

The following questions are likely to be asked on your CDL General Knowledge Test. The test is a multiple choice test; however, this "Cheat Sheet" gives you some of the known choices and the correct answer is highlighted! All of the questions and answers given here are covered in your CDL Manual. There are at least 3 different tests covering an alternate range of 500+ questions, which the DMV will alternate between applicants and so this is just a sample of what you can expect. This is in no way intended as an alternative to reading and studying the manual. However, in any event, this will help to prepare you for the test. Good Luck! **SAMPLE TESTS** can be found on the internet. One of the best sites to use is:

http://www.testprepreview.com/cdl_practice.htm

1. A driver's trip log, if required:

A. may be brought up to date once a week.

B. is also called a tachograph.

C. must be shown immediately when an officer requests it.

2. Medical certificates must be renewed every:

A. year

B. two years

C. four years

3. Which of these statements about downshifting is true?

A. When you downshift on a curve, you should do so before you enter the curve.

B. When you downshift for a hill you should do so after you start down the hill.

C. When you downshift for a curve, you should do so after you enter the curve.

4. A moving vehicle ahead of you has a red triangle and an orange center on the rear. What does this mean?

A. The vehicle is hauling hazardous materials.

B. It may be a slow moving vehicle.

C. It may be oversized.

5. Which of these statements about overhead clearance is true?

A. You should assume that posted clearance signs are correct.

B. A vehicle's clearance can change with the load carried.

C. If the road surface causes the vehicle to tile, you should drive close to the shoulder.

6. You are driving a heavy vehicle. You must exit a highway using an off-ramp that curves downhill. You should:

A. use the posted speed limit for the off-ramp.

B. slow down to a safe speed before you turn.

C. wait until you are in the turn before downshifting.

7. Which of these is the most important thing to remember about emergency braking?

A. Disconnecting the steering axle brakes will keep the vehicle in a straight line.

B. Never do it without downshifting first.

C. If the wheels are skidding, you can not control the vehicle.

8. You are traveling down a long steep hill. Your brakes begin to fade and then fail. What should you do?

A. downshift

B. pump the brake pedal

C. look for an escape ramp, or escape route

9. You are checking your tires during a pre-trip inspection. Which of these situations is true?

A. Radial and biased-ply tires can be used on the same vehicle.

B. 2/32 of an inch tread depth is safe for the front tires.

C. Tires of mismatched sizes should not be used on the same vehicle.

10. If a straight vehicle (no trailer, or articulation) goes into a front wheel skid, it will”
- A. slide sideways and spin out
 - B. go straight ahead but will turn if you turn the steering wheel.
 - C. go straight ahead even if the steering wheel is turned.**
11. Which of these statements about tires and hot weather driving is true?
- A. You should inspect your tires more often.**
 - B. If a tire is too hot to touch, you should drive on it to cool it off.
 - C. Recapped tires are less likely to fail in hot weather than new tires.
12. You are driving on a straight, level highway at 50 mph. There are no vehicles in front of you. A tire blows out on your vehicle. What should you do?
- A. Stay off the brake until the vehicle the vehicle slows down on its own.**
 - B. Quickly steer onto the shoulder.
 - C. Begin light braking.
13. While driving, you see a small (1 foot square) cardboard box ahead in your lane. You should:
- A. stop and direct traffic around it.
 - B. hit it with your vehicle to knock it off the road.
 - C. steer around it, if it is safe to do so.**
14. Which of these statements about crossing or entering traffic with a heavy vehicle is true?
- A. Heavy vehicles need larger gaps in traffic than cars.**
 - B. The best way to cross traffic is to pull the vehicle part way across the road and block one lane while waiting for the other lane to clear.
 - C. The heavier the load, the smaller the gap needed to cross traffic.
15. When looking ahead of your vehicle while driving, you should:
- A. look to the right side of the road.
 - B. look to the left side of the road.
 - C. look back and forth.**
16. Controlled braking:
- A. can be used when you are turning sharply.
 - B. involves locking the wheels for short periods of time.
 - C. is used to keep a vehicle from skidding.**
17. To control a rear braking skid, you should:
- A. apply more pressure to the brake pedal and steer/counter steer.
 - B. release the brakes and accelerate
 - C. release the brakes and steer/counter steer.**
18. Which is the best way to use the brake pedal on a steep downhill grade?
- A. light, pumping action.
 - B. light steady pressure.**
 - C. repeated strong pressure, then release.
- 19.) Which of these is a good rule to follow when using a fire extinguisher?
- A. Keep as close to the fire as possible.
 - B. Stay downwind of the fire.
 - C. Aim at the base of the fire.**
20. If a vehicle is loaded with most of the weight on the steering axle, what can happen?
- A. too much traction on the steering axle.
 - B. not enough traction on the steering axle.
 - C. difficult steering.**

21. Which of these statements about handling cargo is true?

- A. Unstable loads such as hanging meat, or livestock can require extra caution on curves.
- B. Loads that consist of liquids in bulk are very stable and do not have vehicle handling problems.
- C. When liquids are hauled, the tank should always be completely filled.

22. Driving under the influence of any drug which makes you drive unsafely is:

- A. permitted if prescribed by a doctor.
- B. against the law.
- C. permitted if it is a diet pill, or cold medicine.

