

State of Maine Motorist Handbook Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. What does a circular traffic sign usually indicate?**
 - A. A railway crossing**
 - B. A pedestrian zone**
 - C. A speed limit change**
 - D. A one-way street**
- 2. Under what circumstances is it illegal to pass another vehicle?**
 - A. When approaching a hill or curve where visibility is limited**
 - B. When in a school zone**
 - C. In a construction zone**
 - D. When the line is broken**
- 3. How often must you renew your driver's license in Maine?**
 - A. Every 2 years**
 - B. Every 3 years**
 - C. Every 4 years**
 - D. Every 5 years**
- 4. What should be the first thing you do if you are involved in an accident?**
 - A. Leave the scene to avoid congestion**
 - B. Stop your car and aid the injured**
 - C. Call your insurance company**
 - D. Exchange information with the other driver**
- 5. How far should you signal before making a turn?**
 - A. At least 50 feet**
 - B. At least 75 feet**
 - C. At least 100 feet**
 - D. At least 150 feet**
- 6. What should you do if you approach a red traffic light?**
 - A. Speed up to clear the intersection**
 - B. Come to a complete stop**
 - C. Proceed with caution**
 - D. Check for other vehicles and then decide**

- 7. Which of the following is not a cause of increased stopping distance on slippery roads?**
- A. Wet conditions**
 - B. Worn tires**
 - C. Driving with the lights on**
 - D. Excessive speed**
- 8. Which traffic law violation results in an automatic 90-day suspension upon conviction?**
- A. Driving without a seatbelt**
 - B. Street racing**
 - C. Parking violations**
 - D. Speeding**
- 9. What is the first thing you should do if your gas pedal sticks while driving?**
- A. Shift into neutral and apply the brakes**
 - B. Turn off the engine**
 - C. Keep pressing the pedal to see if it returns**
 - D. Call for assistance immediately**
- 10. When are you allowed to use your phone while driving in Maine?**
- A. Only for hands-free calls**
 - B. At red lights**
 - C. Whenever you need to**
 - D. While driving on highways only**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

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Explanations

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1. What does a circular traffic sign usually indicate?

- A. A railway crossing**
- B. A pedestrian zone**
- C. A speed limit change**
- D. A one-way street**

A circular traffic sign typically indicates that drivers should be aware of a railway crossing. These signs are important because they alert motorists to an upcoming railroad track where trains may cross the roadway. It is crucial for drivers to pay attention to such signs, as failing to do so can lead to serious accidents involving trains. In contrast, other sign shapes convey different messages. The rectangular shape often found in speed limit signs indicates a speed limit change, while signs indicating one-way streets often have an arrow to direct traffic. Pedestrian zones may be indicated by different shapes or designs, typically emphasizing the need for caution in areas with foot traffic. Understanding the specific meanings associated with the various shapes of traffic signs is key for safe driving.

2. Under what circumstances is it illegal to pass another vehicle?

- A. When approaching a hill or curve where visibility is limited**
- B. When in a school zone**
- C. In a construction zone**
- D. When the line is broken**

Passing another vehicle is illegal when approaching a hill or curve where visibility is limited because doing so poses a significant safety risk. On a hill or curve, the driver may not have a clear view of oncoming traffic. This creates a hazardous situation where a driver could inadvertently enter the path of another vehicle, leading to potentially serious collisions. In these areas, the inability to see ahead not only makes it difficult to judge whether the road is clear but also the speed and distance of approaching vehicles. This is why such regulations are in place—to increase safety for all road users. The other scenarios presented, such as being in school zones, construction zones, or situations with broken lines, have their own specific rules and guidelines, but the primary concern when passing is always visibility and the ability to make safe driving decisions.

3. How often must you renew your driver's license in Maine?

- A. Every 2 years**
- B. Every 3 years**
- C. Every 4 years**
- D. Every 5 years**

In Maine, the renewal period for a driver's license is set at every four years. This means that once you obtain your license, you are required to renew it after this four-year period to maintain its validity. This schedule helps ensure that driver's information is updated and that they remain compliant with any changes in state driving laws or regulations. Other options do not meet the state's established renewal schedule, which is specifically designed to promote road safety and accountability among drivers.

4. What should be the first thing you do if you are involved in an accident?

- A. Leave the scene to avoid congestion**
- B. Stop your car and aid the injured**
- C. Call your insurance company**
- D. Exchange information with the other driver**

In the event of an accident, the first and most crucial step is to stop your car and provide aid to anyone who may be injured. This action reflects a fundamental duty of care that drivers have towards others on the road. Ensuring the safety and well-being of all individuals involved is paramount. Providing assistance can range from calling 911 for medical help or checking if anyone needs immediate first aid, depending on your training and the situation at hand. This response prioritizes human safety over other concerns. While exchanging information with the other driver and calling your insurance company are important subsequent steps, the immediate focus should always be on addressing any injuries and ensuring that no one in the vicinity is in further danger. Leaving the scene or delaying assistance can exacerbate the situation and lead to legal repercussions, making it vital to act thoughtfully and responsibly right after an accident.

