

PRACTICE EXAM 16: ASE T3 DRIVE TRAIN SIMULATION

1. A heavy-duty truck has a complaint of clutch chatter that occurs during every launch from a stop, regardless of operating temperature or load. The MOST likely cause is:

- A. Worn or collapsed cushion springs in the clutch disc assembly
- B. Air contamination in the hydraulic clutch system requiring bleeding
- C. Insufficient clutch free travel measurement at the pedal face position
- D. Pilot bearing failure from inadequate lubrication during service life

2. Technician A says that an Eaton Fuller 18-speed transmission uses a 6×3 architecture with six main gears and three range ratios. Technician B says the 18-speed uses a $4 \times 2 \times 2$ architecture with four main gears, two ranges, and two splitter ratios. Who is correct?

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

3. A driver complains of a high-pitched whine that increases with vehicle speed and is present in every forward gear. The whine disappears when the truck shifts to neutral with the engine running. The MOST likely source is:

- A. The clutch release bearing in continuous contact with pressure plate fingers
- B. The drive axle ring and pinion gear set in the carrier housing assembly

- C. The pilot bearing experiencing relative motion at the flywheel area
- D. The transmission input shaft bearing under engine torque transmission

4. The MOST important reason for using extreme-pressure (EP) gear oil in hypoid drive axles is:

- A. To reduce churning losses and improve fuel economy at highway speeds
- B. To provide cold-weather flow during low-temperature startup conditions
- C. To accommodate the higher operating temperatures of hypoid gear meshing
- D. To prevent metal-to-metal contact under high sliding pressures of the mesh

5. A heavy-duty drive axle has been rebuilt and the technician is performing the final tooth contact pattern check. After applying marking compound and rotating under load, the contact pattern appears centered on the tooth face approximately one-third from the toe end. The correct interpretation is:

- A. The pattern is too high on the tooth and requires increased pinion shim thickness
- B. The pattern is too low on the tooth and requires reduced pinion shim thickness
- C. The pattern is correct and the gear set is properly adjusted for service
- D. The pattern requires increased backlash to move contact toward the heel end

6. A driver complains that his AMT-equipped Class 8 tractor exhibits harsh shifts following a recent clutch replacement. The MOST likely cause is:

- A. Clutch actuator calibration was not performed through the OEM scan tool
- B. The new clutch friction material requires bedding in over the first 5,000 miles
- C. The wrong clutch model was installed and does not match the transmission rating
- D. Air contamination in the hydraulic clutch system requires complete bleeding

7. The MOST common cause of failure when installing a new universal joint on a driveshaft is:

- A. Using the wrong grade of chassis lubricant in the u-joint grease fitting
- B. Overtightening the u-joint strap bolts beyond manufacturer specification
- C. Installing the joint without marking driveshaft orientation before removal
- D. Misalignment of a needle bearing during cup installation causing binding

8. Technician A says that the pressure plate cover on a heavy-duty clutch can be torqued in any sequence as long as final torque values are reached. Technician B says the cover bolts must be torqued in a cross-pattern sequence to prevent distortion. Who is correct?

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

9. A heavy-duty truck has driveline vibration that worsens significantly when the truck is loaded with freight. When empty, the vibration is minimal. This load-sensitive pattern indicates:

- A. Driveshaft imbalance from accumulated debris inside the tubing assembly
- B. Universal joint balance weights that have shifted from original positions
- C. Driveline working angles that change with suspension position under load
- D. Center support bearing rubber that has hardened from age and heat exposure

10. The collapsible spacer in a heavy-duty drive axle pinion bearing assembly is designed to:

- A. Crush to a precise length under nut torque to set bearing preload
- B. Provide axial spacing between the pinion gear and rear of the carrier housing

- C. Maintain constant lubricant flow between the inner and outer pinion bearings
- D. Act as a reusable shim for adjusting pinion depth during repeated rebuilds

11. A heavy-duty Class 8 tractor with a long wheelbase has a vibration that appears at exactly 55 mph and disappears at 50 or 60 mph. The MOST likely cause is:

- A. Imbalance in the rear section of the two-piece driveshaft assembly
- B. Worn universal joint at the drive axle pinion yoke connection point
- C. Loose pinion nut on the drive axle allowing pinion shaft movement
- D. Center support bearing rubber mount producing speed-specific resonance

12. Technician A says that the differential lockout on a drive axle is engaged through an electric solenoid energized by a dash switch. Technician B says the differential lockout uses air pressure to engage a sliding clutch in the differential case. Who is correct?

