Texas CDL School Bus Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide

Everything you need from our exam experts!

Questions

1. If the gate comes down while you are crossing a railroad highway crossing, what should you do?

A. Stop immediately

B. Drive through the gate

C. Reverse back from the tracks

D. Call for help

2. What are the required endorsements for a commercial driver's license for bus drivers?

A. Only a passenger endorsement

B. School bus and passenger endorsements

C. No endorsements are required

D. Endorsement for hazardous materials

3. What is the first step a driver should take when they see a hazard on the bus?

A. Drive faster to get to safety

B. Assess the situation before acting

C. Notify students immediately

D. Ignore it until the trip is finished

4. Which of the following is true about handling high winds while driving a bus?

A. It is safe to keep both hands off the wheel

B. One should only drive in high winds if the wind direction is steady

C. A strong grip on the steering wheel is crucial

D. Driving faster can help manage the wind

5. What should a driver do if they spot a hazard in the road while driving a bus?

A. Speed up to pass the hazard quickly

B. Slow down, signal intentions, and maneuver safely around the hazard

C. Ignore the hazard if it's not in their lane

D. Stop immediately regardless of traffic

6. What should a driver do if they encounter a bus with its stop arm extended?

- **A. Honk and proceed slowly**
- **B. Stop their vehicle regardless of the direction they are coming from**
- **C. Speed up to pass the bus safely**
- **D. Ignore and continue driving**

7. How does ABS (Anti-lock Braking System) assist drivers?

- **A. Allows for quicker stops**
- **B. Helps avoid wheel lock-up and maintain control**
- **C. Increases speed during braking**
- **D. Reduces the time to stop**

8. How often should a bus driver perform a pre-trip inspection?

- **A. Monthly**
- **B. Every time before driving**
- **C. Quarterly**
- **D. Only when problems arise**

9. At bus stops where more than one child is unloaded, what procedure helps prevent unloading accidents?

- **A. Driver counts students as they disembark and recounts before moving the bus**
- **B. Only allow one student to leave at a time**
- **C. Shout out the names of students as they get off**
- **D. Install a camera to monitor the unloading process**

10. What is the maximum number of passengers allowed on a standard school bus?

- **A. Up to 20 passengers**
- **B. 24 to 72 passengers or more**
- **C. 50 to 100 passengers**
- **D. 10 to 30 passengers**

Answers

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

Explanations

1. If the gate comes down while you are crossing a railroad highway crossing, what should you do?

A. Stop immediately

B. Drive through the gate

C. Reverse back from the tracks

D. Call for help

When approaching a railroad crossing, safety is paramount. The correct response if the gate comes down while you are already crossing is to stay focused on ensuring the safety of everyone involved. The best approach in this scenario is to navigate through the gate if you are in the process of crossing. In this situation, stopping suddenly can place both you and any passengers in danger, as vehicles that halt on the tracks risk being struck by an oncoming train. While reversing may seem like a precautionary measure, it can also lead to accidents or collisions with other vehicles behind you. Calling for help is not an immediate action that would address the serious threat of an oncoming train. Driving through a gate in this context implies that you have already entered the intersection and need to clear the tracks to avoid an accident. It highlights the priority of getting off the tracks safely, ensuring that you do not remain in harm's way. This course of action emphasizes the importance of awareness and response during critical situations, keeping safety at the forefront when dealing with railroad crossings.

2. What are the required endorsements for a commercial driver's license for bus drivers?

A. Only a passenger endorsement

B. School bus and passenger endorsements

C. No endorsements are required

D. Endorsement for hazardous materials

For a commercial driver's license (CDL) specifically for bus drivers, the required endorsements include both the school bus endorsement and the passenger endorsement. The passenger endorsement is necessary because it allows the driver to operate vehicles designed to carry more than 15 passengers, including the driver. The school bus endorsement is additionally mandated for drivers who operate school buses, which are defined as vehicles used primarily for transporting students to and from school. Having both endorsements ensures that bus drivers are adequately trained and qualified to transport passengers safely and understand the specific regulations related to school bus operations, including safety protocols and regulations concerning the transportation of minors. This dual requirement helps maintain a high standard of safety and accountability in the transportation of students. In this context, not having the appropriate endorsements means that a driver would lack the necessary permissions and training to legally and safely operate a school bus, which could lead to legal penalties, increased risk of accidents, and unsafe situations for students. Thus, the answer emphasizing both endorsements is fundamental to the responsibilities of a bus driver.

