

Washington State Driver's License Written Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Questions

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1. If you refuse to take a blood alcohol content test, what is the consequence for your driver license?

- A. 90 days suspension**
- B. At least 2 years suspension**
- C. 6 months suspension**
- D. At least 1 year suspension**

2. When driving in rain, what should you do regarding your speed?

- A. Increase your speed for safety.**
- B. Maintain your normal speed.**
- C. Reduce your speed.**
- D. Stop driving until the rain stops.**

3. How does alcohol affect a driver's abilities?

- A. It improves your judgment**
- B. It wakes you up**
- C. It slows reflexes and reaction time**
- D. It has no effect on driving ability**

4. A yellow light that flashes on and off indicates what action?

- A. Speed up to clear the intersection quickly**
- B. Stop and wait for a green light**
- C. Slow down and proceed with caution**
- D. Stop and look, then go if there is no traffic**

5. What is the primary effect of alcohol on driving performance?

- A. Improves reaction time**
- B. Slows reflexes and reaction time**
- C. Enhances focus**
- D. Stimulates alertness**

6. What does a "Do Not Enter" sign signify for drivers?

- A. Drivers are allowed to enter the roadway**
- B. Drivers should make a U-turn**
- C. Drivers are prohibited from entering that roadway**
- D. Drivers must yield to oncoming traffic**

7. Why should you not follow other cars too closely?

- A. You may not have time to stop if the vehicle in front of you slows or stops suddenly**
- B. You may not see the other vehicle's brake lights**
- C. You may not see the vehicle's turn signals**
- D. You may not see the road between the cars**

8. What should bicyclists do on sidewalks or in crosswalks?

- A. Yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian**
- B. Ride at a high speed**
- C. Ignore pedestrians**
- D. Pass without signaling**

9. What should you do before changing lanes?

- A. Only look at the rearview mirror**
- B. Signal your intention**
- C. Check mirrors and blind spots and signal your intention**
- D. Only check the blind spots**

10. At an intersection with a yield sign, what is the correct action?

- A. Always stop before entering the intersection.**
- B. Yield to all traffic on the right.**
- C. Slow down and yield the right-of-way to other traffic.**
- D. Yield to all traffic on the left.**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. If you refuse to take a blood alcohol content test, what is the consequence for your driver license?

- A. 90 days suspension**
- B. At least 2 years suspension**
- C. 6 months suspension**
- D. At least 1 year suspension**

Refusing to take a blood alcohol content test in Washington State results in a significant consequence for your driving privileges. When a driver refuses the test, it triggers an administrative penalty aimed at discouraging impaired driving. The law in Washington outlines that a refusal typically leads to an automatic suspension of at least one year for first-time offenders. This suspension is separate from any potential criminal consequences that may arise from being charged with driving under the influence (DUI). Understanding this consequence is crucial as it highlights the importance of compliance with testing when requested by law enforcement. It serves as a reminder that the decision to refuse a test can lead to severe and lasting impacts on your ability to drive legally.

2. When driving in rain, what should you do regarding your speed?

- A. Increase your speed for safety.**
- B. Maintain your normal speed.**
- C. Reduce your speed.**
- D. Stop driving until the rain stops.**

Reducing your speed when driving in rain is important for several reasons. Wet roads can significantly decrease traction, making it harder for your vehicle to grip the road surface. This increases the risk of hydroplaning, where your tires lose contact with the road due to a thin layer of water, leading to loss of control. Slowing down allows for greater reaction time, making it easier to respond to sudden changes in traffic, obstacles, or skidding. Additionally, a lower speed helps prevent the tires from splashing water up and reduces the risk of water entering your vehicle's engine or other components. It's crucial to adjust your speed according to the road and weather conditions to ensure your safety and the safety of others on the road.

3. How does alcohol affect a driver's abilities?

- A. It improves your judgment
- B. It wakes you up
- C. It slows reflexes and reaction time**
- D. It has no effect on driving ability

Alcohol significantly impairs a driver's abilities, most notably by slowing reflexes and reaction time. When a person consumes alcohol, it affects the central nervous system, which is responsible for coordinating movements and processing information. This impairment can lead to delayed responses to critical driving situations, such as reacting to traffic signals, sudden obstacles, or changes in the behavior of other road users. In contrast, the other options present misconceptions about alcohol's effects. For instance, alcohol does not improve judgment; rather, it often leads to poor decision-making. The notion that it can wake someone up is misleading, as alcohol is a depressant that can induce drowsiness and reduce awareness. Lastly, alcohol certainly has a detrimental effect on driving abilities, contradicting the idea that it has no effect at all. Understanding these impacts is crucial for recognizing the dangers of driving under the influence.

4. A yellow light that flashes on and off indicates what action?

- A. Speed up to clear the intersection quickly
- B. Stop and wait for a green light
- C. Slow down and proceed with caution**
- D. Stop and look, then go if there is no traffic

The indication given by a yellow light that flashes on and off is to slow down and proceed with caution. This traffic signal alerts drivers that they should be prepared for potential hazards ahead, as it implies that they are approaching an intersection where the right of way may not be guaranteed. Drivers are expected to reduce their speed, remain vigilant for pedestrians, other vehicles, or any unexpected situations, and navigate through the intersection carefully. The flashing yellow light serves a critical function in alerting motorists to pay close attention and to ensure that they do not rush through the intersection, which could lead to accidents. The options that suggest speeding up, stopping completely awaiting a green light, or stopping and looking without caution do not align with the proper interpretation of a flashing yellow signal. The key takeaway is that caution is paramount when a yellow light is flashing, emphasizing the importance of attentiveness and defensive driving.