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

13. A heavy-duty drive axle has a complaint of growling noise that is present in both drive and coast operating conditions, with the pitch varying with vehicle speed. The MOST likely source is:

- A. Ring and pinion drive-side tooth contact pattern problems requiring adjustment
- B. Worn synchronizer assemblies inside the transmission affecting operation
- C. Wheel bearings or side bearings that have failed and require replacement
- D. A failed pinion seal allowing oil to escape from the carrier housing assembly

14. A driver complains of a clunking noise from the rear of the truck that occurs only during torque direction changes. The truck has 380,000 miles on the original universal joints. The MOST likely cause is:

- A. Worn universal joint cross bearings allowing clearance during torque reversal
- B. Loose driveshaft strap bolts at the transmission output yoke connection
- C. Worn ring gear teeth allowing excessive backlash in the drive axle
- D. A bent driveshaft tube from previous impact damage during operation

15. The PRIMARY function of the cushion springs in a heavy-duty clutch disc is to:

- A. Absorb engine combustion pulses before they reach the transmission
- B. Maintain disc thickness as friction material wears throughout service
- C. Hold the friction facings against the splined hub during disengagement
- D. Soften initial clutch engagement by allowing controlled facing compression

16. A heavy-duty truck has been operating with the engine running rough and producing torsional pulses for an extended period. The MOST likely effect on the clutch disc over time is:

- A. Premature wear on the pressure plate springs from constant pulse loading
- B. Accelerated wear on the clutch release bearing from constant engagement
- C. Damper spring failure from continuously absorbing the engine torsional pulses
- D. Cushion spring failure from absorbing continuous engine combustion irregularities

17. The MOST important reason for marking the orientation of a driveshaft to its yokes before removal is to:

- A. Identify which u-joint should be replaced first during the rebuild procedure

- B. Preserve the factory balance relationship when the driveshaft is reinstalled
- C. Ensure the slip joint is reassembled with correct internal spline alignment
- D. Allow the technician to detect any twisting damage that occurred during operation

18. A heavy-duty drive axle is being rebuilt. The technician finds the pinion head stamped with "+4" indicating a pinion depth variation. This number means:

- A. The pinion is 0.004 inches longer than nominal, requiring 0.004 inches less shim
- B. The pinion has been used for 4,000 hours and requires immediate replacement
- C. The pinion bearing preload should be set 4 inch-pounds above standard specification
- D. The pinion gear has 4 fewer teeth than the standard production specification

19. The transmission case vent on a heavy-duty manual transmission allows the case to:

- A. Allow lubricant to circulate from the case to an external cooler unit
- B. Provide an inspection point for checking transmission fluid level
- C. Return vaporized lubricant to the case after operation cooling
- D. Equalize internal pressure as air expands and contracts with temperature

20. A heavy-duty Class 8 tractor has been operating with the inter-axle differential lockout engaged on dry highway pavement at 65 mph for an extended period. The MOST likely consequence is:

- A. Improved fuel economy from increased traction at highway speed
- B. Better steering response on long straightaways during operation
- C. Driveline binding leading to tire scrub and component damage
- D. Slight cooling effect on the drive axle lubricant temperature

21. A heavy-duty drive axle is being inspected during overhaul. The technician finds the side gear thrust washers measure 0.040 inches when the OEM specification is 0.048 inches minimum. The correct action is to:

- A. Sand the thrust washer surfaces flat and reinstall them in original positions
- B. Replace the thrust washers because they are below the minimum specification
- C. Reuse the thrust washers if they show no visible scoring or damage
- D. Install thicker washers from a different axle model to compensate for wear

22. The function of the slip joint in a driveshaft assembly is to:

- A. Accommodate axial distance changes between transmission and drive axle
- B. Multiply torque between the transmission output and drive axle pinion
- C. Provide a coupling point for the center support bearing assembly
- D. Reduce the rotational speed of the driveshaft to prevent resonance

