

North Carolina Traffic Law Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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SAMPLE

Questions

SAMPLE

- 1. What is one important thing to do when approaching a busy intersection?**
 - A. Speed up to avoid waiting**
 - B. Prepare to yield if necessary**
 - C. Ignore pedestrians**
 - D. Follow closely behind other vehicles**
- 2. What should you do if your vehicle begins to skid?**
 - A. Brake immediately**
 - B. Steer in the direction of the skid to regain control**
 - C. Turn the steering wheel sharply in the opposite direction**
 - D. Accelerate to get out of the skid**
- 3. When merging onto a freeway, what should a driver do?**
 - A. Accelerate as quickly as possible**
 - B. Yield to vehicles already on the freeway**
 - C. Stop before merging**
 - D. Merge without adjusting speed**
- 4. Which of the cars shown may pass?**
 - A. Car 1 only**
 - B. Car 2 only**
 - C. Both cars**
 - D. Neither cars**
- 5. When approaching a school zone, what should you be prepared to do?**
 - A. Speed up to get through quickly.**
 - B. Stop for crossing guards and students.**
 - C. Drive at the regular speed limit.**
 - D. Ignore all signals.**

- 6. What does the term "surcharge" mean in relation to traffic violations?**
- A. Additional penalties imposed for reckless driving**
 - B. Extra fees added to vehicle registration costs**
 - C. Additional fees that may be imposed on top of the fines for certain violations**
 - D. Charges for completing traffic safety courses**
- 7. What should be your primary concern when you encounter road construction?**
- A. Moving through the area as quickly as possible**
 - B. Watching for construction signs and workers' signals**
 - C. Listening to radio updates for traffic information**
 - D. Keeping up with the traffic flow regardless of speed limits**
- 8. What is the legal requirement for children under 8 years old in a vehicle?**
- A. They must be secured in an appropriate child safety seat**
 - B. They can sit in the front seat without a seatbelt**
 - C. They may use adult seatbelts**
 - D. They should remain unrestrained in the back seat**
- 9. What should you avoid while driving on a long trip?**
- A. Avoid looking at distant objects**
 - B. Avoid looking at any one thing for too long**
 - C. Avoid using mirrors**
 - D. Avoid consuming food**
- 10. How often should a safe driver check their mirrors?**
- A. Once every minute**
 - B. Frequently**
 - C. Only when changing lanes**
 - D. Never**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. What is one important thing to do when approaching a busy intersection?

- A. Speed up to avoid waiting**
- B. Prepare to yield if necessary**
- C. Ignore pedestrians**
- D. Follow closely behind other vehicles**

When approaching a busy intersection, it is crucial to prepare to yield if necessary. This means being aware of any traffic signals, signs, and the actions of other road users, including vehicles and pedestrians. Yielding ensures that you give the right-of-way to those entitled to it, which is vital for maintaining safety and preventing accidents. In many situations at intersections, other vehicles may have the right to proceed before you, and pedestrians may be crossing, which requires your attention and potential yielding. This practice helps create a smoother flow of traffic and enhances overall safety for everyone on the road. Safe driving requires an understanding of traffic laws and the appropriate responses to various scenarios, making yield preparation an essential aspect of responsible driving behavior at intersections, especially when they are busy and congested.

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

- A. Brake immediately**
- B. Steer in the direction of the skid to regain control**
- C. Turn the steering wheel sharply in the opposite direction**
- D. Accelerate to get out of the skid**

When your vehicle begins to skid, the safest and most effective action to take is to steer in the direction of the skid to regain control. This technique helps align the vehicle's tires with the direction of travel, allowing the driver to regain traction and control. For example, if the rear of the car starts to slide to the right, you should steer to the right. This action helps counteract the skid and can help stabilize the vehicle as the driver makes corrections. Using this method is critical because abruptly braking or sharply turning the steering wheel in the opposite direction can exacerbate the skid and potentially lead to a loss of control over the vehicle. Similarly, accelerating is not advisable, as this can increase the speed of the skid rather than resolving the loss of traction. Overall, the correct response emphasizes a gentle, controlled maneuver that fosters stability and control over the vehicle during a potentially dangerous situation.

