

UTAH CDL GENERAL KNOWLEDGE PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

**VISIT US ONLINE FOR
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. How do you test hydraulic brakes for leaks?

- A. Press the pedal gently and listen for sounds
- B. Firmly push down the pedal for 5 seconds and see if it moves
- C. Check the fluid level only
- D. Look for visual leaks around the brake lines

2. What is true about vehicle fires?

- A. A burning tire should be left to burn
- B. Fire extinguishers should not be used
- C. A burning tire should be cooled with water
- D. Vehicle fires cannot be extinguished

3. What should be included in a vehicle's emergency kit?

- A. Flares, first aid supplies, water, and tools
- B. Only food and drink supplies
- C. Maps and spare tires only
- D. A flashlight and extra clothing

4. Which statement about the effects of alcohol on driving is accurate?

- A. A few beers have no effect on driving
- B. A few beers have the same effect as a few shots of whiskey
- C. Alcohol only affects you after several drinks
- D. Drinking water while drinking alcohol prevents impairment

5. When making a left turn from Pine Street onto Cedar Street with a long vehicle, you should:

- A. Begin turning when you reach the sidewalk
- B. Prepare to turn before entering the intersection
- C. Begin turning your vehicle when you are halfway through the intersection
- D. Wait until you can see the whole street before turning

6. What are some symptoms of brake failure?

- A. Spongy brake pedal, longer stopping distance, unusual noises
- B. Skidding, loss of power, engine overheating
- C. Steering wheel vibration, airbag deployment, tire blowout
- D. Excessive fuel consumption, battery issues, throttle failure

- 7. Which statement about certain types of cargo is true?**
- A. Unstable loads do not require extra caution.
 - B. Unstable loads can require extra caution on curves.
 - C. Stable loads are always safe to transport.
 - D. Cargo does not affect driving conditions.
- 8. When driving a 40-foot vehicle at 50 mph in ideal conditions, what is the minimum space you should maintain in front of your vehicle for safety?**
- A. 2 seconds
 - B. 3 seconds
 - C. 5 seconds
 - D. 7 seconds
- 9. What should you do if you encounter fog while driving?**
- A. Turn on high beam headlights
 - B. Use low beam headlights
 - C. Drive with your hazard lights on
 - D. Reduce speed and maintain distance
- 10. How many tiedowns are required for every feet of cargo to prevent shifting?**
- A. 5 feet
 - B. 10 feet
 - C. 15 feet
 - D. 20 feet

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. How do you test hydraulic brakes for leaks?

- A. Press the pedal gently and listen for sounds
- B. Firmly push down the pedal for 5 seconds and see if it moves**
- C. Check the fluid level only
- D. Look for visual leaks around the brake lines

To test hydraulic brakes for leaks, firmly pushing down the pedal for about 5 seconds is an effective method. This approach involves applying steady pressure to the brake pedal and observing whether it maintains that pressure or begins to sink toward the floor. If the pedal moves down significantly during this period, it can indicate that there is a leak somewhere in the hydraulic system. A steady pedal signifies that the hydraulic system is functioning properly without any leaks. The other methods, while they may provide some indications, are not as reliable for diagnosing leaks as the pressure test. Listening for sounds or checking fluid levels may not reveal subtle leaks that could still affect braking performance. Visual inspections around brake lines can help identify obvious leaks but may not catch more concealed issues within the system. Thus, the firm pressure test is a valuable part of ensuring the integrity and safety of the hydraulic brake system.

2. What is true about vehicle fires?

- A. A burning tire should be left to burn
- B. Fire extinguishers should not be used
- C. A burning tire should be cooled with water**
- D. Vehicle fires cannot be extinguished

When dealing with a burning tire, the appropriate safety measure is to cool it with water, as indicated by the correct answer. Water can help to reduce the heat and prevent the fire from spreading or intensifying. It's important to note that tire fires can release toxic fumes and are notoriously difficult to extinguish due to the materials in tires, but cooling them can help manage the situation until professional help arrives. Using a fire extinguisher is typically advisable for vehicle fires, especially if the size of the fire is manageable – this practice contradicts the answer that states fire extinguishers should not be used. Additionally, allowing a burning tire to continue burning without intervention can lead to increased fire risk and damage. Simply watching it burn would not be a safe or productive response. Lastly, while vehicle fires can indeed pose significant challenges, they are not impossible to extinguish, especially if addressed quickly and effectively. Thus, the notion that vehicle fires cannot be extinguished does not align with fire safety practices.

