
CDL General Knowledge Practice Test 2

51) What is the "gross combination weight" (GVW)?

- A. Weight of cargo, plus weight of drivers and passengers
- B. The maximum weight specified by the manufacturer that a vehicle can hold
- C. Weight of trailer plus weight of cargo
- D. Weight of power unit, plus trailer, plus cargo

Answer: D

52) Name a situation where legal maximum weight may not be safe.

- A. Mountain traveling
- B. Crossing bridges
- C. Overloading
- D. Transporting hazardous materials

Answer: A

53) What can happen if you don't have enough weight on the front axle?

- A. Your front end will hydroplane
- B. Can cause poor traction
- C. Will cause "fishtailing"
- D. Will damage shock absorbers

Answer: B

54) What is the minimum number of tie downs for a 20 foot load?

- A. At least one tie down for every 20 feet
- B. At least two tie downs for every 10 feet
- C. At least one tie down for every 5 feet
- D. At least one tie down for every 10 feet

Answer: D

55) What is the minimum number of tie downs for any flatbed load?

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3

D. 4

Answer: B

56) Name J basic reason for covering cargo on an open road.

- A. Protect cargo from theft
- B. Insurance requirements
- C. Protect the cargo from weather
- D. State law requirements

Answer: C

57) What must you check before transporting a sealed load?

- A. Cargo is secured inside container
- B. Container is locked
- C. Check that you don't exceed height restrictions
- D. Check that you don't exceed weight restrictions

Answer: D

58) Stab braking should not be used on vehicles:

- A. Equipped with air brakes
- B. Hauling hazardous materials
- C. Towing trailers
- D. Equipped with anti-lock brakes

Answer: D

59) What should you always do when traveling down a long downgrade?

- A. Apply brakes when your vehicle exceeds the safe speed by 5 mph
- B. Use stab braking
- C. Use the braking effect of the engine
- D. Apply trailer brakes

Answer: C

60) Bridge formulas are designed to:

- A. Permit less maximum axle weight for axles that are farther apart
- B. Permit less maximum axle weight for axles that are closer together

- C. Permit same maximum axle weight for any axle spacing
- D. Same formula used to total the GVWR

Answer: B

61) Which statement is true?

- A. You can always trust other drivers to turn in the direction they are signaling
- B. Drivers with rental trucks are often not used to driving a large vehicle and may be more dangerous

Answer: B

62) The first offense for driving a commercial vehicle under the influence of drugs or alcohol will cause you to lose your CDL for:

- A. 6 months
- B. 2 years
- C. 1 year
- D. 3 years

Answer: C

63) Your vehicle will be placed "out of service" if this many leaves are broken or missing?

- A. Any at all
- B. One third of total number
- C. One half of total number
- D. One fourth of total number

Answer: D

64) Can your truck or bus be inspected by federal inspectors?

- A. Yes
- B. Only to the point of entry
- C. Yes, but cannot place you out of service
- D. Yes, and can also place you out of service

Answer: D

65) Can J use over-the-counter medication when operating a CMV?

- A. Yes, but only take half a dose

- B. Should not be used because it can make you sleepy
- C. Yes, but only during daylight hours
- D. As long as the dispatcher say's it is ok.

Answer: B

66) Which of these statements is True?

- A. You should use your high beams from 7 pm til 7 am
- B. Most drivers are more alert at night than during the day
- C. Many accidents occur between 12 am and 6 am
- D. Hazards are easier to see at night

Answer: C

67) Which statement is True about rear drive-wheel braking skids?

- A. When pulling a trailer, the trailer can push the towing vehicle sideways.
- B. The locked wheels have more traction than the ones that are rolling.
- C. It is not a cause of jackknifing.
- D. The vehicles front wheels will slide sideways.

Answer: A

68) Which of these can you NOT check at the same time?

- A. Clearance lights and 4 way flashers
- B. Taillights and clearance lights
- C. Headlights and clearance lights
- D. Brake lights, 4 way flashers and turn signal

Answer: D

69) Which of the following will occur after you start your engine?

- A. Manifold exhaust indicator gauge will rise to 190 degrees.
- B. The water temperature gauge will rise to normal operating temp.
- C. In 10-15 minutes the air pressure gauge will rise to normal.
- D. In 4-5 minutes the oil pressure gauge will rise to normal.

Answer: B

70) If your vehicle is 40 feet long and you are traveling 50 mph, what is the safe following distance?

- A. 3 seconds
- B. 4 seconds
- C. 7 seconds
- D. 5 seconds

Answer: D

71) You can be placed out of service if your Blood Alcohol Concentration is:

- A. 1.0% or higher
- B. Any amount detectable
- C. .03% or higher
- D. 04% or higher

Answer: B

72) What should you do when you see a hazard in the road in front of you?

- A. Turn on your 4 way flashers to warn other drivers
- B. Stop in the roadway, set out triangles and go to the back of your vehicle to flag down drivers
- C. Stop quickly and exit the roadway if possible
- D. Steer and counter-steer around the hazard

Answer: A

73) Why should you conduct a pre-trip inspection?

- A. To see if you can add more freight to your load
- B. To make sure the vehicle is safe to operate
- C. To avoid being placed out of service
- D. To add time to your logbook

Answer: B

74) What happens when a tire blows out at highway speed?

