

# Tennessee 4-Hour Defensive Driving Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



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**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

- 1. What is the recommended action if you see brake lights ahead?**
  - A. Maintain your speed.**
  - B. Accelerate to avoid traffic.**
  - C. Prepare to stop.**
  - D. Change lanes immediately.**
- 2. What is the legal limit of blood alcohol content for noncommercial drivers?**
  - A. 0.10%**
  - B. 0.08%**
  - C. 0.05%**
  - D. 0.12%**
- 3. How should you respond to a driver who is tailgating you?**
  - A. Speed up to create distance**
  - B. Brake suddenly to show your anger**
  - C. Change lanes or pull over to allow them to pass**
  - D. Ignore them completely**
- 4. Which of the following behaviors is discouraged in defensive driving?**
  - A. Maintaining a safe following distance**
  - B. Using signals before turning or changing lanes**
  - C. Engaging in aggressive driving**
  - D. Adapting speed according to road conditions**
- 5. Under what condition must drivers yield to pedestrians?**
  - A. Only when the pedestrian is carrying an object**
  - B. At all times in crosswalks and when they have the signal to cross**
  - C. Only if there is no other traffic present**
  - D. When the pedestrian is on the side of the road**

- 6. What are the signs of impaired driving?**
- A. Consistent lane changes and high speed**
  - B. Erratic lane changes, delayed reactions, and swerving**
  - C. Driving with headlights on**
  - D. Speeding at all times**
- 7. When driving in adverse weather, you should?**
- A. Increase your speed to clear the road faster.**
  - B. Drive with extra caution.**
  - C. Use high beam headlights.**
  - D. Maintain the same following distance.**
- 8. What is the primary reason for using a seatbelt while driving?**
- A. To avoid getting a ticket.**
  - B. To protect yourself in case of an accident.**
  - C. To keep the airbags from deploying.**
  - D. To comply with state laws only.**
- 9. Which scenario illustrates a violation of the Move Over law?**
- A. Driving in the left lane while an emergency vehicle is parked on the right**
  - B. Slowing down but remaining in your lane when approaching emergency vehicles**
  - C. Changing lanes away from a moving emergency vehicle**
  - D. Stopping to assist an emergency responder**
- 10. What does a double yellow line on the road signify?**
- A. One lane is for left turns only**
  - B. No passing in either direction**
  - C. Passing is allowed in both directions**
  - D. Only trucks can pass**

## **Answers**

SAMPLE

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What is the recommended action if you see brake lights ahead?**

- A. Maintain your speed.**
- B. Accelerate to avoid traffic.**
- C. Prepare to stop.**
- D. Change lanes immediately.**

When you see brake lights ahead, this is a clear indicator that vehicles in front of you are slowing down or stopping. The recommended action of preparing to stop allows you to respond appropriately to the potential hazard of abrupt halting traffic. This action not only helps to prevent collisions but also promotes safe driving practices by maintaining a safe following distance. Maintaining your speed in such a scenario could lead to a rear-end collision if traffic suddenly comes to a halt. Similarly, accelerating to avoid traffic would be reckless, as it could increase the likelihood of an accident. Changing lanes immediately is also not advisable unless you have confirmed that it is safe to do so, as this could lead to additional risks in a situation where cars are stopping. Preparing to stop ensures that you enhance your safety and the safety of others on the road.

**2. What is the legal limit of blood alcohol content for noncommercial drivers?**

- A. 0.10%**
- B. 0.08%**
- C. 0.05%**
- D. 0.12%**

The legal limit of blood alcohol content (BAC) for noncommercial drivers is set at 0.08%. This threshold is established to help ensure that drivers are not impaired while operating a vehicle. At or above this level, a driver's ability to safely control the vehicle can be significantly diminished, leading to increased risks of accidents and dangerous driving behavior. Understanding this limit is crucial for promoting responsible drinking and driving practices. It serves as a guideline for individuals to assess their own level of impairment before deciding to get behind the wheel. In Tennessee and many other states, exceeding this BAC level can lead to serious legal consequences, including fines, license suspension, and even imprisonment, highlighting the importance of adhering to this limit for public safety.

