



Preparing for and Passing the Road Skills Driving Exam



Driving Basics to know

Drive with Good Posture and Due Care: Posture includes such things as seat adjustment, mirror adjustment, and the position of your hands on the steering wheel when driving (9 and 3 or 8 and 4). Due Care means you are aware, cautious and safe and drive at reasonable speeds for the road conditions. You should also consider your carbon footprint.

Accelerating: No sudden starts; be smooth. Push the pedal down slowly.

Braking: Use gentle pressure; do not make rough or lunging stops. Slow down early enough to avoid sudden stops. Be searching ahead for stop signs and stop lights.

Stop Signs: Your legal stop has your bumper in line with the stop sign pole. Make sure to come to a complete stop. If your sight is obstructed, move up slowly until you can see and stop again for your safety stop.

Traffic Lights: Stop at the stop line. Don't overshoot and don't block the crosswalk. Always check for pedestrians and bicycles and don't block their path, especially if wanting to turn on a red light. Check for pedestrians first. Be aware of walk and other traffic signals changing to yellow so you can slow and stop smoothly.

Intersections: Look left and right (and left again) BEFORE every intersection. It does not matter if the signal is green or if you are on the through street and have the right-of-way, turn your head and look both ways at every intersection. Eye movement alone is not acceptable. Turning your head helps to see blind spots that eye movement will miss.

Lane Observance: Stay in your lane end don't straddle or weave between lanes. When the center of the road is not marked, imagine where the line would be and keep to the right of it. Drive in the driving lane (even if it is unmarked) and turn right from the parking lane (unless traffic prohibits it).

Right-of-Way: At an uncontrolled intersection, yield to anyone on your right or anyone who reaches the intersection first. Yield to pedestrians either in or entering a crosswalk.

Yield Signs: Slow and prepare to stop. Yield the right-of-way to vehicles from the left or right or front. Don't stop unless you need to.

Perceived Risk: Make sure to use good observation skills. You must demonstrate your ability to recognize the risk that most driving situations pose. For example, failure to look over your shoulder tells the examiner you do not recognize the risk of not doing so. Be aware of all things around you - signs, vehicles, people, bicycles, animals...everything!

Left & Right Turns



There are 5 proficiencies on each turn that are scored:

- Signal at least 100 ft. before a turn (about a half-block)
- Speed: Slow your vehicle BEFORE you turn (about 10 mph)
- Observation: look left, right and left again BEFORE the turn, MOVE YOUR HEAD. Eye movement alone is not acceptable.
- Approach Lane: As soon as you are told to make a turn, get into the correct lane; on a right turn, signal, look over your shoulder and move next to the right curb. On a left turn, signal, look over your shoulder and move next to the center line. For a left turn from a 2-way on to a 1-way, signal, look over your shoulder and turn into the closest available lane (feels odd!)
- Entrance Lane: Always turn into the first available driving lane. Left turn into the first lane next to the center line.

What to expect

- The examiner will give you instructions at least one block in advance of turns or before asking you to perform other maneuvers. You may ask for hand gestures if you think it will help.
- You should drive at all times as if other traffic is present. This includes determining if it is safe to perform all maneuvers, including backing your vehicle.
- The examiner will not ask you to do anything illegal.
- The examiner will watch to be sure you are performing traffic checks, stopping at the correct location, observing all traffic signs and signals, etc.
- The examiner will write notes on your driving performance; focus on your driving, not what the examiner does.

BEFORE YOU GO, MAKE SURE TO BRING :



White card from your driving instructor



Your Instruction Permit (your ID card)

☒ **"white card" has been replaced with e-card**

☐ **Printed out sheet of logged driving hours**

☐ **Proof of Insurance for car you're testing in**

☐ **....and make sure all vehicle lights and signals work**

PLEASE PAY

ATTENTION

TO ALL

ROAD SIGNS!

Equipment Demonstration

Any time you drive, you should be familiar with the equipment of the vehicle you are driving, so on the road test, the examiner will expect you to locate and demonstrate how to operate or check the following:

- Seat Adjustment
- Seatbelt
- Adjust mirrors
- Turn Signal
- Windshield wipers
- Headlights (high and low beam)
- Hazard warning lights (4-way flashers)
- Windshield defroster & fan controls
- Emergency (parking) brake
- Fuel gauge
- Horn

Parking & Other Maneuvers

Parallel Parking

USE YOUR REFERENCE POINTS. Signal to the right and approach the front flag lining up the front pole/flag with the last 1/3 of your back passenger-side window. Do not hit or run over the pole, as this is a "crash" that will cause you to fail. Turn your wheels all the way RIGHT. Back up slowly until the front pole is in the middle of your passenger-side window; turn your wheels all the way LEFT and back into the space. Don't go further than when you are parallel to the curb. Straighten your wheels and pull forward to center between the poles. Put the car in park. When leaving the parking space: Signal, straighten your wheels, back up, turn your wheel all the way left, and look over your shoulder...S.M.O.G. out.

Corner Backing

USE YOUR REFERENCE POINTS. Turn on your 4-way flashers and keep your car just to the right of the center of the road (a car could get through between you and the spot you're backing into) and pull up past the parking spot, lining up the pole with back of the rear passenger side window. With the wheels all the way to the right, slowly reverse while checking your mirrors to ensure you're between the cones. If you're too close or going to hit a cone, stop, pull up and reposition yourself. DO NOT HIT THE CONE. Ease into the spot as centered as you can. Make sure to straighten wheel when you are in between the poles so you don't hit the pole on the left.

Final Park

Do not become careless at the end of the test. Signal intent and pull up within one foot of the curb. Don't hit the curb, be nice and straight, parallel with the curb. Put car in Park.

Lane Changes

For multi-lane changing: signal, look over your shoulder, and move across the lanes diagonally. Don't straighten at each lane. For single lane changes: signal, look over your shoulder, and proceed if clear, making sure to accelerate slightly during the lane change. Yield to oncoming traffic.