3. When merging onto a freeway, what should a driver do?

- A. Accelerate as quickly as possible
- B. Yield to vehicles already on the freeway**
- C. Stop before merging
- D. Merge without adjusting speed

When merging onto a freeway, it is essential to yield to vehicles that are already on the freeway. This is because the vehicles in the traffic lane have the right of way, and merging drivers must adjust their speed and position to blend safely into the flow of traffic. Properly yielding helps to prevent collisions and ensures a smoother transition onto the freeway. Accelerating without regard to other vehicles could lead to dangerous situations if the merging vehicle does not match the speed of the freeway traffic or tries to force its way in. Stopping before merging can create confusion for other drivers as it may lead to unexpected halts in the flow of traffic. Likewise, merging without adjusting speed may not take into account the speed of existing freeway traffic, which can lead to unsafe conditions. Thus, yielding to vehicles already on the freeway is the correct and safest approach when merging.

4. Which of the cars shown may pass?

- A. Car 1 only
- B. Car 2 only
- C. Both cars**
- D. Neither cars

The situation likely involves understanding the rules of passing on a two-lane roadway. When considering which cars may pass, it is important to evaluate factors such as traffic signs, road markings, and the overall roadway conditions. In this instance, if both cars are legally permitted to pass without crossing into another lane where passing is prohibited (such as a no-passing zone indicated by road markings), then both vehicles are equally allowed to do so. If there is no immediate oncoming traffic and both vehicles have visibility ahead, then it would be appropriate for both cars to proceed with passing. Traffic laws in North Carolina, as well as in many other jurisdictions, generally permit passing when the roadway is clear, there are no signs specifically prohibiting it, and the driver is able to safely maneuver into an adjacent lane. Thus, if both circumstances are met for each car individually, then both are indeed able to pass safely.

5. When approaching a school zone, what should you be prepared to do?

- A. Speed up to get through quickly.**
- B. Stop for crossing guards and students.**
- C. Drive at the regular speed limit.**
- D. Ignore all signals.**

When approaching a school zone, being prepared to stop for crossing guards and students is crucial for ensuring the safety of children. School zones are specifically designated areas where extra caution is needed because of the presence of pedestrians, particularly young children who may be unpredictable in their movements. Crossing guards serve an essential role in directing traffic and ensuring that students can cross the street safely. It is your responsibility as a driver to obey the instructions given by crossing guards, including stopping when they signal you to do so. Moreover, during school hours, speed limits in school zones are often reduced to protect students as they enter or exit the school premises. Adhering to these reduced speed limits, as well as being vigilant for children, helps create a safer environment for those on foot. Recognizing the importance of stopping and yielding to pedestrians in these zones is, therefore, a vital part of responsible driving behavior. Improper actions, like speeding up or ignoring signals, can lead to dangerous situations and potential accidents, highlighting the necessity of following the rules specific to school zones.

6. What does the term "surcharge" mean in relation to traffic violations?

- A. Additional penalties imposed for reckless driving**
- B. Extra fees added to vehicle registration costs**
- C. Additional fees that may be imposed on top of the fines for certain violations**
- D. Charges for completing traffic safety courses**

The term "surcharge" in relation to traffic violations specifically refers to additional fees that may be imposed on top of the fines for certain violations. In North Carolina, when a driver is convicted of specific traffic offenses, not only are they subject to regular fines, but also to surcharges that are added to those fines. These surcharges can vary depending on the severity of the violation and contribute to various state funds, including those for public transportation and improving roadway safety. Understanding this concept is crucial for drivers, as it emphasizes that the total cost of a traffic violation can exceed the initial fine when surcharges are factored in, leading to potentially significant financial consequences for offenders.

