

New Jersey DMV Motorcycle Practice Test Sample Study Guide



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for each question.**

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SAMPLE

Questions

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- 1. When riding in traffic at night, what is the best way to locate bumps in the road?**
 - A. Use your headlights to illuminate the road**
 - B. Watch the taillights of the car ahead**
 - C. Maintain a constant speed to minimize bumps**
 - D. Stay close to the curb to avoid obstacles**
- 2. When is it appropriate to use high beam headlights at night?**
 - A. When driving through a busy city**
 - B. Whenever there is no traffic in front of you**
 - C. In foggy conditions**
 - D. When riding in a group**
- 3. What is the minimum age to obtain a motorcycle learner's permit in New Jersey?**
 - A. 15 years old**
 - B. 16 years old**
 - C. 17 years old**
 - D. 18 years old**
- 4. What is the purpose of engine braking?**
 - A. To increase acceleration when going uphill**
 - B. To help reduce speed without using the brakes**
 - C. To improve fuel efficiency while accelerating**
 - D. To maximize braking force when slowing down**
- 5. What is the best method to increase visibility during daytime riding?**
 - A. Wear bright clothing**
 - B. Use hand signals**
 - C. Keep your headlight turned on**
 - D. Ride in the center of the lane**

- 6. What should the motorcycle operator do when traveling on a slippery road?**
- A. Ride at normal speed**
 - B. Accelerate gently to maintain momentum**
 - C. Reduce speed and avoid sudden movements**
 - D. Keep a firm grip on the handlebars**
- 7. Before starting the engine of a borrowed motorcycle, what should you do?**
- A. Follow the owner's instructions**
 - B. Make checks as you would on your own cycle**
 - C. Ride it immediately for a test**
 - D. Skip checks as it's not your bike**
- 8. What should a motorcyclist do when riding behind a car at a stoplight?**
- A. Stay directly behind the car**
 - B. Shift into neutral and relax**
 - C. Keep a safe distance and be ready to react**
 - D. Move to the side of the car**
- 9. What is the recommended action when approaching an intersection?**
- A. Increase acceleration and move swiftly**
 - B. Reduce speed and prepare to stop or yield**
 - C. Maintain current speed and assess the situation**
 - D. Signal left and proceed without hesitation**
- 10. Why is it important to perform regular checks on your motorcycle's tire pressure?**
- A. It impacts fuel efficiency and handling**
 - B. Tires are not important for a motorcycle**
 - C. To maintain an aesthetic appearance**
 - D. All motorcycles come with perfect tire pressure**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. When riding in traffic at night, what is the best way to locate bumps in the road?

- A. Use your headlights to illuminate the road**
- B. Watch the taillights of the car ahead**
- C. Maintain a constant speed to minimize bumps**
- D. Stay close to the curb to avoid obstacles**

The best approach to locate bumps in the road while riding in traffic at night is to watch the taillights of the car ahead. This method allows you to gauge the road conditions based on the reactions of the vehicle in front of you. As the leading vehicle encounters bumps, its taillights will exhibit movement or changes in intensity that can signal potential obstacles or irregularities in the road surface. This is particularly useful in low-light conditions where visibility can be greatly diminished. Using headlights to illuminate the road, while helpful for overall visibility, may not effectively highlight small bumps or irregularities, as the beam of light spreads out and may not focus on the road surface immediately in front of you. Maintaining a constant speed could help with control but does not help in identifying bumps ahead. Staying close to the curb can limit space for maneuvering and does not necessarily provide more information about road conditions. Hence, paying attention to the behaviors of the vehicle in front provides practical and actionable insight into what lies ahead.

2. When is it appropriate to use high beam headlights at night?

- A. When driving through a busy city**
- B. Whenever there is no traffic in front of you**
- C. In foggy conditions**
- D. When riding in a group**

Using high beam headlights at night is appropriate whenever there is no traffic in front of you. High beams provide increased visibility to help you see further down the road, which is particularly useful in dark, rural areas or when the roadway is poorly lit. Operating high beams in such conditions allows you to detect potential hazards that might not be visible with low beams, such as animals, pedestrians, or obstacles in the roadway. However, it's essential to switch to low beams when other vehicles are present to avoid blinding other drivers and maintaining safe driving conditions for everyone. In busy cities, using high beams is often inappropriate due to the presence of streetlights and other vehicles, which may make low beams sufficient. In foggy conditions, high beams can actually reflect off the fog, creating a glare that reduces visibility. Similarly, when riding in a group, maintaining lower visibility with low beams helps ensure that the whole group is visible and avoids surprises for fellow riders.

