

CLASS A CDL PRACTICE EXAM

(Covers General Knowledge, Air Brakes, Combination Vehicles, HazMat, Safety, and Vehicle Inspection)

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: ____ / 60

Passing Score: 80% (48 Correct)

Instructions

- Choose the **ONE best answer** for each question.
 - Mark your choice clearly in the boxes provided.
 - No notes or reference material allowed during testing.
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PART 1 – Original 10 Questions

1. While driving, where should you be looking ahead of your vehicle?
 - ☐ a) Right in front of the tires
 - ☐ b) Far ahead down the road
 - ☐ c) Just beside the vehicle
 - ☐ d) At the speedometer
2. Greatest amount of steering wheel play allowed before repair is needed?
 - ☐ a) 2 inches
 - ☐ b) 10 degrees
 - ☐ c) 5 degrees
 - ☐ d) 1 inch
3. Time for a tractor-trailer to clear a double railroad track?
 - ☐ a) 4 sec
 - ☐ b) 7 sec
 - ☐ c) 10 sec
 - ☐ d) 15 sec
4. NOT a benefit of making plans when you spot a hazard?
 - ☐ a) Avoiding last-minute maneuvers

- ☐ b) Gaining time to react
 - ☐ c) Reducing stress levels
 - ☐ d) Automatically shifting to neutral
5. When hydroplaning:
- ☐ a) Apply brakes immediately
 - ☐ b) Accelerate to regain control
 - ☐ c) Ease off the accelerator & steer straight
 - ☐ d) Turn sharply with skid
6. Minimum tire tread depth for front tires:
- ☐ a) 1/32"
 - ☐ b) 2/32"
 - ☐ c) 4/32"
 - ☐ d) 10/32"
7. Proper way to test hydraulic brakes for leaks:
- ☐ a) Steady pedal pressure 5 seconds — should hold firm
 - ☐ b) Pump brakes three times
 - ☐ c) Full depress & release quickly
 - ☐ d) Let brakes cool, then retest
8. Warning device placement on one-way or divided highway:
- ☐ a) Within 10 ft rear
 - ☐ b) 100 ft behind only
 - ☐ c) 10, 100, and 200 ft behind
 - ☐ d) Only in front
9. If the vehicle rolls back when starting on a hill:
- ☐ a) Increase engine speed
 - ☐ b) Use the parking brake to prevent rollback
 - ☐ c) Use the clutch to stop
 - ☐ d) Shift to neutral
10. The most important reason for pre-trip inspection:
- ☐ a) Check fuel
 - ☐ b) Ensure the vehicle is safe to operate
 - ☐ c) Clean windshield
 - ☐ d) Estimate trip time
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PART 2 – Extended 50 Questions

General Knowledge

11. Main cause of most serious vehicle skids?

- ☐ a) Poor road conditions
- ☐ b) Driving too fast for conditions
- ☐ c) Improper brake adjustment
- ☐ d) Overloading

12. Downshift for steep downgrade:

- ☐ a) Before starting downhill
- ☐ b) Halfway down
- ☐ c) After brakes fade
- ☐ d) At the bottom

13. Through a curve, you should:

- ☐ a) Brake in curve
- ☐ b) Slow before entering
- ☐ c) Speed up
- ☐ d) Shift up

14. Max driving hours in 7/8 days:

- ☐ a) 60 hrs / 70 hrs
- ☐ b) 80 hrs / 90 hrs
- ☐ c) 70 hrs / 80 hrs
- ☐ d) 50 hrs / 60 hrs

15. Highway speeds — look ahead:

- ☐ a) 5 sec
- ☐ b) 12–15 sec
- ☐ c) 3 sec
- ☐ d) 20–25 sec

16. Two-lane road stop warnings:

- ☐ a) 10 ft front/rear
- ☐ b) 10, 100, & 200 ft toward approaching traffic in each direction
- ☐ c) 50 ft each way
- ☐ d) 100 & 200 ft behind only

17. Distance from seeing a hazard to recognizing a hazard:

- ☐ a) Braking distance
- ☐ b) Reaction distance
- ☐ c) Perception distance
- ☐ d) Stopping distance

18. Rear of trailer has which light color?

- ☐ a) Amber
- ☐ b) Red
- ☐ c) White
- ☐ d) Blue

19. Best prevention for driver drowsiness:

- ☐ a) Drink coffee constantly
- ☐ b) Get a good rest before driving
- ☐ c) Roll down the window
- ☐ d) Play loud music

