

Texas CDL General Knowledge Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. Which of these is usually true about driving in tunnels?**
 - A. There are no speed limits in tunnels**
 - B. There are no challenges in tunnels**
 - C. There may be strong tailwinds in tunnels**
 - D. There may be crosswinds when exiting**
- 2. During a pre-trip inspection, what should be absent from the brakes and suspension system components?**
 - A. Rust and dust**
 - B. Water and mud**
 - C. Dirt and oil stains**
 - D. Oil, grease, or brake fluid**
- 3. What is the purpose of a vehicle's exhaust system?**
 - A. To reduce harmful emissions and direct exhaust gases away from the engine**
 - B. To improve engine performance and acceleration**
 - C. To enhance the sound quality of a vehicle**
 - D. To provide better airflow to the engine**
- 4. What action should be taken if a tire blows out while driving?**
 - A. Immediately apply brakes**
 - B. Steer in the direction of the blowout**
 - C. Keep a firm grip on the wheel and slow down gradually**
 - D. Overcorrect to stabilize the vehicle**
- 5. How can weather conditions affect driving a commercial vehicle?**
 - A. By reducing visibility and increasing stopping distance**
 - B. By making roads more slippery**
 - C. By increasing vehicle weight**
 - D. By eliminating the need for inspections**

- 6. Which of the following is NOT a class of CDL in Texas?**
- A. Class A**
 - B. Class B**
 - C. Class C**
 - D. Class D**
- 7. What is the recommended response to steer into a bank of snow?**
- A. Quickly turn away from the skid**
 - B. Gently steer toward the direction of the skid**
 - C. Accelerate to gain control**
 - D. Stand on the brakes hard**
- 8. When being tailgated, what action should you take?**
- A. Speed up**
 - B. Switch lanes quickly**
 - C. Brake suddenly**
 - D. Increase your following distance**
- 9. Why is it important to secure your cargo?**
- A. To comply with state regulations**
 - B. To prevent shifting that can affect vehicle stability**
 - C. To enhance the appearance of the vehicle**
 - D. To reduce wear and tear on the cargo**
- 10. What should drivers do when approaching a work zone?**
- A. Speed past quickly**
 - B. Ignore signs and signals**
 - C. Reduce speed and be prepared to stop**
 - D. Maintain current speed**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

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Explanations

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1. Which of these is usually true about driving in tunnels?

- A. There are no speed limits in tunnels**
- B. There are no challenges in tunnels**
- C. There may be strong tailwinds in tunnels**
- D. There may be crosswinds when exiting**

Driving in tunnels presents unique conditions that differ from driving on open roads. Regarding the choice that indicates there may be crosswinds when exiting, this is correct due to the fact that as vehicles exit a tunnel, they can be exposed to sudden changes in wind conditions. The area right outside the tunnel may experience crosswinds caused by surrounding terrain, buildings, or other environmental factors that become more prominent once a vehicle leaves the sheltered environment of the tunnel. When vehicles are transitioning from the enclosed tunnel to the open road, they may not only encounter wind but also changes in visibility and traction due to road conditions. Understanding these dynamics is essential for safe driving, as the vehicle may need adjustment in handling and speed to compensate for these elements. These conditions emphasize the importance of remaining vigilant and prepared for unpredictable changes as vehicles exit tunnels.

2. During a pre-trip inspection, what should be absent from the brakes and suspension system components?

- A. Rust and dust**
- B. Water and mud**
- C. Dirt and oil stains**
- D. Oil, grease, or brake fluid**

During a pre-trip inspection, it is crucial that you check the brakes and suspension system components for the presence of oil, grease, or brake fluid. These substances can indicate potential leaks or malfunctions which could compromise the effectiveness of the braking system. For instance, oil or grease on brake components can lead to decreased friction, making it more difficult for the brakes to function properly. Similarly, the presence of brake fluid could suggest a leak in the brake lines, which could ultimately result in brake failure. While substances like rust, mud, or dirt might be observed, they do not necessarily indicate a functional problem in the same direct manner as oil and grease. Rust can be an indicator of age or weather exposure, but it does not automatically signify a failure unless it's severe enough to affect component integrity. Therefore, keeping brake and suspension systems free of any oil, grease, or brake fluid is essential for maintaining safe vehicle operation.