23. The MOST common cause of premature universal joint failure on heavy-duty trucks is:

- A. Operating the vehicle at speeds above the manufacturer's rated maximum
- B. Manufacturing defects in the universal joint cross or bearing cup assemblies
- C. Use of incorrect grease formulations incompatible with the cup material used
- D. Inadequate lubrication during scheduled chassis service intervals routinely

24. A heavy-duty truck has clutch slippage that occurs only when the engine is hot. The friction facings are within wear limits and free travel is correct. The MOST likely cause is:

- A. Worn cushion springs that have lost flexibility through normal service life
- B. Air contamination in the hydraulic system worsening with operating heat

- C. Pressure plate diaphragm spring losing tension as operating temperature increases
- D. Incorrect clutch torque capacity rating for the engine application installed

25. A driver complains of a rattling noise at engine idle that disappears when the clutch pedal is depressed. The transmission is in neutral. The MOST likely cause is:

- A. The clutch release bearing has failed and is rattling against pressure plate fingers
- B. The clutch disc torsional damper springs are broken and rattling against the hub
- C. The pilot bearing has lost lubrication and is rattling at engine idle in neutral
- D. The transmission countershaft bearings are excessively worn and producing noise

26. A heavy-duty truck has a complaint of overheating localized to the differential carrier housing. The lubricant level is correct, the lubricant specification matches OEM requirements, and the brakes show no signs of dragging. The MOST likely cause is:

- A. Internal bearing preload error or ring and pinion mesh problem causing friction
- B. Excessive vehicle weight beyond gross axle weight rating during operation
- C. External heat conducted from a damaged exhaust system passing near the axle
- D. Driver operating style with frequent hard braking and aggressive acceleration

27. A heavy-duty truck has clutch slippage that occurs only during heavy acceleration on grades. The friction facings are within wear limits, free travel is correct, and no oil contamination is present. The MOST likely cause is:

- A. Driver technique issues during shifting between forward gears at speed
- B. Air contamination in the hydraulic clutch system requiring complete bleeding
- C. Pressure plate springs that have lost clamping force capacity over time
- D. Excessive clutch pedal height adjustment outside of OEM specification

28. The torque capacity rating of a heavy-duty clutch should be:

- A. Less than the engine's peak torque to allow controlled slippage under shock loads
- B. Exactly equal to the engine's peak torque output with no additional safety margin
- C. Twice the engine's peak torque output to handle all possible operating conditions
- D. Greater than the engine's peak torque output by an application-appropriate margin

29. Technician A says that wheel bearings in a heavy-duty drive axle hub can be lubricated by either oil bath or grease packing systems. Technician B says that mixing oil bath and grease lubrication in a single hub destroys both lubricants and damages the bearings. Who is correct?

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

30. A driver complains that his clutch pedal sinks slowly to the floor when held depressed at a stop light. The pedal returns to normal height when released. The MOST likely cause is:

- A. Internal master cylinder seal failure allowing fluid bypass past the piston
- B. External slave cylinder leakage onto the bell housing during operation
- C. Air trapped in the hydraulic system that has not been properly bled out
- D. Wear in the clutch master cylinder pushrod where it contacts the pedal

31. A heavy-duty drive axle has been rebuilt. During the final tooth contact pattern check, the contact appears centered on the drive side but biased high on the coast side. The MOST likely cause is:

- A. The pinion is too deep and requires reduced shim thickness behind the head

- B. The ring gear has been installed backwards on the differential case mounting
- C. The pinion depth is correct but backlash is excessive on this gear set
- D. Marking compound was applied incorrectly to the wrong surface during testing

32. The PRIMARY function of an inter-axle differential (power divider) on a tandem-axle truck is to:

- A. Provide engine braking force through hydraulic retarder mechanism action
- B. Multiply torque between the forward-rear and rear-rear drive axles
- C. Act as a final reduction stage in heavy-duty vocational truck applications
- D. Allow torque transmission to both axles while accommodating speed differences

33. A heavy-duty truck has a complaint of jumping out of fifth gear under load on grades. All other gears hold properly. The MOST efficient diagnostic action is to:

