

# TEXAS CDL GENERAL KNOWLEDGE PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

**STUDY GUIDE**



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE  
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

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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

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- 1. When hydraulic brakes fail while driving causing the brake pedal to feel spongy or go to the floor, what action should you take?**
  - A. A. Change the radio station
  - B. B. Call a friend
  - C. C. Pump the brake pedal to generate pressure
  - D. D. Speed up to make it to the destination faster
- 2. What is the minimum age to obtain a Class A CDL in Texas?**
  - A. 16 years old
  - B. 18 years old
  - C. 21 years old
  - D. 25 years old
- 3. Which type of endorsement is required for transporting passengers?**
  - A. Hazardous materials endorsement (H)
  - B. Passenger endorsement (P)
  - C. Tanker endorsement (N)
  - D. Double/triple endorsement (T)
- 4. What is the term used for a commercial vehicle's habit of swinging wide on wide turns?**
  - A. Off tracking
  - B. Oversteering
  - C. Understeering
  - D. Tailgating
- 5. When a coolant container is part of a pressurized system, what is true about checking the coolant level?**
  - A. A. Check only when engine is cold
  - B. B. Check only when engine is hot
  - C. C. You can check the coolant level of a hot engine
  - D. D. Never check the coolant level

6. You are driving on a two-lane road and an oncoming driver drifts into your lane, which of the following is the best action to take?
- A. Stay in your lane
  - B. Brake hard
  - C. Steer to the left
  - D. Steer to the right
7. What is the role of the Department of Transportation (DOT)?
- A. To manage public transportation systems
  - B. To ensure road safety and regulation compliance
  - C. To maintain state highways
  - D. To oversee vehicle sales
8. What is the definition of "countersteering"?
- A. Turning the steering wheel in the same direction as the skid
  - B. Turning the steering wheel in the opposite direction to regain control
  - C. Applying brakes sharply to stop the vehicle
  - D. Accelerating to gain traction on the road
9. What is the minimum age requirement to obtain a CDL in Texas for intrastate driving?
- A. 16 years old
  - B. 18 years old
  - C. 21 years old
  - D. 25 years old
10. Which document serves as proof of identity when applying for a Texas CDL?
- A. A Social Security card
  - B. A valid Texas driver's license
  - C. A birth certificate
  - D. A utility bill



## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. When hydraulic brakes fail while driving causing the brake pedal to feel spongy or go to the floor, what action should you take?**

- A. A. Change the radio station
- B. B. Call a friend
- C. C. Pump the brake pedal to generate pressure**
- D. D. Speed up to make it to the destination faster

*The correct response is to pump the brake pedal to generate pressure. When hydraulic brakes fail, it often results in a loss of pressure, making the brake pedal feel spongy or cause it to go all the way to the floor without effective braking action. By pumping the brake pedal, you can help build up some pressure in the brake lines, which may allow for limited braking capability. This action can potentially bring the vehicle to a stop or slow it down enough to reach a safe area or emergency stop position. The other actions suggested do not effectively address the situation. Changing the radio station or calling a friend would distract you from the critical need to manage the vehicle and respond to the brake failure. Speeding up could exacerbate the situation and make it significantly harder to control the vehicle, increasing the risk of a collision or accident. Thus, pumping the brake pedal is the most practical response to regain some level of control over the vehicle's braking system in the event of hydraulic failure.*

**2. What is the minimum age to obtain a Class A CDL in Texas?**

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

*To obtain a Class A Commercial Driver's License (CDL) in Texas, the minimum age requirement is 18 years old. This age requirement allows individuals to operate commercial vehicles within intrastate commerce, meaning they can drive commercially within the borders of Texas. However, there are additional restrictions for those under 21. When someone turns 21, they can then transport goods across state lines and carry passengers, enabling a broader range of driving opportunities. Choosing 18 years old correctly reflects the basic requirement for beginning a career in commercial driving while adhering to state regulations. The higher age limits, such as 21 and 25, apply to different driving privileges and responsibilities rather than the initial eligibility to obtain a Class A CDL.*

**3. Which type of endorsement is required for transporting passengers?**

- A. Hazardous materials endorsement (H)
- B. Passenger endorsement (P)**
- C. Tanker endorsement (N)
- D. Double/triple endorsement (T)

*To transport passengers in a commercial vehicle, a passenger endorsement is required. This endorsement signifies that the driver has undergone the necessary training and has demonstrated the knowledge and skills needed to safely operate a vehicle designed to carry multiple passengers. It ensures that the driver is familiar with the specific regulations, safety measures, and emergency procedures that apply to passenger transport. In contrast, a hazardous materials endorsement is intended for drivers who transport dangerous goods; it does not apply to passenger transport. The tanker endorsement is required for those driving trucks that haul liquids in bulk, while the double/triple endorsement pertains to vehicles that pull multiple trailers. Each of these endorsements focuses on different vehicle operations and cargo types, but only the passenger endorsement specifically addresses the requirements for transporting individuals safely.*

**4. What is the term used for a commercial vehicle's habit of swinging wide on wide turns?**

- A. Off tracking**
- B. Oversteering
- C. Understeering
- D. Tailgating

*Off tracking refers to the tendency of a commercial vehicle to swing wide on wide turns. This is due to the vehicle's longer wheelbase and larger size compared to smaller vehicles, causing it to turn at a wider angle. Choosing B, oversteering, is incorrect as oversteering refers to a vehicle turning more sharply than intended. Option C, understeering, is also incorrect as understeering is when a vehicle is unable to turn as sharply as needed. Option D, tailgating, is completely unrelated to the question and refers to a vehicle following another vehicle too closely.*

