



# ASE T8 Truck PM Exam Prep

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## Practice Questions

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**1. During a preventive maintenance inspection, a technician notices that the hood latch mechanism requires excessive force to operate. The FIRST action the technician should take is:**

- A. Replace the hood latch assembly.
- B. Adjust the hood alignment.
- C. Bend the latch to provide more clearance.
- D. Clean and lubricate the latch mechanism.

**2. When inspecting the truck's instrument cluster, several warning lights remain illuminated after engine start. The MOST likely cause is:**

- A. Normal self-test function.
- B. Low battery voltage.
- C. Faulty instrument cluster ground connection.
- D. Simultaneous failure of multiple systems.

**3. A driver reports that the HVAC system blows only hot air regardless of temperature setting. Technician A says to check the blend door actuator. Technician B says to check the refrigerant level. Who is right?**

- A. Neither A nor B
- B. Both A and B
- C. A only
- D. B only

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**4. According to FMCSR requirements, which of these windshield conditions would make a commercial vehicle OUT OF SERVICE?**

- A. A crack that obscures the driver's view in the area swept by the wipers.
- B. A small stone chip not in the driver's direct line of sight.
- C. Minor pitting outside the primary viewing area.
- D. Aftermarket tinting that meets state requirements.

**5. When retrieving diagnostic trouble codes using the dashboard display, the technician must:**

- A. Run the engine at idle speed.
- B. Disconnect the battery first.
- C. Reset the trip odometer.
- D. Turn the ignition to the ON position.

**6. Technician A says that hood hinges should be lubricated during every preventive maintenance inspection. Technician B says worn hood guides can cause hood misalignment and potential safety issues. Who is right?**

- A. Both A and B
- B. Neither A nor B
- C. B only
- D. A only

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**7. While inspecting a commercial truck cab, the technician notices a small crack in the passenger side mirror. According to FMCSR regulations, this condition:**

- A. Is acceptable on the passenger side only.
- B. Requires replacement of the mirror.
- C. Is acceptable if the crack is less than 2 inches long.
- D. Can be repaired with mirror adhesive.

**8. During a cab inspection, which seat belt condition would be cause for immediate replacement?**

- A. Frayed webbing
- B. Light surface soiling
- C. Slight discoloration
- D. Minor retraction hesitation



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**9. When checking the operation of the truck's horn during inspection, the technician finds it produces a weak sound. The MOST likely cause is:**

- A. Low air pressure
- B. Horn diaphragm cracked
- C. Horn relay failure
- D. Loose electrical connection

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**10. Technician A says that the windshield washer fluid level should be checked during every preventive maintenance inspection. Technician B says that windshield wiper blades should be replaced only when they fail to clear the windshield effectively. Who is right?**

- A. Both A and B
- B. Neither A nor B
- C. A only
- D. B only

**11. What is the correct procedure for inspecting the operation of dash warning lights?**

- A. Remove each bulb to test continuity with a multimeter.
- B. Turn key to ON position to verify illumination, then start engine to verify they extinguish appropriately.
- C. Check each light individually using the diagnostic mode only.
- D. Start the engine first, then check which lights remain illuminated.

**12. A truck's HVAC blower motor operates, but no air comes from the vents. The MOST likely cause is:**

- A. Clogged cabin air filter
- B. Failed blower motor
- C. Broken blower switch
- D. Low refrigerant level

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**13. During inspection, the technician notes that the cab door makes a popping sound when opening. The MOST likely cause is:**

- A. Door lock misalignment
- B. Damaged weather stripping
- C. Door panel fastener failure
- D. Worn door hinges

**14. When inspecting a truck's sun visor mechanism, the technician notices it does not stay in position. The MOST likely cause is:**

- A. Damaged mounting bracket
- B. Excessive cab vibration
- C. Worn pivot points or tension springs
- D. Incorrect installation

**15. According to FMCSR regulations, which of these items must be present and operational in the cab of a commercial vehicle?**

- A. Dash camera
- B. Fire extinguisher
- C. CB radio
- D. GPS navigation system

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**16. When inspecting the ignition switch, the technician should check for:**

- A. Excessive key play in all positions
- B. Key color fading
- C. Ignition cylinder brand markings
- D. Lock cylinder dust cap presence

**17. A driver reports that the dash gauges flicker intermittently while driving. The MOST likely cause is:**

- A. Defective alternator
- B. Low battery fluid
- C. Damaged instrument cluster
- D. Loose or corroded ground connections



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**18. During a preventive maintenance inspection, what is the proper method for checking the operation of power windows?**

- A. Operate windows halfway down only
- B. Test windows only from the master switch panel
- C. Operate each window through full range of motion from both switch locations
- D. Check fuse condition only

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**19. During a routine inspection, a technician notices blue smoke coming from the exhaust of a diesel engine. The most likely cause is:**

- A. Clogged air filter elements.
- B. Oil consumption due to worn valve guides or seals.
- C. Excessive fuel injector pressure.
- D. Coolant leaking into combustion chambers.

