

# NHSA Driving Knowledge Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



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**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

- 1. Can a driver cross a single broken white line on the highway?**
  - A. No, drivers should never cross these lines.**
  - B. Only if the driver is turning left.**
  - C. Yes, drivers can cross these lines to change lanes.**
  - D. Only for emergency situations.**
- 2. What is the main purpose of traffic signals?**
  - A. To provide drivers with entertainment**
  - B. To regulate the flow of traffic and enhance safety**
  - C. To indicate the location of hazards**
  - D. To inform drivers of speed limits**
- 3. At what height can a child typically transition from a booster seat to a regular seatbelt?**
  - A. 4 feet**
  - B. 4 feet 9 inches**
  - C. 5 feet**
  - D. 5 feet 5 inches**
- 4. What is advised if you feel drowsy while driving?**
  - A. Turn up the music**
  - B. Open the windows for fresh air**
  - C. Take a break and rest**
  - D. Keep driving to get to your destination quickly**
- 5. What does a sign that indicates a reduction of lanes ahead tell drivers?**
  - A. there is an addition of lanes ahead.**
  - B. there is a reduction of lanes ahead.**
  - C. the road curves to the left ahead.**
  - D. the road ends ahead.**

- 6. What is the minimum age to obtain a learner's permit in most states?**
- A. 16 years old**
  - B. 15 years old**
  - C. 17 years old**
  - D. 18 years old**
- 7. Under which condition must headlights be used?**
- A. Only at night**
  - B. When visibility is less than 1,000 feet**
  - C. During inclement weather**
  - D. All of the above**
- 8. When parking uphill along a curb, which way should you turn your wheels?**
- A. Don't turn your wheels at all.**
  - B. Sharply into the curb.**
  - C. Away from the curb.**
  - D. Towards the street.**
- 9. When must you use your headlights?**
- A. From sunset to sunrise only**
  - B. In rain, snow, or fog**
  - C. Both A and B**
  - D. Only when visibility is less than 100 feet**
- 10. Where in the car should a child who is 7 years old and under 4'9" sit in a vehicle?**
- A. In child car seat**
  - B. In a front seat with a seat belt**
  - C. In a back seat with a seat belt**
  - D. In the trunk**

## **Answers**

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

## **Explanations**



**1. Can a driver cross a single broken white line on the highway?**

- A. No, drivers should never cross these lines.**
- B. Only if the driver is turning left.**
- C. Yes, drivers can cross these lines to change lanes.**
- D. Only for emergency situations.**

A driver can indeed cross a single broken white line on the highway to change lanes. This line indicates that lane changes are permitted, provided that it is safe to do so. The broken white line serves as a guideline for drivers, signaling that they can move between lanes as necessary, for instance, to overtake another vehicle or to safely position themselves for an upcoming turn. The rules governing lane changes imply that drivers must always check their mirrors and blind spots to ensure the maneuver is safe. Crossing a broken white line should be done with caution, ensuring that the road conditions and traffic allow for a safe transition. Understanding this rule is essential for safe driving practices on multi-lane roads.

**2. What is the main purpose of traffic signals?**

- A. To provide drivers with entertainment**
- B. To regulate the flow of traffic and enhance safety**
- C. To indicate the location of hazards**
- D. To inform drivers of speed limits**

The primary purpose of traffic signals is to regulate the flow of traffic and enhance safety on the road. Traffic signals serve as a means of communication between vehicles and pedestrians, indicating when it is safe to proceed and when to stop. By directing the movement of traffic, they help prevent accidents and reduce confusion at intersections, thus contributing to safer driving conditions for everyone involved. While traffic signals can indirectly indicate hazards by controlling traffic flow, their main function is not to serve as entertainment or to inform drivers about speed limits. These other aspects, though important, are not the primary intention of traffic signals. Instead, the regulation of traffic flow ensures orderly navigation through busy or complex driving environments, aiming to minimize collisions and promote an efficient movement of vehicles and pedestrians alike.

**3. At what height can a child typically transition from a booster seat to a regular seatbelt?**

- A. 4 feet
- B. 4 feet 9 inches**
- C. 5 feet
- D. 5 feet 5 inches

Transitioning from a booster seat to a regular seatbelt is primarily based on a child's height and development rather than their age alone. The guideline indicating that a child can typically transition to a regular seatbelt at a height of 4 feet 9 inches is based on ensuring that the seatbelt fits properly. When a child reaches this height, the seatbelt can be positioned correctly across the child's lap and shoulder. This pertinent adjustment ensures maximum safety during a car ride. At 4 feet 9 inches, many children can safely use the vehicle's seatbelt without the added protection of a booster seat, as they are generally able to sit properly against the vehicle's seat. The correct fit is crucial for effective restraint in the event of a crash, reducing the risk of injury.