### **3. How should you respond to a driver who is tailgating you?**

- A. Speed up to create distance**
- B. Brake suddenly to show your anger**
- C. Change lanes or pull over to allow them to pass**
- D. Ignore them completely**

When responding to a driver who is tailgating you, the safest and most responsible action is to change lanes or pull over to allow them to pass. This approach minimizes the risk of a rear-end collision and helps to reduce tension on the road. By allowing the tailgater to move ahead, you can create a safer driving environment for both yourself and the other driver. Maintaining a safe following distance is a fundamental aspect of defensive driving. If another driver chooses to follow too closely, it's important not to engage in aggressive behavior or retaliate, as this could escalate the situation or lead to an accident. Adjusting your position on the road so that the tailgater can pass demonstrates good driving etiquette and prioritizes safety. In contrast, speeding up to create distance can lead to reckless driving behaviors, while braking suddenly may provoke road rage and increase the likelihood of an accident. Ignoring the tailgater might be a temporary solution, but it does not address the potential danger they pose. Changing lanes or pulling over is the most practical way to resolve the situation effectively and safely.

### **4. Which of the following behaviors is discouraged in defensive driving?**

- A. Maintaining a safe following distance**
- B. Using signals before turning or changing lanes**
- C. Engaging in aggressive driving**
- D. Adapting speed according to road conditions**

Engaging in aggressive driving is discouraged in defensive driving because it poses significant risks not only to the aggressive driver but also to other road users. Aggressive driving behaviors can include tailgating, excessive speeding, weaving in and out of traffic, and road rage. These actions can lead to dangerous situations, such as collisions and escalated conflicts between drivers. Defensive driving emphasizes the importance of safety, patience, and the consideration of other road users' actions. By avoiding aggressive driving, a driver can react more thoughtfully to unexpected situations, making the roads safer for everyone. Maintaining calm and using defensive driving techniques helps to reduce stress and promote safer driving environments.

**5. Under what condition must drivers yield to pedestrians?**

- A. Only when the pedestrian is carrying an object**
- B. At all times in crosswalks and when they have the signal to cross**
- C. Only if there is no other traffic present**
- D. When the pedestrian is on the side of the road**

Drivers must yield to pedestrians at all times in crosswalks and when they have the signal to cross because this is essential for ensuring the safety of pedestrians. Crosswalks are designated areas intended for pedestrians to safely cross streets, and yielding to them in these spaces fosters a safer traffic environment. When pedestrians have the right-of-way, especially signaled by traffic lights or pedestrian signals, it is crucial for drivers to adhere to these rules to prevent accidents and promote responsible driving behavior. This rule is fundamental in traffic laws to protect the vulnerable road users—especially considering their limited ability to protect themselves in a collision with vehicles.

**6. What are the signs of impaired driving?**

- A. Consistent lane changes and high speed**
- B. Erratic lane changes, delayed reactions, and swerving**
- C. Driving with headlights on**
- D. Speeding at all times**

The signs of impaired driving are identified through observable behaviors that suggest a lack of control or awareness while operating a vehicle. These signs include erratic lane changes, which indicate difficulty maintaining a straight path, suggesting that the driver is unable to effectively gauge their position on the road. Delayed reactions are another key indicator, as an impaired driver may not respond promptly to traffic signals, signs, or the actions of other vehicles, increasing the risk of accidents. Swerving is a direct sign of compromised ability to steer accurately, often resulting from a diminished sense of spatial awareness or motor skills. Collectively, these behaviors point to the dangerous situation posed by an impaired driver, highlighting the importance of recognizing these signs to prevent accidents and ensure road safety.

