

Texas CDL General Knowledge 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

- 1. A full stop at a railroad crossing is required when?**
 - A. When there is a yellow signal**
 - B. When a truck is behind you**
 - C. The nature of the cargo makes a stop mandatory under state or federal regulations**
 - D. During rush hour traffic**
- 2. Freeway exits can be dangerous for heavy vehicles. At what speed should you enter the exit?**
 - A. Same as the posted speed limit**
 - B. At least 10 miles below the posted speed limit**
 - C. At least 5 miles below the posted speed limit**
 - D. As fast as possible**
- 3. Which of these is true regarding the use of drugs while driving?**
 - A. Prescription drugs are allowed if the drug will not affect safe driving ability.**
 - B. Over-the-counter drugs always impair driving ability**
 - C. Any type of drugs are acceptable while driving**
 - D. Using drugs enhances driving skills**
- 4. What is the main use of reflective triangles?**
 - A. To signal lane changes**
 - B. To warn other drivers of a breakdown**
 - C. To indicate a speed limit**
 - D. To show vehicle dimensions**
- 5. What is the federal standard for your commercial driving hours?**
 - A. 10 hours driving after 8 hours off duty**
 - B. 12 hours driving after 8 hours off duty**
 - C. 11 hours driving after 10 hours off duty**
 - D. 9 hours driving after 11 hours off duty**

- 6. When driving in heavy traffic you should travel?**
- A. At the maximum posted speed limit**
 - B. At a speed inconsistent with other traffic**
 - C. At a speed consistent with the flow of other traffic**
 - D. Slower than the flow of other traffic**
- 7. Which of these lights can NOT be checked at the same time?**
- A. Headlights**
 - B. Turn signals**
 - C. Brake lights**
 - D. 4-way flashers**
- 8. What should truck drivers do when driving behind motorcycles?**
- A. Maintain a shorter following distance**
 - B. Ignore them and drive as normal**
 - C. Maintain a greater following distance and be extra cautious**
 - D. Pass them as quickly as possible**
- 9. When are you required to stop for school buses?**
- A. When the bus is parked**
 - B. Only when children are present**
 - C. When the lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended**
 - D. When there is no oncoming traffic**
- 10. During a pre-trip inspection, what should break grease be free of?**
- A. Dirt and debris**
 - B. Oil and gas stains**
 - C. Water and ice**
 - D. Oil, grease, or brake fluid**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. A full stop at a railroad crossing is required when?

- A. When there is a yellow signal
- B. When a truck is behind you
- C. The nature of the cargo makes a stop mandatory under state or federal regulations**
- D. During rush hour traffic

The selection of the scenario where the nature of the cargo makes a stop mandatory under state or federal regulations is indeed correct. Specific cargo types, especially hazardous materials, often have strict regulations that require a complete stop at railroad crossings. These laws are in place to enhance safety, as certain materials could pose a significant risk if an incident were to occur at a crossing. Stopping allows the driver to ensure the crossing is safe before proceeding. In contrast, a yellow signal typically indicates caution rather than a requirement to stop, and simply having a truck behind does not necessitate stopping at a crossing. Similarly, the requirement to stop is not influenced by time of day, such as during rush hour traffic, as the regulations around railroad crossings apply uniformly regardless of traffic conditions.

2. Freeway exits can be dangerous for heavy vehicles. At what speed should you enter the exit?

- A. Same as the posted speed limit
- B. At least 10 miles below the posted speed limit
- C. At least 5 miles below the posted speed limit**
- D. As fast as possible

When approaching freeway exits, it is crucial for the safety of both the driver and other road users to reduce speed appropriately. Entering an exit at least 5 miles below the posted speed limit is recommended for heavy vehicles because they require a longer distance to stop and may have a harder time negotiating tight curves typically found at exits. The rationale behind this recommendation is grounded in the control and stability of heavy vehicles, which can be adversely affected by abrupt changes in speed or direction. By reducing speed, drivers enhance their ability to navigate the exit safely and allow for any necessary adjustments to their driving, thereby minimizing the risk of accidents. While the posted speed limit may apply to lighter vehicles, heavy vehicles have different handling characteristics that necessitate greater caution. Entering too quickly can lead to loss of control, especially if road conditions are poor or if the exit ramp features sharp turns. Therefore, adopting a speed at least 5 miles below the posted limit allows for a more controlled and safe maneuver off the freeway.

3. Which of these is true regarding the use of drugs while driving?

A. Prescription drugs are allowed if the drug will not affect safe driving ability.

B. Over-the-counter drugs always impair driving ability

C. Any type of drugs are acceptable while driving

D. Using drugs enhances driving skills

The first choice accurately reflects the nuances of drug use in the context of driving. While prescription drugs can be legally obtained and used, drivers must be fully aware of how these medications affect their ability to operate a vehicle safely. It is essential to understand that even if a drug is prescribed, it does not inherently allow for safe driving unless the driver can confirm that it does not impair their capabilities. This principle emphasizes the responsibility of drivers to assess their own condition and how medication may impact their performance behind the wheel. The other options do not align with safe driving practices. Over-the-counter drugs can impair driving ability but do not do so universally; their effects can vary based on the individual and the specific substance. It's important to note that not all drugs, whether prescription or over-the-counter, are acceptable for driving, especially if they impair one's ability to drive safely. Furthermore, suggesting that using drugs enhances driving skills is misleading and contrary to safe driving standards, as drug use can lead to significant impairment and an increased risk of accidents.