**4. What is advised if you feel drowsy while driving?**

- A. Turn up the music
- B. Open the windows for fresh air
- C. Take a break and rest**
- D. Keep driving to get to your destination quickly

When feeling drowsy while driving, the best course of action is to take a break and rest. Fatigue significantly impairs your ability to operate a vehicle safely, leading to slower reaction times and decreased awareness. By stopping to rest, you allow your body and mind to recuperate, which is essential for maintaining alertness on the road. While turning up the music or opening the windows might temporarily create a sense of alertness, they do not address the underlying issue of fatigue. These actions may distract you, but they won't sufficiently counter drowsiness. Continuing to drive while feeling drowsy is dangerous, as it increases the risk of accidents due to impaired judgment and responsiveness. Therefore, prioritizing rest is crucial for safe driving.

**5. What does a sign that indicates a reduction of lanes ahead tell drivers?**

- A. there is an addition of lanes ahead.
- B. there is a reduction of lanes ahead.**
- C. the road curves to the left ahead.
- D. the road ends ahead.

A sign indicating a reduction of lanes ahead is crucial for informing drivers about upcoming changes in road conditions. This sign serves as a warning that the number of available lanes on the road will decrease, prompting drivers to prepare to merge or change their driving behavior to ensure safety. Understanding that the correct answer highlights the reduction of lanes helps drivers anticipate potential congestion or the need for adjustment in their driving, creating a safer environment for everyone on the road. Such signs are typically placed in advance of the change to give drivers adequate time to react and make necessary navigational decisions, reinforcing the importance of being aware of road signage while driving.

**6. What is the minimum age to obtain a learner's permit in most states?**

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

The minimum age to obtain a learner's permit in most states is 15 years old. This age allows new drivers to start their education on the road while ensuring they are still in a context where they can be closely supervised by a licensed adult. Obtaining a learner's permit at this age is part of a graduated licensing process designed to ensure that new drivers gain experience and develop driving skills gradually, with limitations that help them learn the responsibilities of driving in a controlled manner. By starting at 15, states encourage young drivers to begin their training before they reach the legal driving age, fostering an environment of safety and learning. Higher age limits, such as 16, 17, or 18, while they may apply in some specific locations or circumstances, do not represent the norm across the majority of states where the entry into driving begins at age 15.

**7. Under which condition must headlights be used?**

- A. Only at night**
- B. When visibility is less than 1,000 feet**
- C. During inclement weather**
- D. All of the above**

**8. When parking uphill along a curb, which way should you turn your wheels?**

- A. Don't turn your wheels at all.**
- B. Sharply into the curb.**
- C. Away from the curb.**
- D. Towards the street.**

When parking uphill along a curb, you should turn your wheels away from the curb. The reason for this is to ensure that if your vehicle were to roll backward, the front tires would hit the curb and prevent the vehicle from rolling into the street. By turning the wheels away from the curb, you create a situation where the vehicle is safely positioned and secured against potential movement. In this scenario, it's crucial to remember that safety protocols are established to minimize risks when parking. By turning your wheels in such a manner, you are taking a proactive step in preventing accidents. It's also important to engage the parking brake to enhance the stability of the vehicle. Not turning your wheels at all can lead to a dangerous situation if the vehicle were to start rolling, as there would be no obstacle to stop it. Similarly, turning the wheels sharply into the curb does not provide the necessary safety against rolling backward because it does not adequately position the vehicle in relation to any potential slope. Turning towards the street is also unsafe as it increases the risk of the vehicle rolling into active traffic. Thus, turning the wheels away from the curb is the safe and recommended practice.

**9. When must you use your headlights?**

- A. From sunset to sunrise only**
- B. In rain, snow, or fog**
- C. Both A and B**
- D. Only when visibility is less than 100 feet**

Using your headlights during specific conditions is crucial for ensuring safety on the road. It's important to illuminate the area ahead and increase your visibility to other drivers. Headlights should be used from sunset to sunrise, as darkness significantly reduces visibility. Additionally, in conditions like rain, snow, or fog, using headlights is essential because these weather conditions can create low visibility scenarios. Therefore, using headlights during both nighttime hours and adverse weather conditions is necessary. It not only helps you see the road better but also allows other drivers to see you, reducing the risk of accidents. This is why the correct answer encompasses both scenarios.

**10. Where in the car should a child who is 7 years old and under 4'9" sit in a vehicle?**

- A. In child car seat**
- B. In a front seat with a seat belt**
- C. In a back seat with a seat belt**
- D. In the trunk**

The safest place for a child who is 7 years old and under 4'9" is in a child car seat. This is because child car seats are specifically designed to provide the best protection for children in the event of a crash. They offer appropriate support, alignment, and restraint for a child's smaller body, reducing the risk of injury significantly compared to using a standard seat belt in a regular seat. For children of this age and height, using a booster seat also ensures that the vehicle's seat belt fits properly over the child's body. However, the correct choice emphasizes the importance of a child car seat, which is particularly essential for younger and smaller children, as it secures them in a way that is tailored to their developmental needs. Other options, such as sitting in the front seat with a seat belt or in the trunk, pose significant safety risks. The front seat can expose children to serious injury from airbags, which are designed for adults. Furthermore, sitting in the trunk is illegal in many places and is extremely dangerous as it provides no protection in the event of a collision.