

General Knowledge Test Questions

- 1.) What is the most important reason for doing a vehicle inspection?
 - A. State law requires vehicle inspections
 - B. Safety is the most important reason to inspect your vehicle
 - C. To make sure your lights are working properly
 - D. To check for over inflated tires

- 2.) What things should you check during a trip?
 - A. Watch for pedestrians crossing
 - B. Check brake fluid level
 - C. Watch gauges for signs of trouble
 - D. Make sure your signals are working properly

- 3.) Name some key steering parts.
 - A. Tires, rims, lug nuts
 - B. Leaf springs, bellows, eye bolts
 - C. Axle, control arm, pressure plate
 - D. Spindle, tie rod, drag link

- 4.) Name a suspension system defect.
 - A. Leaking shock absorbers
 - B. Under inflated tires
 - C. Loose lug nuts
 - D. Cracked brake cylinder

- 5.) What 3 kinds of emergency equipment should you have?
 - A. Flash light, tire gauge, tire inflation foam
 - B. First aid kit, bandage gauze, pain reliever
 - C. Fire extinguisher, spare electrical fuses, warning device
 - D. Exterior hazard light, cell phone, wheel chock

- 6.) What is the minimum tread depth for front tires?
 - A. 4/32 inch
 - B. 2/32 inch
 - C. 7/16 inch
 - D. 3/8 inch

- 7.) What is the minimum tread depth for other tires?
 - A. 4/32 inch
 - B. 2/32 inch
 - C. 7/16 inch
 - D. 3/8 inch

- 8.) Name some things you should check on the front of your vehicle during the walk around inspection.
 - A. Fuel tank, engine, tires
 - B. Brakes, air lines, suspension
 - C. Signal and clearance lights, headlights
 - D. Cab area, coupling system, rims

- 9.) What should wheel bearing seal be checked for?
 - A. Tightness
 - B. Leaking
 - C. Fluid level
 - D. Safety

- 10.) How many reflective triangles should you carry?
- A. 2
 - B. 4
 - C. 1
 - D. 3
- 11.) Why should you back toward the drivers side?
- A. State law requires backing toward the drivers side
 - B. Because it takes less time
 - C. Because you can see better
 - D. So you won't have to look over your passenger
- 12.) What is a pull-up?
- A. Re-positioning of your vehicle when backing
 - B. A replacement for backing
 - C. Short forward movement to save brake wear
 - D. A Diaper
- 13.) If stopped on a hill, how can you start moving without rolling back?
- A. Place wheel chock under front wheel
 - B. Place wheel chock under rear wheel
 - C. Partly engage clutch before taking your foot off the brake
 - D. Use your parking brake
- 14.) When backing, why is it important to use a helper?
- A. To help avoid blind spots
 - B. To watch for obstacles
 - C. To free the passenger side mirror
 - D. So you will not have to do all of the work
- 15.) What's the most important hand signal that you and the helper should agree on?
- A. Pull up
 - B. Back up
 - C. Go
 - D. Stop
- 16.) What are the 2 special conditions where you should downshift?
- A. Before stopping and exiting a curve
 - B. Before starting off and driving uphill
 - C. Before entering a curve
 - D. Before exiting a curve
- 17.) When should you downshift automatic transmissions?
- A. Before starting downgrade
 - B. Before starting upgrade
 - C. Before entering curve
 - D. Before exiting curve
- 18.) Re-tarders keep you from skidding when the road is slippery. True or False?
- A. True
 - B. False
- 19.) What are the 2 ways to know when to shift?
- A. Engine sound, engine temperature
 - B. Engine speed, road speed
 - C. Eight seconds after leaving previous gear, clutch loosens
 - D. Clutch tightens, rpms' drop

- 20.) How far ahead should you look when driving?
- A. 10 - 12 seconds
 - B. 8 - 10 seconds
 - C. 12 - 15 seconds
 - D. 15 - 17 seconds
- 21.) What are the 2 main things to look for ahead?
- A. Traffic and road conditions
 - B. Vehicles and stoplights
 - C. Disabled vehicles and obstacles
 - D. Curves and potholes
- 22.) What's your most important way to see the sides and rear?
- A. Use your helper
 - B. Use your mirrors
 - C. Use you signals
 - D. Use your horn
- 23.) What does "communicating" mean in safe driving?
- A. Using cell phones
 - B. Braking often
 - C. Using your horn
 - D. Signaling your intentions
- 24.) Where should your reflectors be placed when s topped on a divided highway?
- A. 50'/50'/50'
 - B. 100'/50'/50'
 - C. 10'/100'/100'
 - D. 100'/100'/10'
- 25.) What 3 things add up to total stopping distance?
- A. Stopping distance/ reaction distance/ perception distance
 - B. Vehicle distance/ stopping distance/ reaction distance
 - C. Braking distance/ obstacle distance/ stopping distance
 - D. Perception distance/ reaction distance/ braking distance
- 26.) If you go twice as fast, your stopping distance will increase by 2 or 4 times?
- A. 2 times
 - B. 4 times
- 27.) Empty trucks have the best braking. True or False?
- A. True
 - B. False
- 28.) What is "hydroplaning"?
- A. Tires lose contact with road and have no traction
 - B. Turning steering wheel but vehicle doesn't turn
 - C. Braking but vehicle doesn't stop
 - D. Form of surfing
- 29.) What is "black ice"?
- A. Very hot slippery tar
 - B. Oil slick on the roadway
 - C. Snow on the roadway
 - D. Thin sheet of clear ice on roadway

