

Texas CDL School Bus Practice Test (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

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- 1. What action should be taken if an emergency occurs while on a school bus?**
 - A. Wait for instructions from the administration**
 - B. Remain seated until the bus stops**
 - C. Evacuate the bus if necessary after assessing the situation**
 - D. Use the bus's radio to call for help**

- 2. Does the rear door of a transit bus need to be open in order to engage the parking brake?**
 - A. Yes, it must be open**
 - B. No, it can be closed**
 - C. Only if the bus is in motion**
 - D. It depends on the bus model**

- 3. What is a recommended procedure when unloading students?**
 - A. Allow students to exit at their own discretion**
 - B. Have the students remain seated until instructed to exit**
 - C. Unload students quickly to avoid delays**
 - D. Dismiss students from the front of the bus only**

- 4. How can drivers ensure the safety of students when driving near schools?**
 - A. Increase speed to clear the area quickly**
 - B. Follow school zone speed limits**
 - C. Avoid looking at students**
 - D. Use high beams during daylight**

- 5. At what distance should you activate your turn signal before turning?**
 - A. At least 50 feet before the turn**
 - B. At least 75 feet before the turn**
 - C. At least 100 feet before the turn**
 - D. At least 150 feet before the turn**

- 6. Which of the following is an important safety procedure for school bus drivers?**
- A. Ignoring traffic signals**
 - B. Monitoring distractions within the bus**
 - C. Allowing late students to board at any stop**
 - D. Speeding up when children are boarding**
- 7. Should a bus driver use their cell phone while driving?**
- A. Yes, for navigation**
 - B. Yes, if it's hands-free**
 - C. No, it is illegal and unsafe**
 - D. Only during bus stops**
- 8. If a driver has to swerve quickly to avoid an accident, what should they know?**
- A. Where the nearest service station is**
 - B. Where other vehicles are around the bus**
 - C. Where the bus stop is located**
 - D. Where the nearest police station is**
- 9. What is a prohibited practice while operating a school bus?**
- A. Allowing students to stand while the bus is in motion**
 - B. Talking to riders while driving**
 - C. Using a mobile phone while driving**
 - D. All of the above**
- 10. Describe the function of the power steering system in a school bus.**
- A. To increase the speed of the bus**
 - B. To reduce the effort needed to steer the bus**
 - C. To stabilize the bus in windy conditions**
 - D. To assist in braking**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What action should be taken if an emergency occurs while on a school bus?

- A. Wait for instructions from the administration**
- B. Remain seated until the bus stops**
- C. Evacuate the bus if necessary after assessing the situation**
- D. Use the bus's radio to call for help**

If an emergency occurs while on a school bus, assessing the situation and evacuating the bus if necessary is crucial for ensuring the safety of all passengers. The primary responsibility of the bus driver is to maintain control of the situation and act in the best interest of the students' safety. In an emergency, staying calm and evaluating the immediate threat allows the driver to make informed decisions. In some cases, remaining in the bus might be safer, while in others—such as if there is a fire, hazardous materials, or an imminent collision—prompt evacuation is essential. By ensuring that the evacuation procedure is carried out correctly and swiftly, the driver can help minimize the risk of injury to students. While other options might seem like prudent actions, they do not prioritize the immediate safety of the children on board as effectively as an evacuation plan does when warranted. For example, waiting for instructions from the administration might delay critical actions needed to protect the students in a threatening situation. Similarly, remaining seated could expose passengers to increased danger if quick action is necessary. Using the bus's radio is useful for calling for help but should typically come after taking immediate, necessary actions to ensure passengers' safety. Thus, understanding when and how to evacuate the bus is essential for effective emergency

2. Does the rear door of a transit bus need to be open in order to engage the parking brake?

- A. Yes, it must be open**
- B. No, it can be closed**
- C. Only if the bus is in motion**
- D. It depends on the bus model**

The correct understanding is that the rear door of a transit bus does not need to be open in order to engage the parking brake. This means that you can engage the parking brake safely even if the bus's rear door is closed. Most transit buses are designed to allow the engagement of the parking brake regardless of the rear door's position. The system is in place to ensure that drivers can secure the vehicle when necessary, enhancing safety by preventing unintended movement of the bus. While there may be specific bus models or systems where this could vary, the general operation and design of transit buses do not require the rear door to be open for the parking brake to function. Other options suggest conditions that are either impractical or not applicable for standard operation, as engaging the parking brake is a crucial safety procedure that should remain unaffected by the state of the rear door.

