

New Mexico DMV Drivers Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

Copyright © 2025 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain from reliable sources accurate, complete, and timely information about this product.

SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. What method should you use for turning quickly without ABS?**
 - A. Turn the wheel sharply while braking**
 - B. Step on the brake pedal, then let up and turn**
 - C. Keep constant pressure on the brakes**
 - D. Accelerate before making the turn**
- 2. Bicycles on the road should be treated as what?**
 - A. Pedestrian vehicles**
 - B. Slow-moving vehicles**
 - C. Illegal vehicles**
 - D. Public transportation**
- 3. What do you need to do if you feel overly emotional before driving?**
 - A. Take deep breaths and drive anyway**
 - B. Give yourself time to cool off**
 - C. Call someone for support**
 - D. Listen to calming music**
- 4. Where should you not park to avoid blocking access?**
 - A. Near a school**
 - B. In a driveway or private road**
 - C. In front of a post office**
 - D. Near a bus stop**
- 5. What do "sharrows" indicate on the road?**
 - A. Road closed ahead**
 - B. Bus lane only**
 - C. Shared lane pavement markings**
 - D. No parking zone**
- 6. What is the proper way to use your high beams?**
 - A. Use them at all times for better visibility**
 - B. Use them in rural areas when there is no oncoming traffic**
 - C. Use them in heavy traffic to light up the road**
 - D. Use them only in low-light conditions regardless of traffic**

- 7. When hit from the side, your body will be thrown towards which direction?**
- A. The opposite side of the impact**
 - B. The front of the vehicle**
 - C. The rear of the vehicle**
 - D. The side that is hit**
- 8. Which of the following emotions can negatively impact your driving?**
- A. Feeling happy**
 - B. Being overly excited**
 - C. Feeling bored**
 - D. Being focused**
- 9. What is the minimum age to obtain a New Mexico learner's permit?**
- A. 16 years old**
 - B. 15 years old**
 - C. 14 years old**
 - D. 17 years old**
- 10. In New Mexico, what constitutes a driver being responsible for property damage in an accident?**
- A. If the driver is at fault**
 - B. If the damage exceeds \$10,000**
 - C. If the other driver has insurance**
 - D. If the incident occurred on a public road**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. What method should you use for turning quickly without ABS?

- A. Turn the wheel sharply while braking**
- B. Step on the brake pedal, then let up and turn**
- C. Keep constant pressure on the brakes**
- D. Accelerate before making the turn**

The appropriate method for turning quickly without Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) involves stepping on the brake pedal, then letting up and turning. This technique allows for better control of the vehicle during a turn, especially when traction is uncertain. When you step on the brakes, it helps to reduce the speed of the vehicle, ensuring that you do not enter the turn too quickly. After you apply the brakes, releasing them before initiating the turn allows the wheels to regain traction and helps prevent skidding. This is critical in maintaining control of the vehicle when navigating a turn without the assistance of ABS, which would ordinarily help prevent wheel lock-up during braking. Using this method aids in maintaining stability and steering control, which is essential in emergency situations or when quick maneuvers are necessary. The other approaches, such as turning the wheel sharply while braking or keeping constant pressure on the brakes, could lead to loss of control or skidding, particularly in vehicles without ABS. Accelerating before making the turn is not advisable, as it may increase the risk of losing traction while turning.

2. Bicycles on the road should be treated as what?

- A. Pedestrian vehicles**
- B. Slow-moving vehicles**
- C. Illegal vehicles**
- D. Public transportation**

Bicycles should be treated as slow-moving vehicles on the road because they typically travel at lower speeds compared to motor vehicles. This designation is important for ensuring the safety of both cyclists and drivers. By understanding bicycles as slow-moving vehicles, drivers are more likely to approach them with the caution and awareness necessary to prevent accidents. It encourages motorists to give cyclists ample space and time, particularly when passing or making turns. Considering the other options, treating bicycles as pedestrian vehicles would misrepresent their operation on roadways, as they follow different traffic laws and have specific rights similar to motor vehicles. Classifying bicycles as illegal vehicles is inaccurate, as bicycles are legal means of transportation and are specifically recognized in traffic laws. Finally, categorizing bikes as public transportation does not apply, since public transportation typically refers to systems designed to carry multiple passengers, such as buses or trains, whereas bicycles are individual vehicles.

3. What do you need to do if you feel overly emotional before driving?

- A. Take deep breaths and drive anyway**
- B. Give yourself time to cool off**
- C. Call someone for support**
- D. Listen to calming music**

If you feel overly emotional before driving, giving yourself time to cool off is essential for ensuring safety on the road. Emotions can significantly impact your ability to focus, make quick decisions, and react appropriately to unexpected situations while driving. Taking a moment to calm down helps clear your mind and regain your composure, ultimately leading to safer driving behavior. This approach allows you to manage your emotional state effectively, reducing the potential for impaired judgment. If you ignore your emotions and drive anyway, you risk becoming a danger to yourself and others on the road. While other options, such as listening to calming music or calling someone for support, can be beneficial in managing emotions, the most prudent and proactive step is to take a break and allow yourself some time to regain emotional balance before getting behind the wheel.