**20. While inspecting a serpentine belt on a heavy-duty truck engine, which condition would warrant immediate belt replacement?**

- A. Cracks that extend through multiple ribs of the belt.
- B. Minor glazing on the belt surface.
- C. Light dust accumulation on the belt edges.
- D. Slight belt deflection when pressed with moderate force.

**21. Technician A says that a properly functioning engine cooling fan clutch should engage when the engine reaches operating temperature. Technician B says the fan clutch should never engage during cold weather operation. Who is right?**

- A. B only
- B. Both A and B
- C. Neither A nor B
- D. A only

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**22. When inspecting the charge air cooler on a turbocharged diesel engine, what test would best identify internal leakage?**

- A. Measuring intake air temperature only
- B. Checking boost pressure at idle
- C. Pressure test
- D. Visual inspection with a flashlight

**23. During a preventive maintenance inspection, a technician notices excessive end play in the water pump pulley. This condition is most likely to cause:**

- A. Reduced engine oil pressure
- B. Water pump bearing noise
- C. Engine overheating at highway speeds only
- D. Increased fuel consumption

**24. When checking for exhaust leaks on a diesel engine, which area should be inspected first?**

- A. Exhaust manifold-to-cylinder head connection
- B. Tailpipe outlet
- C. DPF filter housing
- D. Muffler inlet connection

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**25. What should a technician do after discovering and documenting low engine coolant level during a preventive maintenance inspection?**

- A. Add coolant and schedule a follow-up inspection
- B. Drain and replace all coolant immediately
- C. Test the coolant concentration only
- D. Check for coolant leaks before adding coolant

**26. Technician A says that oil pressure should reach its normal operating range within 15 seconds after a cold engine start. Technician B says that normal oil pressure may decrease slightly as the engine reaches operating temperature. Who is right?**

- A. B only
- B. Neither A nor B
- C. Both A and B
- D. A only



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**27. During a PM inspection, the air filter restriction indicator shows red. After replacing the air filter, what must be done before returning the truck to service?**

- A. Check exhaust backpressure readings
- B. Reset the air filter restriction indicator
- C. Replace the turbocharger as a precaution
- D. Clean the mass airflow sensor

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**28. While reviewing driver reports before performing an inspection, the technician notes complaints of power loss when climbing hills. Which component should be inspected first?**

- A. Turbocharger
- B. Oil pressure sensor
- C. Cooling fan clutch
- D. Alternator output

**29. The proper procedure for checking engine oil level includes:**

- A. Checking immediately after shutdown while the engine is hot
- B. Running the engine at idle during the check
- C. Tilting the truck slightly toward the oil pan side
- D. Ensuring the engine is off and the truck is parked on level ground

**30. A diesel engine's crankcase ventilation system is being inspected. Which condition indicates a problem?**

- A. Clean connection between the valve cover and air cleaner
- B. Minimal moisture present in the breather assembly
- C. Excessive oil accumulation in the breather tube
- D. Slight oil film in the air intake



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## Answer Key & Explanations

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**1. D — Clean and lubricate the latch mechanism.**

When a hood latch requires excessive force to operate, the technician should first clean and lubricate the mechanism as part of routine maintenance. This often resolves stiffness issues before considering more extensive repairs or adjustments.

**2. C — Faulty instrument cluster ground connection.**

A faulty instrument cluster ground connection can cause multiple warning lights to stay illuminated after startup, as proper grounding is essential for the electrical system to function correctly.

**3. B — Both A and B**

Both technicians are correct. The blend door actuator controls airflow through the heater core and evaporator, while insufficient refrigerant would prevent cooling. Both could cause the system to blow only hot air.

**4. A — A crack that obscures the driver's view in the area swept by the wipers.**

FMCSR regulations state that any crack or discoloration that obscures the driver's view in the area swept by the wipers is an out-of-service condition, as it impairs safe operation of the vehicle.

**5. D — Turn the ignition to the ON position.**

The ignition must be in the ON position (but engine not necessarily running) to power the electronic systems needed to retrieve diagnostic codes through the dashboard display.

**6. C — B only**

Technician B is correct; worn hood guides can cause misalignment issues that could be safety concerns. Hinges require lubrication periodically but not necessarily during every PM inspection.

**7. B — Requires replacement of the mirror.**

FMCSR regulations require all mirrors to be securely mounted and free from cracks that could distort the driver's view. Any crack, regardless of size, requires mirror replacement.

