

South Dakota Drivers Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. What is a critical action you must never take after an accident?**
 - A. Run away from the scene**
 - B. Call 911**
 - C. Exchange insurance information**
 - D. Check if anyone is injured**
- 2. What should you do if your car is in an emergency?**
 - A. Drive faster to get help**
 - B. Turn on the emergency lights and pull over to the side of the road**
 - C. Ignore it and keep driving**
 - D. Stop in the middle of the road**
- 3. Who should you give extra space to while driving?**
 - A. Only larger vehicles**
 - B. People who can't see you and people who may be confused**
 - C. Just pedestrians**
 - D. No one, everyone has to adjust**
- 4. What does a flashing yellow light indicate?**
 - A. Come to a complete stop**
 - B. Slow down and proceed with caution**
 - C. Turn left if safe**
 - D. All traffic must stop**
- 5. In which situation is it essential to maintain a longer following distance?**
 - A. In darkness or bad weather**
 - B. When traveling on a straight road**
 - C. When driving on a clear sunny day**
 - D. When approaching a toll plaza**

- 6. During an enforcement stop, why is it important to keep your hands in clear view?**
- A. To signal other drivers**
 - B. To avoid confusion**
 - C. For safety reasons**
 - D. To ensure your car stays on the road**
- 7. Where is it not safe to pass another vehicle?**
- A. On straight highways**
 - B. At intersections and at railroad grade crossings**
 - C. On rural backroads**
 - D. In open areas without traffic**
- 8. How do you keep a vehicle behind you at a safe distance?**
- A. By accelerating quickly away from it**
 - B. Keeping a steady speed and signaling in advance when you need to turn**
 - C. Turning abruptly to confuse the driver**
 - D. Braking suddenly to create distance**
- 9. How do you separate risks while driving?**
- A. Take risks one at a time when possible**
 - B. Ignore minor risks if driving fast**
 - C. Always follow the vehicle ahead closely**
 - D. Speed up to merge quickly in traffic**
- 10. What should you do in the situation of a power failure while driving?**
- A. Keep a firm grip on the wheel and restart the engine**
 - B. Signal to other drivers and stop immediately**
 - C. Drive faster to regain power**
 - D. Turn off the radio and focus**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

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1. What is a critical action you must never take after an accident?

- A. Run away from the scene**
- B. Call 911**
- C. Exchange insurance information**
- D. Check if anyone is injured**

Running away from the scene of an accident is a critical action you must never take because it is illegal and can lead to severe consequences. Leaving the scene not only hinders the ability of law enforcement to respond appropriately and investigate the situation, but it can also indicate guilt or wrongdoing. It is essential to remain at the scene to ensure the safety of all involved and to provide necessary assistance. In most jurisdictions, including South Dakota, the law requires drivers to stop and exchange information, render aid if needed, and report the accident to the appropriate authorities. This includes calling 911 when there are injuries or significant property damage. Exchanging insurance information is also crucial for managing any claims that arise from the accident. Checking if anyone is injured is a vital step that demonstrates care and responsibility, ensuring that immediate medical help can be provided if necessary.

2. What should you do if your car is in an emergency?

- A. Drive faster to get help**
- B. Turn on the emergency lights and pull over to the side of the road**
- C. Ignore it and keep driving**
- D. Stop in the middle of the road**

When your car is in an emergency, turning on the emergency lights and pulling over to the side of the road is the best action to take. This step ensures your safety by making your vehicle visible to other drivers, which helps prevent potential collisions. It also allows you to assess the situation and make necessary arrangements for assistance without the added risk of being stranded in traffic. Pulling over gives you a moment to evaluate the issue more calmly, whether it's a mechanical problem or something else. Keeping your vehicle off the main roadway minimizes hazards for you and other drivers, while staying put inside your vehicle can further safeguard you, especially on busy roads. This action not only prioritizes your safety but also complies with traffic laws, which often require drivers to make their vehicles safe during emergencies.

3. Who should you give extra space to while driving?

- A. Only larger vehicles
- B. People who can't see you and people who may be confused**
- C. Just pedestrians
- D. No one, everyone has to adjust

Giving extra space to people who can't see you and those who may be confused is crucial for maintaining safety on the road. This group includes drivers of larger vehicles, children, pedestrians, cyclists, and individuals who might be engaging in unpredictable behavior. By providing extra space, you create a buffer that allows for reactions to unexpected movements or decisions made by others. For instance, a driver in a larger vehicle may have blind spots that prevent them from seeing smaller vehicles, while a confused pedestrian might not be paying attention to traffic signals or directions. The additional space offers you more time to react should a sudden situation arise, enhancing both your safety and that of others. Understanding that not all road users have the same visibility or understanding of traffic can help you drive more defensively and reduce the risk of accidents.

4. What does a flashing yellow light indicate?

- A. Come to a complete stop
- B. Slow down and proceed with caution**
- C. Turn left if safe
- D. All traffic must stop

A flashing yellow light serves as a warning to drivers that they should slow down and proceed with caution. This indication is essential for situations where there may be potential hazards ahead, such as approaching an intersection or encountering roadwork. It alerts drivers that they need to be more vigilant about their surroundings, as conditions may not be entirely safe for regular speed. Unlike a solid yellow light, which indicates that a driver should prepare to stop, the flashing yellow does not require a complete stop. It encourages drivers to remain alert and ready to take any necessary actions, such as yielding to pedestrians or other vehicles. This allows for a more flexible approach to navigating the roadway while still prioritizing safety.

