

Hawaii DMV

Permit Practice Test 2026

30-question test with answer key · permitpractice.us

Hawaii permit test: quick facts

Questions on the real test	30
Passing score	80% (24 of 30 correct)
Wrong answers allowed	6
Minimum age	15½
Testing agency	Division of Motor Vehicles & Licensing (DMV)
Official permit name	Instruction Permit (county pages: "Class 3 Instructional Permit"; Honolulu GDL page: "Learner's (Instructional) Permit")
Permit fee	Honolulu: \$2 written test + \$5 instruction permit; Hawaii County online test \$11 (fees vary by county)
If you fail	7 days (applies to in-person and online test)
Online testing	Yes - an online knowledge test option is available.
Driver's education	Required for applicants under 18.
Permit holding period	180 days for ages 15.5-17 (90 days for adults)
Under-21 alcohol limit	0.02% BAC or higher

How to use this PDF

1. This test has 30 questions, the same number as the real Hawaii DMV knowledge test.
2. Answer every question before you look at the answer key. To pass you need 80% (24 of 30 correct).
3. Time: We found no published time limit for the Hawaii knowledge test.
4. Take it online, with every answer explained, at <https://permitpractice.us/hawaii/> - the mock test there marks your answers only at the end, like the real test.

Questions are original study questions written from the Hawaii 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

Hawaii Permit Practice Test: 30 Questions

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

1. What does a green light on a traffic signal that is shaped like an arrow mean?

- A) A protected move in the arrow's direction
- B) The turn is allowed only after stopping
- C) Go that way, but yield to oncoming traffic
- D) The signal is about to turn red

2. A yellow sign showing a bicycle means:

- A) A bike rental station ahead
- B) Bicyclists may be on the road
- C) Bicycles must use the sidewalk
- D) Bicycles are not allowed ahead

3. A sign reading 'SPEED LIMIT 55' is what type of sign?

- A) Informational
- B) Warning
- C) Regulatory
- D) Guide

4. Yellow obstruction markings guide traffic around a bridge support in the road. How must you pass the obstruction?

- A) Only on the left side
- B) Only on the right side
- C) Only after stopping first
- D) On either side

5. 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

6. Your gas pedal is stuck and you switch off the engine to slow the car. What should you expect?

- A) The car will speed up for a few seconds
- B) Steering and braking will take more effort
- C) The car will come to a stop almost at once
- D) The brakes will stop working completely

7. A five-sided (pentagon) sign that points upward indicates:

- A) A railroad crossing ahead
- B) A school zone or crossing
- C) A hospital zone ahead
- D) A no-passing zone

8. What does 'covering the brake' mean?

- A) Pressing the brake and gas at the same time
- B) Pumping the brake to warn the drivers behind you
- C) Resting your left foot on the brake pedal
- D) Holding your foot over the brake, ready to stop

9. You are stopped at a steady red light and no sign prohibits turning. What must you do before you turn right?

- A) Stop fully, then yield to people and cross traffic
- B) Honk to warn others, then turn ahead of them
- C) Wait for the light to turn green before turning
- D) Slow to a crawl, then turn if the way looks clear

10. The diagonal stripes on a work zone barricade slope downward to the right. What should you do?

- A) Bear to the left
- B) Bear to the right
- C) Speed up to clear the zone
- D) Stop at the barricade

11. 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

12. Hawaii law forbids leaving a child under nine years old unattended in a motor vehicle for:

- A) Two minutes or longer
- B) Fifteen minutes or longer
- C) Ten minutes or longer
- D) Five minutes or longer

13. What does a yellow pennant-shaped sign (a sideways triangle pointing right) on the left side of the road mean?

- A) No-passing zone begins
- B) A sharp curve
- C) Passing lane begins ahead
- D) Merge ahead

14. In Hawaii, which way should you turn your front wheels when you park on a hill next to a curb?

- A) To the left, uphill or downhill
- B) Left when uphill, right when downhill
- C) To the right, uphill or downhill
- D) Straight ahead, with the brake set

15. When should you use your vehicle's emergency hazard lights?

- A) When you plan to change lanes or make a turn
- B) To thank a driver who let you merge
- C) When your car is disabled on or near the road
- D) When parking briefly in a no-parking zone

16. At what times are deer and other wildlife most active near roads?

- A) Around midday
- B) During the late morning
- C) Around dawn and dusk
- D) In the early afternoon

17. You are on a freeway on-ramp and the ramp meter signal shows red. What should you do?

- A) Merge carefully if the freeway looks clear
- B) Use the shoulder to go around the signal
- C) Slow down but keep rolling onto the freeway
- D) Stop at the line and wait for green

18. When two lanes merge and there are 'zipper merge' signs, you should:

- A) Use both lanes to the merge point, then take turns
- B) Merge early - as soon as you see the sign - to be polite
- C) Let all vehicles in the other lane go first
- D) Stop and wait for all traffic to clear

