
California DMV CDL Practice Test

1. A pre-trip inspection should be completed:

- A. at least once a week.
- B. if any problems occurred the last the time the vehicle was operated.
- C. before operating the vehicle.

2. What should you do when you are driving at night?

- A. Make sure you are driving slow enough so you can stop within the range of your headlights in an emergency.
- B. Roll down your window so that the fresh air will help keep you awake.
- C. If you are sleepy, drink coffee or other caffeine products.

3. Which of the following is the correct term for a long commercial vehicle's tendency to swing wide on turns?

- A. Sidetracking.
- B. Offtracking.
- C. Fishtailing.

4. When a coolant container is part of a pressurized system, you can:

- A. check the coolant level of a hot engine.
- B. safely remove the radiator cap and add coolant while the engine is hot.
- C. use water only in the cooling system.

5. When you are parked at the side of the road at night, you must:

- A. warn others by turning on your 4-way emergency flashers.
- B. put your warning devices out within 15 minutes.
- C. use your left turn signal lights to give warning to other drivers.

6. While doing the pre-trip inspection on your vehicle's steering and exhaust system you found the following problems. Which one, if any, should be fixed before you drive the vehicle?

- A. Too many vertical stacks.
- B. Oil on the tie rod.
- C. Play in the steering wheel of more than 10 degrees (2 inches on a 20-inch steering wheel).

7. Containerized loads

- A. are exempt from hazardous materials restrictions.
- B. are exempt from weight limit restrictions.
- C. generally are used when freight is carried part way by rail or ship.

8. You are exiting a highway using an offramp that curves downhill and you are driving a heavy vehicle. You should:

- A. do nothing because the posted speed limit for the offramp is usually 10 miles per hour below the safe speed limit for the offramp.
- B. slow to a safe speed before the curve.
- C. downshift after you are in the curve.

9. Water can safely be used on which of these fires?

- A. Electrical.
- B. Gasoline.
- C. Neither of the above.

10. Three things add up to the total stopping distance for your vehicle. They are:

- A. perception distance, reaction distance, braking distance.
- B. observation distance, reaction distance, slowing distance.
- C. perception distance, response distance, reaction distance.

11. You are about to go down a long, steep, downhill grade in a newer truck. You should:

- A. use a lower gear than you would use to climb the uphill grade.
- B. use the same gear you would use to climb the uphill grade.
- C. use a higher gear than you would use to climb the uphill grade.

12. Which of these items is checked in a pre-trip inspection?

- A. Cargo securement.
- B. Whether all vehicle lights are working and are clean.
- C. Both of the above.

13. If you are stopped on a one-way or divided highway, you should place reflective triangles at:

- A. 10 feet, 100 feet, and 200 feet toward approaching traffic.
- B. 25 feet, 100 feet, and 250 feet toward approaching traffic.
- C. 50 feet, 100 feet, and 300 feet toward approaching traffic.

14. When a heavy fog occurs you should:

- A. use high beams for best visibility.
- B. park off to the right side of the road with you parking lights on.
- C. park at a rest area or truck stop until the fog has lifted.

15. You should plan ahead when you park your vehicle so that:

- A. it will be very easy for you to check your vehicle before you get back on the road.
- B. you are only required to pull forward when you leave.
- C. you don't need to back up more than ten feet.

16. The term "Gross Combination Weight" refers to:

- A. total weight of a powered unit and the trailer.
- B. total weight of the trailer and the load.
- C. total weight of a powered unit, the trailer and the cargo.

17. A driver should look _____ ahead of the vehicle while driving.

- A. 2–5 seconds
- B. 5–10 seconds
- C. 12–15 seconds

18. Which of the following statements is true about overhead clearance?

- A. Posted signs for overhead clearance are always correct.
- B. Paving a road does not affect the clearance height under bridges or overpasses.
- C. Cargo weight may change the height of your vehicle.

19. Which of the following statements is true when you are performing a pre-trip inspection on your brakes and suspension system?

- A. Brake shoes should be free of oil, grease, and brake fluid.
- B. One missing leaf spring is not dangerous.
- C. A cracked spring hanger is not dangerous.

20. A broken exhaust system is dangerous because:

- A. Exhaust noise will damage the driver's ears.
- B. Toxic fumes and gasses could enter the cab or sleeper berth.
- C. The leaking exhaust smoke pollutes the air.

Answer Keys

1, C

2, A

3, B

4, A

5, A

6, C

7, C

8, B

9, C

10, A

11, A

12, C

13, A

14, C

15, B

16, C

17, C

18, C

19, A

20, B