

# TCOLE Traffic & Transportation Code Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



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**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

- 1. What is the minimum age to apply for a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) in Texas?**
  - A. 16 years old**
  - B. 18 years old**
  - C. 21 years old**
  - D. 25 years old**
- 2. How deep must tire tread be to satisfy Texas law?**
  - A. 1/32 of an inch**
  - B. 2/32 of an inch**
  - C. 3/32 of an inch**
  - D. 4/32 of an inch**
- 3. What is the penalty for driving without a valid driver's license in Texas?**
  - A. Only a verbal warning is issued**
  - B. A fine and possibly additional penalties depending on circumstances**
  - C. Mandatory jail time only**
  - D. Community service only**
- 4. Which of the following correctly describes a house trailer?**
  - A. A vehicle that cannot be transported on highways**
  - B. A trailer less than 40 feet designed to be used as a dwelling**
  - C. A recreational vehicle with no permanent chassis**
  - D. A vehicle designed exclusively for commercial transport**
- 5. What does the term "open container" refer to in the context of Texas transportation law?**
  - A. A container holding an unused or sealed beverage**
  - B. A bottle, can, or receptacle that contains any amount of alcoholic beverage**
  - C. A container that is designed to be reusable**
  - D. A beverage that is still in a cooler**

- 6. Which of the following is a characteristic of a towable recreational vehicle?**
- A. It must always have a motor**
  - B. It is built on a chassis and can contain life-support systems**
  - C. It is only used for transporting property**
  - D. It is typically larger than 26 feet in length**
- 7. Who is designated as a school crossing guard?**
- A. A person under 18 years old**
  - B. A local authority's employee**
  - C. A person at least 18 years old appointed to direct traffic in school zones**
  - D. An emergency services worker**
- 8. What is the definition of reckless driving according to the Texas Transportation Code?**
- A. Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs**
  - B. Driving in a manner that shows a willful disregard for the safety of persons or property**
  - C. Driving without a valid driver's license**
  - D. Driving at a high rate of speed**
- 9. Under what condition is an offense classified as a state jail felony?**
- A. When litter weighs 100 pounds or more**
  - B. When litter weighs 1,000 pounds or more**
  - C. When litter is disposed of on private property**
  - D. When litter is discarded carelessly**
- 10. What must be conducted at a traffic accident involving a death?**
- A. A report can be filed without investigation**
  - B. A full investigation including witness interviews and gathering evidence**
  - C. Only a basic statement taken from the drivers**
  - D. Nothing needs to be done**

## **Answers**

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

## **Explanations**



**1. What is the minimum age to apply for a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) in Texas?**

- A. 16 years old
- B. 18 years old
- C. 21 years old**
- D. 25 years old

To apply for a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) in Texas, the minimum age requirement is indeed 18 years old. However, it is significant to note that while individuals can obtain a CDL at 18, they must be at least 21 years old to operate a commercial motor vehicle across state lines or transport hazardous materials. This age requirement is based on federal regulations and is intended to ensure that drivers of large vehicles are mature enough to handle the responsibilities associated with them. In Texas, drivers under 21 can still apply for a CDL and drive intrastate (within Texas), but are restricted from certain types of driving until they reach 21. This means that the age of 21 is crucial for specific operations but does not accurately reflect the minimum age for applying for the license itself. Thus, while someone may think 21 is correct because it aligns with federal transportation laws, this does not answer the question about the minimum age to apply for a CDL in general.

**2. How deep must tire tread be to satisfy Texas law?**

- A. 1/32 of an inch
- B. 2/32 of an inch**
- C. 3/32 of an inch
- D. 4/32 of an inch

In Texas, the minimum legal tread depth for tires is indeed 2/32 of an inch. This measure is essential for maintaining adequate traction and safety while driving, particularly in wet conditions where tires need to channel water away to avoid hydroplaning. When tire tread wears down to this minimum depth, it significantly compromises the tire's ability to grip the road, impacting braking distances and overall vehicle control. Regularly checking tread depth is crucial for drivers, ensuring they replace tires before they reach this legal limit to enhance safety. While there are other options that represent potential measurements for tire tread depth, only 2/32 of an inch meets the legal requirement in Texas. Therefore, understanding the importance of maintaining this tread depth is vital for adhering to state laws and promoting safe driving practices.