19. Under the Hawaii manual, a driver whose blood alcohol content is more than .05 but less than .08 percent may be considered:

- A) Impaired
- B) Under the influence
- C) Fit to drive normally
- D) Legally sober

20. When driving in heavy rain, you should:

- A) Use cruise control to keep a steady, safe speed
- B) Use low beams and leave more following distance
- C) Turn on hazard lights and drive at normal speed
- D) Use high-beam headlights to see better

21. The reflective triangular slow-moving vehicle emblem must be displayed on the rear of vehicles designed to travel at:

- A) 15 mph or less
- B) 35 mph or less
- C) 45 mph or less
- D) 25 mph or less

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

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

23. At an uncontrolled T-intersection, vehicles on the through road have right of way over:

- A) Pedestrians in a marked crosswalk
- B) Vehicles on the terminating road
- C) Emergency vehicles using sirens
- D) Vehicles already in the intersection

24. An angry driver is tailgating you, honking and making rude gestures. What is the best response?

- A) Speed up to stay ahead of the angry driver
- B) Avoid eye contact and let the driver get by
- C) Tap your brakes to make the driver back off
- D) Gesture back so the driver knows you are upset

25. 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

26. Double solid yellow center lines mean:

- A) No passing from either direction
- B) Passing is allowed if the road ahead is clear
- C) A center lane for left turns only
- D) Passing is allowed from both directions

27. What does a 'MERGE' warning sign (two lines coming together) mean?

- A) Your lane ends - you must merge
- B) Traffic will merge into your lane
- C) The road divides into two routes
- D) Two roads cross just ahead

28. In most states, you must not park within how many feet of a fire hydrant?

- A) 30 feet
- B) 5 feet
- C) 15 feet
- D) 10 feet

29. What is the safest action when you are being tailgated?

- A) Ignore them and maintain your exact speed
- B) Tap your brakes hard to warn them off
- C) Speed up well past the limit to pull away from them
- D) Move over or add space ahead and let them pass

30. Unless the street is marked otherwise, how close should your bumpers be to the other cars when you finish parallel parking?

- A) No closer than one foot
- B) No closer than six inches
- C) No closer than two feet
- D) No closer than four feet

Answer Key & Explanations

1. A - A protected move in the arrow's direction

A green arrow gives a protected movement: you may go in the direction of the arrow while conflicting traffic is stopped by a red signal. You must still yield to pedestrians lawfully in the crosswalk and to vehicles still lawfully in the intersection.

Source: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 4A.03 Paragraph 01 A.2

2. B - Bicyclists may be on the road

A bicycle symbol warns that bicyclists may be on or crossing the roadway. Share the road, slow down, and give cyclists adequate space when passing.

Source: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2C.54

3. C - Regulatory

Speed limit signs are regulatory - they state the maximum legal speed under ideal conditions, which you are legally required to obey.

Source: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2B.21 Paragraph 13

4. B - Only on the right side

Obstruction markings can be white or yellow. You may go around white ones on either side, but you must pass yellow ones only on the right.

Source: hidot.hawaii.gov - p.37 (PDF p.37), Obstruction Markings

5. 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 - CA handbook - Flashing lights

6. B - Steering and braking will take more effort

With the engine off you lose power steering and power brake assist, so the wheel and pedal feel much heavier. They still work - push harder and steer to a safe stop.

Source: alea.gov - p.75 (PDF p.77), Stuck accelerator pedal

7. B - A school zone or crossing

An upward-pointing pentagon sign marks a school zone or school crossing. It is typically yellow-green and warns that children may be present.

Source: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2A.05, Table 2A-1 Use of Sign Shapes

8. D - Holding your foot over the brake, ready to stop

Covering the brake means moving your foot from the accelerator to a position over, or lightly on, the brake pedal when you see a possible hazard, so you can brake with less reaction time.

Source: tn.gov - TN handbook - Covering the brake

9. A - Stop fully, then yield to people and cross traffic

A right turn on red is allowed only after a complete stop and only after yielding to pedestrians and all crossing traffic. A NO TURN ON RED sign takes this option away.

Source: publicsafety.ohio.gov - Section 5 - Learning to Drive, A driver must stop

10. B - Bear to the right

The stripes on barricades and vertical panels point the way traffic should go. Stripes sloping down to the right mean bear right; sloping down to the left mean bear left.

Source: hidot.hawaii.gov - p.50 (PDF p.50), Channelizing Devices

11. 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 - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2C.26

12. D - Five minutes or longer

Hawaii law bars a driver or adult passenger from leaving a child under nine alone in a vehicle for five minutes or longer. Heat, car theft and power windows can all hurt a child left alone.

