

California Traffic School Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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SAMPLE

Questions

SAMPLE

- 1. What is the required action when confronted with a stop sign?**
 - A. Slow down but do not stop**
 - B. Stop only if other vehicles are present**
 - C. Come to a complete stop**
 - D. Speed through if you're late**
- 2. What does a no-passing zone sign indicate?**
 - A. Do not enter**
 - B. Do not pass other vehicles in that area**
 - C. Prepare to stop**
 - D. Yield to oncoming traffic**
- 3. At an uncontrolled four-way stop, who has the right-of-way when multiple vehicles arrive simultaneously?**
 - A. The driver to the left**
 - B. The pedestrian**
 - C. The driver to the right**
 - D. The largest vehicle**
- 4. What is the best action to take if an aggressive driver is following you on the freeway?**
 - A. Speed up and try to lose them**
 - B. Weave between lanes to break their focus**
 - C. Get off at the next exit and proceed to a safe location**
 - D. Confront them at the next red light**
- 5. What does a diamond-shaped traffic sign represent?**
 - A. It indicates speed limits**
 - B. It warns of potential hazards or special conditions**
 - C. It designates pedestrian crossings**
 - D. It signals a no parking area**

- 6. What is considered a safe following distance behind another vehicle?**
- A. At least one second.**
 - B. At least two seconds.**
 - C. At least three seconds.**
 - D. At least five seconds.**
- 7. What is the leading cause of death among people ages 15-30 in the United States?**
- A. Accidental overdoses**
 - B. Motor vehicle incidents**
 - C. Suicides**
 - D. Homicides**
- 8. What is the minimum required insurance coverage for a driver in California?**
- A. \$10,000 for injury/death for one person, \$20,000 for multiple people, \$5,000 for property damage.**
 - B. \$15,000 for injury/death for one person, \$30,000 for injury/death for multiple people, \$5,000 for property damage.**
 - C. \$20,000 for injury/death for one person, \$40,000 for multiple people, \$10,000 for property damage.**
 - D. \$15,000 for injury/death for one person, \$15,000 for injury/death for multiple people, \$2,000 for property damage.**
- 9. What is the speed limit in residential zones unless posted otherwise?**
- A. 30 mph**
 - B. 20 mph**
 - C. 25 mph**
 - D. 15 mph**
- 10. What should you do when you see a school bus with flashing red lights?**
- A. Pass the bus at a safe speed**
 - B. Stop and wait until the lights stop flashing**
 - C. Only stop if children are present**
 - D. Proceed with caution without stopping**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the required action when confronted with a stop sign?

- A. Slow down but do not stop**
- B. Stop only if other vehicles are present**
- C. Come to a complete stop**
- D. Speed through if you're late**

When you encounter a stop sign, the required action is to come to a complete stop. This is a fundamental traffic rule designed to ensure the safety of all road users, including pedestrians, cyclists, and other vehicles. The purpose of the stop sign is to provide clear instructions for drivers to halt their vehicles and assess the intersection before proceeding. Coming to a complete stop allows you to check for oncoming traffic, potential hazards, and ensure that it is safe to continue. This action not only helps prevent accidents but also promotes orderly traffic flow at intersections. Understanding this requirement is crucial for safe driving and compliance with traffic laws. In situations with stop signs, merely slowing down or stopping only if other vehicles are present does not fulfill the legal obligation and can lead to dangerous situations. Ignoring the stop sign by speeding through can result in violations and is hazardous to everyone on the road. Therefore, the correct practice is to always come to a complete stop at a stop sign.

2. What does a no-passing zone sign indicate?

- A. Do not enter**
- B. Do not pass other vehicles in that area**
- C. Prepare to stop**
- D. Yield to oncoming traffic**

A no-passing zone sign indicates that drivers are not allowed to overtake or pass other vehicles in that specific area. This regulation is in place for safety reasons, typically in locations where visibility is limited, such as curves or hills, or in areas with heavy pedestrian traffic. The intent is to reduce the risk of accidents due to blind spots or the potential for head-on collisions that can occur when passing is attempted in these zones. The other options pertain to different traffic regulations—such as signs indicating restrictions on entering a roadway, preparing to stop, or yielding to oncoming traffic—but are not applicable to the no-passing zone context. Understanding what a no-passing zone signifies helps drivers make safer decisions on the road and enhances overall traffic safety.