3. What should be included in a vehicle's emergency kit?

- A. Flares, first aid supplies, water, and tools**
- B. Only food and drink supplies
- C. Maps and spare tires only
- D. A flashlight and extra clothing

An effective vehicle emergency kit should include a variety of items to ensure safety and preparedness in different situations. Flares can be used to alert other drivers of your presence in case of a breakdown, especially at night or in low visibility conditions. First aid supplies are crucial to address any injuries that may occur and to stabilize someone until professional help arrives. Water is essential for hydration, particularly if you are stranded for an extended period. Tools can assist in minor repairs or adjustments, allowing you to address issues that may arise with your vehicle. The other options lack the comprehensive range of supplies necessary for a well-rounded emergency kit. Focusing solely on food and drink, or just maps and spare tires, does not prepare you adequately for medical emergencies, signaling your location, or vehicle issues beyond tire problems. Similarly, while a flashlight and extra clothing are helpful, they don't encompass the full scope of essential items that can address a range of emergency situations effectively.

4. Which statement about the effects of alcohol on driving is accurate?

- A. A few beers have no effect on driving
- B. A few beers have the same effect as a few shots of whiskey**
- C. Alcohol only affects you after several drinks
- D. Drinking water while drinking alcohol prevents impairment

The accurate statement regarding the effects of alcohol on driving is that a few beers have the same effect as a few shots of whiskey. This is true because the alcoholic content in beverages is quantified in terms of standard drinks, which represent the same amount of alcohol regardless of the type of beverage consumed. Whether you drink beer, whiskey, or any other alcoholic beverage, they all impact your blood alcohol concentration (BAC) similarly when consumed in equal amounts. This understanding is important since it highlights the fact that different types of alcoholic drinks have varying alcohol concentrations, but the overall effect on your ability to drive is based on the total amount of alcohol consumed. Therefore, drinking a few beers can impair your driving skills to the same extent as drinking the same amount of hard liquor, as both can lead to reduced reaction times, impaired judgment, and decreased coordination. The other statements suggest misconceptions about alcohol consumption and its effects. For instance, stating that a few beers have no effect on driving minimizes the risks involved, while the idea that alcohol only affects someone after several drinks is misleading. In reality, even small amounts of alcohol can affect a person's ability to drive safely. Additionally, claiming that drinking water while consuming alcohol prevents impairment overlooks the fact that water may help with hydration but does

5. When making a left turn from Pine Street onto Cedar Street with a long vehicle, you should:

- A. Begin turning when you reach the sidewalk
- B. Prepare to turn before entering the intersection
- C. Begin turning your vehicle when you are halfway through the intersection**
- D. Wait until you can see the whole street before turning

When making a left turn from Pine Street onto Cedar Street in a long vehicle, it is essential to execute the maneuver at the appropriate time to ensure safety and avoid collisions. The correct approach is to begin turning your vehicle when you are halfway through the intersection. This timing allows the longer vehicle, which requires more space to complete the turn, to align adequately with the new roadway and minimizes the risk of encroaching into the path of oncoming traffic or pedestrians. Starting the turn too early can lead to the back end of the vehicle swinging wide into the adjacent lane, which is particularly concerning with longer vehicles that have a greater turning radius. If the turn is commenced before reaching the midpoint of the intersection, it may inadvertently create a hazardous situation for other road users, especially in busy intersections. In contrast, preparing to turn before entering the intersection could lead to misalignment and insufficient space for the maneuver. Additionally, waiting until you can see the entire street before turning could result in causing unnecessary delays and confusion, as conditions might change suddenly with oncoming traffic. Thus, the safest and most effective method for a lengthy vehicle is to make the turn as directed at the midpoint of the intersection.