3. What is the purpose of a vehicle's exhaust system?

- A. To reduce harmful emissions and direct exhaust gases away from the engine**
- B. To improve engine performance and acceleration**
- C. To enhance the sound quality of a vehicle**
- D. To provide better airflow to the engine**

A vehicle's exhaust system plays a crucial role in reducing harmful emissions and directing exhaust gases away from the engine. This is vital for environmental compliance and maintaining air quality, as the system is designed to minimize the release of pollutants such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, and unburned hydrocarbons into the atmosphere. By channeling exhaust gases away from the engine, the exhaust system also helps prevent the buildup of toxic fumes within the vehicle, ensuring a safer environment for the driver and passengers. Additionally, an effective exhaust system contributes to overall engine efficiency. While there are elements of the exhaust system that can enhance performance, such as the design of the headers and catalytic converters, the primary function is focused on emissions control and safe venting of gases. Thus, maintaining a well-functioning exhaust system is essential for ensuring a vehicle meets regulatory standards while also preserving engine health and longevity.

4. What action should be taken if a tire blows out while driving?

- A. Immediately apply brakes**
- B. Steer in the direction of the blowout**
- C. Keep a firm grip on the wheel and slow down gradually**
- D. Overcorrect to stabilize the vehicle**

When a tire blows out while driving, the proper response is to keep a firm grip on the steering wheel and slow down gradually. This is crucial to maintain control of the vehicle. A blowout can cause the vehicle to pull toward the side of the flat tire due to the sudden loss of air pressure. By keeping a firm grip on the wheel, the driver can counteract this pull and prevent the vehicle from veering uncontrollably. Gradually easing off the accelerator allows the vehicle to slow down in a controlled manner, which is far safer than making sudden, harsh braking maneuvers that could lead to skidding or loss of control. It is important to avoid sharp steering inputs, as overreacting can result in further loss of control. In contrast, immediately applying brakes or overcorrecting can lead to dangerous situations such as skidding or flipping the vehicle, especially at high speeds. Steering in the direction of the blowout could also result in an unintended collision or loss of vehicle stability. Hence, the best approach is to maintain a steady grip on the wheel and reduce speed without abrupt movements.

5. How can weather conditions affect driving a commercial vehicle?

- A. By reducing visibility and increasing stopping distance**
- B. By making roads more slippery**
- C. By increasing vehicle weight**
- D. By eliminating the need for inspections**

Weather conditions can significantly impact the safety and control of a commercial vehicle. Reduced visibility occurs during adverse weather such as rain, fog, snow, or heavy winds, making it harder for drivers to see other vehicles, traffic signals, and road signs. This lack of visibility can lead to unsafe driving situations if drivers are unable to fully assess their surroundings. Additionally, weather can influence stopping distance. For instance, wet or icy roads cause the tires to lose traction, which means that when a driver applies the brakes, it takes longer to come to a complete stop. The combination of reduced visibility and increased stopping distances due to weather conditions emphasizes the importance of adjusting driving practices in response to these challenges. Therefore, understanding how weather affects these aspects is crucial for maintaining safety while operating a commercial vehicle.

6. Which of the following is NOT a class of CDL in Texas?

- A. Class A**
- B. Class B**
- C. Class C**
- D. Class D**

In Texas, the Classes of Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDLs) include Class A, Class B, and Class C, each designated for different types of commercial vehicles and operations. Class A licenses are intended for drivers operating a combination of vehicles with a gross combined weight rating (GCWR) of 26,001 pounds or more, where the vehicle being towed weighs more than 10,000 pounds. Class B licenses are for drivers operating single vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 26,001 pounds or more or towing a vehicle not exceeding 10,000 pounds. Class C licenses cover smaller vehicles and are typically used for operations that involve transporting passengers or hazardous materials. Class D, however, does not exist as a recognized class of CDL in Texas. It is generally associated with a regular driver's license issued for operating personal vehicles and is not tailored for commercial driving needs. Thus, recognizing that Class D is not a CDL classification highlights the specific categories established for specialized commercial driving licensure in Texas.

