

Texas Department of Public Safety Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	16

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. How frequently is emissions testing required for vehicles in Texas?**
 - A. Every two years**
 - B. Only before selling the vehicle**
 - C. Annually for vehicles in certain counties**
 - D. Never, it's not required**
- 2. Which division of the Texas DPS is known for conducting criminal investigations?**
 - A. The Bureau of Safety**
 - B. The Texas Rangers**
 - C. The DPS Accident Division**
 - D. The Traffic Enforcement Division**
- 3. What is the maximum speed limit in Texas on rural interstates?**
 - A. 60 mph**
 - B. 70 mph**
 - C. 75 mph**
 - D. 80 mph**
- 4. What action can lead to a citation for distracted driving?**
 - A. Talking to passengers**
 - B. Listening to the radio**
 - C. Using a phone while driving**
 - D. Eating a sandwich**
- 5. What must drivers do before merging onto the highway?**
 - A. Speed up to match traffic flow**
 - B. Yield to oncoming traffic**
 - C. Change lanes immediately**
 - D. Signal after merging**

- 6. When must a driver yield to a pedestrian?**
- A. At all marked crosswalks and intersections without traffic signals**
 - B. Only at traffic lights**
 - C. Only at unmarked crosswalks**
 - D. Only when the pedestrian is already in the crosswalk**
- 7. What is the purpose of the Texas License to Carry program?**
- A. To regulate the sale of firearms**
 - B. To educate citizens on hunting**
 - C. To license individuals for carrying firearms**
 - D. To enforce federal firearm laws**
- 8. How frequently must Texas driver's licenses be renewed?**
- A. Every two years**
 - B. Every four years**
 - C. Every six years**
 - D. Every eight years**
- 9. As a novice or beginner driver, what is the recommended following distance behind the vehicle in front of you?**
- A. 2 seconds**
 - B. 3 seconds**
 - C. 4 seconds**
 - D. 5 seconds**
- 10. What should a driver do in the event of a vehicle malfunction on the highway?**
- A. Continue driving at a slower speed**
 - B. Move to the shoulder if possible and turn on hazard lights**
 - C. Stop immediately in the middle of the road**
 - D. Call the police for assistance**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. How frequently is emissions testing required for vehicles in Texas?

- A. Every two years**
- B. Only before selling the vehicle**
- C. Annually for vehicles in certain counties**
- D. Never, it's not required**

In Texas, emissions testing is required annually for vehicles registered in certain counties that are part of the state's pollution control program. This requirement helps to ensure that vehicles meet environmental standards and contribute to reducing air pollution in areas that have been identified as having high levels of greenhouse gases and other harmful emissions. The counties where this testing is mandated are typically those with larger populations or more significant air quality issues. The annual testing involves inspecting the vehicle's exhaust system and emissions control devices to ensure they are functioning properly. If the vehicle does not pass the emissions test, the owner is usually required to make repairs to bring the vehicle into compliance before registration is renewed. Other options regarding emissions testing requirements either indicate less frequent testing or suggest that no testing is needed at all, which does not align with the state's regulatory standards aimed at protecting the environment and public health.

2. Which division of the Texas DPS is known for conducting criminal investigations?

- A. The Bureau of Safety**
- B. The Texas Rangers**
- C. The DPS Accident Division**
- D. The Traffic Enforcement Division**

The Texas Rangers are a distinguished division of the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) that specializes in conducting criminal investigations. Established in 1835, they are one of the oldest law enforcement agencies in the United States and are often associated with various high-profile cases, including homicides, public corruption, and major crimes. The Texas Rangers possess unique jurisdiction and authority to investigate incidents across the state, collaborating with local law enforcement when necessary. Their investigative prowess is further enhanced by their specialized training in areas such as forensics and crime scene analysis, equipping them to handle complex and serious cases. The Rangers serve not only in investigative roles but also play a critical part in supporting local law enforcement agencies across Texas by providing expertise and resources. In contrast, the other divisions mentioned focus on different areas. The Bureau of Safety primarily deals with the regulation of vehicle safety and transportation standards. The DPS Accident Division concentrates on traffic accident investigations and reporting. The Traffic Enforcement Division's main duty is enforcing traffic laws and promoting roadway safety. Each of these divisions serves vital roles within the DPS but does not specifically focus on criminal investigations as the Texas Rangers do.

