

# Virginia DMV Permit Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



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**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

- 1. When two vehicles from different directions arrive at an intersection at different times, which vehicle goes first?**
  - A. The one arriving last**
  - B. The one on the left**
  - C. The one arriving first**
  - D. The one with the right of way**
- 2. What is defensive driving?**
  - A. Aggressively overtaking slower vehicles**
  - B. Driving at high speeds in clear conditions**
  - C. Anticipating potential dangers and being prepared to react to them**
  - D. Following other vehicles closely**
- 3. What is the first step to obtaining a driver's license in Virginia?**
  - A. Complete a driver's education course**
  - B. Obtain a learner's permit**
  - C. Pass the driving test**
  - D. Submit an application**
- 4. What does it indicate if you see a pedestrian crossing sign?**
  - A. You must yield to pedestrians**
  - B. Pedestrians are prohibited from crossing**
  - C. You can drive faster**
  - D. It is only for school zones**
- 5. At what speed range do you need to allow 4 seconds to steer and brake out of trouble?**
  - A. Under 35 MPH**
  - B. 35-45 MPH**
  - C. 46-70 MPH**
  - D. Above 70 MPH**

- 6. What is the distance your car travels after you apply the brakes?**
- A. Stopping distance**
  - B. Braking distance**
  - C. Reaction distance**
  - D. Perception time**
- 7. What must you do if you approach a traffic light that is not functioning?**
- A. Proceed with caution**
  - B. Stop and wait for it to change**
  - C. Assume it is green and proceed**
  - D. Call the police**
- 8. When must you have your headlights on?**
- A. Only at night**
  - B. From sunset to sunrise and during inclement weather**
  - C. Only in foggy conditions**
  - D. For all driving conditions**
- 9. How many days does a new Virginia resident have to obtain a Virginia driver's license?**
- A. 30 days**
  - B. 60 days**
  - C. 90 days**
  - D. 120 days**
- 10. How many seconds should you allow to steer and brake out of trouble when driving under 35 MPH?**
- A. 1 second**
  - B. 2 seconds**
  - C. 3 seconds**
  - D. 4 seconds**

## **Answers**

SAMPLE

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. When two vehicles from different directions arrive at an intersection at different times, which vehicle goes first?**

- A. The one arriving last**
- B. The one on the left**
- C. The one arriving first**
- D. The one with the right of way**

The correct answer is that the vehicle arriving first should go first at the intersection. This rule is based on the fundamental principle of yielding to traffic that has already established its position on the roadway. When two vehicles approach an intersection at different times, the vehicle that arrives earlier is expected to proceed first, as it has already entered the crossing lane. This approach helps maintain smooth traffic flow and minimizes confusion among drivers. By following this guideline, drivers can avoid potential collisions and ensure that intersections operate efficiently. Understanding the context of an intersection is vital. For instance, a scenario where one vehicle arrives significantly before another eliminates ambiguity regarding who should proceed. It's also important to note that the right of way rules apply, but they do not supersede the importance of arrival timing in scenarios like this. This is particularly crucial at stop signs and traffic signals where vehicles may approach from different directions.

**2. What is defensive driving?**

- A. Aggressively overtaking slower vehicles**
- B. Driving at high speeds in clear conditions**
- C. Anticipating potential dangers and being prepared to react to them**
- D. Following other vehicles closely**

Defensive driving is centered around the concept of anticipating potential hazards on the road and being well-prepared to react appropriately to them. This involves being aware of your surroundings, understanding the behaviors of other drivers, and anticipating actions that could lead to an accident. By maintaining a safe distance from other vehicles, being mindful of road conditions, and following traffic rules, a defensive driver increases their chances of avoiding dangerous situations. For instance, a defensive driver might keep an eye out for pedestrians, cyclists, and road signs that indicate potential changes in traffic. This proactive mindset not only protects the driver but also enhances the safety of all road users. Thus, being prepared to respond to unforeseen circumstances—like a car abruptly stopping or a pedestrian stepping onto the road—demonstrates the essence of defensive driving.

**3. What is the first step to obtaining a driver's license in Virginia?**

- A. Complete a driver's education course**
- B. Obtain a learner's permit**
- C. Pass the driving test**
- D. Submit an application**

The first step to obtaining a driver's license in Virginia is to obtain a learner's permit. This permit allows individuals to practice driving under certain conditions before they are eligible for a full driver's license. It is designed to ensure that new drivers gain essential experience and confidence behind the wheel while still under supervision. Before receiving a learner's permit, applicants must meet specific age requirements and provide identification. Once they have the permit, they can practice driving with a licensed adult in the vehicle, which is a crucial part of developing the skills needed to drive safely. While completing a driver's education course, passing a driving test, and submitting an application are all important steps in the overall process of becoming a licensed driver, they occur after obtaining the learner's permit. In fact, many driver's education courses are designed to help prepare students for both the learner's permit test and the eventual driving test required for a full license.

**4. What does it indicate if you see a pedestrian crossing sign?**

- A. You must yield to pedestrians**
- B. Pedestrians are prohibited from crossing**
- C. You can drive faster**
- D. It is only for school zones**

Seeing a pedestrian crossing sign indicates that you must yield to pedestrians. This sign is placed in areas where pedestrians are likely to be crossing the road, emphasizing the need for drivers to be vigilant and prepared to stop. The intention is to enhance pedestrian safety by alerting drivers to the potential presence of individuals crossing the street, which is particularly common in urban areas or near schools. Yielding to pedestrians is a critical rule of the road, reinforcing the idea that their safety is a priority. The sign serves as a reminder for drivers to slow down and look for pedestrians, especially in marked crosswalks where they are legally allowed to cross. This practice helps to prevent accidents and ensures that pedestrians can move about safely. Other options, such as prohibiting pedestrians from crossing or suggesting that drivers can speed up, contradict the primary purpose of pedestrian crossing signs, which is to safeguard pedestrians and promote responsible driving behavior. The assertion that these signs are only relevant in school zones also undermines their broader application across various areas where pedestrian traffic is expected to occur.