5. What is the primary effect of alcohol on driving performance?

- A. Improves reaction time**
- B. Slows reflexes and reaction time**
- C. Enhances focus**
- D. Stimulates alertness**

The primary effect of alcohol on driving performance is to slow reflexes and reaction time. When a person consumes alcohol, it impairs the central nervous system, leading to decreased coordination, slower processing of information, and a diminished ability to respond quickly to road conditions and driving tasks. This impairment can result in an inability to react appropriately to sudden changes, such as obstacles in the road, traffic signals, or the behavior of other drivers, significantly increasing the risk of accidents. In contrast, the other options suggest enhancements in driving capabilities. However, alcohol does not improve any aspect of driving, such as reaction times, focus, or alertness. Instead, it gives a false sense of confidence, leading individuals to underestimate their impairment and overestimate their driving abilities, which is dangerous. Understanding this effect is crucial for promoting safe driving practices and reducing alcohol-related accidents.

6. What does a "Do Not Enter" sign signify for drivers?

- A. Drivers are allowed to enter the roadway**
- B. Drivers should make a U-turn**
- C. Drivers are prohibited from entering that roadway**
- D. Drivers must yield to oncoming traffic**

A "Do Not Enter" sign is a clear indication to drivers that they are prohibited from entering the roadway or area ahead. This sign is typically placed at the end of one-way streets, at intersections, or where certain roads are off-limits for safety reasons. The intent is to prevent drivers from accidentally entering a dangerous area, such as the opposing lanes of traffic or construction zones. This prohibition is critical for maintaining safe traffic flow and reducing the chances of accidents. When drivers see this sign, they should heed its warning and either turn around or find an alternative route to their destination. Understanding this signage is essential for responsible driving and adherence to traffic laws.

7. Why should you not follow other cars too closely?

- A. You may not have time to stop if the vehicle in front of you slows or stops suddenly**
- B. You may not see the other vehicle's brake lights**
- C. You may not see the vehicle's turn signals**
- D. You may not see the road between the cars**

Following other cars too closely can lead to dangerous situations because it reduces your reaction time in the event that the vehicle in front of you slows down or stops suddenly. Maintaining a safe distance allows you to have adequate time to react to unexpected changes in traffic conditions, which is crucial for preventing rear-end collisions. If you are too close, you might not be able to apply your brakes in time to avoid hitting the car ahead, leading to potentially serious accidents. A safe following distance gives you a buffer that accounts for sudden stops or emergencies, thereby enhancing overall road safety for you and other drivers.

8. What should bicyclists do on sidewalks or in crosswalks?

- A. Yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian**
- B. Ride at a high speed**
- C. Ignore pedestrians**
- D. Pass without signaling**

Bicyclists have a responsibility to prioritize the safety of pedestrians when riding on sidewalks or in crosswalks. The correct approach is to yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian. This means that when a cyclist encounters a pedestrian on the sidewalk or at a crosswalk, they must slow down or stop to allow the pedestrian to pass safely. This rule is in place to ensure that pedestrians feel safe and are given priority, especially in areas where they may be crossing the street or walking along designated paths. The other choices highlight unsafe practices. Riding at a high speed can pose a danger to pedestrians, as it reduces the cyclist's ability to react quickly. Ignoring pedestrians entirely disregards the established right-of-way laws designed to protect those on foot. Passing without signaling fails to communicate intentions to others, which can lead to confusion and accidents. Therefore, yielding to pedestrians is essential for ensuring the safety of all road users.

9. What should you do before changing lanes?

- A. Only look at the rearview mirror**
- B. Signal your intention**
- C. Check mirrors and blind spots and signal your intention**
- D. Only check the blind spots**

Before changing lanes, it's essential to ensure your safety and the safety of others on the road. The correct action involves checking your mirrors and blind spots as well as signaling your intention to change lanes. Checking the mirrors allows you to see vehicles or obstacles behind and to the sides of you, while assessing blind spots is crucial for detecting any vehicles that may not be visible in your mirrors, such as those right next to you or slightly behind. Signaling your intention is important for communicating with other drivers. It alerts them that you plan to change lanes, giving them the opportunity to adjust their speed or position accordingly. Failing to signal can potentially lead to accidents, as other drivers may not be aware of your movements. This combination of checking mirrors, checking blind spots, and signaling creates a comprehensive strategy for safe lane changing, helping to minimize risks on the road.

10. At an intersection with a yield sign, what is the correct action?

- A. Always stop before entering the intersection.**
- B. Yield to all traffic on the right.**
- C. Slow down and yield the right-of-way to other traffic.**
- D. Yield to all traffic on the left.**

At an intersection marked with a yield sign, the correct action is to slow down and yield the right-of-way to other traffic. This means that if there are vehicles approaching from other directions, particularly those that are already in the intersection or are close to it, you must allow them to pass before you continue. Yielding is about being cautious and ensuring safety, as it helps prevent collisions by allowing oncoming traffic to proceed without interference. Simply stating that you should always stop before entering the intersection isn't accurate in every scenario, as there may be instances where the intersection is clear, and stopping could lead to unnecessary delays. Yielding to traffic on the right may seem logical, but yield signs typically require yielding to all approaching traffic rather than just focusing on the right. Similarly, yielding to traffic on the left ignores the broader responsibility to monitor and yield to oncoming vehicles from all directions where applicable. Therefore, the best practice is to slow down and be prepared to yield to any other vehicles or pedestrians who have the right-of-way.

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