Commercial Drivers License
Combination Vehicles Test - Practice

Introduction

This study guide contains one hundred eight commercial drivers license combination vehicles test questions and answers. These questions and answers were written by professional authors with extensive knowledge and experience in the transportation industry. This study guide was designed to help drivers pass the commercial drivers license combination vehicles endorsement exam. The questions pertained in this study guide are not the actual questions that will appear on the commercial drivers license exam. It is unlawful to distribute the actual test questions found on the commercial drivers license exam.

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Combination Vehicles – Practice Test Questions

1) What is one important thing to do to prevent a rollover?
   a) Drive slowly
   b) Enter curves with caution
   c) Keep cargo as close to ground as possible
   d) Do not accelerate in curves

2) When you turn suddenly while pulling doubles, which trailer is most likely to turn over?
   a) Front
   b) Rear

3) When should you use the trailer handbrake to straighten out a jackknifing trailer?
   a) As soon as you start to jackknife
   b) When coming out of a jackknife
   c) When coming to a sudden stop
   d) Never

4) What is "offtracking"?
   a) When the rear wheels follow a different path than the front wheels
   b) When the steering becomes confined due to tight corners
   c) When the front wheels start to slide forward from over-steering
   d) Form of gambling

5) Why should you not use the trailer hand valve while driving?
   a) Can cause you to come to a sudden stop
   b) Can make the trailer skid
   c) Can cause you to release the trailer brakes
   d) Can separate the trailers

6) What does the trailer air supply control do?
   a) Allows you to separate from the trailer
   b) Supplies air to the tractor
   c) Controls the windsheer for the trailers
   d) Supplies air to the trailer

7) What is the service line for?
   a) Supplies air to the trailer air tanks
   b) Supplies air to the footbrake and trailer handbrake
   c) Carries air controlled by the footbrake or trailer handbrake
   d) A line at the fueling station

8) What is the emergency air line for?
   a) Supplies air to the trailer air tanks
   b) Supplies air to the footbrake and trailer handbrake
   c) Carries air controlled by the footbrake or trailer handbrake
   d) A back up air tank

9) Where are shut off valves?
   a) At the front of trailers
b) At the back of the tractor  
c) Behind the rear axle  
d) At the back of trailers

10) Why should you lock the glad hands together or to a dummy coupler, when not pulling a trailer?  
   a) Keeps water and dirt out of the lines  
   b) Brake circuit becomes a secondary tank  
   c) Keeps air from escaping  
   d) All of these

11) How much space should there be between the upper and lower 5th wheel plates?  
   a) about 1/4 inch  
   b) about 1/2 inch  
   c) about 1 inch  
   d) no space at all

12) If the trailer breaks away and pulls apart the air lines, the trailer brakes would apply, and:  
   a) Tractor brakes to lock up  
   b) The trailer supply valve to stay open  
   c) The tractor brakes to keep working  
   d) The tractor to lose all air pressure

13) When hooking a trailer to a tractor, the trailer is at the right height when:  
   a) The coupling surface of the trailer is just below the middle of the tractor 5th wheel  
   b) Beginning of the kingpin is even with the top of the lower 5th wheel  
   c) Kingpin is about 2 1/4 inches above the 5th wheel  
   d) Trailer dolly wheels are fully extended

14) After hooking the trailer to the tractor, check the 5th wheel connection by:  
   a) Pulling the tractor ahead gently with the trailer brakes locked  
   b) Pulling tractor ahead sharply to release the trailer brakes  
   c) Releasing the trailer brakes and backing up  
   d) Driving to 20 mph and pulling the trailer hand valve

15) What will happen right away if the service line disconnects while you are driving?  
   a) Nothing until you try the brakes  
   b) Emergency trailer brakes will come on  
   c) Trailer's air tank will exhaust through the open line  
   d) Emergency tractor brakes will come on