3. What is the first step a driver should take when they see a hazard on the bus?

A. Drive faster to get to safety

B. Assess the situation before acting

C. Notify students immediately

D. Ignore it until the trip is finished

When a driver observes a hazard while operating a school bus, the foremost step is to assess the situation before taking any further action. This involves evaluating the nature and severity of the hazard and considering the safety of the students on board, as well as the driver's own safety. A thorough assessment allows the driver to make an informed decision on the best course of action, whether that means slowing down, stopping, or maneuvering the bus to avoid the hazard. This approach is crucial because reacting impulsively without assessment can lead to panic or poor decision-making, potentially endangering the passengers and others on the road. Thus, a thoughtful assessment protects everyone involved and helps maintain safety during the trip.

4. Which of the following is true about handling high winds while driving a bus?

A. It is safe to keep both hands off the wheel

B. One should only drive in high winds if the wind direction is steady

C. A strong grip on the steering wheel is crucial

D. Driving faster can help manage the wind

A strong grip on the steering wheel is crucial when handling high winds while driving a bus because it provides the driver with better control over the vehicle. Buses are larger and have a greater surface area compared to standard vehicles, which makes them more susceptible to being pushed or pulled by strong gusts of wind. By maintaining a firm grip, the driver can respond more effectively to sudden movements and adjustments needed to keep the bus steady on the road. Practicing good steering techniques in windy conditions helps prevent overcorrection and maintains the vehicle's stability. Additionally, it enables the driver to maneuver optimally and maintain their lane position, ensuring the safety of all passengers onboard. In situations where wind conditions are variable or gusty, it becomes even more important for the driver to be prepared and responsive, which is facilitated by a strong grip on the wheel.

5. What should a driver do if they spot a hazard in the road while driving a bus?

A. Speed up to pass the hazard quickly

B. Slow down, signal intentions, and maneuver safely around the hazard

C. Ignore the hazard if it's not in their lane

D. Stop immediately regardless of traffic

When a driver spots a hazard in the road while operating a bus, the most appropriate response is to slow down, signal intentions, and maneuver safely around the hazard. This approach prioritizes safety for both the passengers on the bus and other road users. By slowing down, the driver can better assess the situation and react appropriately without causing an abrupt interruption to traffic flow or endangering others. Signaling intentions is crucial in these situations, as it communicates to other drivers what the bus intends to do, helping to prevent misunderstandings that could lead to accidents. Maneuvering safely around the hazard ensures that the driver maintains control of the vehicle while navigating the situation, further protecting everyone involved. In contrast, speeding up to pass a hazard quickly can lead to losing control of the vehicle or failing to notice additional complications. Ignoring a hazard simply based on its location can be dangerous; even if it seems outside the lane of travel, it could still pose a risk. Stopping immediately without assessing the surrounding traffic may also create additional hazards, potentially causing accidents with following vehicles. Therefore, the correct response emphasizes a balanced and safe reaction to unexpected road conditions.

6. What should a driver do if they encounter a bus with its stop arm extended?

A. Honk and proceed slowly

B. Stop their vehicle regardless of the direction they are coming from

C. Speed up to pass the bus safely

D. Ignore and continue driving

When a driver encounters a bus with its stop arm extended, the appropriate action is to stop their vehicle, regardless of the direction they are coming from. This rule is in place to protect the safety of children who may be getting on or off the bus. The stop arm is a clear signal that children could be nearby, and other vehicles must come to a complete stop to ensure their safety. Stopping not only complies with traffic laws designed to prevent accidents but also allows children to cross the street safely. Drivers must be vigilant in these situations and adhere to this rule to avoid serious penalties and, most importantly, to help ensure the well-being of all school-aged children who rely on school buses for transportation.