3. What is the minimum age to obtain a motorcycle learner's permit in New Jersey?

- A. 15 years old**
- B. 16 years old**
- C. 17 years old**
- D. 18 years old**

In New Jersey, the minimum age to obtain a motorcycle learner's permit is 17 years old. This regulation is in place to ensure that individuals have reached a sufficient level of maturity and responsibility before they are allowed to operate a motorcycle. The age requirement helps to enhance safety on the road, as younger individuals may be less experienced and thus face greater risks while riding. Obtaining a learner's permit is the first step for new riders, allowing them to practice under specific conditions before advancing to a full motorcycle license. This phased approach to licensing is designed to reduce the likelihood of accidents and ensure that riders gain the necessary skills and knowledge to operate a motorcycle safely.

4. What is the purpose of engine braking?

- A. To increase acceleration when going uphill**
- B. To help reduce speed without using the brakes**
- C. To improve fuel efficiency while accelerating**
- D. To maximize braking force when slowing down**

The purpose of engine braking is to help reduce speed without using the brakes. This technique involves downshifting to a lower gear, which allows the engine to slow the motorcycle down through compression. When the throttle is released, the engine's internal resistance creates a braking effect. This method can be particularly advantageous as it allows for a smoother deceleration, preserves the condition of the brake system by reducing wear, and maintains better control during deceleration. Utilizing engine braking effectively can enhance overall safety by minimizing sudden stops and providing a steadier reduction in speed, thus allowing riders to stay in control while navigating turns or slippery conditions. This is an essential skill for motorcyclists to master, contributing to both their safety and the longevity of their vehicle.

5. What is the best method to increase visibility during daytime riding?

- A. Wear bright clothing**
- B. Use hand signals**
- C. Keep your headlight turned on**
- D. Ride in the center of the lane**

Keeping your headlight turned on during daytime riding is an effective method to increase visibility because it ensures that you are more noticeable to other drivers. Motorcycles are smaller and can be easily overlooked, especially in bright sunlight. By operating with your headlight on, you create a more prominent visual cue that attracts attention, thereby reducing the chance of being involved in an accident. Many motorcycles come equipped with this feature as a standard for added safety. While wearing bright clothing can certainly help draw attention to you, it may not be as effective as a lit headlight since visibility also depends on how other drivers perceive and react to the overall situation on the road. Hand signals are important for indicating changes in direction or lane position but do not enhance the initial visibility of the motorcycle itself. Riding in the center of the lane can provide more clearance from other vehicles, but again, it does not directly make the motorcycle more visible to others. Therefore, turning on your headlight stands out as the most effective and proactive approach to increase visibility during the day.

6. What should the motorcycle operator do when traveling on a slippery road?

- A. Ride at normal speed**
- B. Accelerate gently to maintain momentum**
- C. Reduce speed and avoid sudden movements**
- D. Keep a firm grip on the handlebars**

When traveling on a slippery road, it is crucial for the motorcycle operator to reduce speed and avoid sudden movements. Slippery conditions, such as those caused by rain, snow, or ice, can significantly decrease traction. By reducing speed, the rider allows for greater control of the motorcycle, which is essential in maintaining balance and avoiding skidding. Additionally, avoiding sudden movements helps to prevent loss of traction. Sudden acceleration, braking, or sharp turns can lead to a loss of control, putting the rider at a higher risk for accidents. Smooth and gradual maneuvers are key when navigating slippery surfaces, as they allow for better handling of the motorcycle and increase the chances of maintaining stability. Riding at normal speed or accelerating might seem tempting to maintain momentum; however, it can lead to perilous outcomes in challenging conditions. Similarly, while having a firm grip on the handlebars is important for control, it does not address the underlying need to adjust speed and riding behavior appropriately for safety in slippery conditions.