**3. What is the penalty for driving without a valid driver's license in Texas?**

**A. Only a verbal warning is issued**

**B. A fine and possibly additional penalties depending on circumstances**

**C. Mandatory jail time only**

**D. Community service only**

Driving without a valid driver's license in Texas is considered an offense that can lead to penalties, which typically include a fine. The specific fine can vary based on the circumstances surrounding the offense, such as whether it's a first-time offense, if the individual has previous violations, or if there are aggravating factors involved. In some cases, additional penalties may apply, such as an order to complete community service or other programs. This reflects the enforcement priority on ensuring that all drivers on the road meet licensing requirements for safety and legal compliance. Requiring individuals to have a valid driver's license not only promotes road safety but also upholds the law. Thus, the answer indicating that there would be a fine and possibly additional penalties is the most accurate representation of the consequences for this offense in Texas.

**4. Which of the following correctly describes a house trailer?**

**A. A vehicle that cannot be transported on highways**

**B. A trailer less than 40 feet designed to be used as a dwelling**

**C. A recreational vehicle with no permanent chassis**

**D. A vehicle designed exclusively for commercial transport**

A house trailer, also referred to as a manufactured home, is characterized primarily by its purpose and design for use as a dwelling. The correct choice describes a trailer that is specifically designed to be less than 40 feet in length, highlighting its capacity to serve as a living space, which aligns with the definition of a house trailer under transportation codes. This definition is important as it demarcates residential use from other types of trailers or vehicles. A house trailer is distinct in its construction and intended application, ensuring that it is recognized within legal and regulatory frameworks as a viable residential option. This also relates to zoning and building codes that might apply in various jurisdictions concerning manufactured homes. The other choices do not adequately capture the essence of what constitutes a house trailer. For example, a vehicle that cannot be transported on highways does not fit the definition, as house trailers are specifically designed for transport. Similarly, a recreational vehicle with no permanent chassis does not serve the same residential purpose, and a vehicle designed exclusively for commercial transport would not qualify as a house trailer. Understanding these distinctions is crucial for those studying the traffic and transportation code.

5. What does the term "open container" refer to in the context of Texas transportation law?
- A. A container holding an unused or sealed beverage
  - B. A bottle, can, or receptacle that contains any amount of alcoholic beverage**
  - C. A container that is designed to be reusable
  - D. A beverage that is still in a cooler

In Texas transportation law, the term "open container" specifically refers to a bottle, can, or receptacle that contains any amount of alcoholic beverage that has been opened, has a broken seal, or has been consumed. This definition is crucial because the law prohibits the presence of open containers of alcohol in certain areas, particularly within the passenger area of a motor vehicle. This regulation aims to reduce incidents of impaired driving and promote roadway safety. An open container can pose legal consequences if a driver is found in violation of this law while operating a vehicle. Understanding this definition is essential for ensuring compliance with state regulations regarding the transportation of alcoholic beverages in motor vehicles.

6. Which of the following is a characteristic of a towable recreational vehicle?
- A. It must always have a motor
  - B. It is built on a chassis and can contain life-support systems**
  - C. It is only used for transporting property
  - D. It is typically larger than 26 feet in length

A towable recreational vehicle is a type of RV designed to be towed by another vehicle rather than being driven itself. The defining characteristic of option B highlights that these vehicles are built on a chassis and often come equipped with amenities that support living, such as kitchen facilities, sleeping areas, and bathroom facilities, which can be seen as life-support systems for camping and recreational use. This aligns with the general understanding of what constitutes a recreational vehicle. In contrast, the other options present characteristics that do not accurately describe towable recreational vehicles. For example, the idea that a towable recreational vehicle must always have a motor is incorrect, as their nature is to rely on being towed by another vehicle. The statement about being solely for transporting property is also misleading since these vehicles are intended for recreation and personal use, not just for cargo transport. Lastly, while some towable RVs can be large, there is no strict size limitation of exceeding 26 feet to classify it as a towable recreational vehicle; they can come in various sizes, depending on the model and design. Thus, the correct answer emphasizes the built-in features that define a towable recreational vehicle.