**5. At what speed range do you need to allow 4 seconds to steer and brake out of trouble?**

- A. Under 35 MPH**
- B. 35-45 MPH**
- C. 46-70 MPH**
- D. Above 70 MPH**

At speeds between 46 and 70 MPH, allowing a longer reaction time of 4 seconds is essential. This consideration stems from the increased stopping distance and time required to safely maneuver or brake at higher speeds. When driving at these speeds, a driver needs adequate time to assess potential hazards, make decisions, and execute braking or steering actions effectively. At lower speeds, such as under 35 MPH, the stopping distances are significantly shorter and reaction times can be quicker, which is why less time may be necessary to respond to potential dangers. Similarly, at speeds above 70 MPH, drivers should be alert and prepared for quick reactions; however, the typical recommendation aligns more closely with the defined averages for the 46 to 70 MPH range for evaluating steering and braking responses. The need for a 4-second response time ensures that the driver has ample opportunity to avert an accident in scenarios where higher speeds create greater risk.

**6. What is the distance your car travels after you apply the brakes?**

- A. Stopping distance**
- B. Braking distance**
- C. Reaction distance**
- D. Perception time**

The correct answer is braking distance, which refers specifically to the distance your vehicle travels from the moment you apply the brakes until the vehicle comes to a complete stop. This distance is influenced by several factors, including the speed of the vehicle, the condition of the brakes, the road surface, and the weight of the vehicle. Understanding braking distance is crucial for safe driving, as it helps drivers anticipate how much space they will need to stop safely in various conditions. Stopping distance is a broader term that encompasses both braking distance and the distance traveled during the driver's reaction time before the brakes are applied. Reaction distance is the distance covered while the driver is processing information and deciding to apply the brakes, and perception time refers to the time it takes for the driver to notice a hazard and begin to react. Thus, while those terms are related, braking distance specifically measures just the distance traveled after the brakes are engaged.

**7. What must you do if you approach a traffic light that is not functioning?**

- A. Proceed with caution**
- B. Stop and wait for it to change**
- C. Assume it is green and proceed**
- D. Call the police**

When you approach a traffic light that is not functioning, the safest and most appropriate action is to proceed with caution. This means reducing your speed, being aware of your surroundings, and being prepared to stop if necessary. It is important to treat the non-working traffic signal as a four-way stop intersection. This involves yielding to any vehicles or pedestrians that may have the right of way and ensuring that it is safe to proceed before moving through the intersection. Waiting for the light to change isn't an option since the signal is not functioning, and assuming that it is green could lead to dangerous situations, like collisions. While calling the police might be appropriate in some circumstances, it's generally not necessary for a malfunctioning traffic light unless it is creating a significant hazard. Therefore, the correct response is to proceed with caution, ensuring a safe passage through the intersection.

**8. When must you have your headlights on?**

- A. Only at night**
- B. From sunset to sunrise and during inclement weather**
- C. Only in foggy conditions**
- D. For all driving conditions**

Having your headlights on from sunset to sunrise and during inclement weather is essential for safety and visibility. At nighttime, headlights illuminate the road ahead, making it easier for you to see obstacles, other vehicles, and pedestrians. This is critical when visibility is significantly reduced. During inclement weather, such as rain, snow, or fog, headlights enhance your visibility to others on the road, allowing you to be seen even in low-light conditions. It's important to note that standard driving during these conditions often makes it hard for other drivers to see you, thus, using headlights is not just a legal requirement but a best practice for ensuring road safety. The correct timing for using headlights aligns with both state regulations and safe driving practices, ensuring that you are better equipped to handle various driving situations.

**9. How many days does a new Virginia resident have to obtain a Virginia driver's license?**

- A. 30 days
- B. 60 days**
- C. 90 days
- D. 120 days

A new Virginia resident must obtain a Virginia driver's license within 60 days of establishing residency in the state. This requirement ensures that new residents transition appropriately to local driving laws and regulations. It's important for the safety and governance of vehicle operation within the state that individuals are familiar with Virginia's specific traffic laws, as well as the requirements for licensing and registration. Choosing to wait beyond this period can lead to complications, such as fines or legal consequences for driving with an out-of-state license. Staying within the 60-day window helps new residents adapt and comply with state requirements promptly, contributing to safer roads for everyone.

**10. How many seconds should you allow to steer and brake out of trouble when driving under 35 MPH?**

- A. 1 second
- B. 2 seconds**
- C. 3 seconds
- D. 4 seconds

When driving under 35 MPH, it is recommended to allow a distance of 2 seconds to steer and brake out of trouble. This time frame provides a sufficient margin for reaction, allowing drivers to assess unexpected situations and execute necessary maneuvers safely. The 2-second rule is crucial in maintaining a safe following distance and ensuring that you can react adequately to hazards, especially in urban settings or areas with increased pedestrian activity. By allowing a full 2 seconds, drivers enhance their ability to respond to sudden stops, swerving to avoid obstacles, or maneuvering around unexpected situations, which could be critical for avoiding collisions. In contrast, shorter time intervals would not provide enough time to react, especially given the potential for needing a quick stop or evasive action. Therefore, adhering to the 2-second guideline is a vital aspect of defensive driving in low-speed environments.