
CDL General Knowledge Practice Test 5

1. When driving through construction zones, you should:

- A. Speed up and hurry through them so you aren't in them any longer than necessary
- B. Stop before entering them, get in low gear and proceed through
- C. Watch for sharp pavement drop-offs
- D. Reduce your speed only if workers are near the roadway

Answer: C

2. Which of the following is true about the use of reflective emergency triangles?

- A. Regulation requires they be placed within five minutes of stopping
- B. You do not need to use them if you break down as long as your 4-way flashers are working
- C. You do not need to use them as long as you have pulled your vehicle completely off the traveled portion of the roadway
- D. If you stop on a hill or curve, it's necessary to place them as much as 500 feet out to provide adequate warning

Answer: D

3. When driving a vehicle with a height over 13 feet, you should:

- A. Assume all clearances are of sufficient height
- B. Height clearance is not a concern as long as you stay on state or federal roadways
- C. Stop and check before proceeding if you are unsure of the clearance
- D. All of the above

Answer: C

4. The proper way to load a vehicle is:

- A. Keep the load balanced in the cargo area
- B. Place the load at the front of the trailer to give your drive wheels better traction
- C. Place the load at the rear of the trailer so your rear tires have better traction
- D. It makes no difference where the cargo is placed as long as you are not over the allowable gross weight

Answer: A

5. When driving at night, you should:

- A. Dim your lights when you are within 300 feet of oncoming traffic
- B. Watch the white line on the left side of the roadway
- C. Adjust your vehicle speed so as to keep your stopping distance within your sight distance
- D. Keep your high beams on at all times

Answer: C

6. While driving you're looking ahead of your vehicle. What's the best way to do that?

- A. Look to the right side of the roadway
- B. Look back and forth and near and far
- C. Stare straight ahead at all times
- D. Look straight ahead and glance in your mirrors every 45-60 seconds

Answer: B

7. According to the Commercial Driver's License Manual, why should you limit the use of your vehicle's horn?

- A. If your vehicle has air brakes, the air horn may not work while you are applying your brakes
- B. It may startle other drivers
- C. You should keep both hands on the steering wheel at all times
- D. The Commercial Driver's License Manual does not say that a driver should limit the use of the horn

Answer: B

8. If you break down on a level, straight, four-lane, divided highway, where should you place the reflective emergency triangles?

- A. One 10 feet from the rear of the vehicle, one approximately 100 feet from the rear of the vehicle and another one about 100 feet to the front of the vehicle
- B. One 10 feet from the rear of the vehicle, one approximately 100 feet from the rear of the vehicle, and one about 200 feet from the rear of the vehicle
- C. One 100 feet from the rear of the vehicle, one approximately 200 feet from the rear of the vehicle, and one about 300 feet from the rear of the vehicle
- D. One 50 feet from the rear of the vehicle, one about 100 feet from the rear of the vehicle, and one about 200 feet from the front of the vehicle

Answer: B

9. Bridge formulas are designed to:

- A. Determine the total gross vehicle weight of a vehicle
- B. Permit the same maximum axle weight for any axle spacing
- C. Permit less maximum axle weight for axles that are closer together
- D. Permit less maximum axle weight for axles that are further apart

Answer: C

10. If you drive through heavy rain or standing water, your brakes may get wet. What can this cause to happen when you apply the brakes?

- A. Trailer jackknife
- B. Your brakes to heat up
- C. Hydroplaning
- D. Hydroplaning if you were traveling faster than 30 mph when you applied the brakes

Answer: A

11. Statistics prove that most serious skids are a result of:

- A. Driving too fast for conditions
- B. Improper loading of the vehicle
- C. Turning too sharply
- D. Winter driving conditions

Answer: A

12. Which of the following should you NOT do?

- A. Turn your headlights on during the day if visibility is reduced due to bad weather
- B. Flash your brake lights to warn vehicles behind you that you are slowing down
- C. Flash your brake lights when entering a construction zone if vehicles are close behind you
- D. Flash your brake lights if someone is following too closely

Answer: D

13. Controlled braking is:

- A. Applying the brakes hard enough for the wheels to lock up
- B. Pressing the brakes hard enough to lock up the wheels, then releasing and then reapplying again
- C. Applying firm brake pressure, but not to the point of lock-up

D. Only used if the vehicle does not have anti-lock brakes

Answer: C

14. Stab braking is NOT used on vehicles:

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

Answer: B

15. What three factors add up to the total stopping distance for a commercial motor vehicle without air brakes?

- A. Perception distance, reaction distance and braking distance
- B. Eye lead time, reaction distance and braking distance
- C. Perception distance, reaction distance and response distance
- D. Response distance and braking distance

Answer: A

16. You're driving on a straight and level roadway at 60 mph and suddenly a tire blows out on your vehicle. What should you do first?