3. At an uncontrolled four-way stop, who has the right-of-way when multiple vehicles arrive simultaneously?

- A. The driver to the left**
- B. The pedestrian**
- C. The driver to the right**
- D. The largest vehicle**

In an uncontrolled four-way stop situation where multiple vehicles arrive at the same time, the driver to the right has the right-of-way. This rule is based on the principle that when two vehicles approach an intersection at the same time, the driver on the left must yield to the driver on the right. This orderly approach helps to prevent confusion and potential accidents, facilitating a safe flow through the intersection. Understanding this rule is crucial for safe driving at four-way stops, as it establishes clear expectations for drivers and helps maintain traffic flow. Pedestrians do have the right-of-way in marked crosswalks, and larger vehicles do not inherently have priority simply due to their size, reinforcing the importance of following these established right-of-way rules instead.

4. What is the best action to take if an aggressive driver is following you on the freeway?

- A. Speed up and try to lose them**
- B. Weave between lanes to break their focus**
- C. Get off at the next exit and proceed to a safe location**
- D. Confront them at the next red light**

The best action to take if an aggressive driver is following you on the freeway is to get off at the next exit and proceed to a safe location. This option prioritizes your safety and allows you to create physical distance from the aggressive driver. By exiting the freeway and driving to a safe place, such as a gas station or a public area, you can avoid a potentially dangerous confrontation or escalation of the situation. Choosing to speed up and try to lose them may seem like a way to escape, but it could lead to reckless driving or an increase in speed that further endangers both you and others on the road. Weaving between lanes might distract the aggressive driver, but it could also cause confusion and make the situation more chaotic, leading to a greater risk of an accident. Confronting the aggressive driver at the next red light can be highly dangerous; it introduces direct confrontation which can escalate tensions and may result in road rage incidents or violence. Prioritizing personal safety and choosing a non-confrontational route is the most prudent decision in this scenario.

5. What does a diamond-shaped traffic sign represent?

- A. It indicates speed limits**
- B. It warns of potential hazards or special conditions**
- C. It designates pedestrian crossings**
- D. It signals a no parking area**

A diamond-shaped traffic sign is specifically designed to alert drivers to potential hazards or unusual conditions on the road. This is crucial for maintaining safety, as these signs often point out things such as curves, intersections, slippery roads, or construction zones. The distinct shape and bright colors of the sign help ensure that drivers notice these warnings quickly, allowing them to adjust their speed or driving behavior as necessary. The other choices do serve important functions on the road, but they do not correlate with the characteristics of a diamond-shaped sign. Speed limits are indicated with regulatory signs that typically have a rectangular shape, pedestrian crossings are shown with specific symbols, often on a rectangular sign featuring a person walking, and no parking areas are marked by similar rectangular signs, usually stating specific legal restrictions. Understanding the function associated with the diamond shape is essential for recognizing and reacting appropriately to road conditions.

6. What is considered a safe following distance behind another vehicle?

- A. At least one second.**
- B. At least two seconds.**
- C. At least three seconds.**
- D. At least five seconds.**

A safe following distance behind another vehicle is essential for maintaining control of your vehicle and reacting appropriately to sudden stops by the vehicle in front of you. A following distance of at least three seconds is generally considered the minimum safe distance under normal driving conditions. This three-second rule helps ensure that, even if the vehicle ahead stops abruptly, you have enough time to react and begin braking without risking a collision. To apply the three-second rule, select a stationary object, such as a sign or tree, and when the vehicle in front of you passes that object, count the seconds it takes for your vehicle to reach the same point. If you reach the object in less than three seconds, you are following too closely and should increase your distance. In varying weather conditions, or if you're driving a larger vehicle, it's advisable to increase your following distance even further, ensuring a greater buffer zone for safe stopping.

