

# Tennessee Hunter Safety Practice Test Sample Study Guide



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**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

- 1. Why should arrows not be shot straight up into the air?**
  - A. They can't fly straight**
  - B. They can come down and cause injury**
  - C. They might break**
  - D. There is no purpose to it**
- 2. Which carry method involves holding the firearm across the body?**
  - A. Sling carry**
  - B. Elbow or side carry**
  - C. Two-handed carry**
  - D. Cradle carry**
- 3. Which type of choke would you typically use for a target shooting distance up to 35 yards?**
  - A. Cylinder choke**
  - B. Modified choke**
  - C. Full choke**
  - D. Improved cylinder choke**
- 4. Which hunting practice promotes sustainable wildlife populations?**
  - A. Overhunting**
  - B. Selective harvesting**
  - C. Bagging as many animals as possible**
  - D. Hunting without limits**
- 5. What is the correct way to transport a firearm while in a vehicle?**
  - A. Firearms should be loaded and accessible**
  - B. Firearms should be unloaded and secured in a case**
  - C. Firearms can be placed in the glove compartment**
  - D. Firearms should be left in a shooting bag**

- 6. What does an improved cylinder choke primarily do?**
- A. Increase range**
  - B. Provide a wider shot spread**
  - C. Decrease accuracy**
  - D. Enhance recoil**
- 7. Is it true that "bigger isn't always better" when it comes to equipment?**
- A. True, size does not determine effectiveness**
  - B. False, bigger always yields better performance**
  - C. True, larger equipment can be more cumbersome**
  - D. False, bigger options are always preferable**
- 8. When is the best time to check equipment before a hunting trip?**
- A. The night before the trip**
  - B. On the way to the location**
  - C. During the trip**
  - D. As soon as you arrive at the location**
- 9. Which of the following is crucial to remember about handling firearms?**
- A. They are always safe unless stated otherwise**
  - B. Only load them when ready to fire**
  - C. They can be handled carelessly in the field**
  - D. They should not be cleaned before use**
- 10. Can you legally shoot game fish with a bow and arrow?**
- A. Yes, you can shoot any fish**
  - B. No, only invasive fish like carp**
  - C. Only certain species of fish**
  - D. Yes, with a special permit**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Why should arrows not be shot straight up into the air?**

- A. They can't fly straight
- B. They can come down and cause injury**
- C. They might break
- D. There is no purpose to it

Shooting arrows straight up into the air poses a significant danger because when the arrow descends, it can reach high speeds and potentially cause serious injuries or fatalities to people or animals on the ground. This is particularly dangerous since the path of the arrow during its descent is unpredictable, and individuals can be caught off guard. The potential for harm is a critical reason why this practice is discouraged. Choosing to shoot arrows in a controlled and safe direction minimizes risk and ensures safer hunting and shooting practices. In contrast, the other answers do not capture the actual concern surrounding this behavior in a way that highlights the significant safety hazards involved.

**2. Which carry method involves holding the firearm across the body?**

- A. Sling carry
- B. Elbow or side carry**
- C. Two-handed carry
- D. Cradle carry

The elbow or side carry method involves holding the firearm across the body, typically with the barrel pointing upward and the action away from the body. This method is effective and safe, as it allows the hunter to maintain control of the firearm while keeping it pointed in a safe direction. By positioning the firearm in this way, the user can easily transition into a shooting position if needed, while also freeing up both hands for navigating through rough terrain or performing other tasks. Understanding this carry method contributes to safe firearm handling practices. In contrast, the other carry methods, such as sling carry, two-handed carry, and cradle carry, each have different applications and orientations for the firearm that may not involve crossing the body in the same manner or keeping hands free in the way that the elbow or side carry allows.

**3. Which type of choke would you typically use for a target shooting distance up to 35 yards?**

**A. Cylinder choke**

**B. Modified choke**

**C. Full choke**

**D. Improved cylinder choke**

Using a modified choke for target shooting at distances up to 35 yards is ideal because it strikes a balance between shot spread and density. A modified choke constricts the shot a bit more than an improved cylinder choke, leading to a tighter shot pattern that is still effective for medium-range shooting. This tighter pattern helps in ensuring a better hit on the target without being overly constrictive, which could lead to missing wider targets or those that are not perfectly aligned. In contrast, a cylinder choke presents a very open pattern, which may work better for closer ranges. Full chokes, conversely, tighten the shot pattern significantly and are typically better suited for longer distances, often over 40 yards, which isn't necessary for targets within 35 yards. Improved cylinder choke, while also effective at shorter distances, may not deliver the level of pattern density that a modified choke can provide at that range, making it less optimal for medium-range target shooting.

**4. Which hunting practice promotes sustainable wildlife populations?**

**A. Overhunting**

**B. Selective harvesting**

**C. Bagging as many animals as possible**

**D. Hunting without limits**

Selective harvesting promotes sustainable wildlife populations by allowing hunters to target specific animals based on criteria such as age, sex, or health. This practice helps maintain a balanced ecosystem and ensures that breeding populations remain viable. By removing individuals that are less likely to contribute to future generations—often older or less fit animals—the overall health of the population can be improved. In contrast, practices like overhunting or bagging as many animals as possible can deplete wildlife populations beyond sustainable levels, leading to declines and potential extinction. Similarly, hunting without limits disregards population dynamics and can disrupt the ecological balance, resulting in negative consequences for both the species being hunted and the ecosystem as a whole. Selective harvesting, therefore, is a crucial approach for conservation efforts, helping to manage wildlife populations responsibly and sustainably.

