

Excalibur School of Driving

Road Test Information Study Guide

The road test for a driver's license is a short comprehensive test of the basic fundamentals of driving. The emphasis is on observation skills, general control of the vehicle and the basic rules of the road. You must do your best to show the examiner that you're a safe and proficient driver. You will need to show the examiner that you can handle your vehicle in normal traffic conditions. The following suggestions may be helpful to you when taking your road test. Be sure to have your permit, proof of insurance and your "certificate of course completion card" also known as your white card. You will get this slip from your behind the wheel instructor on your third and final lesson.

At the beginning of every road test the examiner will have you prove to him that you know how to locate and/or demonstrate how to use the following ten items:

1. Proof of insurance: original insurance identification card or policy are acceptable. Photocopies or Internet copies are not acceptable.
2. Seat Adjustment
3. Seat belts
4. Emergency/Parking Brake
5. Activate headlights (high and low beams). Vehicles with fully automatic headlights require the driver to manually activate the high and low beams.
6. Activate hazard warning lights (four way flashers)
7. Horn
8. Windshield wipers (including the washer fluid)
9. Windshield defroster and fan controls
10. Mirrors

This list does not include all the equipment and items required by law. If you are unable to pass the safety equipment demonstration, you will not be allowed to finish the road test that day.

Starting: Be sure to have your foot on the brake when starting the vehicle. Always remember to use S.M.O.G.S. technique (**S**ignal on, **M**irror **C**heck, **O**ver the shoulder check, **G**o/**G**lide over, **S**ignal off) before entering the street when parked along the side of the road.

Backing: Place your left hand on the top of the steering wheel, look over your right shoulder and steer the car in the direction you want the back end of the car to go.

Parallel Parking: Contrary to popular opinion this part of the road test does carry as much emphasis as it was once thought, so don't get too nervous about this. You do not need to be perfect at this in order to pass the road test. After completing parallel parking you need to use

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S.M.O.G.S. technique (Signal on, Mirror Check, Over the shoulder check, Go/Glide over, Signal off) before entering traffic.

Hill Parking: Use the **S.M.O.G.S.** technique to initially park the vehicle within 12 inches of the curb. Put the transmission into park and set the parking/emergency brake. At this point you just need to remember to turn your wheels the correct direction. Always turn your wheels to the right unless you are parking uphill with a curb, then turn your wheels to the left. Remember, before entering traffic to release the parking/emergency brake before putting the vehicle into gear. Use **S.M.O.G.S.** to pull away and continue with the exam.

Posture: This includes things like seat adjustment, mirror adjustment, using one foot for the gas and brake, sitting up straight and proper hand placement on the steering wheel. You can have your hands at either the 8 and 4 o'clock positions or the 9 and 3 o'clock position.

Brake Use: Use gentle steady pressure and try not to make rough stops. Slow down early enough to avoid sudden stops by looking ahead for traffic conditions.

Accelerator use: No "Jack rabbit" or "head snapping" starts. Be smooth and gentle.

Left and Right Turns: Negotiating a turn is one of the most important parts of the road test. You are graded on 5 areas.

1. Signal: Signal at least 100 feet before the corner
2. Start Lane/Turn Lane: As soon as you are told to take a turn, get into the correct start lane as soon as possible. For a right turn get into the farthest right and when taking a left turn get into the farthest left lane, period! If you are taking your road test at a closed course such as Arden Hills, Plymouth or Eagan be mindful of one way streets. If you need to make a lane change just do it. Do not wait to be told and don't ask for permission. The examiners only give directions as far as where and when to turn, they will not assist you. If the examiner has to step in and help you will automatically fail the road test.
3. Perceived Risk: This is where they give the examiners some freedom to grade you. Every turn requires looking and making sure there are no dangers or "Perceived Risks" before you start your turn. Look left, right then left again.
4. Speed: Slow your vehicle before the turn, coast through the corner, then accelerate coming out of the corner. Give the examiner a nice smooth ride and don't make him lean when taking your turns.
5. End Lane: Always turn into the lane closest to you. If you are taking your road test at a closed course such as Arden Hills, Plymouth or Eagan be mindful of one way streets.

Traffic Lights and Stop Signs: Make sure you make **complete** stops behind the crosswalk when needed. Look left, right then left again before entering every intersection.

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Yield Signs: Pay attention to signs that are facing you as well as signs that are facing cross traffic and oncoming traffic. Remember, stopping at a yield sign is only necessary when you create an immediate hazard for other traffic.

Lane Position: Stay in the middle of your lane. Do not straddle to one side or the other.

Lane Changing: This will be done during the road test several times to get into the correct starting lane for turns. Follow the **S.M.O.G.S.** technique (**S**ignal on, **M**irror Check, **O**ver the shoulder check, **G**o/**G**lide over, **S**ignal off) for every lane change.

Intersection Speed: Always slow down before entering every intersection. As you slow down cover but do not touch the brake pedal unless necessary. Look left right then left again even if the light is green. There is no such thing as the complete right of way where you don't have to look.

Right of way: This is extremely important on the road test as well as driving for the rest of your life. If you are still guessing who has the right of way, you are not ready for your road test. Whether you are dealing with uncontrolled intersections, traffic lights, stop signs or yield signs you must always know who has the right of way. Yield when it's your turn to yield and take the right of way when it's your turn to go.