16) When backing up under a trailer, you should line up:  
   a) To the left rear inside dual wheel with the left side of the trailer  
   b) Directly in front of the trailer  
   c) The right mirror along the edge of the trailer  
   d) About 15 degrees off the line of the trailer
17) When hooking a tractor to a semi trailer, after connecting both air lines and before backing under the trailer, you should:
   a) Blow your horn to warn other drivers
   b) Be sure the trailer brakes are off
   c) Supply air to the trailer system, the pull the air supply knob to lock the brakes
   d) Pull forward to test glad hand connections

18) How do you supply air to the tank on the trailer?
   a) Connect the emergency line glad hand
   b) Pull out the trailer air supply valve
   c) Push in the trailer air supply valve
   d) None of these

19) What color is the emergency air line on a combination vehicle?
   a) Red
   b) Black
   c) Blue
   d) Orange

20) When should the valve hand be used to park a combination vehicle?
   a) At loading docks
   b) Never
   c) When parking on a steep grade
   d) When parking for a short period of time

21) Air brake equipped trailers that were made before 1975:
   a) Cannot be operated on an interstate highway
   b) Usually require a glad hand converter
   c) Are easier to stop than newer trailers
   d) Usually don't have spring brakes

22) After coupling a semitrailer, how should you crank up the front trailer supports?
   a) 3 turns off the top with the crank handle secured in its bracket
   b) Fully raised with crank handle secured
   c) Raised 3/4 way with crank handle removed
   d) Raised 1/2 way with crank handle secured

23) What can happen when a driver crosses the air lines on an older trailer?
   a) The brake lights will not come on when the pedal is pressed
   b) If the trailer does not have spring brakes, you may drive but wouldn't have trailer brakes
   c) The brake pedal will work the spring brakes instead of the air brakes
   d) The hand valve will apply the tractor brakes instead of the trailer brakes

24) When the 5th wheel locking lever is not locked after the jaws close around the kingpin, what may happen?
   a) The coupling should need to be corrected before driving the coupled unit
   b) The hand valve is released and you may drive off
   c) The 5th wheel cannot be set for the correct weight distribution
   d) The trailer won't swing on the 5th wheel
25) With the brakes released and the engine off, a combination vehicle air brake system should not leak more than ____ psi in one minute.
   a) 1
   b) 2
   c) 3
   d) 4

26) What is one thing a driver can do to prevent a rollover?
   a) Keep the 5th wheel free play loose
   b) Slow down before entering a turn
   c) Keep both hands on the wheel
   d) Make sure the brakes are adjusted properly

27) After pushing in the trailer supply valve, do not move the tractor until the entire air system is:
   a) Between 50 and 60 psi
   b) Is half the maximum pressure
   c) Is above 60 psi and the warning buzzer has stopped
   d) Charging

28) After hooking a tractor to a semitrailer, what should you do before backing under it?
   a) Just back up and secure the 5th wheel to the trailer
   b) Connect the ground cable
   c) Hook up the service line and emergency line
   d) Hook up the electrical cable

29) Which part of the kingpin should the locking jaws close around?
   a) The base
   b) The shank
   c) The head
   d) The neck

30) You should test the semi trailer connection for security by:
   a) Rocking the trailer back and forth with the trailer brakes locked
   b) Putting the tractor in gear and pulling ahead with a sharp jerk
   c) Pulling gently forward in low gear against the locked trailer brakes, then looking at it carefully
   d) Asking an experienced driver or manager

31) Why should you be sure that the fifth wheel plate is greased as required?
   a) To ensure good electrical connections
   b) To prevent steering problems
   c) To reduce heat and noise
   d) To have peace of mind

32) After you supply air to the trailer, make sure the air lines are not crossed and the trailer brakes are working, by:
   a) Turning on the parking brakes from the cab
   b) Lifting the brake pedal
   c) Applying and releasing the trailer brakes and listening for sounds
   d) Pumping the brake pedal
33) What can be done to prevent a rollover?
   a) Slow down around turns  
   b) Keep the fifth wheel's free play as tight as possible  
   c) Make sure that the brakes are properly adjusted  
   d) Make sure the load is secure

