

# Alabama DMV

## Permit Practice Test 2026

40-question test with answer key · [permitpractice.us](https://permitpractice.us)

### Alabama permit test: quick facts

|                            |                                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Questions on the real test | Not published by the DMV                                                                                                             |
| Passing score              | Not published by the DMV (our practice tests use 80%)                                                                                |
| Wrong answers allowed      | Depends on test length (not published)                                                                                               |
| Minimum age                | 15                                                                                                                                   |
| Testing agency             | Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)                                                                                                   |
| Official permit name       | Learner License (Class D with "Y" restriction; GDL Stage I)                                                                          |
| Permit fee                 | \$5 knowledge test fee + \$36.25 license fee                                                                                         |
| Online testing             | No - the knowledge test must be taken in person.                                                                                     |
| Driver's education         | No - driver education is not required for the learner permit.                                                                        |
| Supervised practice        | 50 hours behind-the-wheel (parent/guardian verified) OR an SDE-approved driver education course, required before Stage II (under 18) |
| Permit holding period      | 6 months (under 18) or until 18th birthday                                                                                           |
| Under-21 alcohol limit     | 0.02% BAC or higher                                                                                                                  |

### How to use this PDF

1. The DMV does not publish how many questions the real test has. This test uses 40 questions, the length of our online mock test.
2. Answer every question before you look at the answer key. To pass you need Not published by the DMV (our practice tests use 80%).
3. Time: We found no published time limit for the Alabama knowledge test.
4. Take it online, with every answer explained, at <https://permitpractice.us/alabama/> - the mock test there marks your answers only at the end, like the real test.

Questions are original study questions written from the Alabama driver's handbook and general traffic law. They are not copies of actual DMV exam questions. State facts last reviewed 2026-09-28. Free for personal study; do not resell. © 2026 [permitpractice.us](https://permitpractice.us)

# Alabama Permit Practice Test: 40 Questions

Circle your answer. Answer key with explanations starts on the last pages.

**1. At a roundabout, in which direction does traffic flow and who has priority?**

- A) Counterclockwise; circulating traffic has priority
- B) Counterclockwise; the larger vehicle has priority
- C) Counterclockwise; entering traffic has priority
- D) Clockwise; traffic in the circle has priority

**2. What should you do if your vehicle begins to hydroplane (ride on a film of water)?**

- A) Speed up gently so the tires cut through
- B) Steer quickly toward the dry edge of the road
- C) Ease off the gas and keep the wheel straight
- D) Brake firmly until the tires grip again

**3. What is the purpose of an anti-lock braking system (ABS)?**

- A) To let you pump the brakes faster in a skid
- B) To brake for you when a car ahead stops
- C) To keep wheels from locking so you can steer
- D) To stop your vehicle faster by automatically pumping brakes

**4. What color are warning signs?**

- A) Yellow or orange
- B) Blue or green
- C) White with black letters
- D) Red

**5. A yellow diamond sign showing an arrow that curves back and forth several times warns of:**

- A) A steep hill ahead
- B) A slippery road
- C) A winding road ahead
- D) A single sharp curve

**6. Where should you stop your vehicle at a red light when there is a stop line?**

- A) Just before the stop line
- B) On the stop line
- C) Just past the stop line
- D) Where you can see cross traffic

**7. Unless a different limit is posted, what is Alabama's statutory speed limit in an urban district?**

- A) 30 mph
- B) 25 mph
- C) 35 mph
- D) 45 mph

**8. How do most state handbooks tell you to measure a safe following distance?**

- A) Count the seconds between it and you passing a fixed point
- B) Count car lengths - one car length is enough at any speed
- C) Stay close enough to read the license plate of the car ahead
- D) Follow at a distance in feet equal to your speed in mph

**9. On a divided highway with four or more lanes, a school bus is stopped with red lights flashing on the opposite side. What must you do?**

- A) Stop until the stop arm is pulled in
- B) Slow to 15 mph below the limit
- C) Continue with care; no stop needed
- D) Stop at least 20 feet from the bus

**10. If your vehicle's accelerator sticks while driving, you should:**

- A) Shift to neutral, brake, and steer to safety
- B) Keep driving and call for help on your phone
- C) Switch off the engine and remove the key
- D) Shift into park and pull the parking brake

**11. A diamond-shaped orange sign indicates:**

- A) A work zone ahead
- B) A slow-moving vehicle ahead
- C) A yield ahead
- D) A school zone

