

North Carolina (NC) Permit Practice Test Sample Study Guide



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Questions

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- 1. When rounding a sharp curve, you should do which of the following?**
 - A. Brake in the sharpest part of the curve.**
 - B. Neither A nor B.**
 - C. Both A and B.**
 - D. Stay as far to the left of your lane as possible.**
- 2. When approaching a railroad crossing without any signals or gates, drivers should:**
 - A. Stop within 15 feet of the tracks.**
 - B. Speed up to cross the tracks quickly.**
 - C. Slow down and prepare to stop if necessary.**
 - D. Proceed at the same speed.**
- 3. What should you do if your vehicle begins to skid?**
 - A. Brake immediately**
 - B. Steer in the direction you want to go**
 - C. Accelerate to regain control**
 - D. Turn on your hazard lights**
- 4. If you are walking along a road at night, what should you do?**
 - A. Both A and B**
 - B. Neither A nor B**
 - C. Walk on the right-hand side with the traffic**
 - D. Wear or carry something white**
- 5. When you approach a railroad crossing without flashing warning signals or crossing gates, you should:**
 - A. Always bring your car to a complete stop**
 - B. Increase your speed to clear the tracks quickly**
 - C. Prepare to yield to any train at the crossing**
 - D. Sound your horn and proceed**

- 6. When backing your car, you should do which of the following?**
- A. Both A and B.**
 - B. Keep both hands on the steering wheel.**
 - C. Move at no more than 10 mph.**
 - D. Neither A nor B.**
- 7. When you see a pedestrian with a guide dog or white cane at an intersection, you should:**
- A. Honk your horn to alert them**
 - B. Proceed because you have the right-of-way**
 - C. Stop and give the right-of-way**
 - D. Flash your headlights**
- 8. When can you make a right turn on red in North Carolina?**
- A. At any time, as long as traffic is clear**
 - B. Only at intersections specified by a green arrow**
 - C. When there is no sign prohibiting it and after coming to a complete stop**
 - D. When the light is flashing red**
- 9. If you are blinded by the glare of headlights from another car at night, what should you do?**
- A. Honk your horn**
 - B. Pull over immediately**
 - C. Reduce your speed**
 - D. Switch to low beams**
- 10. Accidents occur most frequently at which of the following?**
- A. Curves**
 - B. Hills**
 - C. Intersections**
 - D. Narrow bridges**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. When rounding a sharp curve, you should do which of the following?

A. Brake in the sharpest part of the curve.

B. Neither A nor B.

C. Both A and B.

D. Stay as far to the left of your lane as possible.

When rounding a sharp curve, it is essential to stay as far to the left of your lane as possible. This is the correct answer because it allows you to have a better view of the road ahead and provides more space to maneuver in case you encounter any unexpected obstacles or if you need to adjust your position while navigating the curve. In contrast, braking in the sharpest part of the curve (Option A) is not recommended as it can cause your vehicle to lose traction and potentially lead to skidding or losing control. Additionally, neither A nor B (Option B) is incorrect because it is crucial to follow proper techniques when navigating curves to ensure safety on the road. Therefore, the best course of action when rounding a sharp curve is to stay as far to the left of your lane as possible to maintain control of your vehicle and have a clear view of the road ahead.

2. When approaching a railroad crossing without any signals or gates, drivers should:

A. Stop within 15 feet of the tracks.

B. Speed up to cross the tracks quickly.

C. Slow down and prepare to stop if necessary.

D. Proceed at the same speed.

Approaching a railroad crossing without any signals or gates can be dangerous as it could mean that a train is about to pass through. Therefore, it is important to slow down and prepare to stop if necessary. Option A is incorrect because 15 feet may not be a safe distance to stop, especially if the train is coming at a high speed. Option B is incorrect because it is never advisable to speed up when crossing railroad tracks as it increases the risk of an accident. Option D is incorrect because not changing your speed can be dangerous if a train is about to pass through, and it is always better to be prepared to stop if needed.

3. What should you do if your vehicle begins to skid?

A. Brake immediately

B. Steer in the direction you want to go

C. Accelerate to regain control

D. Turn on your hazard lights

When your vehicle begins to skid, the appropriate action is to steer in the direction you want to go. This technique helps regain control over the vehicle as it begins to slide. By steering into the skid, you can align the front wheels with the direction of travel, allowing the tires to regain traction. Braking immediately can worsen the skid, as it may lock the wheels and reduce control. Accelerating during a skid can also make the situation worse, as it may increase speed and further reduce traction. While turning on hazard lights can be useful in certain situations, it does not directly address the immediate need to regain control of the vehicle during a skid. Thus, steering in the direction you want to go is the most effective and critical response to recover from a skid.

