

Idaho DMV

Permit Practice Test 2026

40-question test with answer key · permitpractice.us

Idaho permit test: quick facts

Questions on the real test	40
Passing score	85% (34 of 40 correct)
Wrong answers allowed	6
Minimum age	14½
Testing agency	Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV)
Official permit name	Supervised Instruction Permit (SIP) for under 17 (issued after driver training; initially called Driver Training Instruction Permit); Class D Instruction Permit for 17+
Permit fee	\$21.50 Driver Training/Supervised Instruction Permit (includes \$6.50 skills-test fee) + \$5 knowledge test; Class D Instruction Permit (17+) \$29 + \$5 knowledge test
If you fail	At least 3 days; test fee must be re-paid each attempt.
Online testing	No - the knowledge test must be taken in person.
Driver's education	Required for applicants under 17.
Supervised practice	50 hours incl. 10 at night
Permit holding period	6 months on the Supervised Instruction Permit
Under-21 alcohol limit	0.02% BAC or higher

How to use this PDF

1. This test has 40 questions, the same number as the real Idaho DMV knowledge test.
2. Answer every question before you look at the answer key. To pass you need 85% (34 of 40 correct).
3. Time: We found no published time limit for the Idaho knowledge test.
4. Take it online, with every answer explained, at <https://permitpractice.us/idaho/> - the mock test there marks your answers only at the end, like the real test.

Questions are original study questions written from the Idaho 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

Idaho Permit Practice Test: 40 Questions

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

1. 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

2. A round (circular) sign indicates:

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

3. In most states, which left turn may you make on a steady red light after a full stop, if no sign forbids it?

- A) From a one-way street onto another one-way street
- B) From a two-way street onto another two-way street
- C) From a two-way street into a store's driveway
- D) From any street when no oncoming car is in sight

4. In Idaho, it is unlawful for a driver under 21 to drive with a BAC of:

- A) 0.10 or more only
- B) 0.05 or more
- C) 0.08 or more only
- D) 0.02 or more

5. 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

6. How far away from a stop sign, yield sign, or traffic signal must you park in Idaho?

- A) At least 30 feet
- B) At least 10 feet
- C) At least 50 feet
- D) At least 20 feet

7. During what period may studded snow tires normally be used in Idaho?

- A) November 1 to March 31
- B) October 15 to April 15
- C) October 1 to April 30
- D) September 1 to May 31

8. A freeway lane is marked with a white diamond symbol and HOV signs. Who may drive in it?

- A) Vehicles carrying the posted number of people
- B) Only police and emergency vehicles on a call
- C) Any driver who wants to pass slow traffic
- D) Only trucks and other large commercial vehicles

9. 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

10. If your vehicle's engine catches fire, you should:

- A) Open the hood to reach the fire quickly
- B) Stop, shut off the engine, and get everyone away
- C) Drive on to the nearest fire station
- D) Stay in the car with the windows up until help comes

11. 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%

12. Worn or bald tires are dangerous primarily because they:

- A) Cause the car to pull hard to one side
- B) Wear out the brakes faster than normal
- C) Only matter on snow and ice, not on wet pavement
- D) Reduce traction and raise the risk of skidding

13. 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

14. What is the most effective way to stay alert on a long drive?

- A) Drink coffee or an energy drink each hour
- B) Take breaks every 2 hours or 100 miles
- C) Keep the window open and the air cold
- D) Turn up the radio and sing along

15. Idaho's hands-free law requires all drivers to use electronic devices:

- A) Hands-free only if the driver is under 18
- B) Hands-free only when the vehicle is moving
- C) In hands-free mode, even when stopped at a light
- D) Only for navigation, held in one hand

16. In most states, how far before a turn must you begin signaling on a city street?

- A) At least 500 feet
- B) At least 20 feet
- C) At least 10 feet
- D) At least 100 feet

17. Unless a different limit is posted, what is the top speed in an Idaho residential or business district?

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

18. If no other limit is posted, what is the maximum speed on an Idaho state highway?

- A) 65 mph
- B) 70 mph
- C) 55 mph
- D) 75 mph

19. Your car stalls on an Idaho highway and you have emergency flares. Where should you place them?

- A) 200 to 300 feet behind your car
- B) 20 to 30 feet behind your car
- C) 500 to 600 feet behind your car
- D) 50 to 100 feet behind your car

20. On an Idaho road with two lanes in your direction, you see a police car stopped on the shoulder with lights flashing. What does Idaho law require?

- A) Keep your speed but turn on your hazard lights
- B) Slow below the limit and move over if safe
- C) Stop behind it until the officer waves you on
- D) Move over a lane, or slow down if you cannot

21. You are in a car, not towing, on a two-lane Idaho road posted at 55 mph, passing a truck that is going below the limit. By how much may you briefly exceed the limit while passing?