- A. Immediately begin light, controlled braking
- B. Immediately begin stab braking
- C. Grip the steering wheel firmly with both hands and stay off the brakes until the vehicle has slowed down
- D. Immediately begin emergency braking

Answer: C

17. When traveling down a long downgrade, you should always:

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

Answer: B

18. Which of the following statements about backing a commercial motor vehicle to a dock is NOT true?

- A. Since you can't see behind you, you should back slowly until you bump the dock
- B. Use a helper and communicate with hand signals
- C. You should always back toward the driver's side when possible
- D. Both A and C

Answer: A

19. Shifting gears properly is important because:

- A. Doing so helps you maintain control of the vehicle
- B. It helps to keep the oil flowing through the crankcase
- C. It keeps the radiator cool
- D. It keeps the engine at the proper operating temperature

Answer: A

20. As alcohol begins to build up in the body, which of the following is affected first?

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

Answer: D

21. Which of the following is true?

- A. It is permissible to use radial and bias-ply tires together on the same axle
- B. Tires of mismatched sizes should not be used on the same vehicle
- C. 4/32 inch tread depth is the maximum allowed on drive tires
- D. 2/32 inch tread depth is permissible for steering tires

Answer: B

22. Controlled braking is:

- A. Used when the goal is to keep the vehicle in a straight line while braking
- B. Used when you must stop as quickly as possible
- C. Only used with hydraulic brakes
- D. Only used when the vehicle is equipped with anti-lock brakes

Answer: A

23. Hazardous Materials placarding is an example of:

- A. Containment
- B. Controlling the hazardous materials risk
- C. Communication
- D. All of the above

Answer: C

24. At what Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) will you be placed out of service for 24 hours?

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

Answer: D

25. When you see a hazard in the roadway in front of you, you should:

- A. Steer and countersteer around it
- B. Stop quickly and get off the roadway if possible
- C. Stop quickly, stay in the roadway, set your reflective emergency triangles, and go to the rear of your vehicle to flag down traffic
- D. Turn on your 4-way flashers or flash your brakes lights to warn others

Answer: D

26. When starting a commercial motor vehicle on level, dry pavement, it is not usually necessary to:

- A. Apply the parking brake
- B. Use slower acceleration
- C. Press on the accelerator while popping out the clutch
- D. Both A and C

Answer: D

27. Which of the following is true concerning cold weather driving?

- A. Exhaust system leaks are not of concern during cold weather

- B. If the temperature is below 32 degrees Fahrenheit, the engine cannot overheat
- C. Using bleach on tires will provide increased traction
- D. You should use windshield washer fluid which contains an anti-freeze

Answer: D

28. You're traveling down a long grade, and you notice your brakes are not working as well as they had been. You should:

- A. Continue to the bottom of the grade and then stop to check your brakes
- B. Stop as quickly as you can
- C. Downshift one or two gears and continue
- D. Begin pumping your brake pedal

Answer: B

29. Why do the Hazardous Materials Regulations exist?

- A. To provide for safe drivers and equipment
- B. To communicate a risk
- C. To contain the product
- D. All of the above

Answer: D

30. Water will extinguish which of the following fires?

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

Answer: D

31. Which of the following happens when a tire blows at highway speed?

- A. You will experience an immediate and dramatic drop in speed
- B. You will feel a vibration
- C. You will hear a hissing sound
- D. The low air pressure signal device will come on

Answer: B

32. Which of the following is true about tire pressure?

- A. As temperature increases so does air pressure in the tires
- B. It is not necessary to check tire pressure during a pre-trip inspection
- C. In warmer weather it is best to let out some of the air in the tires to reduce pressure
- D. All of the above