**7. Who is designated as a school crossing guard?**

- A. A person under 18 years old**
- B. A local authority's employee**
- C. A person at least 18 years old appointed to direct traffic in school zones**
- D. An emergency services worker**

A school crossing guard is specifically defined as a person who is at least 18 years old and is appointed to direct traffic in school zones. This role is critical for the safety of students as they cross streets near schools, especially during peak drop-off and pick-up times. The laws governing school zone traffic management prioritize the safety of children, necessitating that crossing guards are sufficiently mature and responsible. Being at least 18 years old ensures that the individual has the maturity and judgment necessary for directing traffic and ensuring the well-being of young students. In this context, a school crossing guard must be authorized and trained for this specific role, reflecting the responsibilities held in protecting children and managing traffic effectively. The requirements for age and appointment underscore the importance of having a reliable and competent person in this capacity, which is why this definition is aligned with traffic safety regulations and practices concerning school zones.

**8. What is the definition of reckless driving according to the Texas Transportation Code?**

- A. Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs**
- B. Driving in a manner that shows a willful disregard for the safety of persons or property**
- C. Driving without a valid driver's license**
- D. Driving at a high rate of speed**

The definition of reckless driving according to the Texas Transportation Code focuses on the behavior of the driver and the intent behind their actions. Specifically, it is described as driving in a manner that demonstrates a willful disregard for the safety of persons or property. This means that the driver consciously chooses to engage in risky behaviors that can endanger others, illustrating a blatant disregard for the safety norms expected on the road. This definition encompasses various behaviors, such as aggressive driving, tailgating, weaving in and out of traffic, or engaging in other dangerous maneuvers that could put others at risk. It captures the reckless mindset rather than a specific violation or condition (like being under the influence or lacking a valid license), emphasizing the implications of the driver's choices and the potential consequences of their actions on public safety.

**9. Under what condition is an offense classified as a state jail felony?**

- A. When litter weighs 100 pounds or more**
- B. When litter weighs 1,000 pounds or more**
- C. When litter is disposed of on private property**
- D. When litter is discarded carelessly**

The classification of an offense as a state jail felony is often tied to the severity and impact of the actions involved. In this context, the correct answer relates to the weight of the litter. When litter weighs 1,000 pounds or more, it signifies a substantial environmental impact and poses a serious threat to public safety and health. Such a significant amount of litter can lead to more severe consequences, both legally and ecologically, and thus warrants a stricter legal classification. This aligns with the approach in many laws where the quantity of illegal waste directly correlates to the severity of the offense. Other conditions like littering less than this substantial weight or the way it is disposed of may not indicate the same level of severity, which is why they do not meet the threshold for a state jail felony classification.

**10. What must be conducted at a traffic accident involving a death?**

- A. A report can be filed without investigation**
- B. A full investigation including witness interviews and gathering evidence**
- C. Only a basic statement taken from the drivers**
- D. Nothing needs to be done**

In the context of a traffic accident involving a death, a full investigation including witness interviews and gathering evidence is essential. This comprehensive approach serves several critical purposes: 1. **\*\*Legal Importance\*\***: A death resulting from a traffic accident often leads to legal proceedings, requiring a thorough investigation to establish fault, determine liability, and support any potential criminal charges or civil actions. 2. **\*\*Accurate Reconstruction\*\***: A detailed investigation allows law enforcement to reconstruct the sequence of events leading to the accident. This includes evaluating traffic patterns, road conditions, vehicle placements, and any potential obstructions. 3. **\*\*Evidence Gathering\*\***: Collecting physical evidence, such as photographs of the scene, vehicle damage assessments, and skid marks, is crucial for an accurate portrayal of how the accident occurred. These elements can be vital in court to support claims or defenses. 4. **\*\*Witness Accounts\*\***: Interviewing witnesses can provide multiple perspectives on the incident, helping to corroborate findings or challenge conflicting accounts. Witness testimonies can be key in determining the actions of those involved leading up to the accident. 5. **\*\*Prevention of Future Accidents\*\***: By understanding the cause of the accident, authorities can identify patterns or unsafe conditions that could be addressed to prevent similar incidents in