

California DMV Driving Instructor License Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. In California, what must students complete before taking the driving test?**
 - A. A minimum number of behind-the-wheel training hours**
 - B. A theoretical exam**
 - C. A medical evaluation**
 - D. A written test about road signs only**
- 2. When is it legal to pass another vehicle on the right?**
 - A. When the vehicle is making a left turn**
 - B. When on a one-way street with multiple lanes**
 - C. In any situation as long as the driver signals**
 - D. Only when traffic is stopped**
- 3. With respect to turns, what is true about a car's rear wheels?**
 - A. They have a longer turning radius than the front wheels**
 - B. They have a smaller turning radius than the front wheels**
 - C. They do not contribute to the car's turning**
 - D. They turn at the same radius as the front wheels**
- 4. Is it permissible for instructors to conduct lessons without a learner's permit being valid?**
 - A. Yes, under certain circumstances**
 - B. No, it is not permissible**
 - C. Only if the student shows good driving skills**
 - D. Yes, if the lesson is a review**
- 5. When merging onto a freeway or expressway, what is the key factor to consider?**
 - A. Choose a gap in traffic**
 - B. Merge at a slower speed than the vehicles on the roadway**
 - C. Wait for a signal from other drivers**
 - D. Merge without checking mirrors**

- 6. True or false: A person whose driver's license has been canceled can immediately reapply for a new license.**
- A. True**
 - B. False**
 - C. Depends on the reason for cancellation**
 - D. Only after a year**
- 7. What is the hardest and most hazardous turnabout method according to driving regulations?**
- A. U-turn**
 - B. Box turn**
 - C. Three point turn**
 - D. Spin turn**
- 8. What equipment is required on instructional vehicles owned by licensed driving schools?**
- A. Only a seatbelt for the driver**
 - B. No specific equipment is needed**
 - C. Brakes for the instructor and seatbelts for all passengers**
 - D. Emergency lights and horns**
- 9. What should a driver do when approaching a flashing yellow signal?**
- A. Stop immediately**
 - B. Proceed through the signal with caution**
 - C. Accelerate through the signal**
 - D. Signal a right turn**
- 10. Which of the following actions can help prevent a skid while driving?**
- A. Braking suddenly**
 - B. Maintaining a steady speed**
 - C. Disregarding road conditions**
 - D. Accelerating quickly**

Answers

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1. A
2. A
3. B
4. B
5. A
6. A
7. C
8. C
9. B
10. B

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Explanations

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1. In California, what must students complete before taking the driving test?

- A. A minimum number of behind-the-wheel training hours**
- B. A theoretical exam**
- C. A medical evaluation**
- D. A written test about road signs only**

In California, students must complete a minimum number of behind-the-wheel training hours before they are eligible to take the driving test. This requirement ensures that the student has gained practical experience driving a vehicle under the supervision of a qualified instructor, which is crucial for developing safe driving habits and skills. These training hours provide the student with the opportunity to learn how to operate a vehicle, understand traffic laws, and demonstrate control in various driving conditions, all essential for passing the driving test. The other options do not align with the requirements for taking the driving test in California. A theoretical exam may refer to knowledge checks but is not a specific prerequisite for the driving test. A medical evaluation is not typically mandated for all students, and while a written test about road signs can be part of the learning process, it's the behind-the-wheel training that is critical for test eligibility.

2. When is it legal to pass another vehicle on the right?

- A. When the vehicle is making a left turn**
- B. When on a one-way street with multiple lanes**
- C. In any situation as long as the driver signals**
- D. Only when traffic is stopped**

Passing another vehicle on the right is legal in California under specific circumstances, and one of those situations is when the vehicle you are passing is making a left turn. This is because the vehicle is signaling its intention to turn left and is moving out of the direct lane of travel, allowing you to navigate around it on the right safely. In the context of the other options, while passing on a one-way street with multiple lanes is also a legal circumstance for passing on the right, it is not the only situation allowed. Therefore, option A captures a common scenario where this maneuver is explicitly permitted, reinforcing safe driving practices. In contrast, passing in any situation solely based on signaling or only when traffic is stopped does not align with California traffic laws. These restrictions ensure that drivers don't make unsafe maneuvers that could lead to accidents or traffic violations. Understanding these laws helps ensure safety on the road and adherence to legal driving standards.