23. Which fires can you put out with water?

- A. tire fires
- B. gasoline fires
- C. electrical fires

24. How far should a driver look ahead of the vehicle while driving?

- A. 9-12 seconds
- B. 12-15 seconds
- C. 18-21 seconds

25. For an average driver, driving 55 mph on dry pavement, it will take about _____ to bring the vehicle to a stop.

- A. twice the length of the vehicle
- B. half the length of a football field
- C. the length of a football field

26. You are driving with a light load, traffic is moving at 35 MPH in a 55 MPH zone. The safest speed for your vehicle in this situation is most likely:

- A. 30 MPH
- B. 35 MPH
- C. 40 MPH

27. Which of these is a good rule while driving at night?

- A. Keep your speed slow enough to stop within the range of your headlights.
- B. Look directly at oncoming headlights.
- C. Keep your instrument lights bright.

28. Which of these statement about using mirrors is true?

- A. You should look into your mirrors for several seconds at a time.
- B. There are "blind spots" that your mirror can not show you.
- C. A lane change requires that you look to your mirrors twice.

29. You must park on the side of a level, straight, two-lane road. Where should you place the three reflective triangles?

- A. one within 10 feet of the rear of the vehicle, one about 100 feet to the rear and one about 200 feet to the rear.
- B. one with 10 feet of the rear of the vehicle, one about 100 feet to the rear and one 100 feet from the front of the vehicle.
- C. one about 50 feet from the rear of the vehicle, one about 100 feet from the rear of the vehicle and one about 10 feet in front of the vehicle.

30. your vehicle is in a traffic emergency and may collide with another vehicle if you do not take action. Which of these is a good rule to remember at such time?

- A. Stopping is always the safest action in a traffic emergency.
- B. Heavy vehicles can almost always turn more quickly than they can stop.
- C. Leaving the road is always more risky than hitting another vehicle.

31. The most common cause of serious vehicle skids is:

A. driving too fast for road conditions.

B. poorly adjusted brakes.

C. bad tires.

32. What should you do if your vehicle hydroplanes?

A. start stab braking

B. accelerate slightly

C. release the accelerator

33. You should avoid driving through deep puddles, or flowing water. But if you must, what will keep your brakes working?

A. gently pressing the brake pedal while driving through water

B. applying hard pressure on both the brake pedal and the accelerator after coming out of the water

C. disconnecting the steering axle brakes after coming out of the water

34. The center of gravity of a load:

A. should be kept as high as possible.

B. can make a vehicle likely to roll over on curves.

C. is only a problem if the vehicle is overloaded

35. The key principle in balancing cargo weight is to keep the load:

A. to the front.

B. to the rear.

C. centered.

36. You do not have a hazardous materials endorsement on your CDL. When can you legally haul hazardous materials?

A. never

B. only when the load does not require placards

C. only when the shipment will not cross state lines

37. Which of these statement about drinking alcohol is true?

A. Some people aren't affected by drinking.

B. A few beers have the same effect as a few shots of whiskey.

C. Coffee and fresh air can sober up a person.

38. When a vehicle is carrying a load at night, which extends four feet, or more beyond the rear of the body, there must be a ___ at the extreme end of the load.

A. 1 red light

B. 2 red lights

C. 1 red flag

39. The proper way to hold a steering wheel is at clock positions:

A. 6 and 12

B. 1 and 11

C. 3 and 9

40. You are driving a 40 foot vehicle at 45 MPH. Driving conditions are ideal (dry pavement, good visibility). The least amount of space that you should keep in front of your vehicle to be safe is the distance you travel in:

A. 3 seconds

B. 4 seconds

C. 5 seconds

41. If you are being tailgated, you should:

A. Increase the space in front of your vehicle.

B. Speed up

C. signal the tailgater when it is safe to pass you.

42. Which of these is the most important thing to remember about emergency braking?
A. Disconnecting the steering axle brakes will keep your vehicle in a straight line during emergency braking.
B. Never do it without downshifting first.
C. If the wheels are skidding, you can not control the vehicle.
43. Which of these is a good rule to follow when steering to avoid a crash?
A. Apply brakes while turning.
B. Don't turn any more than needed to clear what is in your way.
C. Avoid counter-steering.
44. How do you correct a rear wheel acceleration skid?
A. increase acceleration to the rear wheels
B. apply the brakes
C. stop accelerating and push in the clutch
45. Which of these statements about staying alert to drive is true?
A. A half hour break for coffee will do more to keep you alert than a half hour nap.
B. There are drugs that can help you overcome being tired.
C. The only thing that can cure fatigue is sleep.
46. When the roads are slippery, you should:
A. drive along side of other vehicles,
B. make turns as carefully as possible.
C. decrease the distance that you look ahead of your vehicle.
47. Which of these can help you stay alert while driving?
A. Scheduling trips during hours that you are normally asleep
B. keeping the cab warm
C. taking short breaks before you are drowsy

NOTE: The test has not changed much since it was instituted nationwide in 1992, however today, there are increasingly more questions on the test centering around “drinking while under the influence of drugs and alcohol” as well as stopping distances and penalties.

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