- A. Inspect the fifth-gear clutching collar, mating gear, and shift fork specifically
- B. Replace the entire transmission with a remanufactured unit to ensure reliability
- C. Check the transmission fluid level and verify it meets the OEM viscosity grade
- D. Adjust all shift detent springs to higher tension to prevent collar movement

34. The MOST important reason for using DOT 3 or DOT 4 brake fluid in heavy-duty hydraulic clutch systems is:

- A. The fluid is widely available at low cost from any auto parts store
- B. The fluid specification matches the elastomeric seal compatibility requirements
- C. The fluid provides better lubrication than other hydraulic oils available
- D. The fluid resists boiling at the high temperatures of clutch operation

35. A heavy-duty truck has a complaint of repeated wheel seal failures at the same wheel position. Three previous seals have failed within 30,000 miles each. The technician should investigate:

- A. The driver's habits regarding cornering speed and braking pattern intensity
- B. The lubricant brand and viscosity used during the previous wheel hub service
- C. The hub bore for damage or scoring that prevents proper seal seating
- D. The wheel mounting torque procedure used during recent service operations

36. A heavy-duty truck has a complaint of driveline vibration that has appeared gradually over the past few months and continues to worsen. The vibration is consistent regardless of vehicle load. The MOST likely cause is:

- A. Universal joint working angles changing due to suspension component wear
- B. Center support bearing rubber producing speed-specific resonance issues
- C. Pinion seal failure allowing oil to migrate onto the driveshaft surface
- D. Driveshaft balance weights gradually loosening and shifting from original positions

37. The MOST important diagnostic tool for AMT (automated manual transmission) service is:

- A. The OEM-approved scan tool for reading fault codes and live data
- B. A standard digital multimeter for checking electrical circuit voltages only
- C. A pneumatic tester for verifying air system pressure throughout the truck
- D. A mechanical pressure gauge for measuring hydraulic clutch system pressure

38. A heavy-duty drive axle is being inspected. The lubricant drained from the axle has a milky white appearance with normal lubricant separated underneath. This indicates:

- A. The lubricant has reached the end of its useful life from oxidation only

- B. Water contamination in the axle, likely through a failed vent or seal
- C. Normal lubricant condition for an axle approaching its service interval
- D. The wrong type of lubricant was installed during the previous service

39. A heavy-duty truck has been operating for an extended period with insufficient transmission oil. The MOST likely consequence is:

- A. Improved fuel economy from reduced internal friction losses during operation
- B. External seal leakage from increased internal case pressure during operation
- C. Rapid wear on upper bearings and gears not reached by oil splash
- D. Clutch damage from oil contamination passing through the input shaft seal

40. The PRIMARY reason that heavy-duty truck driveshafts use hollow tubing rather than solid construction is:

- A. Hollow tubing is significantly less expensive to manufacture in long lengths
- B. Hollow tubing is required by federal regulations for commercial driveline components
- C. Hollow tubing allows oil to circulate through the driveshaft for cooling purposes
- D. Hollow tubing provides similar torsional stiffness with significantly reduced weight

41. A driver complains of clutch chatter that occurs only on cold mornings during the first launch of the day. After the truck has been driven for a few minutes, the chatter does not return. The MOST likely cause is:

- A. Moisture condensation on the clutch friction surfaces that burns off during use
- B. Worn cushion springs in the clutch disc that have lost compression characteristics
- C. Heat-checked flywheel friction surface producing chatter during normal engagement
- D. Improperly torqued clutch cover bolts allowing pressure plate to flex unevenly

42. The MOST important reason for using a clutch alignment tool during heavy-duty clutch installation is to:

- A. Compress the cushion springs to allow easier pressure plate cover installation
- B. Center the clutch disc so the input shaft can pass through the hub splines
- C. Hold the pressure plate cover in alignment while the bolts are tightened
- D. Prevent damage to the pilot bearing during the clutch installation procedure

43. A heavy-duty drive axle has been rebuilt. During the final tooth contact pattern check, the contact appears low on the tooth face near the flank (bottom). This indicates:

- A. The pinion is too shallow and requires increased shim thickness behind the head
- B. Backlash is excessive and requires reduction by side bearing adjustment
- C. The pinion is too deep and requires reduced shim thickness behind the head
- D. The ring gear is installed backwards on the differential case mounting flange