3. With respect to turns, what is true about a car's rear wheels?
- A. They have a longer turning radius than the front wheels
 - B. They have a smaller turning radius than the front wheels**
 - C. They do not contribute to the car's turning
 - D. They turn at the same radius as the front wheels

The correct choice highlights that a car's rear wheels have a smaller turning radius than the front wheels. This is due to the design and mechanics of vehicle turning. When a vehicle makes a turn, the front wheels lead the direction of the turn, pivoting around a point that is located near the front axle. The rear wheels, on the other hand, follow a curved path that is adjusted based on the angle of the front wheels. Since the rear wheels are positioned further back from the front, they effectively travel along a different radius, which is narrower than that of the front wheels. This characteristic is particularly important in maneuvering, as it allows the car to navigate tighter spaces and make sharper turns than if all wheels were constrained to the same radius. As for the other statements, the first suggests that the rear wheels have a longer turning radius, which contradicts the fundamental mechanics of turning. The third statement implies that the rear wheels play no role in the vehicle's turning, which is incorrect since they do follow the turn but at a different radius. The last statement claims that the rear wheels turn at the same radius as the front wheels, which is also inaccurate for the reasons explained above. Understanding this aspect of vehicle dynamics is crucial for driving instructors

4. Is it permissible for instructors to conduct lessons without a learner's permit being valid?
- A. Yes, under certain circumstances
 - B. No, it is not permissible**
 - C. Only if the student shows good driving skills
 - D. Yes, if the lesson is a review

In California, it is essential for a driving instructor to ensure that the learner possesses a valid learner's permit before conducting driving lessons. This requirement is in place to ensure the safety of both the student and other road users. A valid learner's permit signifies that the student has passed the written portion of the driver's examination and is legally allowed to practice driving under the supervision of a licensed instructor. By enforcing the rule that lessons cannot occur without a valid permit, the DMV emphasizes the importance of compliance with traffic laws and the regulatory framework designed to protect everyone on the road. This approach upholds the integrity of the driving education process, helps to instill responsible driving habits in new drivers, and reinforces the understanding of legal driving privileges.

5. When merging onto a freeway or expressway, what is the key factor to consider?

A. Choose a gap in traffic

B. Merge at a slower speed than the vehicles on the roadway

C. Wait for a signal from other drivers

D. Merge without checking mirrors

Choosing a gap in traffic is the key factor to consider when merging onto a freeway or expressway because it ensures that you can enter the flow of traffic safely and smoothly. When merging, it is crucial to identify a space between vehicles that provides enough room for you to accelerate and align your speed with the existing traffic. This not only helps in preventing collisions but also contributes to the overall efficiency of traffic movement. Merging at a slower speed than other vehicles can lead to dangerous situations, as it increases the likelihood of being struck by vehicles that are traveling at higher speeds. Additionally, waiting for a signal from other drivers may not always be practical or reliable, since many drivers might not indicate their intentions clearly. Finally, merging without checking mirrors poses a significant risk, as it prevents you from being aware of your surroundings and the positions of other vehicles, potentially leading to unsafe merging situations. Thus, actively seeking a gap is essential for a safe merge.

6. True or false: A person whose driver's license has been canceled can immediately reapply for a new license.

A. True

B. False

C. Depends on the reason for cancellation

D. Only after a year

A driver's license that has been canceled cannot be immediately reinstated or reapplied for without first addressing the underlying issues that led to the cancellation. Typically, this means that the person must wait until they have fulfilled any requirements set by the California DMV related to their cancellation. For example, if the cancellation was due to a failure to appear in court, the individual generally needs to resolve those legal issues before being eligible to apply for a new license. Similarly, if the cancellation was for safety reasons, such as accumulated points on their driving record or violations that posed a risk to public safety, there may be specific criteria that must be met. Hence, saying that someone can immediately reapply does not accurately reflect the process governed by the DMV. The ability to reapply depends on addressing the specific reasons for cancellation and fulfilling any conditions that the DMV has set forth. This can vary widely based on individual circumstances.