**5. When a coolant container is part of a pressurized system, what is true about checking the coolant level?**

- A. A. Check only when engine is cold
- B. B. Check only when engine is hot
- C. C. You can check the coolant level of a hot engine**
- D. D. Never check the coolant level

*When dealing with a pressurized coolant system, the correct approach for checking the coolant level is to allow the engine to cool down and check when it is cold. This is vital because when the engine is hot, the coolant and the system itself are under pressure. Opening a hot coolant container can be dangerous due to the risk of hot coolant erupting from the reservoir as the pressure is released. In most situations, it is advisable to check the coolant level when the engine is cold. However, if you were to check the coolant level when the engine is hot, you must exercise extreme caution to avoid being injured by the hot coolant or steam that may escape. While checking the coolant level is generally not recommended when the engine is hot, the choice stating that you can check the coolant level of a hot engine suggests that it is possible—albeit with risks involved. Proper procedures and safety precautions should always be followed to prevent accidents.*

**6. You are driving on a two-lane road and an oncoming driver drifts into your lane, which of the following is the best action to take?**

- A. Stay in your lane
- B. Brake hard
- C. Steer to the left
- D. Steer to the right**

*The best action to take when faced with an oncoming driver drifting into your lane is to steer to the right. This maneuver allows you to create space between your vehicle and the oncoming traffic, which can help prevent a collision. Steering to the right is generally advisable because it leads you toward the shoulder or any available escape route, reducing the risk of a head-on collision. Braking hard can sometimes cause loss of control, especially if the road is slippery or if the vehicle behind you is not prepared to stop. Staying in your lane is not a safe option if a vehicle is coming directly toward you, as this can lead to a serious crash. Steering to the left may lead into the path of the oncoming driver, increasing the chances of a dangerous situation. Therefore, steering to the right is the most effective and safest action to take in this scenario.*

## 7. What is the role of the Department of Transportation (DOT)?

- A. To manage public transportation systems
- B. To ensure road safety and regulation compliance**
- C. To maintain state highways
- D. To oversee vehicle sales

*The Department of Transportation (DOT) plays a vital role in ensuring road safety and regulating compliance with transportation laws and standards. This encompasses a wide variety of responsibilities including the enforcement of safety regulations, overseeing the construction and maintenance of roadways, and establishing policies to improve traffic safety. By focusing on these aspects, the DOT aims to protect the well-being of all roadway users, enhance mobility, and facilitate efficient transportation systems across the nation. While managing public transportation systems, maintaining state highways, and overseeing vehicle sales are important tasks, they fall under more specific areas or agencies. For instance, public transportation management may involve local transit authorities, while highway maintenance is often handled by state or local transportation departments. Vehicle sales regulation might involve trade practices more relevant to other governmental sectors rather than the overarching duties of the DOT. Thus, confirming the crucial role of the DOT in road safety and compliance stands out as its primary mandate.*

## 8. What is the definition of "countersteering"?

- A. Turning the steering wheel in the same direction as the skid
- B. Turning the steering wheel in the opposite direction to regain control**
- C. Applying brakes sharply to stop the vehicle
- D. Accelerating to gain traction on the road

*Countersteering is defined as turning the steering wheel in the opposite direction of a skid to help regain control of the vehicle. When a vehicle begins to skid—whether due to oversteering, slippery conditions, or sharp turns—countersteering involves reacting promptly by steering back into the direction of the skid. This action helps to stabilize the vehicle, realigning its trajectory with the road and enabling a smoother recovery from the skid. In this context, it's important to understand that proper countersteering is crucial for maintaining control of the vehicle and avoiding accidents or further loss of control. The other options involve reactions that do not effectively address the issue of skidding. For instance, steering in the same direction as the skid would exacerbate the loss of control rather than mitigate it. Similarly, sharply applying brakes can lead to additional skidding or hydroplaning, and accelerating in such situations can also worsen loss of traction. Thus, countersteering is the most effective technique to regain control during a skid.*



**9. What is the minimum age requirement to obtain a CDL in Texas for intrastate driving?**

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

*In Texas, the minimum age requirement to obtain a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) for intrastate driving is 18 years old. This means that individuals who are at least 18 can apply for and receive a CDL, allowing them to operate commercial vehicles within Texas's borders. This age requirement is set to ensure that drivers have attained a sufficient level of maturity and responsibility crucial for the complexities of driving a commercial vehicle. Additionally, it allows for a certain level of experience that builds on the foundational driving skills typically gained while operating a personal vehicle. It's important to note that individuals must be at least 21 years old to drive commercially across state lines or transport hazardous materials, but for purely intrastate operations, the 18-year threshold applies. Hence, this regulation supports the safety of both the drivers and the public on Texas roadways.*

**10. Which document serves as proof of identity when applying for a Texas CDL?**

- A. A Social Security card
- B. A valid Texas driver's license**
- C. A birth certificate
- D. A utility bill

*A valid Texas driver's license serves as proof of identity when applying for a Texas Commercial Driver's License (CDL) because it is an official government-issued document that includes your photo, name, and essential identifying information. This is crucial for verifying your identity during the application process, ensuring accuracy and authenticity. Since a driver's license is recognized as a reliable form of identification by state regulations, it simplifies the verification process for both the applicant and the authorities. While other documents like a Social Security card or a birth certificate can establish identity in specific contexts, they lack the additional features of a photo ID, which is a critical component in the CDL application process. A utility bill does not serve as proof of identity; instead, it is typically used to establish residency. Therefore, the validity and comprehensive identification features of a Texas driver's license make it the most appropriate choice for this purpose.*

## 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](mailto: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!

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