

California DMV Driving Instructor License Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. 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**
- 2. Which type of insurance covers damage to your car caused by something other than a collision?**
 - A. Liability insurance**
 - B. Comprehensive insurance**
 - C. Collision insurance**
 - D. Personal injury protection**
- 3. What does an oil pressure gauge indicate?**
 - A. The temperature of the engine**
 - B. The pressure of oil being pumped throughout the engine**
 - C. The amount of fuel in the tank**
 - D. The status of the transmission**
- 4. If the right rear tire blows out while you're traveling on the freeway, you should:**
 - A. Immediately brake hard**
 - B. Maintain directional control without braking**
 - C. Pull over to the shoulder**
 - D. Drive off the road**
- 5. What should you do before starting a car?**
 - A. Check the fuel level**
 - B. Visually check your tire pressure**
 - C. Activate the windshield wipers**
 - D. Check the air conditioning system**

- 6. How should instructors handle aggressive or disruptive behavior during lessons?**
- A. Ignore the behavior and continue with the lesson**
 - B. Remain calm and defer to policies regarding conduct**
 - C. Scold the student for their behavior**
 - D. End the lesson immediately**
- 7. When can a Driving Instructor legally allow a student to drive without supervision?**
- A. When they have completed their classroom instruction**
 - B. When they possess a valid driver's license**
 - C. When the instructor feels confident in the student's ability**
 - D. Only during practical exams**
- 8. What should you do if you experience brake failure while driving?**
- A. Downshift to low gear**
 - B. Pump the brake pedal fast and hard**
 - C. Apply the parking brake while being ready to release it if the car begins to skid**
 - D. All of the above**
- 9. What must drivers do for their seatbelts before driving?**
- A. Leave them unfastened**
 - B. Fasten the seatbelts**
 - C. Check for malfunction**
 - D. Adjust for comfort**
- 10. What is the primary purpose of a seatbelt?**
- A. To minimize airbag deployment**
 - B. To keep passengers comfortable**
 - C. To prevent ejection from the vehicle during a crash**
 - D. To help passengers stay awake**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

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Explanations

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1. 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.

2. Which type of insurance covers damage to your car caused by something other than a collision?

- A. Liability insurance**
- B. Comprehensive insurance**
- C. Collision insurance**
- D. Personal injury protection**

Comprehensive insurance is specifically designed to cover damage to your vehicle that occurs from non-collision-related incidents. This can include a variety of situations such as theft, vandalism, natural disasters (like floods or hurricanes), falling objects, and hitting an animal. The distinguishing feature of comprehensive insurance is its broad coverage, which extends beyond the risks associated with driving, unlike collision insurance which only covers damage resulting from a vehicle crash with another car or object. Understanding this type of insurance is crucial because it provides financial protection and peace of mind against a range of potential damages that could happen to your vehicle outside of an accident scenario. This is particularly essential in states like California, where diverse weather conditions and a large number of unique risks can pose threats to parked and stationary vehicles.

3. What does an oil pressure gauge indicate?

- A. The temperature of the engine
- B. The pressure of oil being pumped throughout the engine**
- C. The amount of fuel in the tank
- D. The status of the transmission

The oil pressure gauge is an important instrument on the vehicle's dashboard that provides critical information about the health and functionality of the engine's lubrication system. Specifically, it indicates the pressure of oil being pumped throughout the engine. Oil is vital for lubricating various moving parts, reducing friction, and helping to prevent overheating. The oil pressure within the engine should remain within a specified range; a gauge reading that is too low may suggest issues such as insufficient oil levels, a leak, or problems with the oil pump. Conversely, a reading that is too high could indicate that there is an obstruction in the oil passages. Understanding the oil pressure is essential for maintaining engine performance and longevity. If the pressure is outside the normal range, immediate attention is warranted to prevent potential engine damage. This makes the oil pressure gauge an essential tool for drivers and mechanics alike, enabling proactive maintenance of the vehicle.

4. If the right rear tire blows out while you're traveling on the freeway, you should:

- A. Immediately brake hard
- B. Maintain directional control without braking**
- C. Pull over to the shoulder
- D. Drive off the road

When a tire blows out while driving, particularly at high speeds on the freeway, the most crucial action is to maintain control of the vehicle. A blowout causes a sudden loss of pressure in the tire, which can affect the handling and stability of the vehicle. Instead of immediately braking hard, which could lead to a loss of control or a dangerous spin, it's important to steer calmly and maintain your lane. By maintaining directional control without braking, you can better manage the situation and keep the vehicle stable until you have the opportunity to slow down safely. This approach allows the driver to navigate the vehicle to a safe stopping point without overreacting, which could lead to further complications or accidents. Once control is maintained and the vehicle is stable, the driver can find a safe place to pull over to the shoulder and assess the situation. This method significantly reduces the risk of losing control, making it the best response to a tire blowout while driving on a freeway.