Answer: A

33. When fighting a fire, which is most correct?

- A. Get downwind of the fire before using the fire extinguisher
- B. Get as close to the fire as possible
- C. Aim the fire extinguisher at the base of the fire
- D. Aim the fire extinguisher at the top of the fire

Answer: C

34. "Over-the-counter" medication used to treat the common cold:

- A. Is permissible as long as the dispatcher has given the okay to use it
- B. Can only be taken when driving during daylight hours
- C. Often can make you sleepy and should not be used while driving
- D. Is okay as long as you take just half a dose

Answer: C

35. Which of the following conditions may produce a skid?

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

Answer: D

36. What is the purpose of a pre-trip inspection?

- A. To add an additional 15 minutes of time to your log book
- B. To avoid being cited by a law enforcement official
- C. To make sure the vehicle is safe to operate
- D. To see if additional freight can be added to maximize revenue

Answer: C

37. Your vehicle is 40 feet long and you are traveling at 50 mph. The safe following distance is:

- A. 5 seconds
- B. 6 seconds
- C. 4 seconds
- D. 3 seconds

Answer: A

38. Which of the following statements about causes of vehicle fires is true?

- A. An overheated radiator is the most common cause of a vehicle fire
- B. Carrying a properly charged and rated fire extinguisher will help to prevent fires
- C. Under-inflated or flat tires will NOT cause a vehicle fire
- D. Poor trailer ventilation can cause cargo to catch fire

Answer: D

39. Convex (curved) mirrors will:

- A. Make objects appear to be larger than they really are
- B. Make objects appear to be smaller than they really are
- C. Make objects appear closer and larger than they really are
- D. Show a wider area than flat mirrors

Answer: D

40. After you start your engine, which of the following should occur?

- A. Oil pressure will build in 4 to 5 minutes
- B. Air pressure will rise to normal in 10 to 15 minutes
- C. The water temperature will indicate a gradual rise to normal operating temperature
- D. The manifold exhaust indicator gauge will immediately rise to 190 degrees Fahrenheit

Answer: C

41. Which of the following is a true statement?

- A. You can always trust other drivers to turn in the direction that their turn signal is indicating
- B. Mail or city delivery truck drivers are professionals and do not pose any hazard to you

- C. You do not have to worry about individuals driving cars with out-of-state license plates
- D. Short-term or daily rental truck drivers are often not used to driving a large vehicle and may pose a hazard to you

Answer: D

42. Which of the following can you NOT check at the same time?

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

Answer: A

43. The Commercial Driver's License Manual says you should use your horn:

- A. To make the deer standing alongside the road move further away
- B. When a car gets in the way
- C. If it may help you to avoid a collision
- D. When you begin to change lanes

Answer: C

44. What is hydroplaning?

- A. An emergency situation created when an aircraft must make an emergency landing on a highway
- B. Excessive heat build up in the radiator
- C. Something that only occurs at high vehicle speeds
- D. When your vehicle wheels lift off the roadway on a thin film of water

Answer: D

45. Can federal inspectors inspect your truck or bus?

- A. Yes, and they have the authority to place you out of service
- B. Yes, but they have no authority to place you out of service
- C. Yes, but only at a port-of-entry
- D. No

Answer: A

46. If you're being tailgated, you should:

- A. Motion for the tailgater to pass you when it is safe
- B. Increase your following distance
- C. Turn on your 4-way flashers
- D. Slam on the brakes

Answer: B

47. How many missing or broken leaves in a leaf spring will cause your vehicle to be placed out of service?

- A. One-fourth of the total
- B. One-half of the total
- C. One-third of the total
- D. Any

Answer: A

48. Which of the following is true about rear drive wheel skids when braking?

- A. The vehicle's front wheels will slide sideways
- B. It is not a cause of jackknifing
- C. The locked wheels have more traction than the wheels that are rolling
- D. If it occurs with a vehicle towing a trailer, the trailer can push the towing vehicle sideways

Answer: D

49. Which of the following statements is true?

- A. Hazards are easier to see at night than during the day
- B. Many commercial motor vehicle accidents occur between midnight and 6 a.m.
- C. Most drivers are more alert at night than during the day
- D. It is recommended that you use your high beams at all times during the period from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Answer: B

50. A first offense for driving a CMV under the influence of alcohol or drugs will cause you to lose your CDL for at least:

- A. Three years
- B. One year

- C. Two years
- D. Six months

Answer: B