4. What is the main use of reflective triangles?

A. To signal lane changes

B. To warn other drivers of a breakdown

C. To indicate a speed limit

D. To show vehicle dimensions

The main use of reflective triangles is to warn other drivers of a breakdown. When a commercial vehicle becomes disabled on the road, setting up these triangles a certain distance behind the vehicle allows oncoming traffic to become aware of the hazard ahead. This warning system is particularly crucial on busy highways or in low-visibility conditions, as it provides a crucial signal to other drivers to slow down and be cautious, preventing accidents and increasing safety for both the driver of the disabled vehicle and surrounding traffic. Reflective triangles are required by law in many states, and their visibility enhances safety during roadside emergencies.

5. What is the federal standard for your commercial driving hours?

- A. 10 hours driving after 8 hours off duty**
- B. 12 hours driving after 8 hours off duty**
- C. 11 hours driving after 10 hours off duty**
- D. 9 hours driving after 11 hours off duty**

The federal standard for commercial driving hours mandates that a driver may operate a commercial motor vehicle for a maximum of 11 hours following 10 consecutive hours of off-duty time. This regulation is in place to help ensure the safety of drivers and the public by preventing fatigue-related accidents. The rationale for these specific numbers stems from research that indicates extended driving periods without sufficient rest result in increased fatigue and decreased reaction times, posing significant risks to the driver and others on the road. Consequently, the framework encourages a balance between driving time and rest, promoting healthier driving practices over long distances. Adhering to these regulations is crucial for maintaining compliance with federal laws and ensuring that drivers are operating safely within the limits set forth to protect everyone on the road. Understanding these standards is vital for any commercial driver looking to pass their CDL exams and succeed in their driving careers.

6. When driving in heavy traffic you should travel?

- A. At the maximum posted speed limit**
- B. At a speed inconsistent with other traffic**
- C. At a speed consistent with the flow of other traffic**
- D. Slower than the flow of other traffic**

Traveling at a speed consistent with the flow of other traffic is crucial for safety and efficiency. When driving in heavy traffic, maintaining a speed that aligns with what other vehicles are doing helps to reduce the likelihood of collisions and maintains order on the road. If you drive too fast or too slow compared to the surrounding vehicles, it can lead to dangerous situations such as sudden lane changes or rear-end collisions. Adjusting your speed to match the flow of traffic allows for smoother travel and enables everyone to navigate congested areas more effectively. It also helps you to anticipate and react appropriately to the movements of other drivers, further enhancing overall safety. Therefore, driving at a speed that is consistent with the traffic around you is the best practice in heavy traffic situations.

7. Which of these lights can NOT be checked at the same time?

- A. Headlights**
- B. Turn signals**
- C. Brake lights**
- D. 4-way flashers**

The correct choice indicates that 4-way flashers cannot be checked simultaneously with the other lights. When 4-way flashers are activated, they cause all four turn signals to flash at once, which is a distinct function from headlights, brake lights, and individual turn signals. This means that while 4-way flashers are on, you cannot independently check the functioning of just the turn signals, brake lights, or headlights, as they would all be affected by the activation of the 4-way flashers. In contrast, headlights can be checked without interfering with the operation of turn signals, brake lights, or 4-way flashers because they operate independently. Similarly, brake lights illuminate when the brake pedal is pressed, allowing for clear checking without interference from the other light functions. Therefore, 4-way flashers stand out as the option that disrupts the ability to check the other lights at the same time.

8. What should truck drivers do when driving behind motorcycles?

- A. Maintain a shorter following distance**
- B. Ignore them and drive as normal**
- C. Maintain a greater following distance and be extra cautious**
- D. Pass them as quickly as possible**

When driving behind motorcycles, maintaining a greater following distance and being extra cautious is essential for several reasons. Motorcycles are smaller and can be more difficult to see compared to larger vehicles. They can also stop more quickly than trucks, so having additional space allows a driver to react appropriately if the motorcycle comes to a sudden stop. Additionally, motorcyclists may be more susceptible to road conditions that can affect their stability, such as potholes, gravel, or wet surfaces. By being extra cautious, truck drivers can better anticipate the actions of the motorcyclist and ensure their safety, as well as the safety of the motorcyclist. This approach fosters safer driving conditions for everyone on the road. Maintaining a shorter following distance or ignoring the presence of motorcycles can increase the risk of collision, while passing as quickly as possible doesn't account for the potential need to share the road responsibly with them.

9. When are you required to stop for school buses?

- A. When the bus is parked**
- B. Only when children are present**
- C. When the lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended**
- D. When there is no oncoming traffic**

Stopping for school buses is a critical safety requirement designed to protect children as they enter and exit the bus. When the lights on a school bus are flashing and the stop arm is extended, it indicates that the bus has stopped to load or unload children. Drivers must stop their vehicles to allow children to enter or exit safely. This precaution helps ensure that children are not at risk of being struck by passing vehicles. Understanding the context is essential. When a school bus is parked without its lights flashing or its stop arm extended, there is no indication that children are boarding or disembarking, so a complete stop is not mandated. Additionally, the presence of children and the lack of oncoming traffic do not change the requirement; it is the activation of the bus's warning signals that dictates the need to stop. Thus, the requirement is specifically tied to the lights and stop arm, not to other scenarios.

10. During a pre-trip inspection, what should brake grease be free of?

- A. Dirt and debris**
- B. Oil and gas stains**
- C. Water and ice**
- D. Oil, grease, or brake fluid**

Brake grease should be free of oil, grease, or brake fluid because these substances can affect the brake's performance and effectiveness. Dirt and debris can also cause issues, but they are not as harmful as oil, grease, or brake fluid. Oil and gas stains and water and ice should also be avoided, but they are not as critical for the safe operation of the brakes as oil, grease, or brake fluid. Therefore, D is the best and most complete answer.

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://texascdl.examzify.com>

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