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

22. Green traffic signs provide:

- A) Guide information (directions)
- B) Warning information (hazards)
- C) Service information (gas, food)
- D) Regulatory information (laws)

23. 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

24. Before getting licensed, an Idaho permit holder must complete how many hours of supervised driving?

- A) 50 hours, including 10 at night
- B) 100 hours, including 20 at night
- C) 20 hours, including 5 at night
- D) 40 hours, including 10 at night

25. A flagger in a work zone turns the paddle so the word SLOW faces you. What should you do?

- A) Keep your speed - you have the right of way
- B) Proceed slowly and watch for workers
- C) Speed up to clear the work zone quickly
- D) Stop until the flagger waves you on

26. 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

27. A red circle with a red slash through a symbol means:

- A) Caution for the action shown
- B) The action shown is prohibited
- C) The action is allowed after stopping
- D) The action is required ahead

28. 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

29. What does a flashing red light mean?

- A) Stop, then go when it is safe
- B) Stop and wait for the light to turn green
- C) Yield, but stop only if cars are coming
- D) Slow down and proceed with caution

30. On an undivided two-lane road, a school bus stops with its red lights flashing and stop arm out. What must drivers do?

- A) Stop, then pass slowly if no children are seen
- B) Slow down and pass on the left with caution
- C) Stop in both directions until the lights stop
- D) Wait until children reach the curb, then pass

31. A small sign below a railroad crossbuck shows the number 2. What does it tell you?

- A) Trains come through here about twice a day
- B) Stop at least two car lengths from the rails
- C) There are two sets of tracks at the crossing
- D) The crossing is two miles down the road

32. 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

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

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

34. When should you use your high-beam headlights?

- A) In fog for maximum light
- B) When following another car at night
- C) On open roads with no vehicles close by
- D) Whenever it is dark, regardless of other traffic

35. What is the safest way to check your blind spot before changing lanes?

- A) Check your rearview mirror, then signal and go
- B) Check both side mirrors only
- C) Trust your car's blind-spot warning light
- D) Glance over your shoulder toward the new lane

36. A deer runs across the road ahead of you and disappears into the trees. What should you expect next?

- A) More deer may follow close behind
- B) Deer never cross the same road twice
- C) The road is now clear of animals
- D) The deer will turn back toward you

37. 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

38. Your brake lights are not working. Which hand signal tells drivers behind you that you are slowing or stopping?

- A) Left arm held straight out
- B) Right arm waved out the window
- C) Left arm out and bent downward
- D) Left arm out and bent upward

39. How do prescription and over-the-counter medications affect driving?

- A) Legal medicines are always safe to drive on
- B) Only if you take more than the dose listed
- C) Many cause drowsiness - check the label first
- D) Only prescription drugs can impair driving

40. 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

Answer Key & Explanations

1. 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 - (PDF p.75), Fatigue

2. 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 - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) Section 2A.05 and Table 2A-1 (W10-1)

3. A - From a one-way street onto another one-way street

Most states allow a left turn on red from a one-way street onto another one-way street that carries traffic to the left. You must stop fully and yield to pedestrians and traffic first.

Source: assets.dps.mn.gov - p.66 (PDF p.69), Left turn on red

4. D - 0.02 or more

Idaho makes it unlawful for a person under 21 to drive with a BAC of at least 0.02 but less than 0.08.

Source: legislature.idaho.gov - Idaho Code 18-8004(1)(d)

5. 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

6. A - At least 30 feet

Idaho bans parking within 30 feet of a stop sign, yield sign or traffic signal, so parked cars do not hide them from other drivers.

Source: itd.idaho.gov - p.81 (PDF p.81), No-Parking Zones

7. C - October 1 to April 30

Idaho allows studded snow tires from October 1 through April 30. In some years the Idaho Transportation Department adjusts these dates because of the weather.

Source: itd.idaho.gov - p.114 (PDF p.114), Winter Driving

8. A - Vehicles carrying the posted number of people

The diamond marks a high-occupancy vehicle (carpool) lane. The signs show how many people must be in the vehicle and when the rule applies.

Source: dol.wa.gov - (PDF p.134), Lanes - HOV / carpool

9. 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 - p.55 (PDF p.63), School Buses

10. B - Stop, shut off the engine, and get everyone away

If your engine catches fire, pull off the road, shut off the engine, and get all occupants out and well away from the vehicle. Do NOT open the hood - adding oxygen can intensify the fire. Call 911.

Source: nj.gov - NJ handbook - Car Fires

11. 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 - California Driver Handbook - Alcohol and drug limits

12. D - Reduce traction and raise the risk of skidding

Bald or worn tires have little tread to grip the road or channel away water. This dramatically increases stopping distance and the risk of hydroplaning and skidding, especially in wet conditions.

Source: dps.texas.gov - TX handbook - Skids / tires

13. 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 - CA handbook - Flashing Yellow Arrow / left turns

14. B - Take breaks every 2 hours or 100 miles

The only real cure for drowsiness while driving is sleep. Take breaks at least every 2 hours or 100 miles. Coffee provides temporary relief but is not a substitute for rest.

Source: dps.texas.gov - TX handbook - Drowsy driving

15. C - In hands-free mode, even when stopped at a light

Idaho's hands-free law requires electronic devices to be used hands-free while driving - including when stopped at a red light or stop sign - and applies to all drivers.

