

# Virginia 8-Hour Driver Improvement Course Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



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**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

- 1. What is a common sign of a distracted driver?**
  - A. Driving with both hands on the wheel**
  - B. Consistent speed**
  - C. Frequent lane changes without signaling**
  - D. Following the posted speed limit**
- 2. What is the legal BAC limit for drivers over the age of 21 in Virginia?**
  - A. 0.08%**
  - B. 0.05%**
  - C. 0.10%**
  - D. 0.02%**
- 3. Which of the following is considered a distracted driving behavior?**
  - A. Adjusting your seatbelt**
  - B. Using a hands-free device**
  - C. Sending a text message**
  - D. Listening to the radio**
- 4. What is hydroplaning?**
  - A. When a vehicle loses fuel efficiency**
  - B. When a tire bursts on the highway**
  - C. When a vehicle's tires lose contact with the road due to water**
  - D. When a vehicle slides on ice**
- 5. What should you do when encountering a distracted driver?**
  - A. Try to get their attention in a courteous manner**
  - B. Ignore them and continue driving**
  - C. Speed past them quickly**
  - D. Show them your annoyance**
- 6. What is the meaning of a yellow traffic light?**
  - A. Come to a complete stop**
  - B. Proceed with caution**
  - C. Prepare to stop**
  - D. Speed up to clear the intersection**

- 7. Which of the following statements is true regarding scanning techniques while driving?**
- A. Never focus on any single thing for more than five seconds**
  - B. Always keep your eyes fixed on the road ahead**
  - C. Focus on the rearview mirror every minute**
  - D. Only scan when you are stopped at a red light**
- 8. How should you react to aggressive driving behavior from another driver?**
- A. Engage with them to resolve the issue**
  - B. Remain calm, avoid eye contact, and let them pass**
  - C. Match their speed and demeanor**
  - D. Report them immediately to the authorities**
- 9. When is it necessary to yield to emergency vehicles according to traffic laws?**
- A. When they are parked on the side of the road**
  - B. When they have their lights and sirens activated**
  - C. Only when directed by police officers**
  - D. When there is no oncoming traffic**
- 10. What is the best course of action if your vehicle is running out of gas on the highway?**
- A. Continue driving until the engine stops**
  - B. Pull over to a safe area and turn on your hazard lights**
  - C. Look for a gas station while driving**
  - D. Call for roadside assistance while moving**

## **Answers**

SAMPLE

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What is a common sign of a distracted driver?**

- A. Driving with both hands on the wheel**
- B. Consistent speed**
- C. Frequent lane changes without signaling**
- D. Following the posted speed limit**

Frequent lane changes without signaling is indeed a common sign of a distracted driver. When a driver is not fully focused on the road, they may struggle to maintain proper lane discipline. This can lead to unsafe driving behavior, such as changing lanes impulsively or failing to signal their intentions to other drivers. Distracted drivers are often preoccupied with distractions inside or outside the vehicle, which can prevent them from making safe and responsible driving decisions, such as signaling appropriately when they change lanes. In contrast, driving with both hands on the wheel, maintaining consistent speed, and following the posted speed limit are all behaviors associated with attentive and cautious driving. These actions indicate that the driver is focused and in control, minimizing the risk of accidents related to distraction.

**2. What is the legal BAC limit for drivers over the age of 21 in Virginia?**

- A. 0.08%**
- B. 0.05%**
- C. 0.10%**
- D. 0.02%**

The legal BAC limit for drivers over the age of 21 in Virginia is 0.08%. This means that a driver with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.08% or higher is considered legally impaired and can be charged with driving under the influence (DUI). This standard is established to promote safer driving conditions and reduce the number of alcohol-related accidents on the roads. Other BAC thresholds mentioned, such as 0.05%, are relevant in specific contexts, such as for certain drivers who may face stricter penalties or for specific license types. However, the common legal limit for most adult drivers is 0.08%. Understanding this number is crucial for ensuring compliance with the law and for making safe decisions regarding alcohol consumption and driving.

