

Vermont CDL Permit Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. What defines a dual air brake system?**
 - A. A system that uses two separate air compressors**
 - B. A system with one brake line for both front and rear brakes**
 - C. A brake system with two parts sharing an air compressor but having separate hoses and tanks**
 - D. A backup system for emergency situations**
- 2. What is the primary function of a supply pressure gauge in a vehicle?**
 - A. To monitor fuel levels**
 - B. To indicate engine temperature**
 - C. To tell you how much pressure is in the air tanks**
 - D. To track vehicle speed**
- 3. What may result from insufficient weight on the front axles?**
 - A. Improved fuel efficiency**
 - B. Maintaining speed easily**
 - C. Lack of traction in the front**
 - D. Increased braking power**
- 4. What is meant by 'black ice'?**
 - A. A thick layer of ice**
 - B. A type of blacktop surface**
 - C. A thin layer of ice that is see-through**
 - D. An ice-covered surface that is not visible**
- 5. Where should warning triangles be placed on a two-way divided highway?**
 - A. 20 feet in front and behind the vehicle**
 - B. 100 feet in front and 10 and 100 feet behind**
 - C. 50 feet in front and 100 feet behind**
 - D. 100 feet in front and 50 feet behind**

- 6. Are front wheel brakes effective under all driving conditions?**
- A. True**
 - B. False**
 - C. Only in dry conditions**
 - D. Only at high speeds**
- 7. What does the term 'lowboys' refer to in the context of trailers?**
- A. A type of high-capacity trailer**
 - B. A style of flatbed trailer**
 - C. A low-profile trailer often used for heavy equipment**
 - D. A trailer designed for small cargo**
- 8. What is the main purpose of the trailer hand brake?**
- A. To stop or slow down the vehicle**
 - B. To stabilize the trailer during parking**
 - C. To assist in making sharp turns**
 - D. To prevent skidding on icy roads**
- 9. What three kinds of emergency equipment must you have at all times?**
- A. Emergency flares, extra tires, and warning lights**
 - B. Three red reflective triangles, extra fuses, and a fire extinguisher**
 - C. Fire blankets, safety cones, and a first aid kit**
 - D. Additional tools, maps, and water bottles**
- 10. In what situation should you always rely on your knowledge of placards?**
- A. When unloading hazardous materials**
 - B. When driving through residential areas**
 - C. When parking at night**
 - D. When following GPS directions**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. What defines a dual air brake system?

- A. A system that uses two separate air compressors
- B. A system with one brake line for both front and rear brakes
- C. A brake system with two parts sharing an air compressor but having separate hoses and tanks**
- D. A backup system for emergency situations

A dual air brake system is characterized by its design of having two distinct parts that work in tandem but maintain separation in their brake lines, hoses, and air tanks. This setup enhances safety and reliability; if one part of the system fails, the other part can still function, allowing the vehicle to be brought to a stop effectively. In a dual air brake system, one circuit typically serves the front brakes, while the other serves the rear brakes. This separation helps to ensure that a single failure does not result in a complete loss of braking capability, which is particularly important for larger vehicles that require robust braking mechanisms to manage their size and weight. The other options do not accurately describe the features of a dual air brake system. For instance, having two separate air compressors or a single brake line for both front and rear brakes would not provide the necessary redundancy that defines a dual setup. Similarly, a backup system for emergencies does not encompass the operational principle of a dual air brake system, as the latter is fundamentally designed for regular operations while also promoting safety through its redundancy.

2. What is the primary function of a supply pressure gauge in a vehicle?

- A. To monitor fuel levels
- B. To indicate engine temperature
- C. To tell you how much pressure is in the air tanks**
- D. To track vehicle speed

The primary function of a supply pressure gauge in a vehicle is to tell you how much pressure is in the air tanks. This gauge is crucial for vehicles equipped with air brake systems, as it displays the amount of compressed air available in the air tanks, which is necessary for the operation of the brakes. Maintaining adequate air pressure is vital for safety, as insufficient pressure can lead to brake failure. Therefore, monitoring the supply pressure ensures that the braking system functions correctly and effectively. Understanding the importance of this gauge is essential for drivers, particularly those operating large trucks or buses, where air brakes are standard. Keeping a close eye on the gauge helps ensure the vehicle remains operable and safe on the road.

3. What may result from insufficient weight on the front axles?

- A. Improved fuel efficiency**
- B. Maintaining speed easily**
- C. Lack of traction in the front**
- D. Increased braking power**

Insufficient weight on the front axles can lead to a lack of traction in the front of the vehicle. Traction is essential for steering control and stability, especially during turns or on slippery surfaces. When the front axles do not have enough weight, the tires may not make adequate contact with the road, reducing grip. This can make it difficult to control the vehicle, especially when navigating sharp curves or during emergency maneuvers. Additionally, while other options may touch upon aspects like fuel efficiency or speed maintenance, they do not hold relevance in the context of how weight distribution affects front axle performance. Proper weight on the front axle is crucial for maintaining adequate traction, which directly impacts safety and handling of the vehicle.

4. What is meant by 'black ice'?

- A. A thick layer of ice**
- B. A type of blacktop surface**
- C. A thin layer of ice that is see-through**
- D. An ice-covered surface that is not visible**

The correct choice refers to 'black ice' as a thin layer of ice that is see-through. This particular type of ice can form when temperatures drop, especially when rain falls on cold pavement or when moist air freezes on road surfaces. It can be deceptive because it blends in with the color of the asphalt, making it nearly invisible to drivers. Recognizing black ice is crucial for safe driving because it can create hazardous conditions without warning. Drivers may not realize they are on a slippery surface until they encounter loss of traction, leading to accidents. Understanding that black ice is a thin, transparent layer helps drivers be more cautious, particularly in freezing conditions or after previous precipitation.

5. Where should warning triangles be placed on a two-way divided highway?

- A. 20 feet in front and behind the vehicle**
- B. 100 feet in front and 10 and 100 feet behind**
- C. 50 feet in front and 100 feet behind**
- D. 100 feet in front and 50 feet behind**

The recommended placement of warning triangles on a two-way divided highway is 100 feet in front of the vehicle and 10 feet and 100 feet behind the vehicle. This setup helps ensure that drivers approaching from both directions are adequately warned of the presence of a disabled vehicle. Placing a triangle 100 feet in front alerts oncoming traffic while the two lower distances behind the vehicle—one at 10 feet and another at 100 feet—help provide a clear signal to drivers from behind. The close triangle at 10 feet allows for immediate awareness while the further triangle at 100 feet gives an additional warning well in advance for safe spacing. This arrangement adheres to federal guidelines aimed at increasing visibility and minimizing the risk of accidents, especially on the high-speed environment typically found on divided highways. Effective use of warning devices is crucial to road safety and is a core element in maintaining a safe working environment for all road users.

6. Are front wheel brakes effective under all driving conditions?

- A. True**
- B. False**
- C. Only in dry conditions**
- D. Only at high speeds**

Front wheel brakes are indeed effective under all driving conditions because they play a crucial role in the overall braking system of a vehicle. The weight distribution during braking naturally shifts forward, placing more weight on the front wheels, which increases their traction and effectiveness. Therefore, when a driver applies the brakes, the front brakes engage more firmly, providing better stopping power regardless of the surrounding conditions, whether it be rain, snow, or dry pavement. In addition, while certain conditions may affect overall vehicle control or braking distance, the functionality of the front brakes remains intact. This is essential for safe driving, as the front brakes are generally more effective half of the braking system, designed to ensure prompt and reliable stopping under a variety of scenarios. Understanding this aspect is critical for any commercial driver, as it enhances their ability to operate their vehicle safely at all times, regardless of weather or speed conditions.

7. What does the term 'lowboys' refer to in the context of trailers?

- A. A type of high-capacity trailer**
- B. A style of flatbed trailer**
- C. A low-profile trailer often used for heavy equipment**
- D. A trailer designed for small cargo**

In the context of trailers, the term 'lowboys' specifically refers to low-profile trailers that are designed primarily for transporting heavy equipment. The key characteristic of lowboys is their low height, which allows them to accommodate taller loads while remaining under bridge height limits. This low profile is essential when dealing with oversized equipment that needs to be transported securely and legally. Lowboys often feature a drop in their frame, which further reduces their height and increases stability when transporting heavy machinery. They are commonly used for transporting excavators, bulldozers, and other large construction equipment, making them an essential tool in the logistics of heavy hauling. The other options do not accurately capture the essence of lowboys. High-capacity trailers and flatbed trailers serve different purposes and are designed differently than lowboys, while trailers designed for small cargo do not have the necessary features to handle the weight and dimensions typically associated with lowboy transport needs.

8. What is the main purpose of the trailer hand brake?

- A. To stop or slow down the vehicle**
- B. To stabilize the trailer during parking**
- C. To assist in making sharp turns**
- D. To prevent skidding on icy roads**

The main purpose of the trailer hand brake is to stabilize the trailer during parking. When a trailer is parked, especially on an incline, the hand brake ensures that it remains secure and does not roll away. This is particularly important for safety, as an unsecured trailer can lead to accidents or damage. The hand brake applies force to the trailer's braking system, holding it in place and providing peace of mind for the driver. While stopping or slowing down the vehicle is an important function of the vehicle's main braking system, the hand brake specifically aids in securing the trailer when stationary. Similarly, assisting in making sharp turns or preventing skidding on icy roads are not the primary functions of the trailer hand brake. Those aspects are generally managed by the vehicle's main braking system and handling techniques rather than the hand brake itself.

9. What three kinds of emergency equipment must you have at all times?

- A. Emergency flares, extra tires, and warning lights**
- B. Three red reflective triangles, extra fuses, and a fire extinguisher**
- C. Fire blankets, safety cones, and a first aid kit**
- D. Additional tools, maps, and water bottles**

The requirement to have three types of emergency equipment always on hand is a crucial safety measure for any commercial driver. This includes three red reflective triangles, extra fuses, and a fire extinguisher. Reflective triangles serve as a visual warning to other drivers when a vehicle is stopped on the road, helping to prevent accidents by alerting them to the presence of a disabled vehicle. The regulation to carry three triangles ensures that the driver can set them up effectively to create a clear warning zone. Extra fuses are vital for electronic systems in a vehicle, which can fail unexpectedly. Having spare fuses allows the driver to quickly replace any blown fuses and restore functionality to important electrical components, such as lights or gauges. A fire extinguisher is critical for addressing small fires that may arise in the vehicle or during a roadside emergency. Having a fire extinguisher readily available can mean the difference between a manageable situation and a disaster. This combination of emergency equipment is specifically mandated because it enhances safety and preparedness in various types of roadside emergencies, ensuring that the driver can protect themselves and other road users effectively.

10. In what situation should you always rely on your knowledge of placards?

- A. When unloading hazardous materials**
- B. When driving through residential areas**
- C. When parking at night**
- D. When following GPS directions**

Relying on your knowledge of placards is essential when unloading hazardous materials because these placards provide critical information about the nature of the materials being transported. They indicate the type of hazards present, such as flammable materials, toxic substances, or corrosives, which is crucial for ensuring safety during the unloading process. Understanding these placards helps you take appropriate precautions to mitigate risks, inform emergency responders in case of an accident, and ensure compliance with regulations governing the handling of hazardous materials. In contexts like driving through residential areas, parking at night, or following GPS directions, placards are less relevant, as these situations do not require the specific hazard awareness that placards provide. While safety is important in all driving scenarios, the knowledge of placards is specifically vital when dealing with materials that could pose immediate dangers to public safety if mishandled.