44. The standard wheel hub bolt pattern for North American Class 8 drive wheels is:

- A. 8 studs on a 9.50-inch bolt circle for medium-duty applications
- B. 6 studs on a 7.25-inch bolt circle for light commercial applications
- C. 12 studs on a 13.00-inch bolt circle for severe-duty applications
- D. 10 studs on an 11.25-inch bolt circle for heavy-duty applications

45. A driver complains that his Class 8 tractor with a 13-speed transmission has range shifts that fail to complete during cold mornings. Once the truck warms up, range shifts work normally. The MOST likely cause is:

- A. Moisture in the air system freezing in the range shift valves during cold conditions

- B. Worn synchronizers in the auxiliary section requiring complete replacement
- C. Damaged shift detent springs in the range section of the transmission
- D. Low transmission oil viscosity preventing proper shift fork movement

46. Technician A says that a non-synchronized constant-mesh transmission requires the driver to double-clutch when shifting between gears. Technician B says that float shifting (shifting without clutch use) is possible on these transmissions if engine speed is correctly matched. Who is correct?

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

47. The standard procedure for measuring driveshaft runout uses a:

- A. Caliper to measure the diameter of the driveshaft tube at multiple points
- B. Straightedge laid across the driveshaft to detect surface irregularities
- C. Dial indicator positioned against the rotating driveshaft tube surface
- D. Micrometer to verify the driveshaft tubing wall thickness specification

48. The MOST important reason for replacing flywheel mounting bolts during flywheel service on modern heavy-duty engines is:

- A. The original bolts cost less to replace than the labor to inspect them
- B. The OEM warranty requires new bolts as part of the standard service procedure
- C. The original bolts may have collected debris that affects torque accuracy
- D. The bolts are torque-to-yield design and cannot be safely reused after installation

49. Which of the following describes the proper installation orientation of a clutch disc with damper springs on one side?

- A. Flat side facing the flywheel with the damper springs facing the pressure plate
- B. Either orientation works because the disc is symmetrical about its centerline
- C. Damper springs facing the flywheel with the flat side against the pressure plate
- D. Damper springs facing the bell housing with the flat side toward the engine

50. Technician A says that a heavy-duty Class 8 tractor uses a 6x4 configuration with two driven rear axles. Technician B says that a 6x2 configuration drives only one of the two rear axles, sacrificing some traction for improved fuel economy. Who is correct?

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

PRACTICE EXAM 16: ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATIONS

1. A — Worn or collapsed cushion springs in the clutch disc assembly. Cushion springs cushion initial engagement, and when worn or collapsed they no longer absorb the engagement shock — producing chatter on every launch regardless of conditions. Air contamination, free travel issues, or pilot bearing problems produce different symptom patterns.
2. C — Technician B only. The Eaton Fuller 18-speed uses a $4 \times 2 \times 2$ architecture — four main gears multiplied by two range positions and two splitter positions, producing 16 forward ratios plus two creeper gears. A 6×3 architecture would produce a different gear count and is not the 18-speed configuration.
3. B — The drive axle ring and pinion gear set in the carrier housing assembly. A whine that varies with vehicle speed and is present in every forward gear but disappears in neutral indicates the source rotates only when the driveline is transmitting torque rearward. The ring and pinion are downstream of the transmission and produce this exact pattern.
4. D — To prevent metal-to-metal contact under high sliding pressures of the mesh. Hypoid gears generate extreme contact pressures with significant face-sliding action that ordinary lubricants cannot handle. The EP additive package chemically reacts with the steel surfaces to form a protective film that prevents direct metal contact and the rapid wear that would otherwise result.
5. C — The pattern is correct and the gear set is properly adjusted for service. A contact pattern centered on the tooth face approximately one-third of the distance from the toe end is the textbook correct pattern indicating proper pinion depth and backlash. No adjustment is required when the pattern matches this specification.
6. A — Clutch actuator calibration was not performed through the OEM scan tool. AMT shift quality complaints that appear immediately after clutch replacement are nearly always calibration-related rather than mechanical. The TCM operates with engagement parameters from the worn clutch until calibration teaches it the new clutch's behavior.
7. D — Misalignment of a needle bearing during cup installation causing binding. A displaced needle bearing trapped under the cross journal causes the new u-joint to bind during operation and fail almost immediately. This is why every u-joint installation requires verification of free cross rotation by hand before returning the driveshaft to service.
8. B — Technician B only. Pressure plate cover bolts must be torqued in a cross-pattern sequence to prevent distortion of the cover. Tightening bolts in random order or sequentially around the pattern

warps the cover, which in turn distorts the pressure plate's clamping geometry and produces uneven engagement.