3. What is the maximum speed limit in Texas on rural interstates?

- A. 60 mph**
- B. 70 mph**
- C. 75 mph**
- D. 80 mph**

In Texas, the maximum speed limit on rural interstates is 75 mph. This limit reflects the state's efforts to accommodate faster travel in less populated areas where traffic density is typically lower and road conditions can support higher speeds. The decision to set the limit at this speed takes into account safety, traffic flow, and the engineering of the roadway. While some areas might have higher speed limits, such as 80 mph in specific zones under certain conditions, the general maximum you would encounter on rural interstates is indeed 75 mph. This distinction is crucial as it underscores that speed limits can vary based on specific regional criteria and legislative actions, highlighting the importance of adherence to posted signs on roadways.

4. What action can lead to a citation for distracted driving?

- A. Talking to passengers**
- B. Listening to the radio**
- C. Using a phone while driving**
- D. Eating a sandwich**

Using a phone while driving is widely recognized as a significant factor contributing to distracted driving. This action tends to divert the driver's attention away from the road, increasing the risk of accidents. Engaging with a device can involve texting, making phone calls, or accessing apps, all of which require visual, manual, and cognitive focus that should be directed toward driving. Because of the severe implications associated with this behavior, many states have enacted strict laws targeting the use of mobile phones while operating a vehicle, making it a common reason for citations related to distracted driving. In contrast, talking to passengers, listening to the radio, or even eating, while potentially distracting, are generally not subject to the same level of legal scrutiny as phone usage. The specific focus on phone use reflects the broader public safety concern regarding the prevalence and severity of incidents linked to mobile device distractions.

5. What must drivers do before merging onto the highway?

- A. Speed up to match traffic flow**
- B. Yield to oncoming traffic**
- C. Change lanes immediately**
- D. Signal after merging**

Before merging onto the highway, drivers must yield to oncoming traffic. This is crucial for maintaining safety and ensuring that drivers do not create hazardous situations by forcing their way into high-speed traffic. Highways are typically designed for heavier and faster traffic flows, and understanding right-of-way rules is key to smoothly entering this environment. Yielding allows drivers to assess the speed and spacing of vehicles already on the highway, enabling them to merge safely without disrupting the flow of traffic. Proper yielding can prevent collisions and contribute to a more orderly merging process. The other choices, while relevant to different aspects of driving, do not align with the primary responsibility of drivers as they approach a highway merge. For instance, matching traffic speed is important, but it should be done after yielding. Changing lanes immediately neglects the need to ensure it is safe to do so, and signaling after merging implies a lack of communication before entering the highway, which could confuse other drivers and compromise safety.

6. When must a driver yield to a pedestrian?

- A. At all marked crosswalks and intersections without traffic signals**
- B. Only at traffic lights**
- C. Only at unmarked crosswalks**
- D. Only when the pedestrian is already in the crosswalk**

A driver must yield to a pedestrian at all marked crosswalks and intersections without traffic signals. This is a fundamental traffic safety rule aimed at protecting pedestrians as they cross roadways. Yielding to pedestrians in these areas helps ensure their safety, as marked crosswalks signify intended pedestrian crossings, while intersections without signals require drivers to be vigilant and yield to foot traffic. This requirement is particularly crucial because marked crosswalks enhance visibility and awareness of pedestrian traffic, making it clear that vehicles should afford right-of-way. Ignoring this rule can lead to dangerous situations for both pedestrians and drivers, thereby emphasizing the importance of vigilance at these locations. In contrast, yielding only at traffic lights could lead to pedestrians being at risk in other crossing situations, while limiting yielding to solely unmarked crosswalks or when pedestrians are already in the crosswalk does not adequately protect pedestrians arriving at crossings.