3. What is a recommended procedure when unloading students?

- A. Allow students to exit at their own discretion
- B. Have the students remain seated until instructed to exit**
- C. Unload students quickly to avoid delays
- D. Dismiss students from the front of the bus only

The recommended procedure when unloading students is to have them remain seated until instructed to exit. This approach ensures the safety of all students on the bus. When students stay seated, it minimizes the risk of injuries that can occur from students standing or moving about the bus before it is their turn to get off. It also helps maintain order and prevents distractions to the driver, allowing for a controlled and organized unloading process. Ensuring students are seated until they are directed to exit helps to manage the flow of students leaving the bus, as it allows the driver or the bus monitor to supervise the unloading process effectively. Teachers or monitors can keep an eye on traffic and other hazards, ensuring that students leave the bus safely, particularly in areas with traffic where caution is essential. In contrast, allowing students to exit at their own discretion can lead to chaos and increases the risk of accidents. Unloading students quickly might seem efficient, but it compromises safety. Dismissing students from the front of the bus only may not account for situations where students in the back need to exit and can complicate the process unnecessarily, depending on the bus layout and student distribution.

4. How can drivers ensure the safety of students when driving near schools?

- A. Increase speed to clear the area quickly
- B. Follow school zone speed limits**
- C. Avoid looking at students
- D. Use high beams during daylight

Following school zone speed limits is essential for ensuring the safety of students when driving near schools. These speed limits are specifically designed to protect children who may be crossing the street, waiting at bus stops, or walking to and from school. By adhering to these limits, drivers can reduce their speed in areas with higher pedestrian traffic, allowing them sufficient time to react to unexpected situations, such as a child suddenly entering the roadway. School zones often have additional signage and sometimes flashing lights that indicate these reduced speed limits, further emphasizing the need for drivers to be vigilant. This practice not only enhances the safety of students but also promotes a culture of caution and attentiveness among all road users in school areas. Keeping within the designated limits helps to lower the severity of potential accidents and fosters a safer environment for children.

5. At what distance should you activate your turn signal before turning?

- A. At least 50 feet before the turn**
- B. At least 75 feet before the turn**
- C. At least 100 feet before the turn**
- D. At least 150 feet before the turn**

Activating your turn signal at least 100 feet before making a turn is essential for ensuring safety on the road. This distance provides adequate notice to drivers behind you and those approaching the intersection or roadway junction of your intention to turn. It allows them enough time to react appropriately by either slowing down, changing lanes, or preparing to stop if necessary. This practice is not only a matter of safety but is also often a legal requirement, as proper signaling helps to maintain the flow of traffic and reduces the risk of accidents. The specified distance of 100 feet is designed to cover various traffic conditions and speeds, allowing for a safe adjustment of position by other road users. In urban areas, where speeds are typically lower, this distance gives ample time for vehicles to adjust. In situations where the speed limit is higher, it further ensures that the signal is seen, making your intentions clear to all nearby motorists. Hence, using your turn signal at this distance is a fundamental rule of safe driving, especially with larger vehicles like school buses, which require even more consideration due to their size and the presence of child passengers.

6. Which of the following is an important safety procedure for school bus drivers?

- A. Ignoring traffic signals**
- B. Monitoring distractions within the bus**
- C. Allowing late students to board at any stop**
- D. Speeding up when children are boarding**

Monitoring distractions within the bus is a crucial safety procedure for school bus drivers. Ensuring that the environment inside the bus is conducive to safe driving means actively managing behaviors of students that could divert attention away from the road. Distractions might include loud conversations, horseplay, or instances of students not wearing seatbelts. A bus driver's focus must remain on driving safely and being aware of the conditions around them, which can be hindered by distractions. Properly handling these situations can prevent accidents and ensure that all students are kept safe during transportation. Other options describe actions that would compromise safety: disregarding traffic signals can lead to severe accidents; allowing late students to board at any stop increases risks as children may rush or dart into traffic; and speeding up when children are boarding not only endangers those getting on the bus but also puts the driver at risk of not being able to react appropriately. Thus, managing distractions within the bus is paramount to maintaining a safe atmosphere.