9. C — Driveline working angles that change with suspension position under load. Working-angle vibration is the only driveline vibration that responds to load, because changing load alters suspension position and therefore u-joint operating angles. Balance and runout problems produce vibration consistent with vehicle speed regardless of load condition.
10. A — Crush to a precise length under nut torque to set bearing preload. The collapsible spacer is engineered to deform a specific amount when the pinion nut is torqued to specification, producing exactly the right compression on the pinion bearings. Once crushed, it cannot be uncrushed — which is why it must be replaced any time the pinion nut is removed.
11. D — Center support bearing rubber mount producing speed-specific resonance. Vibration that appears at one specific speed and disappears as speed moves above or below it is the classic signature of resonance, which occurs when a deteriorated component reaches its natural frequency at a specific operating speed. The center support bearing rubber mount is the most common source of this pattern.
12. B — Technician B only. Differential lockouts on heavy-duty axles use system air pressure routed through a cab dash switch to engage a sliding clutch in the differential case. Electric solenoid actuation is not the standard method for these heavy-duty applications.
13. C — Wheel bearings or side bearings that have failed and require replacement. Growling that varies with vehicle speed and is consistent under both drive and coast conditions indicates a bearing failure (which has no drive or coast bias) rather than a gear tooth issue. Side bearings and wheel bearings both produce this pattern and must be inspected.
14. A — Worn universal joint cross bearings allowing clearance during torque reversal. Clunking that appears specifically during torque direction changes is the classic symptom of worn u-joint bearings. The clearance between the cross journals and worn cup bearings takes up audibly when the driver transitions between accelerating and coasting.
15. D — Soften initial clutch engagement by allowing controlled facing compression. Cushion springs are wavy washers between the friction facings that flex during initial clutch engagement, smoothing the application of torque. They differ from torsional damper springs (which absorb engine vibrations) and serve only the engagement-cushioning function.
16. C — Damper spring failure from continuously absorbing the engine torsional pulses. The torsional damper springs in the clutch disc hub absorb engine combustion pulses to prevent driveline rattle. Continuous exposure to abnormally severe torsional pulses (from a rough-running engine) accelerates damper spring fatigue and eventual failure.
17. B — Preserve the factory balance relationship when the driveshaft is reinstalled. A balanced driveshaft has its mass distribution matched to specific yoke orientations established at the factory.

Reinstalling the driveshaft in a rotated position destroys this balance relationship and can introduce vibration that was not present before service.

