

# DPS Third Party Skills Testing (TPST) Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



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**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

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- 1. What should an applicant primarily focus on while preparing for the TPST?**
  - A. Memorizing the vehicle's manual**
  - B. Practicing driving under different conditions**
  - C. Understanding the examiner's personality**
  - D. Choosing the right music for the drive**
- 2. Are adaptations allowed for drivers with disabilities during the TPST?**
  - A. No, adaptations are not allowed**
  - B. Yes, if approved by the testing authority**
  - C. Only certain adaptations are allowed**
  - D. They must be reported beforehand**
- 3. When does the control rating become 'Fair' regarding releasing the brake before the car stops?**
  - A. When the car accelerates**
  - B. When the engine stalls**
  - C. When the brake is released too early**
  - D. When the driver fails to signal**
- 4. What is a frequent reason for applicants to fail the TPST?**
  - A. Not having insurance coverage**
  - B. Poor observation skills and improper lane use**
  - C. Lack of vehicle familiarity**
  - D. Unfamiliarity with testing locations**
- 5. What does it mean if the parking brake is not released before starting the vehicle?**
  - A. Control - Good**
  - B. Control - Average**
  - C. Control - Bad**
  - D. Control - Excellent**

- 6. How is an incorrect signal evaluated?**
- A. Good**
  - B. Fair**
  - C. Bad**
  - D. Unsatisfactory**
- 7. What must a driver regularly check while driving to ensure a fair score?**
- A. Road signs only**
  - B. Mirrors only**
  - C. Mirrors frequently**
  - D. Passengers in the vehicle**
- 8. Which action is considered a major driver error that would likely lead to a fail during a test?**
- A. Speeding within a school zone**
  - B. Turning without signaling**
  - C. Turning sideways suddenly**
  - D. Failing to yield**
- 9. What does it signal when a driver makes multiple parking attempts?**
- A. Control - Good**
  - B. Control - Bad**
  - C. Control - Adequate**
  - D. Control - Excellent**
- 10. What is indicated when a driver demonstrates sudden or jerky movements while starting or stopping?**
- A. Excellent control**
  - B. Fair control**
  - C. Poor control**
  - D. Perfect control**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What should an applicant primarily focus on while preparing for the TPST?**

- A. Memorizing the vehicle's manual**
- B. Practicing driving under different conditions**
- C. Understanding the examiner's personality**
- D. Choosing the right music for the drive**

Focusing on practicing driving under different conditions is crucial for an applicant preparing for the TPST. This preparation enhances the applicant's skill set and adaptability, allowing them to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of safe driving practices. Different conditions include varying weather scenarios, traffic levels, and road types, each presenting unique challenges that require specific handling techniques. By gaining experience in diverse driving situations, the applicant develops the necessary intuition and capabilities needed to respond effectively during the actual test. This hands-on practice not only builds confidence but also ensures a deeper understanding of safe driving practices, making the applicant better equipped to handle the examiner's observations and pass the test successfully. Memorizing the vehicle's manual or understanding the examiner's personality may be helpful to some extent, but they do not provide the same practical preparedness as driving experience does. Choosing the right music for the drive is not relevant to driving skills.

**2. Are adaptations allowed for drivers with disabilities during the TPST?**

- A. No, adaptations are not allowed**
- B. Yes, if approved by the testing authority**
- C. Only certain adaptations are allowed**
- D. They must be reported beforehand**

The correct response indicates that adaptations for drivers with disabilities are permitted during the TPST if they have received approval from the relevant testing authority. This is crucial because it acknowledges the need for equitable access to driving assessments for individuals with disabilities. Allowing adaptations ensures that those who may have physical limitations can still demonstrate their ability to operate a vehicle safely and effectively. The requirement for prior approval serves as a safeguard, ensuring that the proposed adaptations meet safety standards and do not compromise the integrity of the testing process. This process allows for customized assessment conditions that align with individual needs while maintaining the overall goals of the testing. In contrast, options that imply adaptations are not allowed or only certain adaptations exist do not reflect the flexible and inclusive policies that support individuals with disabilities. It's essential for testing authorities to establish guidelines that facilitate such adaptations while ensuring the reliability of the testing outcomes.