- A. The low air pressure alarm will come on
- B. You will hear a loud hissing sound coming from your tire
- C. You will feel a vibration '

D. There will be an immediate drop in speed

Answer: C

75) Which of these statements is True about tire pressure?

- A. You should reduce air pressure in warmer weather
- B. You do not have to check the air pressure in a pre-trip inspection
- C. The air pressure in the tire increases when the temperature rises
- D. All of the above

Answer: C

76) You should use your horn:

- A. When changing lanes
- B. To help you avoid a collision
- C. When a car gets in your way
- D. To make a deer move away from the roadside

Answer: B

77) Convex mirrors will:

- A. Show a wider view than flat mirrors
- B. Make objects appear closer than they actually are
- C. Make objects appear smaller than they actually are
- D. Make objects appear larger than they actually are

Answer: A

78) What type of fire will water extinguish?

- A. Tire
- B. Gasoline
- C. Diesel
- D. Electrical

Answer: A

79) If you are traveling down a long grade and your brakes start to get weak, you should:

- A. Pump the brake pedal
- B. Downshift and continue

- C. Stop as quickly as possible
- D. Continue to the bottom, then stop and check the brakes

Answer: C

80) Why is it important to shift gears properly?

- A. To keep the engine at the proper temperature
- B. To keep the radiator cool
- C. To keep the oil flowing through the crankcase
- D. To help maintain control of the vehicle

Answer: D

81) When starting off on dry, level pavement, it is normally not necessary to:

- A. Press on the gas pedal and pop out the clutch
- B. Apply the parking brake
- C. Both A and B

Answer: C

82) With low-beam headlights on, you can see

- A. 250 feet ahead
- B. 200 feet ahead
- C. 150 feet ahead
- D. 300 feet ahead

Answer: A

83) Which of these conditions can produce a skid?

- A. Over steering
- B. Over braking
- C. Driving too fast
- D. All of the above

Answer: D

84) What should you do if you are being tailgated?

- A. Slam on your brakes
- B. Turn on your 4 way flashers

- C. Increase following distance
- D. Motion for the driver to pass

Answer: C

85) When should you use controlled braking?

- A. If the vehicle is equipped with anti-lock braking
- B. Only use with hydraulic brakes
- C. You need to stop quickly
- D. To keep the vehicle in a straight line when braking

Answer: D

86) Which of the following is True when driving in cold weather?

- A. Use anti-freeze in your windshield washer fluid
- B. Use bleach on your tires to increase traction
- C. If the temp is below freezing, the engine will not freeze
- D. Exhaust leaks are not a concern

Answer: A

87) When drinking alcohol, which is affected first?

- A. Judgment and self control
- B. Kidney control
- C. Coordination
- D. Muscle control

Answer: A

83) When backing to a dock, which of the following is NOT True?

- A. Always back toward the drivers side if possible
- B. Use a helper and hand signals
- C. Back slowly until you bump the dock

Answer: C

89) What is controlled braking?

- A. Used if the vehicle does not have anti-lock brakes
- B. Applying brake firmly, but not enough to lock up

- C. Applying brake to lock up, then releasing and reapplying
- D. Applying brake to lock the wheels up

Answer: B

90) What should you do when traveling through a construction zone?

- A. Only reduce speed if you see a worker near the road
- B. Watch for holes in the road and drop offs
- C. Stop before entering, then proceed in low gear
- D. Go as quickly as possible to avoid congestion

Answer: B

91) When your brakes are wet, it is very easy to:

- A. Hydroplane if traveling faster than 30 mph
- B. Hydroplane
- C. Overheat your brakes
- D. Jackknife the trailer

Answer: D

92) If you are stopped on the shoulder of the road on a divided highway, you must:

- A. Place reflective triangles or flares within 10 minutes of stopping
- B. Flag down the next passing motorist and request assistance
- C. Wait for road-side assistance
- D. Turn off your vehicle

Answer: A

93) The maximum speed limit for a school bus on a highway is:

- A. 50 mph
- B. 55 mph
- C. 45 mph
- D. 65 mph

Answer: B

94) When conducting a pre-trip inspection of the steering system, you would not inspect:

- A. Missing nuts, bolts or other parts on the steering box

- B. Leaking shock absorbers
- C. Power steering hoses, pumps and fluid level
- D. Power steering fluid leaks

Answer: B

95) Before entering a curve, you should:

- A. Slow down to a safe speed and downshift before entering the curve
- B. Up-shift and accelerate before entering the curve
- C. Come to a stop before entering the curve

Answer: A

96) You must come to a full stop at railroad crossings:

- A. Always
- B. When carrying passengers or hazardous cargo
- C. At night
- D. If the crossing is unmarked

Answer: B

97) You may not drive for more than ____ hours following your last period of 8 consecutive hours off duty.

- A. 6
- B. 8
- C. 10
- D. 12

Answer: C (*This answer is subject to change*)

98) About of all fatal crashes involve drinking drivers.

- A. One-third
- B. One-half
- C. One-quarter
- D. Two-thirds

Answer: B

99) When you double your speed, it takes times as much distance to stop your vehicle.

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

Answer: C

100) "Offtracking" is:

- A. Driving on a dirt road
- B. Passing on the right
- C. Pulling onto the shoulder of the road
- D. Trailer wheels following a different path than the tractor wheels

Answer: D