**5. What is the correct way to transport a firearm while in a vehicle?**

- A. Firearms should be loaded and accessible**
- B. Firearms should be unloaded and secured in a case**
- C. Firearms can be placed in the glove compartment**
- D. Firearms should be left in a shooting bag**

Transporting a firearm safely is essential to ensure the safety of everyone in and around the vehicle, as well as to comply with legal regulations. The correct method of transportation involves having the firearm unloaded and secured in a case. This practice minimizes the risk of accidental discharge, protects the firearm from damage, and keeps it out of reach of unauthorized users. When a firearm is unloaded, it reduces the possibility of it being accidentally fired during transit, especially if the vehicle is involved in an accident or if the firearm is handled improperly. Securing the firearm in a case adds an extra layer of safety by preventing it from shifting around in the vehicle, which could lead to unintended consequences. Transporting firearms improperly, such as leaving them loaded and accessible or placing them in areas like the glove compartment or a shooting bag without proper precautions, can lead to dangerous situations. These practices could also violate laws or regulations regarding firearm transportation, which are designed to enhance public safety.

**6. What does an improved cylinder choke primarily do?**

- A. Increase range**
- B. Provide a wider shot spread**
- C. Decrease accuracy**
- D. Enhance recoil**

An improved cylinder choke primarily provides a wider shot spread, which makes it particularly effective for shooting at moving targets, such as birds or small game. This type of choke allows a larger pattern of shot to be dispersed, increasing the likelihood of hitting a target that is in motion. When a shotgun is equipped with an improved cylinder choke, the shot travels from the barrel in a less constricted pattern compared to tighter chokes. This wider spread helps hunters engage quick-moving animals effectively without the need for precise aiming as required with more constricting chokes. While the improved cylinder choke increases the spread of the shot, it does not specifically enhance the range of the shot. Instead, the focus is on delivering a broader dispersion to improve the chances of success when firing at dynamic targets. Additionally, while you may encounter changes in recoil or minor effects on accuracy with different chokes, these aspects are not the primary functions of an improved cylinder choke. Its main purpose is to facilitate a wider shot spread.

**7. Is it true that "bigger isn't always better" when it comes to equipment?**

**A. True, size does not determine effectiveness**

**B. False, bigger always yields better performance**

**C. True, larger equipment can be more cumbersome**

**D. False, bigger options are always preferable**

The assertion that "bigger isn't always better" in relation to equipment is true because size does not inherently dictate effectiveness. In hunting, for example, larger equipment may be bulkier and less maneuverable, making it harder to use in certain situations. Additionally, the performance of equipment can often be influenced more by design, quality, and suitability for specific tasks rather than its size alone. Smaller, more compact tools often offer advantages in precision and ease of handling, while larger equipment may limit mobility or complicate certain scenarios like navigating dense terrain. This perspective encourages hunters and outdoor enthusiasts to consider the specific needs of their activity or situation rather than defaulting to the notion that larger items are superior. Grasping this concept is important for making informed choices about equipment and ensuring that it aligns with the intended purpose and context of use.

**8. When is the best time to check equipment before a hunting trip?**

**A. The night before the trip**

**B. On the way to the location**

**C. During the trip**

**D. As soon as you arrive at the location**

The best time to check equipment before a hunting trip is the night before the trip. Preparing in advance allows hunters to thoroughly inspect their gear, ensuring that everything is in proper working order and allowing time to make any necessary repairs or replacements. This proactive approach helps prevent any last-minute issues that could hinder the hunting experience. By checking equipment the night before, hunters can also organize and pack all essential items, ensuring they have everything they need for a successful outing. This practice promotes safety and efficiency, as it reduces the likelihood of overlooking critical items or equipment malfunctions while out in the field.

**9. Which of the following is crucial to remember about handling firearms?**

- A. They are always safe unless stated otherwise**
- B. Only load them when ready to fire**
- C. They can be handled carelessly in the field**
- D. They should not be cleaned before use**

The essential point to remember about handling firearms is that they should only be loaded when you are ready to fire. This practice helps to prevent accidental discharges and ensures that a firearm is only in a ready-to-use state when it is appropriate to do so. By keeping the firearm unloaded until you are in a situation where you intend to shoot, you significantly reduce the risk of injury to yourself and others. This principle aligns with safe handling practices and reinforces the importance of being responsible and prepared when dealing with firearms. In contrast, the other options present inaccurate or misleading approaches to firearm safety. For instance, the idea that firearms are always safe unless stated otherwise creates a false sense of security, leading to risky behavior. Handling firearms carelessly is inherently dangerous and goes against all safety protocols. Additionally, cleaning a firearm is an important maintenance task that should be performed at the right times; it doesn't relate to loading decisions and should not be avoided before use. Understanding that firearms should only be loaded when you are ready to fire is a cornerstone of safe firearm handling.

**10. Can you legally shoot game fish with a bow and arrow?**

- A. Yes, you can shoot any fish**
- B. No, only invasive fish like carp**
- C. Only certain species of fish**
- D. Yes, with a special permit**

Shooting game fish with a bow and arrow is subject to regulations that vary by state. In many areas, including Tennessee, it is legal to use bow and arrow to take certain invasive species, such as carp. This regulation helps manage populations of fish that can disrupt local ecosystems and compete with native species for resources. The option stating that you can only shoot invasive fish like carp aligns with these regulations, emphasizing the importance of wildlife management and conservation practices. Knowledge of local laws is crucial for ethical hunting and fishing, as it ensures that only species designated for control or management are targeted, helping to protect native aquatic life. Some regulations specifically restrict the type of fish that can be taken with a bow or may require permits for certain species, making it essential for hunters and anglers to be informed about local laws.