7. What is the purpose of the Texas License to Carry program?

- A. To regulate the sale of firearms**
- B. To educate citizens on hunting**
- C. To license individuals for carrying firearms**
- D. To enforce federal firearm laws**

The purpose of the Texas License to Carry program is to license individuals for carrying firearms. This program allows eligible individuals to carry handguns in public, either openly or concealed. The program includes specific criteria that applicants must meet, such as age, residency, and background checks, to ensure that those issued a license are responsible firearm owners. By providing a licensing framework, the program aims to enhance public safety while respecting the rights of responsible citizens to carry firearms for self-defense and other lawful purposes. Regulation of the sale of firearms, education on hunting, and enforcement of federal laws fall outside the specific purpose of the Texas License to Carry program, which focuses directly on the licensing aspect for carrying firearms.

8. How frequently must Texas driver's licenses be renewed?

- A. Every two years**
- B. Every four years**
- C. Every six years**
- D. Every eight years**

In Texas, driver's licenses must be renewed every six years. This renewal period is established to ensure that personal information, such as your address and photograph, remains up-to-date and that the state can verify the driver's qualifications to operate a vehicle. Six-year renewals allow for periodic checks of driving records and eligibility, helping maintain road safety by ensuring that drivers continue to meet the necessary requirements set by the Texas Department of Public Safety. The other renewal periods mentioned are not applicable in Texas. For example, two-year and four-year renewals might be seen in other states or for specific types of permits, while eight years does not align with Texas regulations for standard driver's license renewals. Thus, the six-year timeframe is specifically designed to balance convenience with the need for regular updates and checks.

9. As a novice or beginner driver, what is the recommended following distance behind the vehicle in front of you?

- A. 2 seconds**
- B. 3 seconds**
- C. 4 seconds**
- D. 5 seconds**

The recommended following distance behind the vehicle in front of you for novice or beginner drivers is indeed 4 seconds. This following distance is crucial for providing adequate space to react to sudden stops or emergencies on the road. By maintaining a 4-second gap, a driver ensures that they have enough time to assess the situation ahead and react appropriately, which is especially important for those who are still gaining experience. This time interval accounts for various factors such as speed, road conditions, and weather, all of which can affect stopping distances. Beginning drivers are often still developing their judgment skills and may not react as quickly as more experienced drivers. Therefore, the 4-second rule helps create a buffer that can prevent rear-end collisions and allow for safer driving practices. In contrast, shorter following distances, such as 2 or 3 seconds, may not provide sufficient reaction time for novice drivers, especially in unexpected situations. A 5-second distance might be more cautious than necessary for many driving situations, though it can be appropriate in specific conditions, such as inclement weather or heavy traffic. Overall, the 4-second following distance strikes a balance between safety and practicality for beginner drivers.

10. What should a driver do in the event of a vehicle malfunction on the highway?

- A. Continue driving at a slower speed**
- B. Move to the shoulder if possible and turn on hazard lights**
- C. Stop immediately in the middle of the road**
- D. Call the police for assistance**

In the event of a vehicle malfunction on the highway, the most appropriate action is to move to the shoulder if possible and turn on hazard lights. This response serves multiple important functions. Firstly, moving to the shoulder provides a safer environment for both the driver and other road users. The shoulder is typically a designated area for vehicles to pull over in emergencies, minimizing the risk of collisions with moving traffic. Secondly, activating hazard lights alerts other drivers that your vehicle is in distress and that they should approach with caution. This visibility helps prevent additional accidents and ensures that other road users are aware of your situation. Choosing to continue driving at a slower speed could exacerbate the problem, potentially leading to a complete breakdown in a traffic lane, which poses a danger to yourself and other drivers. Stopping immediately in the middle of the road is highly unsafe as it blocks traffic and increases the likelihood of an accident. While calling the police for assistance can be appropriate after establishing a safer location, it is crucial first to ensure the vehicle is out of the traffic flow. Therefore, moving to the shoulder and turning on hazard lights is the best immediate course of action during a vehicle malfunction on the highway.

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://texasdeptpublicsafety.examzify.com>

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