

Texas Commercial Vehicle Operation (CVO) 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 is the requirement for animal-drawn vehicles or farm tractors operating on a highway at night?**
 - A. Have flashing lights on the sides**
 - B. Have a white light on the front and two red lights on the rear**
 - C. Have a reflective triangle at the back**
 - D. Have lights only if the speed exceeds 25 mph**

- 2. What physical qualifications must a driver pass to obtain a CDL?**
 - A. A background check by the Department of Transportation**
 - B. A knowledge test on road signs and signals**
 - C. A medical examination by a certified medical examiner**
 - D. A driving test on a closed course**

- 3. What is the maximum stopping distance for a trailer combination weighing 3,000 pounds or less traveling at 20 mph?**
 - A. 20 feet**
 - B. 30 feet**
 - C. 40 feet**
 - D. 50 feet**

- 4. What is the maximum length allowed for any combination of truck and trailer as per State Law?**
 - A. 50 feet**
 - B. 60 feet**
 - C. 65 feet**
 - D. 70 feet**

- 5. What is the top speed limit for a pick-up truck on U.S. or State Highway in the daytime?**
 - A. 55 mph**
 - B. 60 mph**
 - C. 65 mph**
 - D. 70 mph**

- 6. What is the minimum age requirement to obtain a Texas CDL for intrastate driving?**
- A. 16 years old**
 - B. 18 years old**
 - C. 21 years old**
 - D. 25 years old**
- 7. What is a common cause of rollovers in commercial vehicles?**
- A. Heavy tire wear**
 - B. Driving too slowly in traffic**
 - C. High centers of gravity and sharp turns**
 - D. Inadequate cargo weight**
- 8. Who should you consult to find out the weight limit for your particular vehicle?**
- A. Your vehicle owner's manual**
 - B. The Department of Transportation**
 - C. License and weight patrolman**
 - D. Local automobile association**
- 9. Which type of vehicles is required by State law to stop at railroad grade crossings, outside city limits, where no traffic control device is in operation?**
- A. Buses carrying passengers for hire**
 - B. Any vehicle with a trailer**
 - C. Emergency vehicles**
 - D. Commercial trucks**
- 10. What is the function of an electronic logging device (ELD)?**
- A. To remain in the vehicle while parked**
 - B. To automatically record driving hours and duty status**
 - C. To assist in navigation**
 - D. To signal when a vehicle is in motion**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the requirement for animal-drawn vehicles or farm tractors operating on a highway at night?

- A. Have flashing lights on the sides**
- B. Have a white light on the front and two red lights on the rear**
- C. Have a reflective triangle at the back**
- D. Have lights only if the speed exceeds 25 mph**

The requirement for animal-drawn vehicles or farm tractors operating on a highway at night is that they must have a white light on the front and two red lights on the rear. This is essential for visibility and safety on roadways, especially in low-light conditions. The white light at the front helps other drivers see the vehicle from a distance, while the two red lights at the rear indicate the presence of the vehicle to those behind it. This lighting configuration is designed to reduce the risk of collisions, ensuring that all road users can effectively gauge the size, direction, and speed of the slow-moving vehicle. Other options, while related to safety, do not meet the specific legal requirement for night-time operation. Flashing lights on the sides, for example, might provide some additional visibility but are not mandated for such vehicles. A reflective triangle at the back is helpful for indicating the vehicle's presence, but it does not substitute for the required lights. Lastly, the stipulation regarding speed exceeding 25 mph does not apply as the presence of front and rear lights is critical regardless of how fast the vehicle is moving, particularly since many farm tractors and animal-drawn vehicles operate at much lower speeds.