**12. On an Alabama highway with two or more lanes in your direction, when passing a stopped emergency or utility vehicle you must:**

- A) Stop completely until it leaves
- B) Stay in the lane closest to it
- C) Leave the lane next to it when safe
- D) Speed up to pass it quickly

**13. A rectangular white sign reading 'KEEP RIGHT' with an arrow means:**

- A) Stay in the right lane to pass
- B) Pass the divider on either side
- C) Go to the right of the divider
- D) Right turns only

**14. What does a sign showing a car with curved skid marks indicate?**

- A) Loose gravel ahead
- B) Winding road
- C) Sharp curve
- D) Slippery when wet

**15. What color background is used for most warning signs?**

- A) White
- B) Red
- C) Purple
- D) Yellow

**16. What is the 'point of no return' when approaching a yellow light?**

- A) The stop line - once past it you must proceed
- B) The moment the light changes from green to yellow
- C) The point where you can no longer stop safely
- D) Exactly 100 feet before the intersection

**17. If your right wheels drift off the pavement onto the shoulder, you should:**

- A) Ease off the gas and steer back gently
- B) Jerk the wheel left to get back at once
- C) Speed up and steer back on right away
- D) Brake hard and steer back onto the road

**18. What does a sign in the shape of an octagon always mean?**

- A) Wrong way
- B) Yield
- C) Do not enter
- D) Stop

**19. What is the difference between a black-on-white speed sign and a yellow speed sign below a warning sign?**

- A) White is for trucks; yellow is for cars
- B) Yellow is the legal limit; white is advisory
- C) White is the legal limit; yellow is advisory
- D) They mean the same - both are legal limits

**20. When passing a person riding a bicycle, Alabama law requires at least how much space between your car and the rider?**

- A) 3 feet
- B) 2 feet
- C) 5 feet
- D) 4 feet

**21. A yellow sign with a black arrow bending at a 90-degree angle indicates:**

- A) A lane shift ahead
- B) A side road ahead
- C) A gentle curve
- D) A sharp turn ahead

**22. When you reach an intersection with a flashing red light in your direction and a flashing yellow in the cross direction, you must:**

- A) Stop, then go first - cross traffic must yield
- B) Stop, then go when safe - cross traffic won't stop
- C) Slow down and go - the cross traffic has to stop
- D) Stop and wait until your light turns solid green

**23. The round yellow railroad advance warning sign is placed about how far before the tracks?**

- A) 100 feet
- B) 750 feet
- C) 1,500 feet
- D) 300 feet

**24. Traffic ahead of you is moving slowly. May you use the shared center left-turn lane to drive around it?**

- A) No - the lane is only for vehicles turning left
- B) Yes, if no oncoming vehicle is using it
- C) Yes, as long as you signal left first
- D) Yes, but only for a distance of one block

**25. A school bus ahead of you turns on its flashing amber (yellow) lights. What does this tell you?**

- A) The bus is turning, so pass it with care
- B) Children are crossing - stop right now
- C) The bus is pulling over with a breakdown
- D) The bus is about to stop - get ready to stop

**26. A round (circular) sign indicates:**

- A) A stop ahead
- B) A one-way street
- C) A speed limit change
- D) A railroad crossing

**27. A motorcycle coming toward an intersection has its turn signal blinking. What should you do before pulling out in front of it?**

- A) Go - a blinking signal means it will turn
- B) Flash your headlights and then pull out
- C) Wait until you are sure it is really turning
- D) Pull out quickly before it reaches you

**28. In most states, you may not park within how many feet of a crosswalk at an intersection?**

- A) 5 feet
- B) 50 feet
- C) 20 feet
- D) 10 feet

**29. A yellow sign showing a bump or dip in the road warns you to:**

- A) Keep speed - it only affects trucks
- B) Stop and check the road ahead
- C) Slow down for a rough spot ahead
- D) Move to the shoulder to avoid it

**30. A warning sign showing a truck on a downgrade indicates:**

- A) A steep downhill grade ahead
- B) A runaway truck ramp ahead
- C) A truck weigh station ahead
- D) A truck crossing ahead

**31. For adult drivers (21+), what Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) is the legal limit in most states?**

- A) 0.05%
- B) 0.02%
- C) 0.08%
- D) 0.04%

**32. What does an orange-colored sign indicate?**

- A) A work zone ahead
- B) A railroad crossing ahead
- C) A hospital zone ahead
- D) A school zone ahead

**33. When turning left at a green light (not a green arrow), you must:**

- A) Turn first - oncoming traffic must yield to you
- B) Wait for oncoming traffic to stop
- C) Yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians
- D) Turn immediately - green means go

