Texas CDL Air Brakes Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide

Everything you need from our exam experts!

Table of Contents

Copyright **1**
Table of Contents **2**
Introduction **3**
How to Use This Guide **4**
Questions **6**
Answers **9**
Explanations **11**
Next Steps **17**

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!

Questions

1. At what pressure does the governor stop pumping air?

A. 110 psi

B. 120 psi

C. 125 psi

D. 130 psi

2. When is it advisable to avoid using the parking brake?

A. When the brakes are cold.

B. When the brakes are hot.

C. In wet weather conditions.

D. When parked on a flat surface.

3. Why is it important to check brake shoes and linings in brake drums?

A. To determine their color and size

B. To ensure they are properly bolted

C. To confirm they have sufficient material left

D. To verify the rotations per minute rate

4. What does the brake pedal in an air brake system control?

A. The road speed of the vehicle

B. The air pressure applied to put on the brakes

C. The brake lights of the vehicle

D. The power steering pressure

5. To test the air leakage rate, what should you do first?

A. Run the engine

B. Release the service brake

C. Check the air gauge

D. Engage the brake by pumping several times

6. When should parking brakes not be used?

A. When the vehicle is on an incline

B. When the brakes are cold

C. When the brakes are hot

D. When the air pressure is low

7. What is the correct technique for stab braking?

A. Press down on the brakes and hold

B. Brake as hard as possible, release when wheels lock, and reapply when wheels start rolling again

C. Ease off the brake pedal gradually

D. Use engine braking primarily

8. What should air loss not exceed with the engine off and brakes released?

A. 1 PSI per minute

B. 3 PSI per minute

C. 4 PSI per minute

D. 2 PSI per minute

9. If your bus has dual parking control valves, what can you use pressure from a separate tank for?

A. To fill the air suspension

B. To release the spring brakes and move a short distance

C. To assist in engine braking

D. To inflate the tires

10. What does it mean if the “ABS” light is on in a vehicle?

A. The Anti-lock Braking System is functioning correctly

B. The vehicle needs a routine service check

C. There is an issue with the Anti-lock Braking System

D. The brake fluid levels are low

Answers

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

Explanations

1. At what pressure does the governor stop pumping air?

A. 110 psi

B. 120 psi

C. 125 psi

D. 130 psi

The governor stopping the air compressor at 125 psi is based on standard operating procedures for air brake systems in commercial vehicles. When the air pressure in the system reaches around 125 psi, the governor is designed to stop the compressor from pumping air, which helps prevent over-pressurization and potential damage to the system. Maintaining this pressure threshold is critical for safe operation and optimal performance of the air brake system. At this level, the vehicles typically have enough air pressure stored in the tanks to operate the brakes effectively. This ensures drivers have the necessary air for emergency situations while also protecting the integrity of the air brake components. Other pressures listed might not provide the same effectiveness or safety, as the common regulation for commercial motor vehicles is to hold the cut-out point at 125 psi, which is recognized as an industry standard.

2. When is it advisable to avoid using the parking brake?

A. When the brakes are cold.

B. When the brakes are hot.

C. In wet weather conditions.

D. When parked on a flat surface.

The correct answer is that it is advisable to avoid using the parking brake when the brakes are hot. When brakes are hot, typically due to prolonged use or heavy braking, the components can be more susceptible to warping or distortion. Engaging the parking brake under such conditions can lead to the brake pads or shoes binding to the drum or rotor, which may cause damage or difficulty in releasing the brake later. Understanding this is essential for maintaining the longevity of the brake system. For instance, using the parking brake while the brakes are hot can also lead to brake fade or failure in extreme situations where the brakes may be needed again shortly after they have cooled down. Using the parking brake on a cold brake system, during wet weather, or when parked on a flat surface poses less risk of causing damage, making those options less of a concern regarding the safety and functionality of the vehicle's braking system.

3. Why is it important to check brake shoes and linings in brake drums?

A. To determine their color and size

B. To ensure they are properly bolted

C. To confirm they have sufficient material left

D. To verify the rotations per minute rate

Checking brake shoes and linings in brake drums is crucial to confirm that they have sufficient material left. This is essential for the effective operation of the braking system. Adequate material ensures that the brakes can generate the necessary friction to slow down or stop the vehicle safely. Worn-out brake shoes or linings can compromise braking performance, leading to longer stopping distances and increased risk of accidents. Regular inspections help to identify when the linings need to be replaced, maintaining the vehicle's safety and reliability on the road. While it may be essential to ensure that the components are properly bolted or to understand their dimensions for fit, the primary concern in terms of safety and functionality lies in confirming sufficient material left in the brake shoes and linings. Monitoring parameters like rotations per minute is not typically relevant for assessing the condition of brake components.

4. What does the brake pedal in an air brake system control?

A. The road speed of the vehicle

B. The air pressure applied to put on the brakes

C. The brake lights of the vehicle

D. The power steering pressure

In an air brake system, the brake pedal plays a crucial role in controlling the air pressure that activates the brake mechanism. When you press the brake pedal, it sends a signal to the brake system to release or apply air pressure to the brake chambers. This air pressure is then used to engage the brakes, effectively slowing down or stopping the vehicle. Understanding this function is essential for safe operation, as it illustrates how the air brake system relies on compressed air to exert the force necessary for braking. This contrasts sharply with other functions, such as controlling vehicle speed, displaying brake lights, or influencing power steering, which are unrelated to the direct function of applying brakes.