**7. When driving in adverse weather, you should?**

- A. Increase your speed to clear the road faster.**
- B. Drive with extra caution.**
- C. Use high beam headlights.**
- D. Maintain the same following distance.**

Driving with extra caution during adverse weather conditions is crucial for safety. Adverse weather, such as rain, snow, fog, or ice, significantly affects vehicle control, visibility, and stopping distances. By exercising increased caution, drivers are more likely to adjust their behaviors appropriately, such as slowing down, increasing their following distance, and being more vigilant of their surroundings. This mindset helps reduce the likelihood of accidents caused by reduced traction or visibility, allowing the driver to respond effectively to any unexpected situations that may arise due to changing weather conditions. Increasing speed, using high beams in poor visibility, or maintaining the same following distance would compromise safety. Speeding in challenging weather can lead to skidding or loss of vehicle control, while high beams can create glare and reduce visibility for other drivers. Lastly, maintaining the same following distance may not allow for adequate stopping distance when road conditions are less than ideal.

**8. What is the primary reason for using a seatbelt while driving?**

- A. To avoid getting a ticket.**
- B. To protect yourself in case of an accident.**
- C. To keep the airbags from deploying.**
- D. To comply with state laws only.**

The primary reason for using a seatbelt while driving is to protect yourself in case of an accident. Seatbelts are designed to restrain your body and reduce the risk of serious injury or death during a collision. They help to keep occupants securely in their seats, preventing them from being thrown around or ejected from the vehicle, which can significantly increase the likelihood of severe injuries. The effectiveness of seatbelts has been extensively studied, showing that they are one of the most effective safety devices in automobiles. In addition to safeguarding the driver and passengers, wearing a seatbelt can also help to reduce the severity of injuries for all occupants in a vehicle during an accident. Therefore, the primary focus of seatbelt use is about individual safety and injury prevention rather than simply adhering to laws or avoiding fines.

**9. Which scenario illustrates a violation of the Move Over law?**

- A. Driving in the left lane while an emergency vehicle is parked on the right**
- B. Slowing down but remaining in your lane when approaching emergency vehicles**
- C. Changing lanes away from a moving emergency vehicle**
- D. Stopping to assist an emergency responder**

The scenario that represents a violation of the Move Over law is the situation where a driver is in the left lane while an emergency vehicle is parked on the right. The Move Over law is designed to protect emergency responders by requiring drivers to either change lanes away from an emergency vehicle displaying flashing lights or slow down to a safe speed if a lane change is not possible. When a vehicle is parked on the shoulder or in a travel lane with its lights flashing, it's crucial for drivers to make a responsible choice that ensures the safety of both the emergency personnel and themselves. By remaining in the left lane without taking action to move over or slow down appropriately, a driver is not adhering to the safety protocols established by this law, potentially putting those responders at risk. Therefore, this scenario directly illustrates a violation of the Move Over law. In contrast, slowing down while remaining in your lane as you approach an emergency vehicle isn't a violation as long as you're complying with traffic laws and making an effort to maintain safety. Changing lanes away from a moving emergency vehicle is also in line with the law's intentions, as is stopping to assist an emergency responder, which demonstrates cooperation with emergency personnel rather than endangering their safety.

**10. What does a double yellow line on the road signify?**

- A. One lane is for left turns only**
- B. No passing in either direction**
- C. Passing is allowed in both directions**
- D. Only trucks can pass**

A double yellow line on the road signifies that no passing is allowed in either direction. This marking is used to indicate that the road is either narrow, or visibility is limited in such a way that attempting to pass could be dangerous. The presence of double yellow lines emphasizes the need to stay in your lane and avoid overtaking vehicles, promoting safer driving conditions for all road users. In contrast, a single yellow line typically allows for passing if it is safe to do so, and no specific markings relate to only trucks being allowed to pass. Additionally, left turns are not exclusively designated by double yellow lines; rather, they denote the no-passing zone for all vehicles. This helps reinforce the importance of adhering to road markings for driver safety.