**34. On a freeway, a green sign with a number in a small square (such as 'EXIT 25') refers to:**

- A) The distance to the next city in miles
- B) The exit number, often the mile marker
- C) The posted speed limit on the exit ramp
- D) The route number of the highway

**35. What number can you dial from a cell phone in Alabama to reach State Troopers about a highway emergency or a drunk driver?**

- A) \*ST (\*78)
- B) \*AL (\*25)
- C) \*DUI (\*384)
- D) \*HP (\*47)

**36. When entering a highway from an on-ramp, who has the right of way?**

- A) The larger vehicle, such as a truck
- B) The merging vehicle
- C) Whoever reaches the merge point first
- D) Traffic already on the highway

**37. When you are following another vehicle at night, Alabama law requires you to dim your high beams once you are within:**

- A) 100 feet
- B) 500 feet
- C) 300 feet
- D) 200 feet

**38. Which of these is a warning sign that you are too drowsy to drive safely?**

- A) Your passengers start talking more loudly
- B) You feel hungry and want to stop for a snack
- C) You cannot remember driving the last few miles
- D) You notice more traffic signs than usual

**39. A warning sign showing an arrow splitting into two directions around a vertical line indicates:**

- A) A fork where you must choose a route
- B) A divided highway begins ahead
- C) A passing lane opens ahead
- D) Two-way traffic begins ahead

**40. Traffic is backed up just past a railroad crossing. When should you start across the tracks?**

- A) Whenever the crossing lights are not flashing
- B) Only when there is room to get fully past the tracks
- C) When the car ahead of you has started to cross
- D) Right away, since no train is in sight now

# Answer Key & Explanations

## 1. A - Counterclockwise; circulating traffic has priority

In the United States, traffic in a roundabout flows counterclockwise, and vehicles already circulating in the roundabout have the right of way. Entering drivers must yield and merge into a safe gap.

Source: [flhsmv.gov](http://flhsmv.gov) - FL handbook - Roundabouts

## 2. C - Ease off the gas and keep the wheel straight

During hydroplaning, ease off the gas gradually to slow down. Hold the steering wheel firmly and straight. Do not brake suddenly or steer sharply - this can cause a spin.

Source: [assets.dps.mn.gov](http://assets.dps.mn.gov) - MN handbook - Hydroplaning

## 3. C - To keep wheels from locking so you can steer

ABS prevents wheels from locking during hard braking, allowing you to maintain steering control. When ABS activates, you may feel pulsing in the brake pedal - this is normal. Press firmly and steer.

Source: [assets.dps.mn.gov](http://assets.dps.mn.gov) - MN handbook - Anti-lock brakes

## 4. A - Yellow or orange

Warning signs are yellow (standard warnings) or orange (construction/work zones). They alert drivers to potential hazards ahead such as curves, intersections, or pedestrians.

Source: [dps.texas.gov](http://dps.texas.gov) - TX handbook - Chapter 5, sign colors

## 5. C - A winding road ahead

The Winding Road sign (a single arrow that bends back and forth) warns of three or more curves in a row ahead. An S-shaped arrow with only two bends is the Reverse Curve sign. Reduce speed and stay alert through the curves.

Source: [mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov](http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov) - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2C.07 Paragraph 05

## 6. A - Just before the stop line

Stop before the stop line - not on it or beyond it. If there is no stop line, stop before the crosswalk. If no crosswalk, stop before the intersection.

Source: [assets.dps.mn.gov](http://assets.dps.mn.gov) - MN handbook - Stop signs / stop lines

## 7. A - 30 mph

Alabama's statutory limit in an urban district is 30 mph. Posted signs can set a different limit for a specific zone.

Source: [alea.gov](http://alea.gov) - p.60 (PDF p.62), Statutory Speed Limits

## 8. A - Count the seconds between it and you passing a fixed point

Handbooks teach a time-based gap: pick a fixed object and count the seconds after the vehicle ahead passes it. The minimum differs by state (2, 3 or 4 seconds), with most recommending 3 to 4 seconds in good conditions; add time in rain, at night or behind large vehicles. Check your state handbook for its exact number.

Source: [dps.texas.gov](http://dps.texas.gov) - TX handbook - Following distance

## 9. C - Continue with care; no stop needed

Alabama does not require drivers on the other side of a divided highway with four or more lanes to stop for the bus. On a four- to six-lane undivided highway, you must stop.