4. Where should you not park to avoid blocking access?

- A. Near a school**
- B. In a driveway or private road**
- C. In front of a post office**
- D. Near a bus stop**

Parking in a driveway or private road is not permitted because it can obstruct access for the residents or property owners. Driveways are specifically meant for vehicles that belong to the property, and blocking them can create significant inconveniences, such as preventing someone from entering or leaving their home. In contrast, while parking near a school, in front of a post office, or near a bus stop may also lead to restricted access or safety concerns, the situation with driveways is more critical. Driveways typically serve as private access points, and blocking them can result in more immediate issues for the property owner, such as emergency services being unable to respond quickly. Understanding the legal and practical implications of parking in these areas helps promote road safety and ensures that emergency vehicles and residents can access their properties without interruptions.

5. What do "sharrows" indicate on the road?

- A. Road closed ahead
- B. Bus lane only
- C. Shared lane pavement markings**
- D. No parking zone

Sharrows, or shared lane pavement markings, indicate that a roadway is intended for shared use by both bicycles and motor vehicles. These markings help remind drivers to be mindful of cyclists on the road and encourage cyclists to position themselves appropriately within the lane. By marking these shared lanes, city planners aim to enhance safety and promote bicycle usage, especially in areas where dedicated bike lanes are not available. The presence of sharrows does not indicate anything about road closures, bus-only lanes, or no parking zones. Each of those scenarios would be communicated by different road markings or signs specifically designed for those purposes, but sharrows focus exclusively on the shared use of the roadway among various types of users.

6. What is the proper way to use your high beams?

- A. Use them at all times for better visibility
- B. Use them in rural areas when there is no oncoming traffic**
- C. Use them in heavy traffic to light up the road
- D. Use them only in low-light conditions regardless of traffic

Using high beams in rural areas when there is no oncoming traffic is the proper application of high beam headlights. High beams provide increased visibility at greater distances, which is particularly beneficial on dark, unlit roads common in rural settings. In these areas, there is often less ambient light, and the lack of other vehicles allows drivers to take advantage of the enhanced illumination that high beams provide without blinding other road users. In contrast, high beams should not be used at all times, as constant use can be disturbing and hazardous to other drivers. Heavy traffic is not an appropriate context for high beams either, due to the risk of dazzling other vehicles, which can compromise safety. It's also crucial to consider that high beams should only be deployed in low-light conditions; this ensures that they serve their purpose effectively without risking the safety of those around you.

7. When hit from the side, your body will be thrown towards which direction?

- A. The opposite side of the impact
- B. The front of the vehicle
- C. The rear of the vehicle
- D. The side that is hit**

When an impact occurs from the side of a vehicle, your body will naturally be pushed in the direction of the force of the collision, which is toward the side that is hit. This phenomenon occurs due to inertia, which is the tendency of your body to continue moving in its original state of motion until acted upon by an external force. When the car is struck on one side, the seat and safety features can only offer so much resistance, and your body's inertia will cause you to lurch toward the point of impact. Understanding how inertia affects your body during a collision is crucial, as it highlights the importance of seat belts and proper positioning in your vehicle to mitigate injury risk during side-impact collisions.

8. Which of the following emotions can negatively impact your driving?

- A. Feeling happy**
- B. Being overly excited**
- C. Feeling bored**
- D. Being focused**

Being overly excited can negatively impact your driving because it often leads to a lack of attention and impulse control. When drivers are excessively excited, they may become distracted, wanting to engage in risky behaviors or making hasty decisions without fully considering the consequences. This heightened emotional state can impair judgment, resulting in a tendency to overlook important driving signals or hazards, which can compromise safety on the roadway. In contrast, feeling happy, while potentially influencing driving positively, typically enhances mood without necessarily causing distraction. Feeling bored may lead to fatigue, which is different from the impulsive risks associated with being overly excited. Staying focused is essential for safe driving, as it allows you to maintain awareness of your surroundings and respond appropriately to changing conditions.

9. What is the minimum age to obtain a New Mexico learner's permit?

- A. 16 years old**
- B. 15 years old**
- C. 14 years old**
- D. 17 years old**

In New Mexico, the minimum age to obtain a learner's permit is 15 years old. This age requirement is designed to ensure that young drivers have the opportunity to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge needed for safe driving under the supervision of an experienced adult. The learner's permit allows new drivers to practice driving while they are still honing their abilities and knowledge of traffic laws. Obtaining the learner's permit at this age also aligns with the state's Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) program, which is intended to reduce risks for novice drivers by implementing graduated stages of driving privileges. This helps foster a responsible driving environment that prioritizes safety for all road users. In contrast, being too young, such as at 14 years old or 16 years old, would not comply with these guidelines, as those ages do not align with the structured approach New Mexico takes toward rookie drivers learning to operate a vehicle.

10. In New Mexico, what constitutes a driver being responsible for property damage in an accident?

- A. If the driver is at fault**
- B. If the damage exceeds \$10,000**
- C. If the other driver has insurance**
- D. If the incident occurred on a public road**

A driver in New Mexico is considered responsible for property damage in an accident primarily based on the concept of fault. When a driver is determined to be at fault for causing an accident, they are held liable for any damages that result from that accident, including property damage. This means that if a driver's actions directly lead to damage to another person's property, they are legally obligated to compensate for that damage, regardless of other factors such as the amount of damage or whether the other party has insurance. While other options may seem relevant, they do not directly address the core principle of liability in such cases. For example, the threshold of damage exceeding \$10,000 is not a factor in determining liability; rather, it pertains to the requirement for reporting and processing claims. Similarly, the presence of insurance for the other driver does not absolve the at-fault driver from responsibility for damages caused. Lastly, the location of the incident, such as whether it occurred on a public road, does not influence the determination of fault. Hence, the fundamental aspect that defines a driver's responsibility in New Mexico is being at fault for the accident.