5. To test the air leakage rate, what should you do first?

A. Run the engine

B. Release the service brake

C. Check the air gauge

D. Engage the brake by pumping several times

To test the air leakage rate, it is essential first to release the service brake. This step is crucial because it ensures that the air system is not under any pressure and allows you to accurately measure how much air is leaking from the system. Once the service brake is released, any air loss can be observed as the vehicle's air pressure stabilizes. Performing this action before checking the air gauge or engaging the brakes is necessary. If the brakes are engaged, it could lead to a false assessment of the leakage rate since the brake system will retain pressure and mask any significant leaks. Running the engine is also not required at this initial stage, as the focus should be solely on assessing the leakage rate without additional variables impacting the pressure readings. This method ensures a clear and straightforward process to effectively identify any potential issues with the air brake system.

6. When should parking brakes not be used?

A. When the vehicle is on an incline

B. When the brakes are cold

C. When the brakes are hot

D. When the air pressure is low

Parking brakes should not be used when the brakes are hot because doing so can lead to brake failure or damage. Hot brakes are often the result of prolonged use and may have undergone significant wear. Engaging the parking brake under these conditions can cause the brake components to seize or bind together, increasing the risk of brake system issues. It's important to allow hot brakes to cool down before applying the parking brake to ensure that the components do not warp or become damaged, which could compromise the vehicle's safety during operation. In contrast, using the parking brake during cold conditions, while the vehicle is on an incline, or when the air pressure is low may still be acceptable under certain circumstances, though each condition should be managed with caution and proper understanding of vehicle operation guidelines.

7. What is the correct technique for stab braking?

A. Press down on the brakes and hold

B. Brake as hard as possible, release when wheels lock, and reapply when wheels start rolling again

C. Ease off the brake pedal gradually

D. Use engine braking primarily

Stab braking is a specific technique used to stop a vehicle as quickly and safely as possible, especially in situations where traction is compromised, such as on slippery roads. The method involves applying the brakes firmly to maximize stopping power, then carefully releasing them when the wheels lock up. The goal of this technique is to regain traction by letting the wheels spin freely, and once the wheels start rolling again, the brakes are reapplied to bring the vehicle to a complete stop. This approach is particularly beneficial in maintaining vehicle control during emergency situations. By understanding and employing stab braking, drivers can effectively manage stopping distances and avoid skidding that may occur from locking up the wheels. In essence, the effectiveness of stab braking lies in the alternating application and release of the brakes to ensure that the tires maintain contact with the road surface as much as possible, resulting in a safer stop.

8. What should air loss not exceed with the engine off and brakes released?

A. 1 PSI per minute

B. 3 PSI per minute

C. 4 PSI per minute

D. 2 PSI per minute

The acceptable air loss with the engine off and brakes released should not exceed 2 PSI per minute. This standard is important because it indicates the integrity of the air brake system. Excessive air loss could suggest potential leaks or issues within the system which could lead to brake failure or inconsistent braking performance. Maintaining air loss within the specified limit ensures that the braking system remains reliable and effective, which is vital for safety. While the other options present varying thresholds of air loss, they exceed the established safety limit. This reinforces the importance of regular checks and maintenance of the air brake system to prevent any operational faults that could arise from high air loss rates. Keeping air loss to a minimum helps ensure that drivers maintain adequate control over their vehicle at all times, enhancing road safety for everyone.

9. If your bus has dual parking control valves, what can you use pressure from a separate tank for?

A. To fill the air suspension

B. To release the spring brakes and move a short distance

C. To assist in engine braking

D. To inflate the tires

Using pressure from a separate tank with dual parking control valves is specifically designed to release the spring brakes. This feature allows for the temporary release of the spring brakes so that the vehicle can be moved short distances, which is crucial in situations where positioning the bus is necessary, such as in maintenance areas or during emergency situations. The dual parking control valves operate independently, providing a backup system should one fail. When pressure is applied from the auxiliary tank, it acts to disengage the spring brakes momentarily, allowing the bus to roll freely without having to wait for the air pressure in the main braking system to build up. This functionality is particularly important for larger vehicles like buses, where maneuvering can be quite challenging if the brakes are engaged and cannot be quickly released. Using this separate tank for releasing the spring brakes is critical to maintaining control over the vehicle in low-pressure scenarios. Other options such as filling the air suspension, assisting in engine braking, or inflating tires are not relevant uses of the pressure from the separate tank in this context.

10. What does it mean if the “ABS” light is on in a vehicle?

A. The Anti-lock Braking System is functioning correctly

B. The vehicle needs a routine service check

C. There is an issue with the Anti-lock Braking System

D. The brake fluid levels are low

When the “ABS” light is illuminated on the dashboard of a vehicle, it indicates that there is an issue with the Anti-lock Braking System (ABS). The ABS is designed to prevent the wheels from locking up during braking, which can help maintain steering control and prevent skidding. An activation of the ABS light signifies that the system has detected a malfunction, and it may not be functioning as intended. This issue could stem from various factors such as sensor problems, wiring issues, or hydraulic system failures. When this light is illuminated, it's essential for drivers to address the problem promptly to ensure the safety and effectiveness of the vehicle's braking performance. Regular vehicle checks can sometimes prevent ABS issues from arising, but the light specifically is a warning that immediate attention is required to diagnose and rectify the problem.

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.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

https://texascdlairbrakes.examzify.com

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