4. If you are walking along a road at night, what should you do?

- A. Both A and B**
- B. Neither A nor B**
- C. Walk on the right-hand side with the traffic**
- D. Wear or carry something white**

When walking along a road at night, wearing or carrying something white is essential for enhancing visibility to drivers. Bright or reflective clothing significantly increases your chances of being seen, especially in low-light conditions. This practice is critical in ensuring your safety as it makes you more noticeable to approaching vehicles, reducing the likelihood of accidents. While walking on the right-hand side may seem logical since it allows you to face oncoming traffic, it's not as effective as having proper visibility tools, particularly at night. The primary concern should be your visibility to others rather than just your position on the roadway. The combination of both wearing light-colored clothing and walking in a safe location, such as on a sidewalk or shoulder if available, is the best practice for pedestrian safety.

5. When you approach a railroad crossing without flashing warning signals or crossing gates, you should:

- A. Always bring your car to a complete stop**
- B. Increase your speed to clear the tracks quickly**
- C. Prepare to yield to any train at the crossing**
- D. Sound your horn and proceed**

When approaching a railroad crossing without flashing warning signals or crossing gates, preparing to yield to any train at the crossing is the safest course of action. This approach emphasizes vigilance and caution, as trains can come unexpectedly and at high speeds. Unlike vehicles, trains cannot stop quickly, making it crucial for drivers to ensure the tracks are clear before crossing. By preparing to yield, drivers are more aware of their surroundings and can take the necessary precautions to avoid a potentially dangerous situation. This includes looking and listening for any trains that may be approaching, even if no visual signals are present. Being alert and ready to stop can prevent accidents and save lives. In contrast, bringing the car to a complete stop may seem safe, but it does not necessarily address the need for vigilance. Increasing speed to clear the tracks quickly poses a significant risk, as it may prevent the driver from noticing an oncoming train in time. Sounding the horn and proceeding is also a risky move, as it can create a false sense of security without confirming the absence of an approaching train. Thus, the best practice is to always prepare to yield.

6. When backing your car, you should do which of the following?

- A. Both A and B.**
- B. Keep both hands on the steering wheel.**
- C. Move at no more than 10 mph.**
- D. Neither A nor B.**

When backing your car, it is essential to move at no more than 10 mph. This is because backing at a slow speed allows you to have better control over your vehicle and gives you more time to react to any obstacles or pedestrians behind your car. It also reduces the risk of accidents and helps ensure the safety of others around you. Remember to always check your surroundings and use your mirrors while backing up to avoid any potential hazards.

7. When you see a pedestrian with a guide dog or white cane at an intersection, you should:

- A. Honk your horn to alert them**
- B. Proceed because you have the right-of-way**
- C. Stop and give the right-of-way**
- D. Flash your headlights**

Stopping and giving the right-of-way to a pedestrian with a guide dog or white cane is the correct choice because it prioritizes the safety and needs of individuals who may have visual impairments. The presence of a guide dog or white cane indicates that the pedestrian requires assistance to navigate their surroundings. It is not only a matter of courtesy but also a legal requirement under many traffic laws that ensure the protection of vulnerable road users. By stopping, you provide them with the opportunity to cross the intersection safely, demonstrating a commitment to pedestrian safety and accessibility. This action aligns with the duty of drivers to be vigilant and considerate of all road users, particularly those with disabilities.

8. When can you make a right turn on red in North Carolina?

- A. At any time, as long as traffic is clear**
- B. Only at intersections specified by a green arrow**
- C. When there is no sign prohibiting it and after coming to a complete stop**
- D. When the light is flashing red**

In North Carolina, you can make a right turn on red when there is no sign prohibiting it and after coming to a complete stop. This means that if there is no sign specifically stating that right turns on red are not allowed, and you have made a complete stop at the intersection, you are allowed to proceed with caution after ensuring it is safe to do so. Making sure to follow this rule helps maintain the safety of all drivers on the road.

9. If you are blinded by the glare of headlights from another car at night, what should you do?

- A. Honk your horn**
- B. Pull over immediately**
- C. Reduce your speed**
- D. Switch to low beams**

When you are blinded by the glare of headlights from another vehicle at night, reducing your speed is the safest response. Slowing down allows you to maintain better control of your vehicle and gives you more time to react once your vision is restored. It also helps to prevent accidents as you navigate through conditions where visibility is compromised. Switching to low beams can be a helpful technique in general, but it does not apply in this situation since the other driver's high beams are the issue. Honking your horn may notify the other driver, but it doesn't address your immediate visibility problem while driving. Pulling over immediately is too abrupt and could create an unsafe situation, especially if done in a place where the vehicle could be struck by oncoming traffic. The best course of action is always to slow down and drive cautiously until you can see clearly again.

10. Accidents occur most frequently at which of the following?

- A. Curves**
- B. Hills**
- C. Intersections**
- D. Narrow bridges**

Accidents occur most frequently at intersections because intersections are where different roads meet, and various vehicles are entering, exiting, or crossing paths. This increases the potential for collisions due to vehicles moving in different directions and the need to yield or have the right of way. Curves, hills, and narrow bridges can also be locations where accidents occur, but statistically, intersections have a higher accident rate due to the complexity of traffic movement at these points.