7. Before starting the engine of a borrowed motorcycle, what should you do?

- A. Follow the owner's instructions**
- B. Make checks as you would on your own cycle**
- C. Ride it immediately for a test**
- D. Skip checks as it's not your bike**

Before starting the engine of a borrowed motorcycle, it is essential to conduct checks as you would on your own cycle. This is crucial for ensuring safety and reliability. Every motorcycle, regardless of ownership, has unique features and maintenance conditions that affect its performance. By performing your usual checks, you can assess the motorcycle's fuel levels, tire pressure, brake functionality, and fluid levels, which are vital for safe riding. Even if the motorcycle is not yours, the potential risks of riding an uninspected bike can lead to dangerous situations. Checking the motorcycle helps you become familiar with its controls and ensures it is roadworthy. This proactive approach reflects responsible riding practices, emphasizing safety for both the rider and others on the road.

8. What should a motorcyclist do when riding behind a car at a stoplight?

- A. Stay directly behind the car**
- B. Shift into neutral and relax**
- C. Keep a safe distance and be ready to react**
- D. Move to the side of the car**

When riding behind a car at a stoplight, it is crucial for a motorcyclist to keep a safe distance and be ready to react. This practice is important for several reasons. Firstly, maintaining a safe distance gives the motorcyclist enough time to react in case the vehicle in front suddenly departs or the light changes unexpectedly. This reaction time is essential to avoid potential collisions, especially since motorcycles can stop more quickly than cars, and the risk of being rear-ended is heightened in stop-and-go traffic. Additionally, this safe distance allows the motorcyclist to be visible to other drivers and gives the motorcyclist the option to maneuver safely if needed, such as changing lanes or moving to avoid any obstacles. Keeping a vigilant mindset and being prepared for any situation enhances safety on the road. While options like staying directly behind the car or shifting into neutral may seem convenient or comfortable, they do not provide the same level of readiness and safety that maintaining distance and awareness does. Likewise, moving to the side of the car may not always be feasible or safe depending on the traffic situation. Thus, the most prudent choice for a motorcyclist is to keep a safe distance and remain alert.

9. What is the recommended action when approaching an intersection?

- A. Increase acceleration and move swiftly**
- B. Reduce speed and prepare to stop or yield**
- C. Maintain current speed and assess the situation**
- D. Signal left and proceed without hesitation**

When approaching an intersection, the recommended action is to reduce speed and prepare to stop or yield. This approach allows motorcyclists to assess the situation safely and react appropriately to any unexpected developments, such as other vehicles, pedestrians, or changing traffic signals. By slowing down, you give yourself more time to evaluate the conditions at the intersection, ensuring that you can make informed decisions about whether to stop or proceed through the intersection. This defensive riding technique enhances safety, as intersections are common sites for accidents due to the interaction of multiple traffic flows. Being prepared to stop or yield also aligns with traffic laws, which emphasize the importance of yielding to other road users when required. Maintaining high speed or failing to signal properly can lead to dangerous situations. Likewise, simply maintaining your speed without assessing the intersection can increase the risk of accidents, especially if unexpected hazards arise. Overall, reducing speed and being ready to stop or yield reflects cautious and responsible riding behavior crucial for safety at intersections.

10. Why is it important to perform regular checks on your motorcycle's tire pressure?

- A. It impacts fuel efficiency and handling**
- B. Tires are not important for a motorcycle**
- C. To maintain an aesthetic appearance**
- D. All motorcycles come with perfect tire pressure**

Regularly checking your motorcycle's tire pressure is crucial because it significantly impacts fuel efficiency and handling. Properly inflated tires ensure that the motorcycle has optimal contact with the road, providing better traction and stability during turns and stops. If tire pressure is too low or too high, it can lead to poor handling, causing the motorcycle to feel wobbly or unresponsive, which can increase the risk of accidents. Additionally, correct tire pressure contributes to fuel efficiency; under-inflated tires create more rolling resistance, requiring the engine to work harder and consume more fuel. Keeping tires at the recommended pressure helps to maximize performance and safety while riding, making it an essential aspect of motorcycle maintenance.