20. Cargo should be inspected:

- ☐ a) First 50 miles, then every 3 hrs or 150 miles
- ☐ b) Start of trip only
- ☐ c) At fuel stops
- ☐ d) Only when shifting is suspected

Air Brakes

21. Air brake system — 3 purposes:

- ☐ a) Parking, service, trailer brakes
- ☐ b) Service, parking, emergency brakes
- ☐ c) Drum, disc, wedge brakes
- ☐ d) None

22. Drain water & oil from tanks:

- ☐ a) Weekly
- ☐ b) End of each day
- ☐ c) Monthly
- ☐ d) Only when the pressure is low

23. Governor controls:

- ☐ a) Air to chambers
- ☐ b) When the compressor pumps to the tanks
- ☐ c) Brake lights
- ☐ d) Truck speed

24. Low-air warning device:

- ☐ a) Shuts off the compressor
- ☐ b) Alerts below 60 psi
- ☐ c) Engages spring brakes at 60 psi
- ☐ d) Opens drains

25. Applied pressure gauge shows:

- ☐ a) Air used during braking
- ☐ b) Tank pressure
- ☐ c) Emergency brake pressure
- ☐ d) None

26. Excessive service brake use can cause:

- ☐ a) Proper braking

- ☐ b) Brake fade
- ☐ c) Increased stopping only
- ☐ d) Cooler brakes

27. Parking brakes are applied only when:

- ☐ a) Pressure below 20 psi
- ☐ b) Air tanks full
- ☐ c) In motion
- ☐ d) Brakes hot

28. Typical full charge pressure:

- ☐ a) 60–80 psi
- ☐ b) 100–125 psi
- ☐ c) 30–50 psi
- ☐ d) 80–90 psi

29. Air brake lag at 55 mph adds about:

- ☐ a) 10 ft
- ☐ b) 32 ft
- ☐ c) 15 ft
- ☐ d) 0 ft

30. Spring brakes held back by:

- ☐ a) Air pressure
- ☐ b) Locks
- ☐ c) Brake pedal
- ☐ d) Gravity

Combination Vehicles

31. Tractor protection valve closes & trailer brakes on when:

- ☐ a) Air pressure is too low
- ☐ b) Trailer brakes overheat
- ☐ c) Trailer overloaded
- ☐ d) Hand valve used

32. When coupling:

- ☐ a) Back until the wheel touches the kingpin
- ☐ b) Back until the lock jaws close fully around the kingpin
- ☐ c) High speed for tight connection
- ☐ d) Leave space

33. Crossing air lines when coupling:

- ☐ a) Tractor brakes fail
- ☐ b) Trailer brakes fail
- ☐ c) No effect

- ☐ d) Hand valve stops only
34. Hand valve used for:
- ☐ a) Parking only
 - ☐ b) Testing trailer brakes
 - ☐ c) Driving regularly
 - ☐ d) Emergencies only
35. Uncoupling after locking trailer brakes:
- ☐ a) Lower landing gear
 - ☐ b) Disconnect electric & air lines
 - ☐ c) Release the fifth wheel lock
 - ☐ d) Pull forward
36. Emergency air line:
- ☐ a) Supplies air to tanks & controls emergency brakes
 - ☐ b) Controls normal braking
 - ☐ c) Runs brake lights
 - ☐ d) Powers ABS only
37. Stuck on RR tracks:
- ☐ a) Stay in the cab & call for help
 - ☐ b) Run toward train, waving
 - ☐ c) Move toward the train's direction
 - ☐ d) Move away from the train's approach
38. Correct trailer height for coupling:
- ☐ a) Kingpin above slot
 - ☐ b) Trailer slightly lower than the fifth wheel center
 - ☐ c) Higher than the fifth wheel
 - ☐ d) Same height exactly
39. Inspect after connecting the trailer air:
- ☐ a) Coupler only
 - ☐ b) Air lines for leaks & brakes for operation
 - ☐ c) Tractor gauges only
 - ☐ d) Nothing until moving
40. Trailer jackknife occurs when the tires:
- ☐ a) Lose traction & slide sideways
 - ☐ b) Keep rolling forward
 - ☐ c) Lift off the ground
 - ☐ d) Straighten themselves

HazMat & Safety

41. Even without HazMat endorsement, driver must know:

- ☐ a) Securement of allowed hazardous cargo
- ☐ b) Placard distance rules only
- ☐ c) Emergency protocols only
- ☐ d) None