5. What should you do before starting a car?

- A. Check the fuel level
- B. Visually check your tire pressure**
- C. Activate the windshield wipers
- D. Check the air conditioning system

Before starting a car, visually checking your tire pressure is an important step in ensuring your safety and the vehicle's performance. Proper tire pressure is crucial for maintaining good traction, effective braking, and overall vehicle stability. If the tires are under-inflated, it can lead to poor handling, increased wear on the tires, and higher fuel consumption. Additionally, tires that are not properly inflated can increase the likelihood of tire blowouts, which can be dangerous while driving. Checking tire pressure visually can include looking for obvious signs of deflation or wear, though it's also recommended to use a pressure gauge periodically to get an accurate reading. This step is foundational to safe driving practices and should be part of a regular inspection routine. The other options, while they may pertain to vehicle maintenance or readiness, do not address the immediate concerns related to starting the car and ensuring it is safe to operate. Checking fuel level can be important but is more about ensuring you have enough gas for the trip rather than a safety issue. Activating the windshield wipers and checking the air conditioning system are more operational checks that do not precede the start of the vehicle and are not critical to the safety of driving immediately.

6. How should instructors handle aggressive or disruptive behavior during lessons?

- A. Ignore the behavior and continue with the lesson
- B. Remain calm and defer to policies regarding conduct**
- C. Scold the student for their behavior
- D. End the lesson immediately

Remaining calm and deferring to policies regarding conduct is essential when handling aggressive or disruptive behavior during lessons. This approach emphasizes the importance of maintaining a professional environment and demonstrates to the student that there is a standard of behavior that must be adhered to. It allows the instructor to address the situation in a composed manner, which can help de-escalate tension and guide the student toward more appropriate behavior. By referring to established policies, the instructor can provide clear expectations and consequences for disruptive behavior, reinforcing the importance of respectful interaction. This method not only addresses the immediate concern but also teaches the student about accountability and the importance of following rules in a learning environment. In contrast, ignoring the behavior fails to address the issue, potentially allowing the disruption to escalate. Scolding the student might provoke further aggression and create a negative atmosphere, while ending the lesson abruptly could prevent necessary learning opportunities and does not address the underlying behavior.

- 7. When can a Driving Instructor legally allow a student to drive without supervision?**
- A. When they have completed their classroom instruction**
 - B. When they possess a valid driver's license**
 - C. When the instructor feels confident in the student's ability**
 - D. Only during practical exams**

A driving instructor can legally allow a student to drive without supervision only when the student possesses a valid driver's license. This requirement is crucial because the law mandates that any individual operating a vehicle must hold a valid license to ensure that they have met necessary criteria for safe driving. Classroom instruction completion does not suffice, as no practical driving experience has been provided at that point; similarly, an instructor's confidence in a student's ability does not equate to legal permissions. Finally, while practical exams may allow for some form of assessment, they typically are conducted under the supervision of an examiner, and a student is not considered fully licensed until they have passed such assessments and obtained the official documentation. Therefore, having a valid driver's license is the key legal criterion for driving without supervision.

- 8. What should you do if you experience brake failure while driving?**
- A. Downshift to low gear**
 - B. Pump the brake pedal fast and hard**
 - C. Apply the parking brake while being ready to release it if the car begins to skid**
 - D. All of the above**

In the event of brake failure, it is crucial to take immediate and effective action to safely bring the vehicle to a stop. Each method listed plays a vital role in this situation. Initially downshifting to low gear can help to reduce the speed of the vehicle, utilizing the engine's resistance to slow you down. This technique can be very effective if it is executed correctly, allowing for smoother control while reducing the likelihood of losing control of the vehicle. Pumping the brake pedal fast and hard can sometimes restore brake pressure, especially in vehicles with hydraulic brakes. This action can be effective if there is a minor issue with the braking system rather than complete failure. It might help build up pressure temporarily, allowing for braking to occur. Applying the parking brake is another vital step. It's important to do this gradually to prevent the back wheels from locking up, which might cause the car to skid. Being prepared to release the parking brake immediately if a skid begins is essential for maintaining control over the vehicle. By combining all these steps, you create a comprehensive strategy for managing brake failure. Each step complements the others, allowing the driver to maximize their chances of bringing the vehicle to a safe stop while minimizing the risk of further loss of control. Therefore, recognizing

9. What must drivers do for their seatbelts before driving?

- A. Leave them unfastened
- B. Fasten the seatbelts**
- C. Check for malfunction
- D. Adjust for comfort

Fastening the seatbelt before driving is a crucial safety measure mandated by law as it significantly enhances passenger safety in the event of an accident. Seatbelts are designed to keep occupants securely in their seats, reducing the risk of ejection and minimizing injury by distributing the force of a collision across the stronger parts of the body. By ensuring that seatbelts are fastened, drivers take an essential step in protecting themselves and their passengers, promoting a safer driving environment. While checking for malfunctions and adjusting for comfort are important, the primary requirement before starting to drive is to have the seatbelts securely fastened, aligning with legal regulations and safety best practices.

10. What is the primary purpose of a seatbelt?

- A. To minimize airbag deployment
- B. To keep passengers comfortable
- C. To prevent ejection from the vehicle during a crash**
- D. To help passengers stay awake

The primary purpose of a seatbelt is to prevent ejection from the vehicle during a crash. Seatbelts are designed to secure the occupant in their seat, significantly reducing the risk of being thrown from the vehicle in the event of a collision. This is important because ejection from a vehicle is one of the most dangerous outcomes in a crash, often leading to severe injury or death. By keeping occupants securely in place, seatbelts help to ensure that they remain within the protective structure of the vehicle, which can be critical during an accident. This function contributes significantly to overall vehicle safety and has been shown by studies to reduce the likelihood of fatal injuries in crashes.