**3. Which of the following is considered a distracted driving behavior?**

- A. Adjusting your seatbelt**
- B. Using a hands-free device**
- C. Sending a text message**
- D. Listening to the radio**

Sending a text message is considered a distracted driving behavior because it involves taking your hands off the wheel, your eyes off the road, and your attention away from driving. Texting requires significant mental focus as you compose messages, which can lead to a dangerous decrease in situational awareness. This combination of visual, manual, and cognitive distractions significantly increases the risk of being involved in a collision. In contrast, adjusting your seatbelt, while it may momentarily divert your attention, is typically a quick action and does not involve complex tasks that could substantially impair driving attention. Using a hands-free device, although it can be distracting, generally allows for the driver's eyes to remain on the road and hands on the wheel, making it a less severe form of distraction than texting. Finally, listening to the radio is usually a passive activity that does not require much of the driver's attention and is considered a part of normal driving behavior.

**4. What is hydroplaning?**

- A. When a vehicle loses fuel efficiency**
- B. When a tire bursts on the highway**
- C. When a vehicle's tires lose contact with the road due to water**
- D. When a vehicle slides on ice**

Hydroplaning occurs when a vehicle's tires lose contact with the road surface due to a layer of water between the tire and the pavement. This phenomenon primarily happens when the water depth is significant enough to prevent the tires from effectively gripping the road. As a result, the driver may lose steering control, making it challenging to maneuver the vehicle. The risk of hydroplaning increases at higher speeds, especially on wet roads, underscoring the importance of driving cautiously in rainy conditions. Understanding hydroplaning is crucial for safe driving, as drivers can take preventive measures, such as reducing speed and ensuring proper tire maintenance, to mitigate this risk.

**5. What should you do when encountering a distracted driver?**

**A. Try to get their attention in a courteous manner**

**B. Ignore them and continue driving**

**C. Speed past them quickly**

**D. Show them your annoyance**

When encountering a distracted driver, the best approach is to try to get their attention in a courteous manner. This response emphasizes safety and communication. If you can safely and calmly signal to the driver—such as through the use of your horn, your lights, or even a wave—this can help alert them to their distracted state. The goal is to draw their attention back to the road without escalating the situation or causing further distraction. Being courteous is essential because aggressive actions or gestures may provoke a negative reaction from the distracted driver, potentially leading to unsafe behaviors on the road. This option focuses on promoting a safe environment for all drivers and encourages proactive and positive engagement rather than conflict. The other choices would not promote safety. Ignoring a distracted driver could allow them to continue their risky behavior, speeding past them may increase the likelihood of an accident, and showing annoyance could escalate tensions and lead to road rage.

**6. What is the meaning of a yellow traffic light?**

**A. Come to a complete stop**

**B. Proceed with caution**

**C. Prepare to stop**

**D. Speed up to clear the intersection**

A yellow traffic light signals to drivers that the light is about to change to red, indicating that they should prepare to stop. This warning is crucial because it gives drivers the opportunity to assess their speed and distance from the intersection before the signal changes. In this scenario, drivers approaching a yellow light should be cautious and determine whether they can safely stop without rushing or stopping abruptly. The intent of the yellow light is to enhance traffic safety by making drivers alert to the upcoming change in traffic control. Recognizing a yellow light as a cue to prepare to stop helps prevent accidents that can occur when drivers rush through an intersection after the light has changed. The other options would compromise safety; for instance, coming to a complete stop may not always be appropriate depending on the situation, while speeding up can lead to dangerous outcomes. Thus, understanding the yellow light as a prompt to prepare to stop is vital for maintaining safe driving practices.