7. What is the recommended response to steer into a bank of snow?

- A. Quickly turn away from the skid**
- B. Gently steer toward the direction of the skid**
- C. Accelerate to gain control**
- D. Stand on the brakes hard**

Steering gently toward the direction of the skid, which is the correct response, is a crucial technique for maintaining control of a vehicle in slippery conditions, such as when you encounter a bank of snow. This method allows the driver to regain steering control and helps to align the vehicle with the direction it is moving. Instead of abruptly turning away, which could result in overcorrection and possibly loss of control, this gentle steering helps to counteract the forces acting on the vehicle, stabilizing it in the process. In contrast, quickly turning away from the skid could lead to a more severe loss of control, while accelerating might cause the vehicle to slide further in the snow, increasing the risk of a crash. Standing on the brakes hard is generally advised against in slippery conditions, as it can lock the wheels and contribute to skidding. Thus, steering gently toward the skid is the recommended action to ensure safety and maintain control on snowy roads.

8. When being tailgated, what action should you take?

- A. Speed up**
- B. Switch lanes quickly**
- C. Brake suddenly**
- D. Increase your following distance**

When you are being tailgated, increasing your following distance is the most effective and safe action to take. By giving yourself more space between your vehicle and the one in front of you, you create a buffer zone that can help avoid accidents. This extra distance allows for a longer reaction time in case the vehicle in front of you suddenly stops, and it also encourages the tailgating driver to recognize that they should give you more space to operate safely. Managing your following distance effectively reduces the pressure of the tailgater, providing a calmer driving environment and helping to prevent aggressive maneuvers. The other options, such as speeding up, switching lanes quickly, or braking suddenly, can lead to increased danger, as they may provoke the tailgater or lead to loss of control. By maintaining a safe and sufficient distance, you can ensure a safer journey for both yourself and other drivers on the road.

9. Why is it important to secure your cargo?

- A. To comply with state regulations**
- B. To prevent shifting that can affect vehicle stability**
- C. To enhance the appearance of the vehicle**
- D. To reduce wear and tear on the cargo**

Securing cargo is vital primarily because it prevents shifting that can affect vehicle stability. When cargo is not properly secured, it can move around during transit, which can lead to a number of dangerous situations. For instance, if the cargo shifts towards one side of the vehicle while turning, it can destabilize the truck or trailer, increasing the risk of a rollover or loss of control. This is particularly critical for larger vehicles like trucks or buses, where the high center of gravity can exacerbate stability issues. Additionally, properly secured cargo ensures that the load remains in place during sudden stops or starts, thereby maintaining control of the vehicle and promoting safety for both the driver and other road users. The implications of inadequate cargo security can lead to accidents, injuries, and even fatalities, highlighting the necessity of this practice in commercial driving.

10. What should drivers do when approaching a work zone?

- A. Speed past quickly**
- B. Ignore signs and signals**
- C. Reduce speed and be prepared to stop**
- D. Maintain current speed**

When approaching a work zone, drivers should prioritize safety by reducing their speed and being prepared to stop. This is crucial because work zones often have workers present, construction equipment, and changing road conditions, all of which can pose hazards. Reducing speed allows drivers to react appropriately to any sudden changes or obstacles in the roadway, such as workers stepping into the path of traffic or unexpected lane modifications. Additionally, work zone signs and signals are in place to guide drivers safely through and around construction areas, indicating any necessary adjustments to driving behavior. By following these instructions, drivers contribute to a safer environment for themselves, construction workers, and other motorists. Adhering to the recommended speed limits in these areas is essential to prevent accidents and ensure everyone's safety.