Source: [alea.gov](http://alea.gov) - p.61 (PDF p.63), Stopping

## 10. A - Shift to neutral, brake, and steer to safety

Shift to neutral (to disconnect engine power), then apply brakes steadily to slow the vehicle. Steer to a safe location. Only turn off the ignition if other methods fail - as this can lock the steering column in older cars.

Source: [ksrevenue.gov](http://ksrevenue.gov) - KS handbook - Accelerator Failure

## 11. A - A work zone ahead

Orange diamond-shaped signs indicate construction or work zones. Speed limits are often reduced and fines are doubled in work zones. Slow down and stay alert.

Source: [dps.texas.gov](http://dps.texas.gov) - TX handbook - Chapter 5, sign colors

## 12. C - Leave the lane next to it when safe

Alabama's Move Over Act requires you to vacate the lane closest to a stopped emergency, utility, or similar vehicle when it is safe to do so.

Source: [alea.gov](http://alea.gov) - ALEA Alabama Move Over Act page (Code of Ala. 32-5A-58.2(b)(1))

## 13. C - Go to the right of the divider

A 'Keep Right' sign directs you to pass to the right of a traffic island, median, or obstruction. It keeps traffic flowing correctly around the divider.

Source: [mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov](http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov) - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2B.39

#### **14. D - Slippery when wet**

A yellow warning sign with a car and curved skid lines means the road is slippery when wet. Slow down and increase following distance in rain or snow.

Source: [mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov](https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov) - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2C.30

#### **15. D - Yellow**

Most warning signs have a yellow background with black symbols or letters. Yellow signals caution - slow down and watch for the hazard described.

Source: [mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov](https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov) - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2C.02

#### **16. C - The point where you can no longer stop safely**

The 'point of no return' is the position from which stopping safely (without running the light or causing a rear-end collision) becomes impossible. Before this point, slow and stop. After it, proceed through safely.

Source: [pa.gov](https://pa.gov) - PA handbook - Traffic signals - steady yellow

#### **17. A - Ease off the gas and steer back gently**

If your wheels drift onto the shoulder, do not brake hard or jerk the wheel. Ease off the accelerator, keep a firm grip, and steer back onto the pavement gently once your speed has decreased - this prevents loss of control.

Source: [ksrevenue.gov](https://ksrevenue.gov) - KS handbook - Vehicle leaves the pavement

#### **18. D - Stop**

An octagon (8-sided shape) is used exclusively for STOP signs. The unique shape lets drivers identify it even when snow-covered or viewed from behind.

Source: [mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov](https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov) - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2A.05, Table 2A-1 Use of Sign Shapes; 2B.04

#### **19. C - White is the legal limit; yellow is advisory**

A black-on-white speed sign is the legal speed limit. A yellow speed plate below a warning sign (e.g., on a curve) is an advisory speed - the safe recommended speed for that hazard.

Source: [mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov](https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov) - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2C.59

#### **20. A - 3 feet**

Alabama requires a gap of no less than 3 feet when you pass a bicyclist. Wind from a fast vehicle can push a rider, so give more room when you can.

Source: [alea.gov](https://alea.gov) - p.24 (PDF p.26), Sharing the Road with Bicycles

#### **21. D - A sharp turn ahead**

A sharp-angle arrow warns of a sharp turn (not a gentle curve) ahead. Slow down significantly before the turn - the recommended speed is often posted below.

Source: [mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov](https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov) - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2C.07 Paragraph 02

#### **22. B - Stop, then go when safe - cross traffic won't stop**

A flashing red light works like a stop sign: stop completely, then go when safe. The cross traffic with a flashing yellow only needs to slow and proceed with caution - they do not stop, so you must yield to them.

Source: [dmv.ca.gov](https://dmv.ca.gov) - CA handbook - Flashing lights

#### **23. B - 750 feet**

The round yellow sign with a black X and the letters RR warns of a highway-rail crossing ahead. Alabama places it about 750 feet before the tracks.

Source: [alea.gov](https://alea.gov) - p.38 (PDF p.40), Railroad Crossings Advanced Warnings

#### **24. A - No - the lane is only for vehicles turning left**

A shared center lane is reserved for left turns by traffic from both directions. Using it for through travel or to pass other vehicles is not allowed.

Source: [dol.wa.gov](https://dol.wa.gov) - (PDF p.116), Signs - Shared center lane left turn only

#### **25. D - The bus is about to stop - get ready to stop**

Flashing amber lights are a warning that the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Slow down and prepare to stop; the red lights come on when the bus stops.

