Iowa DOT

Permit Practice Test 2026

82 questions with answers & explanations · permitpractice.us

Iowa permit test: quick facts

Questions on the real test	35
Passing score	80% (28 correct)
Wrong answers allowed	7
Minimum age	14
Testing agency	Department of Transportation (DOT)
Official permit name	Instruction Permit
Permit fee	$6
If you fail	at least one business day (cannot repeat the same day; at examiner's discretion)
Online testing	Partially - online testing is available only in some cases (see the official site).
Driver's education	No - driver education is not required for the learner permit.
Supervised practice	20 hours incl. 2 between sunset and sunrise (for the intermediate license)
Permit holding period	12 months total with a clean record for the 6 consecutive months before applying for the intermediate license

How to use this PDF

1. Answer every question on paper first, then check the answer key at the back - each answer has a short explanation of the rule.
2. Aim for 80% or better two or three times in a row before you book your DOT appointment.
3. Take the free interactive versions at https://permitpractice.us/iowa/ - they shuffle the questions, track what you miss and include the road-sign picture questions this PDF cannot show.
4. Read the official Iowa driver's handbook alongside these questions: https://iowadot.gov/mvd

Questions are original study questions written from the Iowa driver's handbook and general traffic law. They are not copies of actual DOT exam questions. State facts last reviewed 2026-09-09. Free for personal study; do not resell. © 2026 permitpractice.us

Iowa Permit Practice Questions

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

1. The maximum speed limit on Iowa interstate highways is:

A) 70 mph
B) 65 mph
C) 75 mph
D) 80 mph

2. Under Iowa's hands-free law, while driving you may not:

A) Hold your phone, type, scroll, or enter GPS unless it is voice-activated/hands-free
B) Use voice commands
C) Use a dashboard mount
D) Listen to the radio

3. In Iowa, a driver under 21 will have their license revoked at a BAC of:

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

4. An Iowa intermediate license holder may not drive without adult supervision between:

A) 12:30 a.m. and 5 a.m.
B) 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.
C) Midnight and 6 a.m.
D) 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.

5. For the first 6 months with an Iowa intermediate license (with a passenger restriction), you may carry no more than:

A) One unrelated minor passenger, when driving without adult supervision
B) Three minor passengers
C) Five passengers
D) No passengers at all

6. What is the minimum age to apply for a learner's permit in Iowa?

A) 14 years old
B) 15 years old
C) 16 years old
D) 14 years old

7. What score do you need to pass the Iowa DOT written knowledge test?

A) 80%
B) 70%
C) 75%
D) 83%

8. What does a red traffic light mean?

A) Slow down
B) Stop completely before the intersection
C) Proceed with caution
D) Yield to pedestrians only

9. What does a yellow traffic light mean?

A) Speed up to get through the intersection
B) Stop if it is safe to do so
C) The light is about to turn green
D) Proceed normally

10. Who must yield when a pedestrian is crossing at a marked crosswalk?

A) The pedestrian must yield to vehicles
B) The driver must yield to the pedestrian
C) Whoever arrived at the crosswalk first
D) Only if a crossing guard is present

11. What shape is a stop sign?

A) Square
B) Triangle
C) Octagon (8-sided)
D) Diamond

12. What is the recommended minimum following distance in good weather?

A) 1-second rule
B) 2-second rule
C) 3-second rule
D) 4-second rule

13. What color are warning signs?

A) Red
B) Green
C) Yellow or orange
D) Blue

14. What does 'prima facie speed limit' mean?

A) The absolute maximum speed under any condition
B) The maximum legal speed under ideal conditions - you must drive slower when conditions require it
C) A speed limit only for commercial vehicles
D) A suggested speed that has no legal force

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

A) 0.05%
B) 0.08%
C) 0.10%
D) 0.15%

16. At a 4-way stop sign, two cars arrive at exactly the same time. Who goes first?

A) The car going straight
B) The car on the right
C) The car on the left
D) The larger vehicle

17. When are you required to use headlights?

A) Only between midnight and 6 AM
B) From sunset to sunrise and when visibility is reduced
C) Only in rain or fog
D) Headlights are optional at night

18. What does a triangular sign with a red border mean?

A) Stop
B) Yield - slow down and give right of way
C) No entry
D) Speed limit ahead

19. A yellow painted curb means:

A) No stopping or parking at any time
B) Short-term parking (usually 30 min)
C) Loading and unloading only (no parking)
D) Parking for disabled drivers

20. What must you do when you see or hear an emergency vehicle with lights and/or siren on?

A) Speed up to clear the road quickly
B) Pull to the right edge and stop
C) Pull to the left lane and slow down
D) Maintain your speed and stay in your lane

21. A diamond-shaped orange sign indicates:

A) A school zone
B) A construction or work zone warning
C) A railroad crossing
D) A yield ahead

22. When driving in heavy rain, you should:

A) Use high-beam headlights to see better
B) Use low-beam headlights and increase following distance
C) Turn on hazard lights and drive at normal speed
D) Pull over and wait for the rain to stop completely

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

A) On the stop line
B) Just before the stop line
C) In the crosswalk
D) At the edge of the intersection

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

A) Check only your rearview mirror
B) Check both side mirrors only
C) Glance quickly over your shoulder in the direction of the lane change
D) