

Vermont CDL Permit Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. What could be considered an emergency situation requiring equipment use?**
 - A. Receiving directions**
 - B. Flat tire or breakdown**
 - C. Low battery on devices**
 - D. Weather delays**
- 2. What does the term "gross vehicle weight rating" (GVWR) mean?**
 - A. The maximum weight a vehicle can be on the road**
 - B. The maximum weight a vehicle is rated to safely carry**
 - C. The total weight of the vehicle plus its cargo**
 - D. The weight of the vehicle without cargo**
- 3. What is an air brake check?**
 - A. A method to check tire pressure**
 - B. A procedure to ensure the air brake system is functioning correctly before driving**
 - C. A test for the driver's reflexes**
 - D. A check for engine oil levels**
- 4. What must be checked before transporting a sealed load?**
 - A. That it exceeds the gross weight axle limit**
 - B. That it matches the original documentation**
 - C. That it doesn't exceed the gross weight axle limit**
 - D. That no modifications were made to the cargo**
- 5. What is essential for maintaining a safe driving distance?**
 - A. Speeding to keep up with traffic**
 - B. Consistent braking**
 - C. Awareness of the distance between vehicles**
 - D. Ignoring tailgators**

- 6. Why must air tanks be drained before driving?**
- A. To adjust the pressure for better fuel economy**
 - B. To remove water and compressor oil that can freeze and cause brake failure**
 - C. To make the air conditioning more effective**
 - D. To ensure maximum air supply for horns**
- 7. What safety measure should be taken when loading or unloading a trailer?**
- A. Always keep the engine running**
 - B. Secure the trailer with chocks if not using spring brakes**
 - C. Load the trailer only from the right side**
 - D. Remove any unnecessary cargo**
- 8. Which component is part of the steering system in a truck?**
- A. Brake pedal**
 - B. Power steering cylinder**
 - C. Clutch plate**
 - D. Fuel line**
- 9. What is the proper braking technique for descending a steep grade?**
- A. Brake continuously until stopped**
 - B. Apply brakes until speeds drop then repeat**
 - C. Gradually pump brakes to prevent locking**
 - D. Let the vehicle coast down**
- 10. What is one way to determine when to shift gears?**
- A. Decrease in engine RPMs**
 - B. Increase of engine RPMs**
 - C. Sound of the transmission**
 - D. Presence of other vehicles**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. What could be considered an emergency situation requiring equipment use?

- A. Receiving directions**
- B. Flat tire or breakdown**
- C. Low battery on devices**
- D. Weather delays**

A flat tire or breakdown is a classic emergency situation that necessitates the use of appropriate equipment. When a vehicle becomes inoperable, it can pose safety risks both to the driver and other road users. In such cases, the use of specific equipment—like a spare tire, jack, and safety triangles—becomes crucial not just for repairing the vehicle but also for ensuring that the situation is handled safely. This type of emergency requires quick action to enable the driver to either fix the issue or safely move the vehicle off the roadway to avoid potential accidents or hazards. In contrast, receiving directions, low battery on devices, and weather delays, while they can be inconvenient, do not typically constitute emergencies that would require immediate special equipment to address. While each scenario may pose challenges or require certain actions, they do not generally endanger the driver or others in the same manner that a breakdown would.

2. What does the term "gross vehicle weight rating" (GVWR) mean?

- A. The maximum weight a vehicle can be on the road**
- B. The maximum weight a vehicle is rated to safely carry**
- C. The total weight of the vehicle plus its cargo**
- D. The weight of the vehicle without cargo**

The term "gross vehicle weight rating" (GVWR) refers to the maximum weight that a vehicle is rated to safely carry, including its own weight plus the weight of any cargo and passengers. This rating is crucial because it is established by the manufacturer to ensure that the vehicle operates safely within its designed limits. If a vehicle exceeds the GVWR, it may lead to a range of issues including reduced performance, compromised safety features, and increased wear and tear on the vehicle. In the context of vehicle operation, understanding the GVWR helps drivers and operators make informed decisions regarding loads and transportation safety. It ensures that the vehicle remains stable and manageable, reducing the risk of accidents caused by overloading. This is why knowing and respecting the GVWR is essential for all commercial drivers, as it directly affects the legality and safety of their operations.

3. What is an air brake check?

- A. A method to check tire pressure
- B. A procedure to ensure the air brake system is functioning correctly before driving**
- C. A test for the driver's reflexes
- D. A check for engine oil levels

An air brake check is a critical procedure to ensure that the air brake system in a commercial vehicle is functioning correctly before operating the vehicle. This involves several steps, including checking for air leaks, verifying that the air pressure builds up to the appropriate level, and confirming that the brakes respond as expected when applied. Proper functionality of the air brake system is crucial for safety, as it directly affects the vehicle's ability to stop effectively and safely in various driving conditions. Ensuring that the air brakes are operational before driving helps prevent potential accidents caused by brake failure. Other options do not pertain to the functionality of the air brake system. Checking tire pressure is important for vehicle safety and performance but is unrelated to air brakes. Testing a driver's reflexes does not directly assess the vehicle's braking system and checking engine oil levels pertains to engine maintenance rather than braking performance.

4. What must be checked before transporting a sealed load?

- A. That it exceeds the gross weight axle limit
- B. That it matches the original documentation
- C. That it doesn't exceed the gross weight axle limit**
- D. That no modifications were made to the cargo

Before transporting a sealed load, it's essential to ensure that it doesn't exceed the gross weight axle limit. This is critical for maintaining safety on the road, as adhering to weight limits helps prevent accidents, vehicle damage, and excessive wear on road infrastructure. Overloading can lead to difficulties in handling, increased stopping distances, and potential blowouts, which can pose serious risks to the driver and other road users. Although there are other important factors to consider when transporting a load, ensuring compliance with weight restrictions is a primary concern because it directly impacts the operational efficiency and safety of the vehicle during transit. Matching the load to documentation or checking for modifications are also crucial; however, they do not directly relate to the immediate safety requirements established for vehicle operation in terms of weight.

5. What is essential for maintaining a safe driving distance?

- A. Speeding to keep up with traffic**
- B. Consistent braking**
- C. Awareness of the distance between vehicles**
- D. Ignoring tailgators**

Maintaining awareness of the distance between vehicles is crucial for ensuring a safe driving distance. This awareness allows drivers to react appropriately to changes in traffic conditions, such as sudden stops or slowdowns by the vehicle in front. By being conscious of how far they are from other vehicles, drivers can gauge whether they have enough space to stop safely and can adjust their speed accordingly. Establishing a safe following distance helps prevent collisions and enhances overall road safety. It also provides drivers with the necessary reaction time in case an emergency arises, enabling them to take evasive action if needed. Constantly assessing the space around your vehicle helps in making informed decisions about speed and lane changes, thereby fostering a safer driving environment.

6. Why must air tanks be drained before driving?

- A. To adjust the pressure for better fuel economy**
- B. To remove water and compressor oil that can freeze and cause brake failure**
- C. To make the air conditioning more effective**
- D. To ensure maximum air supply for horns**

Draining air tanks before driving is crucial primarily to remove water and compressor oil that can accumulate in the air system. Over time, moisture can condense in the air tanks, especially in colder temperatures. If this moisture is not removed, it can freeze. The ice can obstruct the air lines and components, leading to potential brake failure. Proper brake function is essential for vehicle safety, so ensuring that the air tanks are free of contaminants like water and oil is vital for maintaining the integrity of the braking system. While adjusting pressure for better fuel economy, improving air conditioning effectiveness, and ensuring air supply for horns might seem important, they are not the primary reasons for draining air tanks prior to driving. The focus on moisture removal directly addresses the safety concerns associated with frozen water obstructing braking functionality.

