrors is not required for school buses, Type 1 and Type 11?

- A. Interior mirror**
- B. Left and right side mirrors**
- C. Crossview mirror**
- D. Left and right side convex mirrors**

The left and right side convex mirrors are not required for school buses, Type 1 and Type 11, as specified by regulations. While many school buses do utilize these mirrors for enhanced visibility and safety, particularly to eliminate blind spots and improve a driver's field of vision around the bus, they are not mandated. On the other hand, the interior mirror, left and right side mirrors, and the crossview mirror are essential components required for school bus operation. The interior mirror provides the driver with a view of the bus's interior and any passengers that may need assistance. The left and right side mirrors are crucial for seeing vehicles and pedestrians that may be in close proximity to the bus. The crossview mirror enhances the driver's ability to monitor the immediate area in front of the bus, especially important during stops when children are boarding or disembarking. Therefore, while left and right side convex mirrors contribute to safety, they are not a federal requirement for the specified school bus types, differentiating them from the other mirrors that are essential to safe operations.

7. What action should drivers take when a school bus is displaying flashing red lights?

- A. Immediately stop**
- B. Slow down**
- C. Pass with caution**
- D. Ignore the lights**

When a school bus is displaying flashing red lights, the appropriate action for drivers is to immediately stop. This rule is in place to ensure the safety of children who may be getting on or off the bus. The flashing red lights act as a signal that the bus has stopped and that children might be crossing the road to enter or exit the bus. By stopping, drivers give these children a safe environment to board or alight from the bus without the threat of moving vehicles. This law aims to reduce the risk of accidents during such vulnerable moments. Failing to stop in this situation can not only endanger the lives of children but may also result in legal penalties for the driver, as it's considered a serious traffic violation. Thus, stopping when a school bus displays flashing red lights is an essential practice for ensuring everyone's safety in school zones and around buses.

8. What is the primary role of a safety monitor on a school bus?

- A. To drive the bus when needed**
- B. To assist the driver in managing student safety and behavior**
- C. To maintain a schedule**
- D. To collect fares from students**

The primary role of a safety monitor on a school bus is to assist the driver in managing student safety and behavior. This position is crucial because the safety monitor acts as an extra set of eyes and ears on the bus. Their responsibilities often include helping ensure that students are seated properly, following safety rules, and acting respectfully towards each other. By maintaining order and vigilance, the safety monitor plays a significant role in preventing distractions that could compromise the driver's focus on the road. This collaborative effort between the driver and the safety monitor helps create a safer environment for all students on board. While a safety monitor has important responsibilities regarding student behavior, the roles of driving the bus, maintaining a schedule, and collecting fares from students are not typically associated with the monitor's duties. Each of these functions is handled by other personnel or systems in the wider context of school transportation.

9. To which authority must a school bus driver report suspicious activities around a bus?

- A. Local police department**
- B. DMV**
- C. CHP**
- D. School administration**

A school bus driver must report suspicious activities around a bus to the California Highway Patrol (CHP). This authority is responsible for ensuring the safety and security of school transportation across the state. The CHP has the necessary resources and training to handle potential threats or criminal activities related to school buses. Their involvement ensures that any issue can be addressed quickly and effectively, as they work closely with local law enforcement and other agencies to maintain safety standards. While local police departments may also be involved in such situations, the CHP specializes in transportation safety and has specific protocols for incidents involving school buses. The DMV focuses primarily on vehicle registration and driver licensing and is not equipped to handle real-time safety concerns. School administration would typically manage internal issues within the school environment rather than external security threats. Therefore, the CHP is the most appropriate and directly relevant authority for a school bus driver to contact regarding suspicious activities.

10. When should the driver open the door of a school bus with the red lights activated?

- A. Once the traffic has stopped**
- B. Just enough to activate the red crossing lights**
- C. As soon as the bus is secured**
- D. Only during loading and unloading**

The correct answer states that the driver should open the door of a school bus only once the traffic has stopped. This safety measure is critical to ensure that students can enter or exit the bus without the risk of being struck by passing vehicles. The activation of the red lights is a warning signal to other road users that the bus is either loading or unloading passengers, and it effectively indicates that they must come to a complete stop. By waiting until traffic is halted, the driver helps to maintain a safe environment for children, who may be excited and unpredictable as they approach or leave the bus. Responding to the traffic appropriately ensures that the driver's actions protect the children and comply with legal traffic regulations surrounding school bus safety. This practice reinforces the importance of prioritizing student safety during the loading and unloading process.