

Ontario Bus Driver Knowledge Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. What does a transit priority signal look like?**
 - A. A green arrow**
 - B. A red X**
 - C. A white vertical bar on dark background**
 - D. A yellow flashing light**
- 2. The air pressure in your spare tire should be the same as...?**
 - A. The lowest pressure tire on your vehicle**
 - B. The average pressure of the tires on your vehicle**
 - C. The highest pressure tire on your vehicle**
 - D. A standard pressure recommended by the manufacturer**
- 3. What should a bus driver do if they encounter a school zone?**
 - A. Stop and wait until the zone is clear**
 - B. Speed up to clear the zone**
 - C. Reduce speed and be cautious**
 - D. Ignore the school zone signs**
- 4. Who should you report to if you wish to report a driver for illegal passing of a school bus?**
 - A. The police**
 - B. The school administration**
 - C. The local council**
 - D. The driver's employer**
- 5. Why should bus drivers pay attention to the behavior of other road users?**
 - A. To judge their driving skills**
 - B. To predict potential hazards and react appropriately**
 - C. To impress passengers with their knowledge**
 - D. To maintain a reputation among other drivers**

- 6. When does a bus have the right of way?**
- A. When first in line at a stoplight**
 - B. When entering a roundabout**
 - C. When exiting a designated bus lane or stop**
 - D. When making a left turn**
- 7. When is a bus driver required to use a steering wheel lock?**
- A. While driving in a school zone**
 - B. When the bus is in reverse**
 - C. When leaving the bus unattended, if equipped**
 - D. During inclement weather**
- 8. You are approaching an intersection without signs or lights. Right-of-way belongs to...?**
- A. Vehicles coming from the left**
 - B. Vehicles coming from the right**
 - C. Pedestrians only**
 - D. Bicyclists**
- 9. How far from any intersection should you not use your flashing red lights or stop arm on a school bus?**
- A. 30 metres**
 - B. 60 metres**
 - C. 100 metres**
 - D. 5 metres**
- 10. What does the term "dead heading" refer to in bus operation?**
- A. Traveling with passengers only**
 - B. Traveling without passengers to pick them up**
 - C. Taking a break between routes**
 - D. Refueling the bus**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

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Explanations

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1. What does a transit priority signal look like?

- A. A green arrow
- B. A red X
- C. A white vertical bar on dark background**
- D. A yellow flashing light

A green arrow is used in traffic signals to indicate it is safe to proceed in a specific direction, usually accompanied by a green light. This is different from a transit priority signal, which is designed to give buses or other modes of transit priority over other vehicles at an intersection. A red X is typically found on lane control signals and is used to indicate that a lane is closed and drivers should not use it. This does not apply to transit priority signals. A yellow flashing light is often used as a warning signal to indicate caution or that something is ahead, such as a traffic light or pedestrian crossing. This is not indicative of a transit priority signal. The only correct option is C, a white vertical bar on a dark background. This is the most common way to indicate a transit priority signal, often accompanied by a sign that reads "Transit Signal Priority" or "Bus only signal"

2. The air pressure in your spare tire should be the same as...?

- A. The lowest pressure tire on your vehicle
- B. The average pressure of the tires on your vehicle
- C. The highest pressure tire on your vehicle**
- D. A standard pressure recommended by the manufacturer

The air pressure in your spare tire should be the same as the highest pressure tire on your vehicle. This is because the spare tire is typically used as a replacement for a flat or damaged tire, therefore it should be able to support the same amount of weight and have the same level of inflation as the tire it is replacing. Option A is incorrect because the lowest pressure tire on your vehicle may be under-inflated and not provide enough support for the spare tire. Option B is incorrect because taking the average pressure of all the tires may not accurately reflect the pressure needed for a specific tire. Option D may also be incorrect because the manufacturer's recommended standard pressure may not take into account the weight and inflation needed for a specific tire on your vehicle. Therefore, the best option is to match the spare tire pressure to the highest pressure tire on your vehicle.

3. What should a bus driver do if they encounter a school zone?

- A. Stop and wait until the zone is clear**
- B. Speed up to clear the zone**
- C. Reduce speed and be cautious**
- D. Ignore the school zone signs**

When a bus driver encounters a school zone, reducing speed and being cautious is the most appropriate action to take. School zones are designated areas where the safety of children is the primary concern, especially during school hours. These zones typically have lower speed limits to ensure that drivers have ample time to react to any unexpected movements from pedestrians, particularly young students who may not always be fully aware of their surroundings. By slowing down, the bus driver increases their ability to respond effectively to situations that may arise, such as children crossing the street or emerging suddenly in front of the bus. This cautious approach helps maintain a safe environment and aligns with traffic regulations designed to protect vulnerable road users. Additionally, obeying the posted speed limits in school zones often demonstrates respect for community safety standards and enhances the overall safety of the area.

4. Who should you report to if you wish to report a driver for illegal passing of a school bus?

- A. The police**
- B. The school administration**
- C. The local council**
- D. The driver's employer**

While the other options may seem logical, the responsible party for enforcing traffic laws and penalizing drivers for illegal actions on the road is the police. The school administration, local council, and the driver's employer do not have the authority to enforce traffic laws or penalize drivers. Therefore, if you wish to report a driver for illegal passing of a school bus, you should report it to the police.