7. Should a bus driver use their cell phone while driving?

- A. Yes, for navigation**
- B. Yes, if it's hands-free**
- C. No, it is illegal and unsafe**
- D. Only during bus stops**

The correct answer emphasizes the importance of safety and legal compliance for bus drivers. Using a cell phone while driving a bus can be both illegal and unsafe, as it distracts the driver from the primary task of operating the vehicle. Regulations often prohibit bus drivers from using handheld devices to ensure the safety of passengers, other road users, and the driver themselves. Even if some might argue that hands-free devices could be acceptable, the focus should be on maintaining full attention on the road. Distractions can lead to serious accidents, and given the responsibility involved in transporting students or other passengers, it is critical to adhere to safety protocols and traffic laws. Therefore, avoiding the use of a cell phone while driving is essential to ensure the safe operation of a school bus.

8. If a driver has to swerve quickly to avoid an accident, what should they know?

- A. Where the nearest service station is**
- B. Where other vehicles are around the bus**
- C. Where the bus stop is located**
- D. Where the nearest police station is**

Understanding the position of other vehicles around the bus is crucial for safety when a driver has to swerve quickly to avoid an accident. Being aware of surrounding vehicles allows the driver to make an informed decision about the best direction to swerve without causing further collisions or jeopardizing the safety of the passengers on the bus. In a scenario where immediate action is required, the driver must gauge the distance to nearby vehicles, their speed, and their trajectory. This information is vital in the decision-making process for swerving, as doing so recklessly could lead to a more dangerous situation, such as colliding with another vehicle or endangering pedestrians. Choosing to focus on other options, like the nearest service station, bus stop, or police station, does not prioritize immediate threat assessment and situational awareness necessary for quick evasive maneuvers on the road. Therefore, the knowledge of nearby vehicles is key to ensuring the safety of all involved.

9. What is a prohibited practice while operating a school bus?

- A. Allowing students to stand while the bus is in motion**
- B. Talking to riders while driving**
- C. Using a mobile phone while driving**
- D. All of the above**

The correct response centers on the importance of maintaining full control and focus while operating a school bus, which is critical for the safety of all passengers, especially children. Allowing students to stand while the bus is in motion is a significant safety hazard that can lead to serious injuries in the event of sudden stops or accidents. This practice is prohibited to ensure that all passengers are safely seated and secured during transport. Talking to riders while driving can also distract the driver, impacting their ability to concentrate fully on the road and surroundings. The need for constant vigilance is paramount, particularly when navigating school zones or busy traffic areas. Using a mobile phone while driving is a clear distraction and can greatly impair the driver's reaction time and attention to the road. It is essential to avoid any activities that divert attention from driving duties. Given that all the mentioned practices compromise the safety and well-being of the students, the comprehensive answer indicating that all of these actions are prohibited while operating a school bus reflects the reality that each practice presents significant risks that must be avoided to uphold safety standards.

10. Describe the function of the power steering system in a school bus.

- A. To increase the speed of the bus**
- B. To reduce the effort needed to steer the bus**
- C. To stabilize the bus in windy conditions**
- D. To assist in braking**

The power steering system in a school bus is designed to reduce the effort needed to steer the vehicle. It achieves this by utilizing hydraulic or electric systems that amplify the driver's input on the steering wheel, making it easier to maneuver the bus, especially considering its size and weight. This functionality is crucial for maintaining control and ensuring safety while driving, particularly when navigating tight spaces or making sharp turns. While other systems may play a role in aspects like stabilizing the vehicle in windy conditions or aiding in braking, these are not the primary purpose of the power steering system. The focus of the power steering is solely on enhancing steering ease, allowing drivers to operate the bus with greater comfort and precision.

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://txcdlschoolbus.examzify.com>

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

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