34) What is one thing you should do before backing under a trailer?
   a) Make sure the trailer brakes are locked  
   b) Make sure the tractor protection valve is normal  
   c) Make sure the air brakes are off  
   d) Make sure the trailer is stable

35) The safety catch for the fifth wheel locking lever must be ____ for a coupling to be complete.
   a) Through the locking lever  
   b) Over the locking lever  
   c) Under the locking lever  
   d) Away from the locking lever

36) The front trailer supports are up and the trailer is resting on the tractor. Make sure:
   a) There is enough clearance between the tops of the tractor tires and the nose of the trailer  
   b) There is enough clearance between the tops of the tractor tires  
   c) There is enough clearance between the kingpin and the 5th wheel  
   d) There is enough clearance between the tops of the tractor tires and the nose of the trailer and there is enough clearance between the kingpin and the 5th wheel

37) You have a major leak in the service line and you put on the brakes. Service air pressure will escape and cause the:
   a) Trailer tank pressure to be lost  
   b) Trailer emergency brakes to come on  
   c) Trailer to separate from the tractor  
   d) All of these

38) When backing under a trailer, you should expect:
   a) Trailer landing gear to be fully extended  
   b) End of the kingpin to be even with the top of the 5th wheel  
   c) Trailer to be lifted slightly when the tractor backs under  
   d) The wheel chocks to be set

39) You have coupled with a semi trailer. In what position should you put the front trailer supports before driving away?
   a) Raised 1/2 way with the crank handle removed  
   b) Fully raised with the crank handle secured in its bracket  
   c) Three turns off the top with the crank handle secured in its bracket  
   d) Two turns away with the crank handle free

40) Which of these statements is true?
   a) Bobtail tractors can take longer to stop than combination vehicles loaded to the maximum gross weight.  
   b) Always delay braking a heavy vehicle until you have no other choice  
   c) Light vehicles need more braking power to stop than heavy ones
d) Heavy vehicles stop faster than light vehicles with a heavy load

41) What should the hand valve be used for?
   a) Only with the foot brake
   b) Only when the trailer is fully loaded
   c) To test the trailer brakes
   d) Never be used

42) Fully loaded rigs are 10 times more likely to roll over in a crash than empty rigs.
   a) True
   b) False

43) Cargo should be kept as high off the ground as possible.
   a) True
   b) False

44) The crack-the-whip effect is caused by rearward amplification.
   a) True
   b) False

45) Heavily loaded trailers are more likely to jackknife than lightly loaded trailers.
   a) True
   b) False

46) It takes a bobtail longer to stop than a fully loaded tractor-trailer.
   a) True
   b) False

47) If you go into a trailer skid, you should use the trailer hand brake to straighten out.
   a) True
   b) False

48) Before starting a right turn, you should swing wide to the left.
   a) True
   b) False

49) The trailer hand valve should never be used for parking.
   a) True
   b) False

50) The rear wheels of the trailer will offtrack the most.
   a) True
   b) False

51) The tractor protection valve keeps air in the tractor if the trailer breaks away.
   a) True
   b) False

52) Dummy, or dead end couplers prevent water and dirt from getting into the coupler and air lines.
   a) True
53) The 5th wheel plate could cause steering problems if not kept properly lubricated.
   a) True
   b) False

54) Always back your tractor under your trailer at an angle.
   a) True
   b) False

55) The trailer does not need to be level when the tractor is backed under it.
   a) True
   b) False

56) The tractor emergency air line should be connected to the trailer emergency glad hand.
   a) True
   b) False

57) Crossed air lines are only dangerous if you do not have a tractor emergency brake.
   a) True
   b) False

58) When properly coupled, the 5th wheel jaws should be closed around the shank of the kingpin.
   a) True
   b) False

59) There are two things a driver can do to prevent a rollover. They are, keep the weight in your vehicle as close to the floor as possible and:
   a. Make sure that the brakes are properly adjusted.
   b. Keep both hands firmly on the steering wheel.
   c. Go slow around corners.