- 30.) You should use low beams whenever you can? True or False?
A. True
B. False
- 31.) What should you do before you drive if you are drowsy?
A. Eat
B. Sleep
C. Drink coffee
D. Exercise
- 32.) What effect can wet breaks cause?
A. Slower stopping speed
B. Hydroplaning
C. Brake wear
D. Lack of braking power
- 33.) You should let air out of hot tires so the pressure goes back to normal. True or False?
A. True
B. False
- 34.) You can safely remove the radiator cap as long as the engine isn't overheated. True or False?
A. True
B. False
- 35.) What factors determine your selection of a "safe" speed when going down a long, steep downgrade?
A. Speed/ space/ distance/ perception
B. Reaction time/ distance/ speed/ vehicle size
C. Weight of vehicle/ length of grade/ steepness/ road conditions/ Weather
D. Perception/ reaction/ speed of vehicle/ stopping distance
- 36.) Why should you be in proper gear before starting down a hill?
A. So you can focus on braking
B. You may not be able to shift back into any gear and all braking effect will be lost
C. To maintain speed
D. So you will not damage the transmission
- 37.) Describe the proper braking technique when going down a long, steep downgrade.
- 38.) What is a "hazard"?
A. Any road condition or user that is a possible danger
B. Any obstacle in the roadway
C. Anything that obstructs the roadway
D. A game of chance
- 39.) Why make emergency plans when you see a hazard?
A. So you won't hurt your vehicle or anyone else
B. So you will have more time to act
C. So you won't have to make plans afterward
D. To avoid hitting something
- 40.) Stopping is not always the safest thing to do in an emergency. True or False?
A. True

B. False

- 41.) What is an advantage of going right instead of left around an obstacle?
- A. You will avoid skidding
 - B. You will avoid hydroplaning
 - C. You will avoid drivers passing on the left
 - D. You will avoid a head on collision
- 42.) What is an “escape ramp”?
- A. A highway exit in case you can’t change lanes
 - B. Any highway exit
 - C. An extra lane to pass slower traffic
 - D. An exit at the bottom of a hill to slow you down and stop
- 43.) If a tire blows out, you should put the brakes on hard to stop quickly. True or False?
- A. True
 - B. False
- 44.) What is the one thing to do at an accident scene to prevent another accident?
- A. Stop your vehicle immediately no matter which lane you are in
 - B. Stand in the middle of the lane and wave to oncoming traffic
 - C. Call you boss
 - D. Put out flares
- 45.) Name 2 causes of tire fires.
- A. Speed and excessive braking
 - B. Over inflated tires and turning sharply
 - C. Weight of vehicle and road conditions
 - D. Under inflated tires and duals that touch
- 46.) What kind of fire is a B:C extinguisher good for?
- A. Electrical, fuel
 - B. Meat, cheese
 - C. Wood, paper, cloth
 - D. Metal, rubber
- 47.) When using your extinguisher, should you get as close as possible to the fire?
- A. Yes
 - B. No
- 48.) Name a cause of vehicle fires.
- A. Flammable cargo
 - B. Sudden stopping
 - C. Overheating
 - D. Excessive road temperature
- 49.) For what 3 things related to cargo are drivers responsible?
- A. Size of cargo, where cargo is placed, unbalances cargo
 - B. Inspection of cargo, balanced weight of cargo, secured cargo

- 50.) How often while on the road must you stop to inspect your cargo?
- A. Every 3 hours or 150 miles
 - B. Every 6 hours or 300 miles
 - C. Before and after your trip
- 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
- 52.) Name a situation where legal maximum weight may not be safe?
- A. Mountain traveling
 - B. Crossing bridges
 - C. Overloading
 - D. Transporting hazardous materials
- 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
- 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
- 55.) What is the minimum number of tie downs for any flatbed load?
- A. 1
 - B. 2
 - C. 3
 - D. 4
- 56.) Name 1 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
- 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
- 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

- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 64.) Can you 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
- 65.) Can I use over-the-counter medication when operating a CMV?
- A. Yes, but only take half the 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
- 66.) Which of these statements is True?
- A. You should use your high beams from 7pm to 7am
 - B. Most drivers are more alert at night than during the day
 - C. Many accidents occur between 12am and 6am
 - D. Hazards are easier to see at night
- 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

- 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
- 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
- 70.) If your vehicle is 40 feet long and you are traveling 50 mph, what is the safe follow distance?
- A. 3 seconds
 - B. 4 seconds
 - C. 7 seconds
 - D. 5 seconds
- 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
- 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 back to the back of vehicle to flag down drivers
 - C. Stop quickly and exit the roadway if possible
 - D. Steer and counter-steer around the hazard
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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

- 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
- 78.) What type of fire will water extinguish?
- A. Tire
 - B. Gasoline
 - C. Diesel
 - D. Electrical
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 83.) Which of these conditions can produce a skid?
- A. Over steering
 - B. Over braking
 - C. Driving too fast
 - D. All of the above
- 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
- 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
- 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

- 87.) When drinking alcohol, which is affected first?
- A. Judgment and self-control
 - B. Kidney control
 - C. Coordination
 - D. Muscle control
- 88.) 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
- 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
- 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
- 91.) When your brakes are wet, it is very easy to:
- A. Hydroplane if traveling faster than 30mph
 - B. Hydroplane
 - C. Overheat your brakes
 - D. Jackknife the trailer
- 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
- 93.) The maximum speed limit for a school bus on a highway is:
- A. 50mph
 - B. 55mph
 - C. 45mph
 - D. 65mph
- 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
- 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
- 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

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

98.) About ____ of all fatal crashes involve drinking drivers.

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

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

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

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