7. What is the leading cause of death among people ages 15-30 in the United States?

- A. Accidental overdoses**
- B. Motor vehicle incidents**
- C. Suicides**
- D. Homicides**

The leading cause of death among people ages 15-30 in the United States is primarily attributed to motor vehicle incidents. Traffic-related fatalities in this age group result from a combination of factors, including inexperience, risk-taking behavior, and a higher likelihood of being involved in high-speed or alcohol-related crashes. Young drivers often lack the experience necessary to navigate complex driving situations safely, and peer pressure can exacerbate unsafe driving practices, leading to a greater incidence of serious accidents. While other factors such as accidental overdoses, suicides, and homicides also pose significant risks to young people, the data consistently shows that accidents, particularly those involving motor vehicles, account for a larger percentage of fatalities in this demographic. Understanding these statistics is crucial for implementing targeted safety measures and educational programs aimed at reducing the number of traffic-related deaths among young drivers.

8. What is the minimum required insurance coverage for a driver in California?

- A. \$10,000 for injury/death for one person, \$20,000 for multiple people, \$5,000 for property damage.**
- B. \$15,000 for injury/death for one person, \$30,000 for injury/death for multiple people, \$5,000 for property damage.**
- C. \$20,000 for injury/death for one person, \$40,000 for multiple people, \$10,000 for property damage.**
- D. \$15,000 for injury/death for one person, \$15,000 for injury/death for multiple people, \$2,000 for property damage.**

In California, the minimum required insurance coverage for drivers is designed to ensure that there is sufficient financial protection in the event of accidents causing injury or property damage. The correct coverage is set at \$15,000 for injury or death of one person, \$30,000 for injury or death of multiple people, and \$5,000 for property damage. This structure is intended to help cover medical expenses, loss of wages, and other costs associated with injuries, as well as damage to other vehicles or property involved in an accident. This insurance minimum requirement reflects California's approach to road safety and financial responsibility. By requiring drivers to carry this level of coverage, the state aims to mitigate the financial burden on accident victims and ensure that drivers have some level of protection in place.

9. What is the speed limit in residential zones unless posted otherwise?

- A. 30 mph**
- B. 20 mph**
- C. 25 mph**
- D. 15 mph**

In California, the standard speed limit in residential zones is set at 25 miles per hour unless otherwise posted. This regulation is established to enhance safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists alike, especially because residential areas often have children playing and pedestrians walking in the vicinity. This speed limit is designed to allow drivers sufficient time to react to unexpected situations, such as a child running into the street or a parked vehicle suddenly opening its door. While there are varying speed limits for different types of roads and conditions, the 25 mph limit in residential areas serves as a guideline to promote safer driving behavior. It's important for drivers to be aware of these limits, as they are expected to adjust their speed accordingly to maintain safety for everyone on the road.

10. What should you do when you see a school bus with flashing red lights?

- A. Pass the bus at a safe speed**
- B. Stop and wait until the lights stop flashing**
- C. Only stop if children are present**
- D. Proceed with caution without stopping**

When you encounter a school bus with flashing red lights, stopping and waiting until the lights stop flashing is the appropriate response. The flashing red lights indicate that the bus is either loading or unloading children, and it is a precautionary measure to ensure the safety of students who may be crossing the street. By stopping, you help prevent accidents and injuries that could occur if a child were to suddenly enter the roadway while you were passing the bus. In California, the law requires drivers to stop when a school bus has its red lights flashing, regardless of the direction from which you are approaching the bus. It is also important to be aware that the stop is required even if there are no children visible at the moment. This safety rule aims to establish a protective zone for children getting on or off the bus, as they may unexpectedly enter the street from in front of or behind the vehicle. The other options suggest actions that ignore the safety protocol established for school buses, which can lead to serious consequences and endanger the lives of children. It is crucial for drivers to recognize the significance of the flashing red lights and to comply with stopping to ensure a safe environment around school buses.