60) A device which corrects for brake lag on vehicles with air brakes is?
   a. Quick release valve.
   b. Relay valve.
   c. Front wheel limiting valve.

61) Why should you be sure that the fifth wheel has enough grease?
   a. To prevent steering problems.
   b. To keep the brakes in place.
   c. To reduce heat and noise.

62) You are coupling a tractor to a trailer and have backed up but are not under ft. What should you hook up before backing under the trailer?
   a. The electric line.
   b. The emergency and service air lines.

63) What part of the king pin should the locking jaws close around?
   a. The shank.
   b. The head.
c. The base.

64) Why should you lock the glad hands or dummy couplers to each other when you are not towing a trailer?
   a. The air cycles back, getting cleaner each cycle.
   b. The connected brake circuit becomes a backup air tank.
   c. This will keep dirt and water out of the lines.

65) If you are towing a trailer which blocks your view to the rear, The law requires that you have mirrors:
   a. On both left and right hand outside.
   b. On the left outside only.
   c. on the right outside only.

66) Except for trucks carrying livestock, a wheel or wheels at one end of an axle shall not carry more than:
   a. 11,000 lbs.
   b. 10,500 lbs.
   c. 12,000 lbs.

67) Which of the following statements is true.
   a. The brake and suspension system of combination vehicles are most effective with a light load.
   b. Light vehicles need more braking power to stop than heavy ones.
   c. Bobtail tractors take longer to stop than fully loaded combination vehicles.

68) Using the trailer hand valve before the brake pedal to prevent tractor skids in normal driving:
   a. Should not be done.
   b. results in the least skidding.
   c. Is the best method of straight line braking.

69) Trailers made before 1975, equipped with air brakes:
   a. Often do not have spring brakes.
   b. Are heavier and safer to use.
   c. Usually need a glad hand converter.

70) When you get ready to back up under a trailer, line up:
   a. About 12 degrees off the line of the trailer.
   b. The kingpin to engage the driver's side locking jaws first.
   c. Directly in front of the trailer.

71) You have coupled a tractor to a trailer. Where should the landing gear be before driving away?
   a. One-half raised with the crank secured in its bracket.
   b. Three-quarters of the way up with the crank secured in its bracket.
   c. fully raised with the crank handle in its bracket.

72) You are driving a semi and the trailer breaks away, pulling apart the air lines. You expect the trailer brakes to come on because:
   a. the spring brakes only work when the trailer is not connected to the tractor.
b. When the trailer emergency air line comes loose, the lose of air pressure causes the spring brakes to come on.
c. When the service air line comes loose, the lose of air pressure causes the spring brakes to come on.

73) **What will happen if the service air line between the tractor and the trailer comes loose?**
   a. nothing.
   b. nothing until the service brakes are applied, then a rapid air lose will occur.
   c. the brakes will lock up as soon as the line come apart.

74) **What will happen if the emergency air line between the tractor and trailer comes apart?**
   a. The trailer brakes will not work.
   b. The tractor brakes will come on immediately.
   c. The trailer brakes will come on as soon as the air lines come apart.

75) **What should you always use when disconnecting from a trailer without spring brakes?**
   a. A helper.
   b. A set of wheel chocks.
   c. A set of dolly converter wheels.

76) **After you have coupled a tractor to a trailer, you should always do which of the following:**
   a. Make sure that the trailer brakes are working by pulling forward and pull out the trailer air supply valve to make sure that the trailer brakes come on.
   b. Make sure that the jaws have locked around the king pin, by releasing the tractor parking brake and pulling against the trailer.
   c. both of the above answers are correct.