**3. When does the control rating become 'Fair' regarding releasing the brake before the car stops?**

**A. When the car accelerates**

**B. When the engine stalls**

**C. When the brake is released too early**

**D. When the driver fails to signal**

The control rating becomes 'Fair' when the brake is released too early because this action can compromise the driver's ability to bring the vehicle to a complete and controlled stop. Releasing the brake prematurely may cause the car to roll or move forward unexpectedly, which can lead to a loss of control over the vehicle. This is particularly important in situations where stopping distance is critical, such as when approaching traffic signals or pedestrian crosswalks. Maintaining proper control of the vehicle during the stopping process is essential for safety. If the brake is not held until the car is fully stopped, it can result in unintended acceleration or lead to an abrupt stop, thereby affecting the overall driving performance and safety. In contrast, the other options do not directly relate to the timing of brake release; for instance, the performance rating pertains specifically to the braking process and vehicle control, rather than actions that might not relate to stopping performance directly.

**4. What is a frequent reason for applicants to fail the TPST?**

**A. Not having insurance coverage**

**B. Poor observation skills and improper lane use**

**C. Lack of vehicle familiarity**

**D. Unfamiliarity with testing locations**

The correct response highlights a significant aspect of safe driving that is crucial for success in the Third Party Skills Testing (TPST). Poor observation skills and improper lane use often lead to critical safety issues on the road. Candidates who struggle with these skills may exhibit behaviors such as failing to notice pedestrians, not checking blind spots, and making unsafe lane changes. These deficiencies can result in dangerous situations during the driving test, causing evaluators to deem the applicant unqualified. In contrast, while the other options may also contribute to an unsuccessful assessment, they do not carry the same weight in terms of immediate safety impact. For example, lacking insurance coverage typically pertains to legal compliance rather than driving competency. Lack of vehicle familiarity can affect an applicant's performance but does not inherently reflect their understanding of safe driving practices. Similarly, unfamiliarity with testing locations may affect comfort levels but does not directly relate to the applicant's observational abilities or handling of the vehicle in a safe manner. Therefore, the emphasis on observation skills and lane use underscores the foundational requirements for safe and effective driving, which is critical for passing the TPST.

**5. What does it mean if the parking brake is not released before starting the vehicle?**

- A. Control - Good**
- B. Control - Average**
- C. Control - Bad**
- D. Control - Excellent**

Selecting "Control - Bad" is suitable because failing to release the parking brake before starting the vehicle can lead to several negative outcomes. When the parking brake is engaged, it restricts the vehicle's ability to roll or move freely. If the vehicle is started with the parking brake still on, it may cause the brakes to overheat due to friction, leading to potential brake failure. This situation also places additional stress on the braking system and can negatively affect vehicle control if the driver attempts to drive with the brake engaged. Furthermore, starting the vehicle in this condition can confuse the driver, as the usual response and feel of the vehicle will be altered. Therefore, it is crucial to ensure the parking brake is disengaged prior to starting the vehicle to maintain optimal control, safety, and functionality.

**6. How is an incorrect signal evaluated?**

- A. Good**
- B. Fair**
- C. Bad**
- D. Unsatisfactory**

An incorrect signal is evaluated as "Bad" because it indicates that there has been a failure in the communication or transmission process. In any testing or evaluation scenario, particularly in the context of data signals, a "Bad" signal shows that the information received does not meet the required standards or criteria. This can lead to misinterpretations or errors in decision-making based on that data. In contrast, the other possible evaluations like "Good," "Fair," and "Unsatisfactory" suggest varying degrees of acceptance or performance levels that do not adequately represent the severity of an incorrect signal's implications. A "Good" signal indicates optimal performance, while a "Fair" rating suggests mediocre, but still acceptable transmission. "Unsatisfactory" indicates a level of performance that warrants concern but does not specifically denote the definitive failings of an incorrect signal like "Bad" does. Thus, labeling an incorrect signal as "Bad" precisely reflects its failure to convey the intended message effectively.

