

California DMV permit practice test 5

From the California Driver's Handbook (DL 600). Free at permitpracticetestdmv.com/california/

25 questions. Circle one answer for each. Answer key on the last page. Name: _____ Score: _____ / 25

1. On ice, you should slow to no more than:

- A. 20 mph
- B. 10 mph
- C. 15 mph
- D. 5 mph

2. Driving much slower than other traffic on a freeway:

- A. Is always the safest choice
- B. Is required in the left lane
- C. Is allowed in any lane
- D. Can block traffic flow, and you may be cited

3. Which of these does NOT affect the safe speed for conditions under the Basic Speed Law?

- A. Weather such as fog or rain
- B. The road surface
- C. The color of your vehicle
- D. The number and speed of other vehicles

4. What following distance does the handbook recommend in normal conditions?

- A. Three seconds
- B. Five seconds
- C. One second
- D. Two seconds

5. How do you use the three-second rule?

- A. Brake for three seconds when the car ahead brakes
- B. Count three seconds after the vehicle ahead passes a fixed point; if you reach the point before you finish, you are too close
- C. Look three seconds ahead of your car
- D. Stay three car lengths behind at all speeds

6. Another vehicle merges too closely in front of you. What should you do?

- A. Take your foot off the accelerator to create space
- B. Honk and tailgate
- C. Brake hard
- D. Change lanes immediately without looking

7. A driver is tailgating you. What should you do?

- A. Drive on the shoulder
- B. Brake suddenly to warn them
- C. Speed up to get away
- D. Maintain your course and speed, then merge right when safe to let them pass

8. When should you leave extra space in front of you when following a motorcycle?

- A. Only at night
- B. When it is going uphill
- C. Only in a carpool lane
- D. When it is on metal surfaces like bridge gratings or railroad tracks, or on gravel

9. To pass safely, a hill or curve ahead should be at least how far away?

- A. 100 feet
- B. 500 feet
- C. One-third of a mile
- D. One mile

10. You should not pass within how many feet of an intersection, bridge, tunnel, or railroad crossing?

- A. 50 feet
- B. 100 feet
- C. 200 feet
- D. 500 feet

11. When is it legal to pass another vehicle on the right?

- A. When the driver ahead is going slowly on a two-lane road
- B. Never
- C. When there is a wide paved shoulder
- D. When the driver ahead is turning left and you can pass safely on the right

12. May you drive off the paved part of the road to pass another vehicle?

- A. Yes, if the other driver is turning left
- B. Only in rural areas
- C. No, never
- D. Yes, if the shoulder is wide

13. Another vehicle signals that it wants to pass you. What should you do?

- A. Speed up
- B. Move to the left
- C. Allow it to pass and keep your lane position and speed
- D. Move onto the shoulder and stop

14. The driver ahead is signaling a left turn. Should you pass on the left?

- A. Yes, after honking
- B. No, never pass on the left when the driver is signaling a left turn
- C. Yes, if there is room
- D. Only on a one-way street

15. Which is the correct order when passing on an open highway?

- A. Change lanes, signal, then check mirrors
- B. Signal, check blind spot, move into passing lane, speed up, signal and return
- C. Honk, pass, then signal
- D. Speed up, signal, change lanes

16. When passing a large truck, you should:

- A. Pass on the left and move ahead of it, without driving alongside longer than needed
- B. Stay next to the truck so the driver sees you
- C. Pull in front and slow down
- D. Pass on the right side

17. You cannot see a truck driver's side mirrors. This means:

- A. The mirrors are folded
- B. The truck is about to turn
- C. The truck driver cannot see you
- D. You are at a safe distance

18. A passenger vehicle at 55 mph can stop within about 300 feet. A large truck at the same speed can take up to:

- A. 300 feet
- B. 400 feet
- C. 1,000 feet
- D. 200 feet

19. Why is it dangerous to move in front of a large truck and then slow down suddenly?

- A. Trucks speed up when cars move in front
- B. Trucks take longer to stop and may not avoid hitting you
- C. It is only dangerous at night
- D. Truck drivers have no mirrors

20. You cannot change lanes to pass a bicyclist riding in your lane. What is the minimum space you must leave when passing?

- A. One foot
- B. Three feet
- C. Six feet
- D. Two feet

21. On a road with several lanes, what is the far-left lane called?

- A. The merge lane
- B. The slow lane
- C. The Number 1 Lane
- D. The Number 3 Lane

22. Which lane should you use to enter or exit traffic or to pull onto the road from the curb?

- A. The right lane
- B. The center lane
- C. The left lane
- D. The HOV lane

23. How many seconds before changing lanes on a freeway should you signal?

- A. At least ten seconds
- B. At least five seconds
- C. At least two seconds
- D. At least three seconds

24. When exiting a freeway, once you are in the proper lane you should signal about:

- A. Five seconds (about 400 feet) before the exit
- B. Only when you reach the exit ramp
- C. One mile before the exit
- D. Two seconds (100 feet) before the exit