18. A — The pinion is 0.004 inches longer than nominal, requiring 0.004 inches less shim. The pinion depth variation number stamped on the pinion head represents thousandths of an inch deviation from nominal length. A "+4" pinion is longer than nominal, requiring a thinner shim to position it correctly relative to the ring gear centerline.
19. D — Equalize internal pressure as air expands and contracts with temperature. The transmission case vent allows internal pressure to equalize with atmospheric pressure as the lubricant heats up and cools down during operation. A blocked vent causes pressure buildup that forces oil out through seals and gaskets.
20. C — Driveline binding leading to tire scrub and component damage. With the lockout engaged on dry pavement at highway speed, the forward-rear and rear-rear axles cannot accommodate normal speed differences. The forced equal rotation produces severe binding that damages driveline components and causes audible tire scrub during operation.
21. B — Replace the thrust washers because they are below the minimum specification. The OEM minimum is an absolute limit — washers measuring 0.040 inches against a 0.048-inch minimum are below specification and must be replaced. Reinstalling sub-minimum washers allows side gears to shift axially during operation, producing noise and accelerated gear wear.
22. A — Accommodate axial distance changes between transmission and drive axle. As the suspension cycles, the distance between the transmission output and drive axle input changes slightly. The slip joint allows the driveshaft to lengthen and shorten through its splined connection while continuing to transmit torque through the engaged splines.
23. D — Inadequate lubrication during scheduled chassis service intervals routinely. Universal joints depend on regular grease lubrication to prevent needle bearing wear, and missed or inadequate chassis lubrication is the leading cause of premature u-joint failure across the industry. Speed and grease compatibility are minor factors in comparison.
24. C — Pressure plate diaphragm spring losing tension as operating temperature increases. Heat-related slippage that appears only when the engine is hot points to a temperature-sensitive component — most commonly a pressure plate spring that loses tension as it heats up. The reduced clamping force allows slippage under load that resolves when the system cools.
25. B — The clutch disc torsional damper springs are broken and rattling against the hub. Broken damper springs produce a rattling noise at idle that disappears when the clutch is depressed, because depressing the clutch removes torque transfer through the disc and silences the rattle source. This is the classic diagnostic signature of damper spring failure.
26. A — Internal bearing preload error or ring and pinion mesh problem causing friction. When external causes have been ruled out (correct lubricant, proper level, no brake drag), localized axle

overheating points to internal friction sources. Excessive bearing preload or incorrect gear mesh produces continuous friction that generates measurable heat in the carrier housing.

27. C — Pressure plate springs that have lost clamping force capacity over time. With facings within wear limits, free travel correct, and no oil contamination, the most likely remaining cause of load-dependent slippage is fatigued pressure plate springs that no longer maintain full clamping force. Springs lose tension over service life and produce slippage specifically when high torque is demanded.
28. D — Greater than the engine's peak torque output by an application-appropriate margin. Clutch torque capacity must always exceed the engine's peak torque, with the safety margin selected based on application — modest for highway service, larger for severe-duty vocational applications. Matching exactly leaves no margin for shock loading or component aging.
29. B — Both Technician A and Technician B. Heavy-duty drive axle hubs use either oil bath or grease lubrication depending on the design, and mixing the two systems is destructive — incompatible additive packages cause foaming, breakdown, and accelerated bearing wear. Both statements are accurate.
30. A — Internal master cylinder seal failure allowing fluid bypass past the piston. A pedal that sinks slowly to the floor under sustained pressure is the classic indicator of internal master cylinder bypass. The worn seals allow fluid to leak back past the piston into the reservoir rather than maintaining pressure to the slave cylinder.
31. C — The pinion depth is correct but backlash is excessive on this gear set. When the drive side pattern is correctly centered but the coast side rides high on the tooth, pinion depth is properly set and the issue lies in backlash being too loose. Reducing backlash through side bearing shim relocation will bring the coast side pattern down to the correct position.
32. D — Allow torque transmission to both axles while accommodating speed differences. The inter-axle differential splits driveshaft torque between the forward-rear and rear-rear axles while permitting speed differences from cornering and tire diameter variations. Without this accommodation, driveline binding would destroy components during normal operation.
33. A — Inspect the fifth-gear clutching collar, mating gear, and shift fork specifically. When jumping out occurs in only one specific gear, the cause is concentrated on the components used in that gear ratio. Replacing the entire transmission for a localized issue is wasteful and unnecessary, and adjusting all detent springs ignores the actual root cause.
34. B — The fluid specification matches the elastomeric seal compatibility requirements. The elastomeric seals in clutch master and slave cylinders are chemically formulated to resist DOT 3 or DOT 4 brake fluid specifically. Using incompatible fluids causes seal swelling, hardening, or dissolution that destroys the hydraulic system within days.