2. What physical qualifications must a driver pass to obtain a CDL?

- A. A background check by the Department of Transportation**
- B. A knowledge test on road signs and signals**
- C. A medical examination by a certified medical examiner**
- D. A driving test on a closed course**

To obtain a Commercial Driver's License (CDL), a driver must undergo a medical examination conducted by a certified medical examiner. This requirement ensures that the driver meets the physical health standards established by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to operate commercial vehicles safely. The medical examination assesses various factors, including vision, hearing, overall physical condition, and any medical history that could impact the driver's ability to operate a vehicle safely. Passing this medical examination is essential because it helps prevent accidents caused by medical incapacitation and ensures that drivers are fit for the demands of driving larger and often more complex vehicles compared to standard passenger cars. The certified medical examiner will issue a Medical Examiner's Certificate if the driver meets the necessary health criteria, which is a crucial step in the CDL process. This requirement emphasizes the importance of safety in commercial vehicle operation, given the potential risks involved.

3. What is the maximum stopping distance for a trailer combination weighing 3,000 pounds or less traveling at 20 mph?

- A. 20 feet**
- B. 30 feet**
- C. 40 feet**
- D. 50 feet**

For a trailer combination weighing 3,000 pounds or less traveling at 20 mph, the maximum stopping distance is typically around 40 feet. This stopping distance is based on factors such as the weight of the vehicle, the speed at which it is traveling, and the conditions of the road. At a speed of 20 mph, the stopping distance includes the time it takes for the driver to react to the need to stop and the physical distance it takes the vehicle to come to a complete stop once brakes are applied. At this speed, a stopping distance of approximately 40 feet is a reasonable estimation based on standard calculations for braking distances. Understanding stopping distances is crucial for safe driving, especially when operating larger vehicles or combinations, as they require more time and space to stop effectively compared to smaller vehicles. The specified distance serves as a guideline for drivers to maintain a safe following distance to allow for adequate stopping time.

4. What is the maximum length allowed for any combination of truck and trailer as per State Law?

- A. 50 feet**
- B. 60 feet**
- C. 65 feet**
- D. 70 feet**

The maximum length allowed for any combination of truck and trailer as per State Law is 65 feet. This regulation is crucial for maintaining safety on the roads, ensuring that larger vehicles can navigate properly without causing excessive strain on infrastructure or posing risks to other road users. The 65-foot limit is designed to balance the operational needs of commercial vehicles with the safety and navigability of public highways. Dimensions are established not just for the sake of regulation, but also to consider factors such as turning radius, visibility, and bridge clearances, which are all vital to the safe operation of larger vehicles. Understanding and adhering to these limits ensures that drivers are compliant with state laws and that they contribute to safer road conditions for everyone.

5. What is the top speed limit for a pick-up truck on U.S. or State Highway in the daytime?

- A. 55 mph**
- B. 60 mph**
- C. 65 mph**
- D. 70 mph**

The top speed limit for a pick-up truck on U.S. or State Highways during the daytime is 70 mph. This is aligned with Texas law, which allows certain types of vehicles, including pick-up trucks, to operate at this speed limit under optimal conditions. The 70 mph limit takes into account the designed capabilities of modern vehicles, as well as factors like road conditions and traffic patterns, which may support higher speeds safely. Knowing the speed limits is crucial for all drivers, especially those operating commercial vehicles, as adhering to these limits contributes to road safety and compliance with state regulations. Understanding the variations in speed limits for different types of vehicles also helps drivers to adjust their driving behavior appropriately depending on their vehicle type.

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

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

The minimum age requirement to obtain a Texas Commercial Driver's License (CDL) for intrastate driving is 18 years old. An individual who is 18 or older can apply for a CDL to operate commercial vehicles within the state of Texas only. This requirement is in place to ensure that drivers have attained a certain level of maturity and responsibility, which is crucial given the complexities and responsibilities associated with driving commercial vehicles. It's important to note that while individuals can obtain a CDL at 18 for intrastate driving, they must be at least 21 years old to drive commercially across state lines (interstate). Each age requirement serves a distinct purpose based on the level of responsibility and experience expected of drivers operating vehicles that can be much larger and more challenging to handle than standard vehicles.

