

Hawaii Driver's Manual General Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. While approaching a flashing red signal, what should you do?**
 - A. Come to a complete stop. Check the traffic and go when it is safe.**
 - B. Slow down and yield the right of way.**
 - C. Stop only if turning left.**
 - D. Be prepared to stop.**
- 2. What defensive driving action should be taken when approaching a school zone?**
 - A. Always speed up to pass quickly**
 - B. Remain alert and watch for children**
 - C. Ignore speed limits as it's a shortcut**
 - D. Check the rear mirror only**
- 3. Why is a leaky exhaust system considered dangerous?**
 - A. It can reduce gas mileage**
 - B. It can cause loud noises**
 - C. It can result in carbon monoxide poisoning**
 - D. It makes the vehicle easier to steal**
- 4. If your vehicle's accelerator sticks open, what should you do?**
 - A. Blow your horn to alert others**
 - B. Slam on your brakes**
 - C. Turn on hazard warning lamps**
 - D. Turn off the ignition carefully**
- 5. What determines the effect of alcohol on your reflexes and judgment?**
 - A. It is less if you were only drinking beer.**
 - B. It is less if you were only drinking wine.**
 - C. It is greater if you were drinking whiskey or hard liquor.**
 - D. It depends on the amount of alcohol in your blood stream.**

- 6. What is a safe practice for adjusting your seat belt while driving?**
- A. It should be adjusted to allow movement**
 - B. Worn loosely to avoid discomfort**
 - C. It should be secured correctly across the body**
 - D. Only adjust it while the car is stationary**
- 7. What should you do when driving along sharp curves and steep hills?**
- A. Always allow an approaching vehicle at least one half of the paved surface.**
 - B. Use a lower gear to control speed while going down long steep hills.**
 - C. Stay close to the right edge of the road.**
 - D. All of the above.**
- 8. What is the safest practice when encountering a pedestrian crosswalk?**
- A. Speed up to clear the crosswalk.**
 - B. Stop and allow pedestrians to cross before proceeding.**
 - C. Honk to alert pedestrians of your approach.**
 - D. Drive through cautiously without stopping.**
- 9. How many feet before making a turn or lane change must you display a turn signal?**
- A. 50 feet.**
 - B. 75 feet.**
 - C. 100 feet.**
 - D. 25 feet.**
- 10. How should a seat belt be properly adjusted?**
- A. It should be loose and comfortable**
 - B. It should fit snugly across hip bones and abdomen**
 - C. It should be tucked under the seat**
 - D. It should prevent buzzer or light from activating**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. While approaching a flashing red signal, what should you do?

A. Come to a complete stop. Check the traffic and go when it is safe.

B. Slow down and yield the right of way.

C. Stop only if turning left.

D. Be prepared to stop.

When approaching a flashing red signal, the correct response is to come to a complete stop. This action is crucial because a flashing red signal is treated the same as a stop sign. Drivers must stop and then check for cross traffic or pedestrians before proceeding. Ensuring that the intersection is clear and that it is safe to continue is essential for maintaining safety on the road. Coming to a complete stop allows time to assess the situation and make informed decisions, thereby helping to prevent accidents. The expectation following your stop is to yield right of way to any other road users who may have the right of way, ensuring that everyone can navigate the intersection safely.

2. What defensive driving action should be taken when approaching a school zone?

A. Always speed up to pass quickly

B. Remain alert and watch for children

C. Ignore speed limits as it's a shortcut

D. Check the rear mirror only

Remaining alert and watching for children is the appropriate defensive driving action when approaching a school zone because children's safety is a top priority in these areas. School zones are typically marked with specific signs indicating reduced speed limits and times when these limits are in effect. Children may be crossing streets, playing, or disembarking from buses, and their behavior can be unpredictable. By staying vigilant and prepared to stop or slow down, drivers can avoid accidents and ensure the safety of the children in these high-traffic areas. This proactive approach to driving helps in managing the risks associated with school zones effectively.