**8. A — Frayed webbing**

Any fraying of seat belt webbing compromises the structural integrity of the restraint system and is cause for immediate replacement, as it could fail in a crash situation.

**9. D — Loose electrical connection**

A loose electrical connection is the most likely cause of a weak horn sound, as it reduces the current flow to the horn, resulting in diminished output.

**10. C — A only**

Technician A is correct that washer fluid should be checked during every PM inspection. Technician B is incorrect because wiper blades should be replaced based on their condition before they completely fail to function effectively.



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**11. B — Turn key to ON position to verify illumination, then start engine to verify they extinguish appropriately.**

The correct procedure is to turn the key to the ON position (before starting) to verify all warning lights illuminate during the bulb check, then start the engine to confirm they extinguish appropriately.

**12. A — Clogged cabin air filter**

A clogged cabin air filter is the most likely cause when the blower motor runs but no air flows from the vents, as it restricts airflow while still allowing the motor to operate.

**13. D — Worn door hinges**

Worn door hinges are the most likely cause of a popping sound when opening the cab door, as the wear creates movement and stress points that produce the noise.

**14. C — Worn pivot points or tension springs**

Worn pivot points or tension springs are the most likely cause when a sun visor won't stay in position, as these components provide the necessary friction and tension to hold the visor in place.

**15. B — Fire extinguisher**

FMCSR regulations require that a fire extinguisher must be present and operational in all commercial vehicles as a basic safety requirement.

**16. A — Excessive key play in all positions**

During ignition switch inspection, checking for excessive key play in all positions is critical as it indicates wear that could lead to intermittent electrical connections or even unexpected key position changes.

**17. D — Loose or corroded ground connections**

Loose or corroded ground connections are the most common cause of flickering dash gauges, as they create intermittent electrical paths that affect gauge operation.

**18. C — Operate each window through full range of motion from both switch locations**

The proper method is to operate each window through full range of motion from both switch locations (door and master panel) to verify smooth operation throughout the entire range of travel.

**19. B — Oil consumption due to worn valve guides or seals.**

Blue exhaust smoke in diesel engines typically indicates that engine oil is being burned in the combustion chamber, which can be caused by worn valve guides or seals, allowing oil to leak into the combustion area.

**20. A — Cracks that extend through multiple ribs of the belt.**

Cracks that extend through multiple ribs indicate severe belt deterioration and present a high risk of belt failure, requiring immediate replacement to prevent engine accessory failures or breakdowns.

**21. D — A only**

A properly functioning fan clutch should engage when the engine reaches operating temperature regardless of ambient conditions. In cold weather, the fan may cycle less frequently, but it should still engage when needed based on engine temperature.

**22. C — Pressure test**

A pressure test is the most effective way to identify internal leakage in a charge air cooler. This test involves pressurizing the cooler and monitoring for pressure loss, which would indicate leaks in the internal cooling passages.



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**23. B — Water pump bearing noise**

Excessive end play in the water pump pulley indicates bearing wear or damage. This typically causes noise (bearing growl or whine) during operation as the damaged bearings rotate under load.

**24. A — Exhaust manifold-to-cylinder head connection**

The exhaust manifold-to-cylinder head connection is a high-temperature, high-pressure area that commonly develops leaks first. These connections are subject to thermal cycling that can cause gaskets to fail or fasteners to loosen.

**25. D — Check for coolant leaks before adding coolant**

When low coolant is discovered, the technician should first check for leaks to determine the root cause before simply adding coolant, as this addresses the underlying problem rather than just the symptom.

**26. C — Both A and B**

Both statements are correct. Oil pressure should build quickly after startup (within 15 seconds), and it is normal for oil pressure to decrease slightly as the engine warms up and oil viscosity decreases with temperature.

**27. B — Reset the air filter restriction indicator**

After replacing an air filter, the restriction indicator must be reset to ensure it will accurately monitor the condition of the new filter. Without resetting, the indicator would provide false readings about the new filter's condition.

**28. A — Turbocharger**

The turbocharger is critical for power delivery, especially under load conditions like climbing hills. Issues with the turbocharger directly impact engine power output, making it the most logical first inspection point for the reported symptom.

**29. D — Ensuring the engine is off and the truck is parked on level ground**

The proper procedure for checking engine oil level requires the engine to be off and the vehicle on level ground to get an accurate reading. Allowing time after shutdown ensures all oil has drained back to the pan for an accurate measurement.

**30. C — Excessive oil accumulation in the breather tube**

Excessive oil accumulation in the crankcase ventilation system indicates that too much oil is being carried from the crankcase, suggesting possible internal engine issues or a clogged/damaged ventilation system that needs attention.



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