Source: [oregon.gov](https://oregon.gov) - p.55 (PDF p.63), School Buses

#### **26. D - A railroad crossing**

A round, yellow sign with a black X and two R's warns of a railroad crossing ahead. The circular shape is used exclusively for railroad advance-warning signs.

Source: [mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov](https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov) - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) Section 2A.05 and Table 2A-1 (W10-1)

### **27. C - Wait until you are sure it is really turning**

Many motorcycle turn signals do not cancel by themselves, so a rider may have forgotten one. Wait until the motorcycle actually starts to turn.

Source: [publicsafety.ohio.gov](https://publicsafety.ohio.gov) - Section 9 - Sharing the Road, Motorcyclists

### **28. C - 20 feet**

Most states prohibit parking within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection (and, separately, within 30 feet of a stop sign or traffic signal in many states). A few use other distances, such as 25 feet in New Jersey, so check your handbook.

Source: [dps.texas.gov](https://dps.texas.gov) - TX handbook - Do Not Park

### **29. C - Slow down for a rough spot ahead**

Bump and dip signs warn of an abrupt change in the road surface. Slow down to maintain control and protect your vehicle's suspension.

Source: [mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov](https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov) - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2C.26

### **30. A - A steep downhill grade ahead**

A sign showing a truck on a slope warns of a steep downhill grade. Trucks should use a lower gear; all drivers should check brakes and control speed.

Source: [mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov](https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov) - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2C.14

### **31. C - 0.08%**

In most US states, a BAC of 0.08% or higher is legally considered driving under the influence (DUI) for drivers 21 and older. Always check your state's specific laws.

Source: [dmv.ca.gov](https://dmv.ca.gov) - California Driver Handbook - Alcohol and drug limits

### **32. A - A work zone ahead**

Orange signs indicate construction and maintenance work zones. Reduce speed, watch for workers and equipment, and be prepared for changed traffic patterns. Fines are often doubled.

Source: [mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov](https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov) - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 1D.05 Color Code

### **33. C - Yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians**

A green ball (not arrow) allows a left turn only after yielding to oncoming traffic and pedestrians. A green arrow means you have a protected turn and oncoming traffic is stopped.

Source: [dmv.ca.gov](https://dmv.ca.gov) - CA handbook - Flashing Yellow Arrow / left turns

### **34. B - The exit number, often the mile marker**

Exit number signs identify highway exits. In most states the exit number corresponds to the nearest mile marker, helping you judge distance to your exit.

Source: [mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov](https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov) - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2E.22

### **35. D - \*HP (\*47)**

Dial \*HP, which is \*47, toll-free on a cell phone to reach Alabama State Troopers about crashes, highway emergencies or drunk drivers.

Source: [alea.gov](https://alea.gov) - p.76 (PDF p.78), Driving the Freeways

### **36. D - Traffic already on the highway**

Traffic already on the highway has the right of way. The merging driver must adjust speed to safely enter the flow of traffic - do not force other drivers to slow down.

Source: [flhsmv.gov](https://flhsmv.gov) - FL handbook - Entering a limited-access highway

### **37. D - 200 feet**

Switch to low beams within 200 feet of a vehicle you are following and within 500 feet of an oncoming vehicle, so you do not blind the other driver.

Source: [alea.gov](https://alea.gov) - p.69 (PDF p.71), Night Driving

### **38. C - You cannot remember driving the last few miles**

Not remembering the last few miles, heavy eyelids, missing exits or signs, and drifting out of your lane all mean you should pull over and rest.

Source: [dol.wa.gov](https://dol.wa.gov) - (PDF p.75), Fatigue

### **39. B - A divided highway begins ahead**

This sign warns that a divided highway begins ahead - a median or barrier will separate the opposing lanes. Keep right of the divider.

Source: [mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov](https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov) - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2C.20

#### **40. B - Only when there is room to get fully past the tracks**

Never stop on railroad tracks. Wait behind the crossing until there is enough space on the other side for your whole vehicle.

Source: [assets.dps.mn.gov](https://assets.dps.mn.gov) - p.53 (PDF p.56), Railroad crossing safety

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<https://permitpractice.us/alabama/>

Official DMV website: <https://www.alea.gov/dps/driver-license>

Official Alabama driver's handbook: <https://www.alea.gov/sites/default/files/ALEA%20DL%20Manual.pdf>





