35. C — The hub bore for damage or scoring that prevents proper seal seating. When a correctly-installed seal of the correct part number repeatedly fails, the cause is typically a damaged hub bore that prevents proper sealing pressure. Continuing to install new seals without correcting the bore guarantees continued failures.
36. D — Driveshaft balance weights gradually loosening and shifting from original positions. Vibration that develops gradually over months without load sensitivity is typical of progressive imbalance — balance weights working loose, accumulated debris on the shaft, or other slow changes to the mass distribution. Working-angle issues respond to load, ruling out that cause.
37. A — The OEM-approved scan tool for reading fault codes and live data. AMT diagnosis requires the OEM scan tool to read DTCs, monitor live actuator and sensor data during operation, and perform required calibrations after service. No mechanical tool can substitute for the electronic diagnostic capability the scan tool provides.
38. B — Water contamination in the axle, likely through a failed vent or seal. Milky white appearance in drained gear oil is the classic visual indicator of water contamination — water emulsifies with the lubricant to produce the milky color, and the heavier oil separates underneath in the drain pan. The water source must be identified and corrected before refilling.
39. C — Rapid wear on upper bearings and gears not reached by oil splash. Splash lubrication systems depend on rotating gears dipping into the oil and distributing it throughout the case. An underfilled transmission cannot deliver oil to upper bearings and gears, causing rapid wear in those components from inadequate lubrication.
40. D — Hollow tubing provides similar torsional stiffness with significantly reduced weight. A hollow steel tube of appropriate diameter has approximately the same torsional stiffness as a solid shaft but weighs significantly less and offers better critical-speed characteristics. This combination of properties is the engineering reason for the universal use of hollow tubing in truck driveshafts.
41. A — Moisture condensation on the clutch friction surfaces that burns off during use. Cold-morning chatter that disappears after a few minutes of operation is the classic cold-condensation symptom — overnight temperature changes condense moisture on the clutch surfaces, producing chatter until the heat of operation evaporates the moisture. The symptom does not return because the surfaces stay warm during the day.
42. B — Center the clutch disc so the input shaft can pass through the hub splines. The alignment tool keeps the disc centered relative to the pilot bearing while the cover bolts are torqued, ensuring the input shaft can pass cleanly through the disc hub when the transmission is reinstalled. Without proper alignment, the input shaft cannot mate to the disc and the splines suffer immediate damage.
43. C — The pinion is too deep and requires reduced shim thickness behind the head. Contact biased low on the pinion teeth (near the flank) indicates the pinion is positioned too deep into the ring

gear. Reducing pinion shim thickness pulls the pinion away from the ring gear, shifting the contact pattern up toward the center of the tooth face.

44. D — 10 studs on an 11.25-inch bolt circle for heavy-duty applications. The 10-on-11.25 pattern is the dominant standard for North American Class 8 drive wheels and applies to virtually all heavy-duty applications. Knowing the standard helps a technician verify wheel-to-hub compatibility during service.
45. A — Moisture in the air system freezing in the range shift valves during cold conditions. Cold-weather-only air shift problems are the classic symptom of moisture contamination — water in the air system freezes during cold conditions, blocking the small passages in shift valves and slowing or preventing range shift completion. The symptom resolves once temperatures rise enough to thaw the ice.
46. B — Both Technician A and Technician B. Non-synchronized constant-mesh transmissions traditionally require double-clutching during shifts, but skilled drivers can also perform float shifting without using the clutch by matching engine speed through throttle modulation alone. Both techniques are valid for these transmissions.
47. C — Dial indicator positioned against the rotating driveshaft tube surface. Driveshaft runout is measured by mounting a dial indicator on the chassis with its tip against the driveshaft tube while the shaft is rotated slowly. The indicator displacement reads the runout value, which is compared to OEM specification to determine if the shaft requires replacement.
48. D — The bolts are torque-to-yield design and cannot be safely reused after installation. Modern heavy-duty diesel engine flywheel mounting bolts are torque-to-yield design, engineered to be installed once, stretched to a specific yield point, and replaced at any future service. Reusing these bolts can cause flywheel separation at highway speeds — a catastrophic failure mode.
49. A — Flat side facing the flywheel with the damper springs facing the pressure plate. Heavy-duty clutch discs are directional and must be installed with the flat side against the flywheel and the damper spring side facing the pressure plate. Reversing the orientation places the damper springs against the flywheel, which causes immediate interference and clutch failure.
50. B — Both Technician A and Technician B. A 6x4 configuration uses six total wheel positions with both rear axles powered, making it the standard linehaul Class 8 configuration. The 6x2 configuration powers only one of the two rear axles, sacrificing some traction for improved fuel economy and reduced tire wear — both statements are accurate.