7. What is the hardest and most hazardous turnabout method according to driving regulations?

- A. U-turn**
- B. Box turn**
- C. Three point turn**
- D. Spin turn**

The three-point turn is considered the hardest and most hazardous turnabout method because it requires the driver to make a series of maneuvers that can put them in a dangerous position on the road. This method typically involves stopping in one lane of traffic, turning the vehicle sharply to one side, backing up across the road, and finally moving forward again into the desired lane. As the driver performs these movements, they must continuously check for oncoming traffic and pedestrians, which increases the complexity and risk involved. In addition, the three-point turn often requires the vehicle to be positioned in the roadway longer than other methods, which can lead to potential accidents or near-misses if the driver misjudges the approach of other vehicles. This makes it essential for learners to exercise caution and precision when executing this maneuver. Understanding the challenges associated with a three-point turn helps future drivers recognize the importance of clear surroundings, proper signaling, and safe execution of turns in various traffic conditions.

8. What equipment is required on instructional vehicles owned by licensed driving schools?

- A. Only a seatbelt for the driver**
- B. No specific equipment is needed**
- C. Brakes for the instructor and seatbelts for all passengers**
- D. Emergency lights and horns**

The requirement for instructional vehicles owned by licensed driving schools in California includes having brakes for the instructor and seatbelts for all passengers. This setup is crucial for ensuring the safety of everyone in the vehicle during driver training sessions. Having dual brakes allows the instructor to intervene and take control of the vehicle if the student driver makes a mistake or if there is a potential hazard. This feature is essential for providing a safe learning environment, as it provides an additional layer of safety that can prevent accidents. Additionally, requiring seatbelts for all passengers ensures that everyone is safely restrained, which is not only a legal requirement but also a fundamental aspect of vehicle safety. Seatbelts help reduce the risk of injury in the event of an accident. In contrast, the other choices either lack necessary safety features or do not align with the regulations set forth by the California DMV for driving schools. Proper safety equipment is vital in driving instruction to promote safe driving habits and protect all individuals involved in the learning process.

9. What should a driver do when approaching a flashing yellow signal?

- A. Stop immediately**
- B. Proceed through the signal with caution**
- C. Accelerate through the signal**
- D. Signal a right turn**

When approaching a flashing yellow signal, the appropriate action is to proceed through the signal with caution. This traffic signal indicates that the driver should slow down and be prepared to yield to any pedestrians, cyclists, or other vehicles that may be crossing or occupying the intersection. The flashing yellow light serves as a warning to drivers to be alert and to ensure it is safe to continue rather than stopping abruptly. Stopping immediately could cause confusion for other drivers and may even lead to rear-end collisions, as other vehicles may not expect the sudden halt at an intersection with a flashing yellow. Accelerating through the signal is unsafe, as it compromises the driver's ability to react to potential hazards. Signaling a right turn is not relevant in this context, as the driver is already navigating the signal and should focus on safely proceeding or yielding as necessary. Thus, proceeding through the signal with caution is the safest and most appropriate response.

10. Which of the following actions can help prevent a skid while driving?

- A. Braking suddenly**
- B. Maintaining a steady speed**
- C. Disregarding road conditions**
- D. Accelerating quickly**

Maintaining a steady speed while driving is crucial for preventing skids. When you keep a consistent speed, especially in adverse conditions such as rain or snow, you maintain better control of your vehicle. Sudden changes in speed, such as abrupt braking or rapid acceleration, can shift the vehicle's weight and cause loss of traction, which increases the likelihood of skidding. Driving with a steady speed allows the tires to maintain contact with the road surface more effectively, reducing the chances of hydroplaning on wet surfaces or sliding on ice. This practice is particularly important when navigating curves or slippery intersections, where maintaining control is essential for safe driving. By focusing on a balanced speed, drivers can react more calmly to any unexpected situations, enhancing overall road safety.