3. Why is a leaky exhaust system considered dangerous?

- A. It can reduce gas mileage
- B. It can cause loud noises
- C. It can result in carbon monoxide poisoning**
- D. It makes the vehicle easier to steal

A leaky exhaust system is considered dangerous primarily because it can result in carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that can be extremely hazardous, as it can accumulate inside a vehicle's cabin when there is a leak in the exhaust system. This buildup poses a serious health risk to the occupants, as inhaling carbon monoxide can lead to symptoms such as headaches, dizziness, confusion, and even life-threatening conditions at high levels of exposure. While a leaky exhaust system can indeed reduce gas mileage and cause loud noises—potentially distracting the driver or signaling a maintenance issue—these factors are not as critical in terms of immediate health threats. Additionally, a leaky exhaust does not contribute to vehicle theft directly; this option does not relate to the primary concerns regarding safety and health. Therefore, the correct understanding highlights the dangers of carbon monoxide exposure as the key reason why addressing a leaky exhaust is essential for the safety of vehicle occupants.

4. If your vehicle's accelerator sticks open, what should you do?

- A. Blow your horn to alert others
- B. Slam on your brakes
- C. Turn on hazard warning lamps
- D. Turn off the ignition carefully**

Turning off the ignition is the most crucial action to take if your vehicle's accelerator sticks open. This step can help stop the engine and reduce the vehicle's speed, preventing a potentially dangerous situation. However, it's vital to do this carefully to avoid locking the steering wheel or causing a loss of control. Using the horn, slamming on the brakes, or turning on hazard warning lamps are responses that may not effectively address the immediate problem of a stuck accelerator. For instance, blowing the horn alerts other drivers but does not help you regain control of the vehicle. Slamming on the brakes could lead to a loss of control, especially if the vehicle is traveling at high speeds, and simply turning on hazard lamps does not address the mechanical issue. Therefore, safely turning off the ignition is the best method to regain control and stop the vehicle effectively.

5. What determines the effect of alcohol on your reflexes and judgment?

- A. It is less if you were only drinking beer.**
- B. It is less if you were only drinking wine.**
- C. It is greater if you were drinking whiskey or hard liquor.**
- D. It depends on the amount of alcohol in your blood stream.**

The correct answer highlights that the impact of alcohol on reflexes and judgment primarily correlates with the amount of alcohol present in your bloodstream, often measured as Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC). As a person consumes alcoholic beverages, the alcohol enters their bloodstream and affects the central nervous system, impairing cognitive functions and motor skills. Higher levels of alcohol in the bloodstream lead to more significant impairments in coordination, reaction time, decision-making abilities, and overall judgment. This means that regardless of the type of alcoholic beverage consumed—whether it is beer, wine, or hard liquor—the essential factor influencing impairment is the quantity of alcohol consumed rather than the beverage's type. Therefore, this understanding is crucial for assessing one's ability to drive safely, as even small amounts can negatively affect driving capabilities depending on the individual's tolerance and other factors.

6. What is a safe practice for adjusting your seat belt while driving?

- A. It should be adjusted to allow movement**
- B. Worn loosely to avoid discomfort**
- C. It should be secured correctly across the body**
- D. Only adjust it while the car is stationary**

A seat belt must be secured correctly across the body to provide maximum safety during a drive. Proper adjustment ensures that the seat belt fits snugly over the pelvis and across the shoulder, minimizing the risk of injury in the event of a collision. An improperly adjusted seat belt can lead to severe injuries, as it may not effectively restrain the occupant in a sudden stop or crash. For instance, if the belt is positioned too high on the abdomen or hangs loosely, it can result in serious injury or ejection from the vehicle. The correct positioning of the seat belt is critical for maintaining optimal safety standards while driving, supporting the overall effectiveness of the seat belt system designed to protect passengers. Other considerations highlight that adjusting the seat belt for movement or comfort could compromise its integrity and effectiveness. Additionally, only adjusting it while the car is stationary does not directly address the wellness aspects of driving. The primary focus should always be on securing the seat belt correctly at all times.