5. Why should bus drivers pay attention to the behavior of other road users?

- A. To judge their driving skills**
- B. To predict potential hazards and react appropriately**
- C. To impress passengers with their knowledge**
- D. To maintain a reputation among other drivers**

Bus drivers should pay attention to the behavior of other road users primarily to predict potential hazards and react appropriately. This focus on observation is crucial for safety. By being aware of the actions of cars, bicycles, pedestrians, and other vehicles, bus drivers can anticipate sudden changes in traffic situations, such as a car making an abrupt lane change or a pedestrian stepping onto the road unexpectedly. This proactive approach allows bus drivers to adjust their speed, position, or braking in response to these behaviors, minimizing the risk of accidents and ensuring the safety of all passengers on board, as well as other road users. The ability to predict hazards based on the behavior of others is essential in a dynamic driving environment, making it a key skill for effective bus operation.

6. When does a bus have the right of way?

- A. When first in line at a stoplight**
- B. When entering a roundabout**
- C. When exiting a designated bus lane or stop**
- D. When making a left turn**

A bus has the right of way when exiting a designated bus lane or stop. This is crucial for maintaining the safety and efficiency of public transit operations. Buses are often transporting many passengers and need to re-enter regular traffic smoothly and safely. Giving the bus right of way helps prevent delays and allows for better coordination between bus services and other road users. In contrast, being first in line at a stoplight may not grant the bus the same privileges as it may still need to yield to pedestrians or vehicles that have a right of way. When entering a roundabout, the bus typically must yield to vehicles already in the roundabout unless otherwise indicated, which is essential for the continuous flow of traffic. Making a left turn generally requires yielding to oncoming traffic and pedestrians unless otherwise specified, as safety is a priority in such scenarios. Thus, buses are specifically prioritized when exiting bus lanes or stops to ensure passenger safety and effective public transportation.

7. When is a bus driver required to use a steering wheel lock?

- A. While driving in a school zone**
- B. When the bus is in reverse**
- C. When leaving the bus unattended, if equipped**
- D. During inclement weather**

A bus driver is required to use a steering wheel lock when leaving the bus unattended, if equipped. This practice enhances safety and security by effectively immobilizing the steering system of the vehicle, preventing unauthorized use or movement. By using the steering wheel lock, drivers can deter theft or tampering, which is especially important when buses are parked and not supervised. It is essential for drivers to be aware that using a steering wheel lock not only serves to protect the vehicle but also contributes to overall road safety by preventing any potential accidents caused by an unattended bus rolling or being improperly operated. Other scenarios, like driving in a school zone or during inclement weather, have specific safety protocols that a driver must follow, but they do not necessitate the use of a steering wheel lock. Similarly, while the bus is in reverse, the driver remains actively in control of the vehicle and responsible for its operation, making the use of a steering wheel lock unnecessary.

8. You are approaching an intersection without signs or lights. Right-of-way belongs to...?

- A. Vehicles coming from the left**
- B. Vehicles coming from the right**
- C. Pedestrians only**
- D. Bicyclists**

In an intersection without any signs or lights, right-of-way belongs to vehicles coming from the right. This means that if you are approaching the intersection, you should yield to any vehicles coming from your right before proceeding through the intersection. This is because in most countries, including the United States, cars drive on the right side of the road and turning right usually requires crossing the lane of traffic coming from the left. Therefore, it is important to check for oncoming traffic from the right before proceeding through the intersection. The other options, such as vehicles from the left, pedestrians only, or bicyclists, do not have the right-of-way in this scenario and should be given way to before proceeding. It is important to always follow traffic rules and guidelines to ensure the safety of all road users.

9. How far from any intersection should you not use your flashing red lights or stop arm on a school bus?

- A. 30 metres**
- B. 60 metres**
- C. 100 metres**
- D. 5 metres**

You should not use your flashing red lights or stop arm on a school bus within 60 metres of any intersection. This is because it could potentially confuse other drivers at the intersection and create a safety hazard for students getting on or off the bus. Options A, C, and D are incorrect because they are closer to or further from the intersection than the recommended distance of 60 metres. Option D in particular is an unsafe option as it is too close to the intersection and would not give enough time for other drivers to safely stop.

10. What does the term "dead heading" refer to in bus operation?

- A. Traveling with passengers only**
- B. Traveling without passengers to pick them up**
- C. Taking a break between routes**
- D. Refueling the bus**

The term "dead heading" refers to traveling without passengers to pick them up. This situation occurs when a bus driver is driving the bus to a location where they will begin a route or service, but at that moment, the bus is not carrying any passengers. Understanding this term is vital for bus operations, as it involves planning and scheduling for efficient transportation services. Drivers and management need to account for these segments of travel when considering overall service times and efficiency, ensuring that the bus is utilized effectively while minimizing the time and resources used during these journeys without passengers. The other choices pertain to different aspects of bus operation, but they do not define "dead heading" accurately.