Source: hidot.hawaii.gov - p.64 (PDF p.64), Do Not Leave Children Unattended

13. A - No-passing zone begins

A yellow pennant-shaped sign on the left side of the road marks the beginning of a no-passing zone. It supplements the solid yellow line on the pavement.

Source: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2C.53

14. C - To the right, uphill or downhill

The Hawaii manual says to turn the front wheels toward the curb, to the right, whether you park uphill or downhill, so the car would roll away from traffic if it moved.

Source: hidot.hawaii.gov - p.71 (PDF p.71), Parking on a hill

15. C - When your car is disabled on or near the road

Hazard lights warn others that your vehicle is stopped, disabled or a hazard. Rules for using them while moving (for example in heavy rain) differ between states, so follow your state handbook.

Source: dmv.ca.gov - CA handbook - Using Your Emergency Flashers

16. C - Around dawn and dusk

Wildlife moves most at dawn and dusk, when light is also poor for your eyes. Scan both sides of the road and watch for eyes reflecting your headlights.

Source: public.powerdms.com - p.104 (PDF p.109), Animals

17. D - Stop at the line and wait for green

A ramp meter works like a traffic light. Stop at the stop line on red and go when it turns green, then speed up to merge.

Source: dol.wa.gov - (PDF p.113), Freeway ramp meters

18. A - Use both lanes to the merge point, then take turns

Where zipper-merge signs are posted, stay in your lane until the merge point, then take turns with the other lane like the teeth of a zipper. Merging early leaves one lane empty and makes the queue longer; the Minnesota Department of Transportation reports that the zipper merge can cut the length of a backup by as much as 40 percent.

Source: dmv.colorado.gov - CO handbook - Zipper Merge

19. A - Impaired

The manual says a result above .05 but below .08 percent may show a driver is impaired, while .08 percent or more means under the influence. Even small amounts of alcohol affect driving.

Source: hidot.hawaii.gov - p.56 (PDF p.56), The Law

20. B - Use low beams and leave more following distance

In rain, use low-beam headlights (high beams reflect off rain), reduce speed, and increase following distance to at least 4-6 seconds. High beams can reduce visibility in rain.

Source: assets.dps.mn.gov - MN handbook - Weather: rain

21. D - 25 mph or less

Hawaii requires the 18-inch reflective triangular emblem on vehicles built to go 25 mph or less. When you see it, slow down and approach with care.

Source: hidot.hawaii.gov - p.30 (PDF p.30), Slow Moving Vehicle Emblem

22. 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 - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2A.05, Table 2A-1 Use of Sign Shapes; 2B.04

23. B - Vehicles on the terminating road

At a T-intersection (where one road ends and meets another), vehicles on the through road (the top of the T) have the right of way over vehicles on the terminating road (the bottom of the T).

Source: dmv.ca.gov - CA handbook - Right-of-way rules

24. B - Avoid eye contact and let the driver get by

Do not challenge an aggressive driver. Stay calm, avoid eye contact, and move out of the way so the situation does not get worse.

Source: assets.dps.mn.gov - p.79 (PDF p.82), Aggressive driving

25. 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 - TX handbook - Following distance

26. A - No passing from either direction

Double solid yellow lines separate traffic moving in opposite directions. Crossing them to pass is prohibited from both directions.

Source: assets.dps.mn.gov - MN handbook - Pavement markings

27. B - Traffic will merge into your lane

A Merge sign warns that traffic from another roadway (such as an entrance ramp) will be joining your lane ahead. Watch for merging vehicles and adjust your speed and position so they can blend in smoothly. A lane that is ending has its own 'Lane Ends' sign.

Source: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2C.45 Paragraph 01

28. C - 15 feet

Most states (including California, Texas, New York, Florida and Pennsylvania) prohibit parking within 15 feet of a fire hydrant. Some use a shorter distance (for example 10 feet in Connecticut, Minnesota, New Jersey and Oregon), so check your state handbook.

Source: portal.ct.gov - CT handbook - Parking restrictions

29. D - Move over or add space ahead and let them pass

When tailgated, do not brake-check. Move to another lane if possible or increase the gap to the vehicle ahead so you have more room to stop gradually - this gives both you and the tailgater more reaction time.

Source: dmv.ca.gov - CA handbook - Space: tailgaters

30. C - No closer than two feet

The Hawaii manual says parked bumpers should be at least two feet from the vehicles in front and behind, unless the street is marked otherwise. This leaves room for everyone to pull out.

Source: hidot.hawaii.gov - p.72 (PDF p.72), Parallel Parking

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

Official DMV website: <https://www.honolulu.gov/csd/vehicle.html>

Official Hawaii driver's handbook: https://hidot.hawaii.gov/highways/files/2024/11/2023-Hawaii-Drivers-Manual_5.375x8.375_Final-r3-Digital-071924web.pdf