6. What are some symptoms of brake failure?

A. Spongy brake pedal, longer stopping distance, unusual noises

B. Skidding, loss of power, engine overheating

C. Steering wheel vibration, airbag deployment, tire blowout

D. Excessive fuel consumption, battery issues, throttle failure

Symptoms of brake failure include a spongy brake pedal, longer stopping distances, and unusual noises. A spongy brake pedal indicates that there may be air in the brake lines, a fluid leak, or worn-out brake components, all of which can lead to ineffective braking. Longer stopping distances can result from failing brakes, as the vehicle will struggle to reduce its speed adequately. Unusual noises, such as grinding or squealing when applying the brakes, can suggest that brake pads are worn out or that there are issues with other brake components that need immediate attention. The other options describe issues unrelated to brake failure. For instance, skidding and loss of power relate more to traction or engine performance problems rather than specifically to brake functionality. Steering wheel vibration can indicate alignment issues or tire problems, while airbag deployment is related to crash safety systems rather than braking. Excessive fuel consumption, battery issues, and throttle failure are indicative of engine or electrical problems and do not correlate with symptoms arising from brake issues. Understanding the specific symptoms related to braking systems is crucial for safe vehicle operation and effective maintenance.

7. Which statement about certain types of cargo is true?

A. Unstable loads do not require extra caution.

B. Unstable loads can require extra caution on curves.

C. Stable loads are always safe to transport.

D. Cargo does not affect driving conditions.

Unstable loads can require extra caution on curves because these types of cargo can shift or change position during transport, especially when navigating turns. When a vehicle is turning, the centrifugal force can cause unstable loads to move, potentially leading to a loss of control or even a rollover. Because of this, drivers must be particularly vigilant when handling such cargo, ensuring that they take curves at a reduced speed and maintain a wider turning radius. The other statements either downplay the risks associated with unstable loads or incorrectly state the safety of stable loads and the impact of cargo on driving conditions.

8. When driving a 40-foot vehicle at 50 mph in ideal conditions, what is the minimum space you should maintain in front of your vehicle for safety?

- A. 2 seconds
- B. 3 seconds
- C. 5 seconds**
- D. 7 seconds

Maintaining a safe following distance is crucial for the safety of all road users, especially when driving a larger vehicle like a 40-foot truck. The recommended minimum space to maintain in front of your vehicle is often measured in seconds, which allows for a judgment of the time it would take to react to sudden stops or emergencies. A 5-second following distance is advised when driving a vehicle of this size at 50 mph, particularly under ideal conditions. This guideline accounts for the longer stopping distance required by larger, heavier vehicles compared to standard cars. A 5-second gap gives the driver sufficient time to perceive and react to unexpected situations that might occur on the road. Larger vehicles require more time to slow down and stop, so this extended following distance enhances safety by reducing the risk of collision. While shorter distances, such as 2 or 3 seconds, might be adequate for smaller vehicles or under specific conditions, they are inadequate for larger vehicles that could face longer stopping distances. The option suggesting a 7-second gap could be seen as overly cautious for ideal conditions but may be advisable in inclement weather or when descending a steep hill, where longer stopping distances are necessary. Thus, the 5-second minimum in ideal conditions strikes a proper balance between safety

9. What should you do if you encounter fog while driving?

- A. Turn on high beam headlights
- B. Use low beam headlights**
- C. Drive with your hazard lights on
- D. Reduce speed and maintain distance

Using low beam headlights is the most effective choice when driving in foggy conditions because it minimizes the reflection of light off the fog, mist, or rain. High beam headlights can create a glare that actually reduces visibility, as the light bounces back toward the driver. This can create a disorienting effect that makes it even harder to see the road and any obstacles or other vehicles. Additionally, driving with your hazard lights on is generally not advisable in fog as it may confuse other drivers regarding your intended actions or speed. Reducing speed and maintaining distance is important for safety, but it's vital to have proper lighting in low visibility conditions to ensure that other drivers can see you as well. Therefore, using low beam headlights in fog is a critical practice for safe driving.

10. How many tiedowns are required for every feet of cargo to prevent shifting?

- A. 5 feet
- B. 10 feet**
- C. 15 feet
- D. 20 feet

To ensure cargo does not shift during transport, regulations specify that one tiedown is required for every 10 feet of cargo. This standard helps maintain stability and safety while the vehicle is in motion, as it minimizes the risk of the cargo shifting or becoming loose, which can lead to dangerous situations on the road. This guideline is based on an assessment of load security and is designed to provide a balance between sufficient restraint and practicality for drivers. For smaller loads that do not reach the 10-foot threshold, a minimum number of tiedowns may still apply based on the weight and nature of the cargo. Understanding this requirement is crucial for anyone operating commercial vehicles, as it directly pertains to safety compliance and the effective transport of goods.

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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://utah-cdl.examzify.com>

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

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