77) **Another name for the trailer hand valve is:**
   a. Johnson bar.
   b. trolley valve.
   c. Both are correct.

78) **What is the name of the coupler at the end of the air hoses that connect between the tractor and the trailer?**
   a. Dummy couplers.
   b. Gladhands.
   c. Deadends.

79) **What is off tracking?**
   a. When the tractor is going in a straight line the trailer turns by its self.
   b. The track that the rear wheels of the tractor make in relation to the steering tires.
   c. The difference between the size of the steering tires and the trailer tires.

80) **The air line that connects the emergency air brakes system to the trailer is what color?**
   a. Yellow.
   b. Blue.
   c. Red.
81) The air line that connects the service air brake system to the trailer is what color?
   a. Blue.
   b. Red.
   c. Yellow.

82) When inspecting the glad hands before connecting them together, you would check:
   a. The rubber grommets are not split or cracked.
   b. The drive shaft to make sure that it will not be hit by the air lines while driving.
   c. The front of the glad hand to make sure that the wooden chock is in place.

83) A tractor semi trailer will always have at least __ 4/32 tread depth tires on the steering axle?
   a. 5.
   b. 2.
   c. 3.

84) What is a full trailer?
   a. A trailer that is filled to the top.
   b. A trailer that is attached directly to the powered unit.
   c. A trailer that is attached to the back of the first or second trailer behind the powered unit.

85) What is a semi trailer?
   a. A trailer that is attached to the rear of the second or third trailer behind the powered unit.
   b. A trailer that is attached directly to the powered unit.
   c. A trailer that is attached to a dolly.

86) To prevent rollovers, remember to:
   a. Keep the load centered.
   b. Go slow around turns.
   c. Both a & b are correct.

87) When traveling below 40 MPH, you should follow other vehicles:
   a. Only during the day.
   b. With a distance of one second for every ten feet of your vehicle.
   c. With a distance of one second for every 20 feet of your vehicle.

88) The easiest way to notice a trailer skid is?
   a. By feeling the pull on your steering wheel.
   b. By feeling a jerk in the back of the tractor.
   c. By seeing it in your mirrors.

89) If you start a trailer skid, you should:
   a. Step on the brake hard.
   b. Release the brake to get traction.
   c. Use the trailer hand valve.

90) The fifth wheel should be checked to see if:
   a. There is damage or missing parts.
   b. The jaws are open.
   c. Both a & b.
91) Which one of the following is controlled by the foot brake?
- a. The service brake.
- b. The emergency brake.
- c. The shut off valve.

92) Offtracking occurs when you go around corner and:
- a. The rear wheels follow a different track than the steering tires.
- b. The rear trailer goes off the road.
- c. The rear wheels follow the same path as the front tires.

93) Which one of the following statements about tractor protection valves is not true?
- a. It keeps air in the tractor in the event they trailer air leaks.
- b. It is controlled by the trailer air supply valve in the cab.
- c. When it closes it allows air to leak from the tractor lines.

94) In order to supply air to the trailer you must first:
- b. Pull out the Air supply valve.
- c. Stop the engine so you can hear the brakes release.

95) You should not back a tractor under a trailer until the whole air system is:
- a. Between 60 and 80 PSI.
- b. At normal operating pressure.
- c. Bled down to at least half the maximum pressure allowed.

96) How should you test the tractor semi trailer connection for security?
- a. Pull gently forward in low gear against the locked trailer brakes, Then get out and look at the connection carefully.
- b. Put the tractor in gear and pull ahead with a sharp jerk.
- c. Rock back and forth with the trailer brakes locked.

97) Why should you be sure that the fifth wheel plate is greased as required?
- a. To reduce heat and noise.
- b. To prevent steering problems.
- c. To ensure good electrical connections.

98) There are two things that a driver can do to prevent a roll over. They are:
- 1. Keep the cargo close to the floor as possible. And?
  - a. Make sure that the brakes are properly adjusted.
  - b. Keep the fifth wheel's free play as tight as possible.
  - c. Go slowly around corners.