7. What should be your primary concern when you encounter road construction?

- A. Moving through the area as quickly as possible**
- B. Watching for construction signs and workers' signals**
- C. Listening to radio updates for traffic information**
- D. Keeping up with the traffic flow regardless of speed limits**

When encountering road construction, your primary concern should be watching for construction signs and workers' signals. This is crucial for ensuring both your safety and the safety of construction workers. Construction areas often have specific traffic patterns, detours, and reduced speed limits that are communicated through signage and signals. Adhering to these instructions is essential to prevent accidents and ensure that the work can proceed without disruptions. In road construction zones, workers may be present and may signal drivers to stop, go, or take alternate routes. Failing to pay attention to these signals can lead to serious accidents, endangering both pedestrians and workers. Moreover, construction sites are often dynamic environments where conditions can change rapidly; remaining vigilant allows drivers to adapt as needed. While staying updated with traffic information, moving quickly, or maintaining traffic flow may seem important, they do not prioritize the essential safety measures that construction signage and signals provide. Thus, being aware of and following the appropriate road signs and workers' directions is the key element in safely navigating construction areas.

8. What is the legal requirement for children under 8 years old in a vehicle?

- A. They must be secured in an appropriate child safety seat**
- B. They can sit in the front seat without a seatbelt**
- C. They may use adult seatbelts**
- D. They should remain unrestrained in the back seat**

The legal requirement for children under 8 years old in a vehicle mandates that they must be secured in an appropriate child safety seat. This law is put in place to ensure the safety of young passengers, as child safety seats are designed to provide the necessary protection and support for their size and weight. These seats help to reduce the risk of serious injury during accidents by properly restraining the child and preventing excessive movement that could lead to harm. Using an appropriate safety seat also takes into account the developmental needs of children, as their bodies are not yet fully formed to withstand the forces experienced during a collision. As children grow and their physical stature changes, they may transition to using booster seats and, eventually, adult seatbelts, but until they reach a certain size or age, securing them in a child safety seat is the law in North Carolina. This requirement reflects a commitment to child safety on the road, helping to protect the most vulnerable passengers.

9. What should you avoid while driving on a long trip?

- A. Avoid looking at distant objects
- B. Avoid looking at any one thing for too long**
- C. Avoid using mirrors
- D. Avoid consuming food

Avoiding looking at any one thing for too long while driving on a long trip is essential for maintaining situational awareness and preventing fatigue. When a driver fixates on a single object or part of the road for an extended period, it can lead to decreased awareness of the surrounding environment, including other vehicles, pedestrians, and changing road conditions. This type of distraction can hinder the ability to react promptly to any hazards that may arise. Additionally, long trips can contribute to driver fatigue, making it even more crucial to stay mentally engaged and vigilant. Regularly scanning the surroundings and varying your focus helps keep the mind alert and promotes better reaction times, which is vital for safe driving. In context, while the other options may touch on aspects of driving safety, they don't address the engagement needed to maintain awareness as effectively as avoiding prolonged fixation on one object does. For example, using mirrors is important for checking blind spots and maintaining an awareness of traffic, while consuming food may distract from focused driving but is not inherently unsafe if managed properly.

10. How often should a safe driver check their mirrors?

- A. Once every minute
- B. Frequently**
- C. Only when changing lanes
- D. Never

A safe driver should check their mirrors frequently to maintain situational awareness and ensure they are aware of their surroundings. Constant mirror checks are crucial for monitoring traffic conditions, identifying potential hazards, and ensuring safe maneuvers like changing lanes or merging. Regularly checking mirrors helps drivers anticipate the actions of other road users, including cyclists, pedestrians, and other vehicles, which is essential for preventing accidents. This practice encourages proactive driving, allowing the driver to react more effectively to changes in the driving environment. It's important to integrate mirror checks into the overall driving routine rather than only doing so during specific instances, such as lane changes. This habit cultivates a comprehensive awareness of the field of vision around the vehicle, enhancing road safety.