5. How far should you signal before making a turn?

- A. At least 50 feet**
- B. At least 75 feet**
- C. At least 100 feet**
- D. At least 150 feet**

Signaling at least 100 feet before making a turn is vital for ensuring the safety of all road users. This distance provides ample time for other drivers and pedestrians to be aware of your intentions, helping them to react appropriately. By signaling well in advance, you reduce the likelihood of sudden movements which could lead to confusion or accidents. This practice supports better communication on the road, promoting a smoother flow of traffic and minimizing disruption. The 100-foot guideline is generally accepted as a standard distance; it allows enough room for other road users to understand your course of action, fostering a safer driving environment.

6. What should you do if you approach a red traffic light?

- A. Speed up to clear the intersection**
- B. Come to a complete stop**
- C. Proceed with caution**
- D. Check for other vehicles and then decide**

When you approach a red traffic light, the correct action is to come to a complete stop. This is a fundamental rule of traffic laws designed to maintain safety at intersections. A red light indicates that vehicles must stop to allow cross traffic or pedestrians to move safely through the intersection. Failing to stop can lead to accidents, injuries, or violations of traffic laws. Stopping at a red light not only ensures your safety but also the safety of others on the road, including pedestrians who may be crossing. After stopping, you should remain halted until the light turns green, at which point you may proceed when it is safe to do so. Understanding and obeying traffic signals like red lights is crucial for effective traffic management and helps prevent collisions.

7. Which of the following is not a cause of increased stopping distance on slippery roads?

A. Wet conditions

B. Worn tires

C. Driving with the lights on

D. Excessive speed

Driving with the lights on is not a factor that increases stopping distance on slippery roads. The primary purpose of headlights is to enhance visibility for the driver and to make the vehicle more noticeable to other road users, particularly in low-light conditions or adverse weather. While having your lights on is crucial for safety, it doesn't physically impact the traction or braking capability of the vehicle on slippery surfaces. In contrast, wet conditions, worn tires, and excessive speed all directly relate to the vehicle's ability to stop effectively. Wet conditions reduce friction between the tires and the road surface, leading to longer stopping distances. Worn tires can also decrease traction, making it harder for a vehicle to grip the surface, which again increases stopping distances. Furthermore, excessive speed diminishes the driver's ability to react timely and increases the distance required to stop safely. All these factors contribute to a significant increase in stopping distance in slippery conditions, unlike driving with the lights on.

8. Which traffic law violation results in an automatic 90-day suspension upon conviction?

A. Driving without a seatbelt

B. Street racing

C. Parking violations

D. Speeding

Street racing is a serious traffic violation that creates significant risks for both the participants and other road users. In Maine, it is treated with particular severity due to the potential for accidents, injuries, and fatalities. When an individual is convicted of street racing, the laws are designed to impose strict penalties as a deterrent to this dangerous behavior. The 90-day suspension of driving privileges serves several purposes: it emphasizes the seriousness of the offense, aims to reduce reckless driving, and promotes safer driving habits among all motorists. This harsh penalty reflects the state's commitment to maintaining road safety and discouraging illegal racing activities, which can lead to severe consequences for both drivers and others on the road.

9. What is the first thing you should do if your gas pedal sticks while driving?

A. Shift into neutral and apply the brakes

B. Turn off the engine

C. Keep pressing the pedal to see if it returns

D. Call for assistance immediately

When the gas pedal sticks while driving, the most critical first step is to shift into neutral and apply the brakes. This action allows you to take control of the vehicle and bring it to a stop safely, as it disengages the engine power from the wheels. By shifting to neutral, you prevent the vehicle from accelerating uncontrollably due to the stuck pedal, giving you the necessary time to assess the situation and decide on further actions. Turning off the engine can be dangerous, especially at high speeds, as it may disable your power steering and brakes, making it harder to control the vehicle. Additionally, simply keeping pressure on the pedal to test if it returns doesn't address the immediate risk of acceleration and could lead to a loss of control. Calling for assistance can be an appropriate action, but it should come after you have safely managed the immediate risk posed by the stuck gas pedal. Focusing on bringing the vehicle under control is the priority.

10. When are you allowed to use your phone while driving in Maine?

A. Only for hands-free calls

B. At red lights

C. Whenever you need to

D. While driving on highways only

Using your phone only for hands-free calls while driving in Maine is correct because it aligns with the state's laws designed to enhance road safety. Maine has implemented strict regulations aimed at reducing distractions for drivers. Using a hands-free device allows drivers to communicate without physically manipulating their phones, thus minimizing the risk of taking their eyes off the road or their hands off the wheel, which significantly reduces the chance of accidents. While the other options might seem plausible in some contexts, they do not comply with the legal framework established in Maine regarding mobile phone use while driving. For instance, using your phone at red lights could lead to dangerous behavior if the light changes unexpectedly. Additionally, asserting that using a phone is permissible whenever needed overlooks the emphasis on safety and the focus on preventing distractions. Lastly, limiting phone use to highways ignores that distractions can be dangerous regardless of the type of road or area where one is driving. Ensuring that communication happens hands-free is a crucial step in maintaining road safety for everyone.