Source: legislature.idaho.gov - Idaho Code 49-1401A(1)(b) and (2) (manual only covers texting)

16. D - At least 100 feet

Most states require a signal at least 100 feet before turning (CA, TX, NY, FL, MN and many others). Some require more on faster roads (200-300 feet) and Tennessee sets 50 feet, so check your own handbook. Always signal, even if you see no one around.

Source: tn.gov - TN handbook - Turning / signaling

17. A - 35 mph

Idaho sets 35 mph as the maximum in residential, business and urban districts unless signs post another limit. Drive slower when conditions call for it.

Source: itd.idaho.gov - p.68 (PDF p.68), Speed Limits

18. A - 65 mph

Idaho caps state highways at 65 mph. A limit of up to 70 mph applies only where it is posted.

Source: itd.idaho.gov - p.68 (PDF p.68), Speed Limits

19. A - 200 to 300 feet behind your car

The Idaho manual says to place flares 200 to 300 feet behind a stalled car to warn other drivers. Also turn on your flashers, raise the hood and get as far off the road as you can.

Source: itd.idaho.gov - p.117 (PDF p.117), If You Have Car Trouble

20. B - Slow below the limit and move over if safe

Idaho requires you to slow below the posted limit for a stopped emergency vehicle, tow truck or incident response vehicle with lights flashing. With two or more lanes your way, you must also move to a lane not next to it when it is safe.

Source: itd.idaho.gov - p.95 (PDF p.95), Emergency Vehicles

21. A - 15 mph

Idaho's passing exception lets a car, pickup or motorcycle that is not towing go up to 15 mph over the limit while passing a slower vehicle on a two-lane road posted 55 mph or more. It does not apply in work zones, and you must drop back to the limit as soon as practical.

Source: itd.idaho.gov - p.77 (PDF p.77), Passing Speed Limit Exception

22. A - Guide information (directions)

Green signs provide guidance information such as highway route numbers, exit numbers, destinations, distances, and directions. They help drivers navigate.

Source: assets.dps.mn.gov - MN handbook - Chapter 5, sign colors

23. 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 - PA handbook - Traffic signals - steady yellow

24. A - 50 hours, including 10 at night

Over at least six months, an Idaho permit holder must log at least 50 hours of supervised driving, 10 of them during darkness.

Source: itd.idaho.gov - PDF p.19, 'Graduated Driver's License (GDL) Program'

25. B - Proceed slowly and watch for workers

Flaggers use STOP/SLOW paddles to control traffic. SLOW means you may move ahead at a reduced speed with care; STOP means stop.

Source: in.gov - p.47 (PDF p.52), Flagger Signals

26. 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 - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 1D.05 Color Code

27. B - The action shown is prohibited

A red circle with a diagonal slash means the action depicted inside is prohibited - for example, no left turn, no U-turn, or no trucks.

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

28. 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

29. A - Stop, then go when it is safe

A flashing red light must be treated exactly like a stop sign. Come to a complete stop, check for traffic and pedestrians, then proceed when safe.

Source: flhsmv.gov - FL handbook - Flashing Red Light

30. C - Stop in both directions until the lights stop

On an undivided road, traffic in both directions must stop for a school bus showing flashing red lights and a stop arm, and stay stopped until the lights stop. Rules for the opposite side of a divided highway differ by state (New York requires you to stop even then), so check your handbook.

Source: dmv.ny.gov - NY handbook - School buses

31. C - There are two sets of tracks at the crossing

When a crossing has more than one track, a sign under the crossbuck shows how many tracks there are. Be ready for a train on any of them.

Source: alea.gov - p.39 (PDF p.41), Railroad Crossbuck

32. 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 - MN handbook - Anti-lock brakes

33. 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

34. C - On open roads with no vehicles close by

Use high beams on open roads when there is no oncoming traffic and no vehicle close ahead. Dim them within 500 feet of oncoming traffic and 200-300 feet when following. High beams reflect off fog, rain, and snow, reducing visibility.

Source: wisconsin.gov - WI handbook - High beams

35. D - Glance over your shoulder toward the new lane

Mirrors have blind spots. Always glance over your shoulder in the direction you plan to move before changing lanes, in addition to checking your mirrors.

Source: dps.texas.gov - TX handbook - Changing lanes

36. A - More deer may follow close behind

Deer usually travel in groups, so one deer crossing often means others are close behind. Slow down and be ready to stop.

Source: assets.dps.mn.gov - p.84 (PDF p.87), Watch out for deer

37. 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

38. C - Left arm out and bent downward

An arm extended out and bent down signals slowing or stopping. Arm bent up is a right turn and arm straight out is a left turn.

Source: public.powerdms.com - p.93 (PDF p.98), Hand signals

39. C - Many cause drowsiness - check the label first

Many legal medications - including antihistamines, sleep aids, and pain relievers - can cause drowsiness, dizziness, or slowed reactions. Always read warning labels and avoid driving if a medication may impair you.

Source: dps.texas.gov - TX handbook - Drugs

40. 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 - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2C.59

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

Official DMV website: <https://itd.idaho.gov/dmv/>

Official Idaho driver's handbook: https://itd.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/driver_manual.pdf