**7. Which of the following statements is true regarding scanning techniques while driving?**

- A. Never focus on any single thing for more than five seconds**
- B. Always keep your eyes fixed on the road ahead**
- C. Focus on the rearview mirror every minute**
- D. Only scan when you are stopped at a red light**

The statement about not focusing on any single thing for more than five seconds is true and reflects an important scanning technique in defensive driving. When driving, it is crucial to maintain awareness of the environment around you. Prolonged focus on a single item can lead to tunnel vision, where a driver becomes unaware of critical changes in their surroundings, such as pedestrians, other vehicles, or traffic signals. By limiting focus to brief increments, drivers are encouraged to frequently scan the road and adjacent areas, allowing for better situational awareness and reaction to potential hazards. The other statements do not promote effective scanning techniques. Keeping your eyes fixed on the road ahead may lead to missing important cues from the sides of the road or behind you, which could be detrimental. While checking the rearview mirror is essential, doing so every minute is impractical and insufficient. Additionally, scanning should not be limited to when the vehicle is stopped, as continuous awareness is necessary while driving. Thus, the focus on brief scanning intervals enhances safety and driver responsiveness.

**8. How should you react to aggressive driving behavior from another driver?**

- A. Engage with them to resolve the issue**
- B. Remain calm, avoid eye contact, and let them pass**
- C. Match their speed and demeanor**
- D. Report them immediately to the authorities**

Remaining calm, avoiding eye contact, and allowing the aggressive driver to pass is the most appropriate reaction to aggressive driving behavior. This approach helps to de-escalate the situation and prevents further confrontation. Engaging with the aggressive driver can often lead to increased tension and may escalate the situation, rather than resolve it. By maintaining your composure and not reacting to their aggression, you prioritize your safety and the safety of others on the road. Staying calm is crucial as it helps to avoid escalating your own emotions, which could lead to a poor decision or reckless driving. Avoiding eye contact is particularly effective because it minimizes any perceived challenge between you and the aggressive driver. Allowing them to pass also removes them from your driving space, reducing the chances of a dangerous encounter. In contrast, matching the aggressive driver's speed and demeanor can lead to a more dangerous situation, increasing the likelihood of an accident. Reporting the driver may be necessary in extreme cases, but handling the immediate situation calmly is generally the best first response.

**9. When is it necessary to yield to emergency vehicles according to traffic laws?**

### A. When they are parked on the side of the road

### B. When they have their lights and sirens activated

### C. Only when directed by police officers

#### D. When there is no oncoming traffic

**Yielding to emergency vehicles is crucial when they have their lights and sirens activated. This requirement is grounded in the need to ensure that emergency responders can reach their destinations quickly and safely. When an emergency vehicle displays its lights and uses its sirens, it signifies an urgent situation that requires immediate attention and clearance from other vehicles on the road. By yielding in this scenario, drivers contribute to public safety and allow emergency responders to perform their duties without unnecessary delays. This rule is applicable regardless of the driver's own situation, including whether there is oncoming traffic or not. Understanding this law is essential for all drivers, as it reflects the responsibility to prioritize the needs of emergency services and support their critical roles on the road.**

**10. What is the best course of action if your vehicle is running out of gas on the highway?**

### A. Continue driving until the engine stops

## **B. Pull over to a safe area and turn on your hazard lights**

### C. Look for a gas station while driving

#### D. Call for roadside assistance while moving

**Pulling over to a safe area and turning on your hazard lights is the most appropriate action to take if your vehicle is running out of gas on the highway. This choice prioritizes safety, as it allows you to remove your vehicle from the flow of traffic, reducing the risk of an accident. Turning on your hazard lights alerts other drivers that your vehicle may be experiencing issues, increasing visibility and awareness. Choosing to continue driving until the engine stops could leave you stranded in a potentially dangerous location, making it harder to find a safe place to stop. Looking for a gas station while driving can create unsafe driving conditions, as it distracts you and could lead to poor decision-making. Calling for roadside assistance while moving also poses a safety risk, as your focus will be split between driving and navigating the process of getting help, which could lead to a collision. By safely pulling over, you minimize risk to both yourself and other drivers on the highway.**