**7. What must a driver regularly check while driving to ensure a fair score?**

- A. Road signs only**
- B. Mirrors only**
- C. Mirrors frequently**
- D. Passengers in the vehicle**

The need for a driver to regularly check their mirrors while driving is crucial for maintaining situational awareness and ensuring safety on the road. Mirrors provide essential information about other vehicles and obstacles that may be present around the vehicle, enhancing the driver's ability to make informed decisions. By frequently checking the mirrors, a driver can stay aware of their surroundings, which is vital for avoiding accidents and responding appropriately to changes in traffic. Regularly checking mirrors also helps a driver to be aware of blind spots, thereby improving their ability to change lanes safely or merge into traffic. This practice is a fundamental part of defensive driving, making it an important aspect that contributes positively to a driver's score during assessments of their driving performance. On the other hand, focusing solely on road signs or passengers does not encompass the comprehensive awareness needed for safe driving. Road signs provide guidance and regulations, but they do not replace the necessity of monitoring the surrounding environment. Passengers, while a consideration for safety, do not impact the driver's ability to manage the vehicle and respond to potential hazards on the road. Thus, emphasizing the frequent checking of mirrors establishes a more proactive approach to driving safely and effectively.

**8. Which action is considered a major driver error that would likely lead to a fail during a test?**

- A. Speeding within a school zone**
- B. Turning without signaling**
- C. Turning sideways suddenly**
- D. Failing to yield**

The action of turning sideways suddenly is categorized as a major driver error primarily because it poses a significant risk to both the driver and other road users. Sudden movements, especially those that are unpredictable, can lead to loss of vehicle control or an increased chance of collision, making it a critical safety concern during a driving test. Such erratic behavior demonstrates a lack of proper vehicle handling and awareness of one's surroundings, which are essential elements of safe driving. In a driving test context, maintaining smooth and controlled maneuvers is vital. While the other actions, such as speeding within a school zone, turning without signaling, and failing to yield, can also result in serious safety violations, the unpredictability of a sudden sideways turn amplifies potential dangers, making it a more severe error in the eyes of an evaluator. Therefore, demonstrating controlled and predictable driving is crucial for success during a driving test.

**9. What does it signal when a driver makes multiple parking attempts?**

**A. Control - Good**

**B. Control - Bad**

**C. Control - Adequate**

**D. Control - Excellent**

When a driver makes multiple parking attempts, it signals that their control over the vehicle is lacking, specifically indicating a "Control - Bad" situation. This behavior suggests difficulties in coordinating the steering, acceleration, and braking necessary for parking maneuvers effectively. When a driver struggles with parking, it not only reflects their proficiency in vehicle handling but can also indicate a lack of spatial awareness or confidence. In contrast, a driver who can execute a parking maneuver efficiently and confidently would be considered to exhibit better control, leading to evaluations of "Good" or "Excellent," depending on their performance quality. In scenarios where a driver repeatedly attempts to park, it may raise concerns about their overall driving skills, including their ability to judge distances and navigate the space required to park safely.

**10. What is indicated when a driver demonstrates sudden or jerky movements while starting or stopping?**

**A. Excellent control**

**B. Fair control**

**C. Poor control**

**D. Perfect control**

The scenario where a driver exhibits sudden or jerky movements while starting or stopping indicates a level of control that is less than optimal. This type of driving behavior suggests that the driver may not be smoothly transitioning between acceleration and braking, which can lead to a rough ride and potential safety issues. When a driver has fair control, they may be attempting to manage the vehicle but are not doing so with fluidity or precision. Sudden movements can also be a sign of either inadequate experience or improper techniques in handling the vehicle, making it challenging for the driver to maintain stability and comfort. In contrast, excellent or perfect control would exhibit smooth, gradual movements that allow for a seamless response when starting or stopping, promoting both safety and passenger comfort. Thus, in assessing the situation of sudden or jerky movements, the conclusion of fair control accurately reflects a limitation in the driver's handling abilities, differentiating it from a higher level of proficiency demonstrated by smooth operational maneuvers.