5. In which situation is it essential to maintain a longer following distance?

- A. In darkness or bad weather**
- B. When traveling on a straight road
- C. When driving on a clear sunny day
- D. When approaching a toll plaza

Maintaining a longer following distance in darkness or bad weather is crucial for several reasons. Reduced visibility in these conditions limits a driver's ability to see obstacles, road signs, and other vehicles, which can necessitate more time to respond to unexpected situations. For example, in rain or snow, stopping distances are significantly increased due to slick road surfaces, making it essential to leave more space between vehicles. Darkness also contributes to diminished perception of speed and distance, further increasing the need for greater caution and expanded following distances to give drivers ample time to react if the vehicle ahead suddenly slows down or stops. This practice enhances safety by providing a buffer that can help prevent collisions in challenging driving conditions.

6. During an enforcement stop, why is it important to keep your hands in clear view?

- A. To signal other drivers**
- B. To avoid confusion**
- C. For safety reasons**
- D. To ensure your car stays on the road**

Keeping your hands in clear view during an enforcement stop is crucial for safety reasons. This action helps to ensure that law enforcement officers can see your hands at all times, reducing the potential for misunderstandings or accidents. Officers may approach a vehicle with caution, as they do not know what to expect. When drivers keep their hands visible, it communicates that they are not a threat and helps to create a safer environment for both the officer and the driver. In addition, maintaining visible hands can help to alleviate tension during the stop. It signals cooperation and compliance, which can lead to a more straightforward interaction. Overall, it promotes safety for everyone involved in the traffic stop.

7. Where is it not safe to pass another vehicle?

- A. On straight highways**
- B. At intersections and at railroad grade crossings**
- C. On rural backroads**
- D. In open areas without traffic**

Passing another vehicle at intersections and railroad grade crossings is not safe due to the increased risk of accidents in these locations. Intersections are where multiple roadways meet, and vehicles can come from different directions, creating potential conflict points. Visibility can sometimes be limited, and other drivers may not anticipate your movements. Additionally, railroad crossings present unique hazards, as trains can approach with little warning and at high speeds. The risk associated with these areas—whether it's the potential for other vehicles to emerge unexpectedly or the danger posed by trains—makes them particularly unsafe for passing. This understanding highlights the importance of exercising caution and waiting for appropriate opportunities to pass in safer locations.

8. How do you keep a vehicle behind you at a safe distance?

- A. By accelerating quickly away from it**
- B. Keeping a steady speed and signaling in advance when you need to turn**
- C. Turning abruptly to confuse the driver**
- D. Braking suddenly to create distance**

Maintaining a safe following distance behind your vehicle is crucial for safe driving, and keeping a steady speed while signaling in advance is an effective way to achieve this. When you signal your intention to turn, you allow the driver behind you to anticipate your movements, which gives them the opportunity to adjust their speed accordingly. This proactive approach helps prevent sudden stops or collisions. Additionally, by maintaining a steady speed, you ensure that your vehicle moves predictably, making it easier for the driver behind you to judge the appropriate distance to keep. This practice fosters a safer driving environment for everyone on the road, as it minimizes confusion and surprises for other drivers.

9. How do you separate risks while driving?

- A. Take risks one at a time when possible**
- B. Ignore minor risks if driving fast**
- C. Always follow the vehicle ahead closely**
- D. Speed up to merge quickly in traffic**

Taking risks one at a time when possible is a fundamental principle in safe driving. This approach allows a driver to focus on managing one specific risk at a time, rather than becoming overwhelmed or distracted by multiple challenges simultaneously. By isolating and addressing risks individually, a driver can better assess the situation, make informed decisions, and execute maneuvers more effectively, which enhances overall safety on the road. For example, if an obstacle suddenly appears, focusing solely on that immediate risk allows for a quicker and more effective reaction—whether that's stopping, steering around it, or adjusting speed. This method contrasts with trying to manage several risks at once, which can lead to mistakes or accidents. In contrast, ignoring minor risks while driving fast could result in losing control of the vehicle when unexpected situations arise. Following too closely behind another vehicle compromises reaction time and can lead to rear-end collisions. Speeding up to merge quickly in traffic can create dangerous situations as it puts additional pressure on both the merging driver and those already in traffic, increasing the likelihood of accidents.

10. What should you do in the situation of a power failure while driving?

- A. Keep a firm grip on the wheel and restart the engine**
- B. Signal to other drivers and stop immediately**
- C. Drive faster to regain power**
- D. Turn off the radio and focus**

When encountering a power failure while driving, it's essential to maintain control of the vehicle, which is why keeping a firm grip on the wheel is crucial. A power failure can lead to a loss of power steering, making it more challenging to steer the vehicle effectively. If the vehicle can be restarted, it may help bring back power to crucial systems, but your first priority should be to maintain control and stability on the road. In this kind of situation, signaling to other drivers and stopping immediately, while it might seem safe, could create hazards if done abruptly and without control. Driving faster to regain power is unsafe and counterproductive, as it increases the risk of losing control of the vehicle. Turning off the radio may help you focus, but it won't address the immediate need to manage a power failure effectively. Therefore, keeping a firm grip on the wheel while preparing to safely navigate the situation is the most prudent action.