7. What should you do when driving along sharp curves and steep hills?

- A. Always allow an approaching vehicle at least one half of the paved surface.**
- B. Use a lower gear to control speed while going down long steep hills.**
- C. Stay close to the right edge of the road.**
- D. All of the above.**

When navigating sharp curves and steep hills, it is vital to apply all of the strategies outlined in the correct answer. Using a lower gear while going down long steep hills is crucial because it helps control your vehicle's speed, preventing it from gaining excessive momentum that could lead to loss of control. This is especially important on steep descents where brakes can overheat and fail if they are used continuously. Additionally, allowing an approaching vehicle at least half of the paved surface is important for safety when driving through narrow areas. It ensures that there is enough space for both vehicles to pass without the risk of colliding, particularly on roads where visibility might be limited due to the curve or steep incline. Staying close to the right edge of the road also enhances safety by helping to position your vehicle away from oncoming traffic and making it easier to navigate turns without crossing into the path of other vehicles. This practice is especially beneficial on curves where visibility is restricted. All these actions combined create a comprehensive approach to safely handling driving situations that involve sharp curves and steep hills, emphasizing careful speed control, spatial awareness, and proper positioning on the roadway.

8. What is the safest practice when encountering a pedestrian crosswalk?

- A. Speed up to clear the crosswalk.**
- B. Stop and allow pedestrians to cross before proceeding.**
- C. Honk to alert pedestrians of your approach.**
- D. Drive through cautiously without stopping.**

The safest practice when encountering a pedestrian crosswalk is to stop and allow pedestrians to cross before proceeding. This approach prioritizes the safety of pedestrians, who have the right of way in marked crosswalks. By stopping, drivers ensure that pedestrians can complete their crossing without the risk of being involved in an accident. Furthermore, this practice fosters a culture of respect and caution on the road, emphasizing the importance of protecting vulnerable road users, particularly those on foot. In many jurisdictions, including Hawaii, there are laws mandating that drivers yield to pedestrians at crosswalks, making it both a legal requirement and a responsible driving behavior. Options that suggest speeding up, honking, or cautiously driving through a crosswalk without stopping do not adequately protect pedestrians and could lead to dangerous situations. Moving quickly may endanger pedestrians who are already in or about to enter the crosswalk, while honking does not convey the intention to yield and may startle those crossing. Therefore, the best and safest choice is to stop and allow pedestrians the right to cross safely.

9. How many feet before making a turn or lane change must you display a turn signal?

- A. 50 feet.**
- B. 75 feet.**
- C. 100 feet.**
- D. 25 feet.**

Displaying a turn signal is an important aspect of safe driving, as it communicates your intentions to other road users, thereby enhancing overall safety and reducing the risk of accidents. In Hawaii, the law requires drivers to signal at least 100 feet before making a turn or lane change. This distance allows other drivers and pedestrians sufficient time to react to the change in your path, facilitating smoother traffic flow and ensuring everyone on the road can anticipate movements safely. The requirement for 100 feet is designed to account for various driving conditions, including speed limits and traffic density, thus ensuring the signal is visible to those around you well in advance of the maneuver. This standard aligns with best practices for safe driving, emphasizing proactive communication on the road.

10. How should a seat belt be properly adjusted?

- A. It should be loose and comfortable**
- B. It should fit snugly across hip bones and abdomen**
- C. It should be tucked under the seat**
- D. It should prevent buzzer or light from activating**

A properly adjusted seat belt is essential for maximizing safety during a vehicle ride. For it to provide effective protection in the event of a collision, the seat belt should fit snugly across the hip bones and the abdomen. This positioning helps to distribute the forces of a crash over the strongest parts of the body and prevents serious injury to softer tissues and vital organs. A snug fit minimizes the risk of the occupant sliding out of the belt or even experiencing injury from the belt itself if it is not positioned correctly. Moreover, ensuring that the seat belt crosses the hips and abdomen correctly helps to maintain posture and stability, which is crucial for effective crash protection. Adjusting the seat belt to be loose and comfortable does not provide the necessary restraint and increases the likelihood of injury. Tucking the seat belt under the seat can also lead to improper positioning, thereby compromising safety. Lastly, simply focusing on preventing a buzzer or light from activating does not address the critical need for proper fit and effectiveness of the seat belt in an actual accident scenario.