25. When merging onto a highway from an on-ramp, you should:

- A. Enter slowly so traffic can see you
- B. Be at or near the speed of traffic and merge when safe
- C. Stop at the end of the ramp and wait for a gap
- D. Cross the solid line to merge early

Answer key: California practice test 5

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1. D: 5 mph

On ice, reduce your speed to no more than 5 mph. (Slippery Roads, page 61)

2. D: Can block traffic flow, and you may be cited

You should not block normal, reasonable traffic flow by driving too slowly. Driving faster or slower than the speed limit can get you cited; if you drive slower than traffic, use the right lane. (Heavy Traffic or Bad Weather, page 50)

3. C: The color of your vehicle

Your speed should depend on the number and speed of vehicles, the road surface, bicyclists or pedestrians, and weather. Vehicle color is not a factor. (Manage Your Speed, page 67)

4. A: Three seconds

Use the three-second rule to keep a safe following distance. (Tailgating (Following Too Closely), page 57)

5. B: Count three seconds after the vehicle ahead passes a fixed point; if you reach the point before you finish, you are too close

When the vehicle ahead passes a fixed point such as a sign, count three seconds. If you pass the same point before you finish counting, you are following too closely. (Glossary: Three-second rule, page 84)

6. A: Take your foot off the accelerator to create space

If a vehicle merges in front of you too closely, take your foot off the accelerator to create space between you and that vehicle. (Tailgating (Following Too Closely), page 57)

7. D: Maintain your course and speed, then merge right when safe to let them pass

When a tailgater is behind you, maintain your course and speed, then merge right when it is safe so they can pass. (Tailgating (Following Too Closely), page 57)

8. D: When it is on metal surfaces like bridge gratings or railroad tracks, or on gravel

Create more space when following motorcyclists on metal surfaces (bridge gratings, railroad tracks) and gravel. (Tailgating (Following Too Closely), page 57)

9. C: One-third of a mile

To safely pass, the hill or curve should be at least one-third of a mile ahead. (Passing, page 24)

10. B: 100 feet

Do not pass within 100 feet of an intersection, bridge, tunnel, railroad crossing, or other hazardous area. (Passing, page 24)

11. D: When the driver ahead is turning left and you can pass safely on the right

You may pass on the right when the driver ahead is turning left and it is safe, on an open highway with two or more lanes in your direction, or on a one-way street. (How to Pass, page 25)

12. C: No, never

Never drive off the paved or main-traveled part of the road to pass. (How to Pass, page 25)

13. C: Allow it to pass and keep your lane position and speed

If a vehicle is passing you or signals that it plans to, let it pass. Maintain your lane position and speed. (Being Passed, page 25)

14. B: No, never pass on the left when the driver is signaling a left turn

Never pass on the left if the driver ahead is signaling a left turn. (How to Pass, page 25)

15. B: Signal, check blind spot, move into passing lane, speed up, signal and return

Signal, look over your shoulder to check blind spots, move into the passing lane, speed up to pass, then signal and return to your original lane. (How to Pass, page 25)

16. A: Pass on the left and move ahead of it, without driving alongside longer than needed

Always pass a large vehicle on the left side. After passing, move ahead of it; driving alongside makes it hard for the driver to avoid dangers. (Sharing the Road: Maneuvering, page 43)

17. C: The truck driver cannot see you

If you cannot see a truck's side mirrors, the truck driver cannot see you. You are in a No Zone. (Blind Spots (the No Zone), page 42)

18. B: 400 feet

A large vehicle traveling at 55 mph can take up to 400 feet to stop, compared to about 300 feet for an average passenger vehicle. (Sharing the Road: Braking, page 42)

19. B: Trucks take longer to stop and may not avoid hitting you

Large vehicles take longer to stop. If you cut in front and slow down or stop, the truck may not be able to stop in time. (Sharing the Road: Braking, page 42)

20. B: Three feet

When you cannot change lanes to pass a bicyclist, allow at least three feet. If you can't give three feet, don't pass until you can. (Passing a Bicyclist, page 48)

21. C: The Number 1 Lane

The left (or fast) lane is called the Number 1 Lane; the lane to its right is the Number 2 Lane, and so on. (Choosing a Lane, page 15)

22. A: The right lane

Use the right lane to enter or exit traffic or when you enter the road from a curb or shoulder. (Choosing a Lane, page 15)

23. B: At least five seconds

Signal at least five seconds before you change lanes on a freeway. (Signals, Horns, And Headlights: Signaling, page 11)

24. A: Five seconds (about 400 feet) before the exit

When in the proper lane, signal five seconds (approximately 400 feet) before you exit. (Merging And Exiting: Exiting, page 23)

25. B: Be at or near the speed of traffic and merge when safe

Be at or near the speed of traffic and merge when safe. Do not stop unless absolutely necessary. (Merging And Exiting: Merging, page 23)