99) The air leakage rate for a combination vehicle, engine off and the brakes on, should not be more than __ PSI per minute.
- a. 2
- b. 3
- c. 4

100) In normal driving, some drivers use the hand valve before applying the foot brake to prevent a jackknife. Which of these is true?
- a. It results in less skidding than using the brake pedal alone.
b. It should not be done.
c. It is the best to brake and keep the tractor and trailer in a straight line.

101) Why would you lock the tractor glad hands or dummy connectors together when you are not towing a trailer.
   a. If you didn't, you could never build up system pressure.
   b. The connected brake circuit would become a back up system for the trailer.
   c. It will keep dirt and moisture from getting in the brake lines.

102) The front trailer supports are up and the trailer is resting on the tractor. Make sure?
   a. There is enough clearance between the tractor frame and the landing gear.
   b. There is enough clearance between the tops of the tractor tires and the nose of the trailer.
   c. Both a & b.

103) The driver crosses the air lines when hooking up to an old trailer built before 1974. What might happen?
   a. If the trailer doesn't have spring brakes, you can drive away, but you will not have trailer brakes.
   b. The brake pedal will work the trailer spring brakes instead of the air brakes.
   c. The hand valve will apply the tractor brakes instead of the trailer brakes.

104) You are bob tailing and have a major air leak in the service line and you put on the brakes. Service air pressure will escape and cause the
   a. Trailer tank pressure to be lost.
   b. Trailer emergency brakes to activate.
   c. The tractor spring brakes to come on when the pressure drops below 40 PSI.

105) Air lines on a combination vehicle are often colored to keep them from getting connected wrong. The emergency line is __ and the service line is __.
   a. Red, Blue
   b. Blue, Red
   c. Black and Red

106) The hand valve should be used?
   a. To test the trailer brakes.
   b. Only when the trailer is fully loaded.
   c. Only with foot brake applied.

107) Which of these statements is true.
   a. Light vehicles need more braking power to stop than heavy ones
   b. Always delay braking a vehicle until the very last minute.
   c. Bob tail tractors can take longer to stop than a fully loaded combination vehicle.

108) The air leakage rate for a combination vehicle with engine off and brakes off is __ psi per minute.
   a. 1.
   b. 3.
   c. 2.
Combination Vehicles – Practice Test – Answers

| 1) C | 26) B | 51) A | 76) C | 101) C |
| 2) B | 27) C | 52) A | 77) C | 102) C |
| 3) D | 28) C | 53) A | 78) B | 103) A |
| 4) A | 29) B | 54) B | 79) B | 104) C |
| 5) B | 30) C | 55) A | 80) C | 105) A |
| 6) D | 31) B | 56) A | 81) A | 106) A |
| 7) C | 32) C | 57) B | 82) A | 107) C |
| 8) A | 33) A | 58) A | 83) B | 108) B |
| 9) D | 34) A | 59) C | 84) C |
| 10) A | 35) B | 60) B | 85) B |
| 11) D | 36) D | 61) A | 86) C |
| 12) C | 37) B | 62) B | 87) B |
| 13) A | 38) C | 63) A | 88) C |
| 14) A | 39) B | 64) C | 89) B |
| 15) A | 40) A | 65) A | 90) C |
| 16) B | 41) C | 66) B | 91) A |
| 17) C | 42) A | 67) C | 92) A |
| 18) C | 43) B | 68) A | 93) C |
| 19) A | 44) A | 69) A | 94) A |
| 20) B | 45) B | 70) C | 95) B |
| 21) D | 46) A | 71) C | 96) A |
| 22) B | 47) B | 72) B | 97) B |
| 23) B | 48) B | 73) B | 98) C |
| 24) A | 49) A | 74) C | 99) C |
| 25) C | 50) A | 75) B | 100) B |