7. What safety measure should be taken when loading or unloading a trailer?

A. Always keep the engine running

B. Secure the trailer with chocks if not using spring brakes

C. Load the trailer only from the right side

D. Remove any unnecessary cargo

Securing the trailer with chocks when not using spring brakes is a crucial safety measure because it helps prevent the trailer from rolling or shifting unexpectedly during the loading or unloading process. Chocks create a physical barrier that stabilizes the trailer, providing extra safety for workers who are handling cargo and reducing the risk of accidents that could lead to injury or damage to the equipment. This is particularly important on uneven surfaces or inclines. While keeping the engine running might seem convenient for some operations, it can create hazards such as exhaust fumes or unintended vehicle movement. Loading from one side could potentially lead to imbalance and loading difficulties. Removing unnecessary cargo is good practice for efficiency but does not specifically address the safety of the trailer during the loading process. Hence, securing the trailer with chocks stands out as the best practice for ensuring safety and stability.

8. Which component is part of the steering system in a truck?

A. Brake pedal

B. Power steering cylinder

C. Clutch plate

D. Fuel line

The power steering cylinder is a crucial component of the steering system in a truck. It enhances the driver's ability to control the vehicle by reducing the amount of effort required to turn the steering wheel, especially when maneuvering at low speeds or when the vehicle is stationary. This hydraulic mechanism works by amplifying the force exerted by the driver on the steering wheel, allowing for smoother and more responsive steering. In contrast, the brake pedal is integral to the braking system, allowing the driver to slow down or stop the vehicle. The clutch plate is part of the transmission system, enabling the driver to shift gears smoothly. The fuel line is essential for delivering fuel from the tank to the engine but has no role in steering. Therefore, the power steering cylinder is the only option that directly relates to the steering function of the truck, making it the correct choice in this context.

9. What is the proper braking technique for descending a steep grade?

- A. Brake continuously until stopped**
- B. Apply brakes until speeds drop then repeat**
- C. Gradually pump brakes to prevent locking**
- D. Let the vehicle coast down**

The proper braking technique for descending a steep grade involves applying the brakes until your speed decreases, then repeating this process. This method, often referred to as "controlled braking," helps to prevent brake overheating, which can occur if brakes are held continuously. In a steep descent, gravity will naturally cause the vehicle to accelerate, increasing the risk of losing control. By applying the brakes to reduce speed periodically, you maintain better control without allowing the brakes to become too hot. This approach also ensures that the braking system remains effective throughout the descent. This technique helps to manage heat buildup, providing a safer and more effective way to handle steep grades compared to continuous braking or simply coasting down. Continuous braking can lead to brake fading, while coasting can increase speed too much without any control. Gradually pumping brakes, while it can be useful, does not address the need for consistent speed management throughout the descent effectively. Thus, the method of applying brakes until speeds drop and repeating the process is the most appropriate technique for safety and control during such conditions.

10. What is one way to determine when to shift gears?

- A. Decrease in engine RPMs**
- B. Increase of engine RPMs**
- C. Sound of the transmission**
- D. Presence of other vehicles**

To determine when to shift gears, monitoring the increase of engine RPMs is a key factor. When the RPMs rise significantly, it indicates that the engine is reaching higher levels of power and is likely close to its optimum performance range. Shifting gears at this point helps maintain engine efficiency, ensures smoother acceleration, and prevents over-revving, which can lead to engine damage. Recognizing the sound of the transmission, the decrease in RPMs, or the presence of other vehicles can provide additional context for shifting, but they are not direct indicators of when to shift as the RPM readings are. For example, a decrease in RPMs usually signals that the engine is beginning to stall or is not in the correct power band, while the presence of other vehicles may be a consideration for safe driving, but it does not directly influence the timing of gear shifts. Overall, the increase in engine RPMs is a clear and actionable cue for determining the right moment to shift.