7. How does ABS (Anti-lock Braking System) assist drivers?

A. Allows for quicker stops

B. Helps avoid wheel lock-up and maintain control

C. Increases speed during braking

D. Reduces the time to stop

The Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) is designed to prevent wheel lock-up during hard braking, which is particularly important for maintaining steering control. When a driver presses the brake pedal, ABS modulates brake pressure to ensure that the wheels continue to rotate rather than locking up. This feature allows the driver to steer the vehicle more effectively while braking, helping to avoid skids and potentially hazardous situations, especially on slippery surfaces. By preventing wheel lock-up, the system enhances overall vehicle stability and control, enabling drivers to respond better in emergency scenarios. In contrast, the other options do not accurately reflect how ABS functions. Quicker stops or reduced stopping time does not directly result from ABS; instead, its primary role is to allow the driver to maintain control during braking. Additionally, ABS does not increase speed during braking; rather, it improves braking safety and control without compromising the braking efficiency itself. Understanding that ABS focuses on control rather than speed or stopping time is essential for effective driving, especially for those operating school buses, where safety is paramount.

8. How often should a bus driver perform a pre-trip inspection?

A. Monthly

B. Every time before driving

C. Quarterly

D. Only when problems arise

A bus driver should perform a pre-trip inspection every time before driving to ensure the safety and functionality of the vehicle. This thorough inspection is critical because it allows the driver to check for any mechanical issues, safety hazards, or equipment failures that could jeopardize the safe operation of the bus. Conducting a pre-trip inspection each time before driving helps identify problems such as low tire pressure, fluid leaks, or malfunctioning lights, which can be addressed before the vehicle is in operation. This practice not only enhances the safety of the driver and passengers but also complies with federal and state regulations that mandate regular inspections for commercial vehicles. Regular pre-trip inspections contribute to overall reliability and can prevent accidents caused by vehicle failure. By ensuring that the bus is safe and operational each trip, drivers uphold their responsibility to protect the well-being of everyone onboard.

9. At bus stops where more than one child is unloaded, what procedure helps prevent unloading accidents?

A. Driver counts students as they disembark and recounts before moving the bus

B. Only allow one student to leave at a time

C. Shout out the names of students as they get off

D. Install a camera to monitor the unloading process

The procedure of counting students as they disembark and recounting them before moving the bus is essential for ensuring that all children are safely unloaded. By counting the students as they exit, the driver has a clear visual confirmation of how many children have left the bus. Recounting before the bus departs ensures that no child remains on the bus unnoticed, thereby reducing the risk of accidents that may occur if a student inadvertently stays on the bus or if a child runs back to retrieve an item. This method emphasizes accountability and vigilance on the part of the bus driver, fostering a safer unloading environment. The other options, while they might seem helpful at a glance, don't provide the same comprehensive procedural safety as counting does. Allowing only one student to leave at a time can be impractical in busy situations and may lead to delays or frustration. Shouting names could create confusion and does not guarantee that all students are accounted for. Installing a camera could assist in monitoring, but it does not replace the need for the driver's active engagement and assessment of the unloading process.

10. What is the maximum number of passengers allowed on a standard school bus?

A. Up to 20 passengers

B. 24 to 72 passengers or more

C. 50 to 100 passengers

D. 10 to 30 passengers

A standard school bus is designed to accommodate a significant number of passengers, typically ranging from 24 to 72 or even more, depending on the bus's configuration and size. This capacity allows for efficient transportation of students to and from school or during school-related activities. The design of school buses incorporates necessary safety features to ensure the safety of a larger group of passengers, which is essential in school transportation. Other options suggest capacities that are either too low or not representative of standard school bus configurations. For example, a capacity of up to 20 passengers is inadequate for most traditional school buses. Similarly, options suggesting capacities of 50 to 100 passengers exceed typical limits for standard school buses, indicating a misunderstanding of the bus classifications. Thus, acknowledging the range of 24 to 72 or more reflects the standard capacity for most school buses used in effective student transportation.