7. What is a common cause of rollovers in commercial vehicles?

- A. Heavy tire wear**
- B. Driving too slowly in traffic**
- C. High centers of gravity and sharp turns**
- D. Inadequate cargo weight**

High centers of gravity combined with sharp turns is a well-documented cause of rollovers in commercial vehicles. When a vehicle has a high center of gravity, it becomes more susceptible to tipping over, especially during tight maneuvers. This is particularly true for vehicles like trucks and buses that may have a significant amount of cargo height, making them top-heavy. When a vehicle makes a sharp turn, the forces acting on the vehicle can shift its balance. If the turning force exceeds the lateral stability provided by the vehicle's weight distribution, it can lead to a loss of balance and result in a rollover. This risk is heightened in vehicles that carry a cargo load located high above the vehicle's base, which significantly raises the center of gravity and decreases overall stability. Understanding this dynamic is crucial for drivers of commercial vehicles to ensure safe operation, especially when navigating turns, intersections, or winding roads, which require careful handling and awareness of the vehicle's characteristics.

8. Who should you consult to find out the weight limit for your particular vehicle?

- A. Your vehicle owner's manual**
- B. The Department of Transportation**
- C. License and weight patrolman**
- D. Local automobile association**

The best resource to determine the weight limit for your specific vehicle is the vehicle owner's manual. This manual contains valuable information directly from the manufacturer regarding the vehicle's specifications, including its Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) and payload capacity. This information is critical for ensuring compliance with safety regulations and for maintaining vehicle performance. Consulting the owner's manual empowers drivers to understand their vehicle's limits and avoid overloading, which can lead to safety hazards and potential violations of transportation laws. While the other options, such as the Department of Transportation, a license and weight patrolman, or a local automobile association, can provide general guidelines or assistance regarding commercial vehicle operation regulations, the owner's manual offers vehicle-specific details that are essential for making informed decisions about weight limits.

9. Which type of vehicles is required by State law to stop at railroad grade crossings, outside city limits, where no traffic control device is in operation?

A. Buses carrying passengers for hire

B. Any vehicle with a trailer

C. Emergency vehicles

D. Commercial trucks

The correct answer highlights an important safety regulation concerning the operation of buses carrying passengers for hire. According to Texas law, these buses are required to stop at railroad grade crossings that lack traffic control devices, which is crucial given the potential dangers posed by trains that could approach unexpectedly. The rationale behind this requirement is based on the increased risk associated with transporting passengers. Buses, due to their size and the number of individuals they carry, must take additional precautions at potentially hazardous intersections such as railroad grade crossings. Stopping allows the driver to look both ways and ensure that no oncoming trains are approaching, thereby enhancing the safety of all passengers aboard. Understanding this regulation helps reinforce the importance of driver diligence and passenger safety in commercial transportation. Other types of vehicles, while they may have their own stopping requirements under certain conditions, are not specifically mandated by state law to stop at railroad crossings in the same manner as passenger-carrying buses.

10. What is the function of an electronic logging device (ELD)?

A. To remain in the vehicle while parked

B. To automatically record driving hours and duty status

C. To assist in navigation

D. To signal when a vehicle is in motion

The function of an electronic logging device (ELD) is to automatically record driving hours and duty status. ELDs are designed to enhance compliance with the Hours of Service (HOS) regulations set by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). By automatically capturing data such as when the vehicle is in motion, the duration of driving time, and periods of rest or other duty statuses, ELDs help ensure that commercial drivers adhere to legal driving limits, ultimately promoting road safety. This automatic recording minimizes errors associated with manual logbooks and provides accurate, tamper-resistant data that can be reviewed during inspections. The use of ELDs is mandatory for most commercial drivers required to maintain records of duty status, thereby streamlining operational management and regulatory compliance for trucking companies.

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://txcvo.examzify.com>

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

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