42. Carrying an acceptable haz load, you must:

- ☐ a) Have shipping papers within reach
- ☐ b) Lock them in the glove box
- ☐ c) Store under the seat
- ☐ d) In the trailer compartment

43. Haz shipping papers must be:

- ☐ a) On top of all other paperwork
- ☐ b) Accessible to first responders
- ☐ c) Locked away unless needed
- ☐ d) Both a & b

44. First action after a tire blowout:

- ☐ a) Brake hard
- ☐ b) Hold the wheel firmly, ease off the accelerator
- ☐ c) Swerve to shoulder
- ☐ d) Pump brakes

45. Most important emergency steering tip:

- ☐ a) Turn quickly, then counter-steer
- ☐ b) Turn as gently as possible
- ☐ c) Brake hard while turning
- ☐ d) Avoid counter-steering

46. Vehicle catches fire in motion:

- ☐ a) Stop in an open area
- ☐ b) Under the bridge
- ☐ c) Keep driving to cool
- ☐ d) Open the hood immediately

47. Cargo that shifts the most:

- ☐ a) Dry bulk
- ☐ b) Liquid in partially-filled tanks
- ☐ c) Lumber
- ☐ d) Paper rolls

48. "No-zone" refers to:

- ☐ a) Blind spots around the truck
- ☐ b) Roads closed to trucks
- ☐ c) BAC limit zone
- ☐ d) Speed restriction

49. Winter driving:

- ☐ a) Use the engine brake often
- ☐ b) Double following distance
- ☐ c) Avoid chains
- ☐ d) Reduce distance

50. Black ice is:

- ☐ a) Thick snow
- ☐ b) Thin, invisible ice on the road
- ☐ c) Wet pavement
- ☐ d) Asphalt material

Vehicle Inspection & Maintenance

51. Oil pressure should come up:

- ☐ a) Within seconds after start
- ☐ b) 5 min after start
- ☐ c) After warm-up
- ☐ d) After driving

52. NOT part of pre-trip inspection:

- ☐ a) Check fluid levels
- ☐ b) Inspect tires & rims
- ☐ c) PPE availability
- ☐ d) Check the cell battery

53. Slack adjusters should not move more than:

- ☐ a) 1 inch
- ☐ b) 2 inches
- ☐ c) ½ inch
- ☐ d) 1½ inches

54. Loose/tight steering could mean:

- ☐ a) Power steering failure
- ☐ b) Worn linkage
- ☐ c) Overinflated tires
- ☐ d) All of the above

55. The major cause of brake fires:

- ☐ a) Cold-weather braking
- ☐ b) Overuse of brakes
- ☐ c) Wet brakes
- ☐ d) Normal use

56. ABS light stays on:

- ☐ a) Must not drive until fixed

- ☐ b) ABS not working, normal brakes still function
- ☐ c) Normal
- ☐ d) Turns on manually

57. Cargo securement check:

- ☐ a) Every stop
- ☐ b) Every 3 hrs or 150 miles
- ☐ c) Only at night
- ☐ d) Once daily

58. Missing lug nut:

- ☐ a) OK if wheel is tight
- ☐ b) Unsafe – fix before driving
- ☐ c) OK on aluminum wheels
- ☐ d) Safe if near another missing

59. Damaged suspension system:

- ☐ a) Full control still
- ☐ b) Dangerous handling/tire wear risk
- ☐ c) Only affects comfort
- ☐ d) Improves stability

60. The main purpose of the inspection:

- ☐ a) DOT compliance only
- ☐ b) Find/fix safety problems before driving
- ☐ c) Make the truck clean
- ☐ d) Record mileage

ANSWER KEY – USE FOR GRADING ONLY

Part 1

1-b 2-a 3-b 4-d 5-c 6-c 7-a 8-c 9-b 10-b

Part 2

11-b 12-a 13-b 14-a 15-b 16-b 17-c 18-b 19-b 20-a
 21-b 22-b 23-b 24-b 25-a 26-b 27-b 28-b 29-b 30-a
 31-a 32-b 33-b 34-b 35-a 36-a 37-d 38-b 39-b 40-a
 41-a 42-a 43-d 44-b 45-a 46-a 47-b 48-a 49-b 50-b
 51-a 52-d 53-a 54-d 55-b 56-b 57-b 58-b 59-b 60-b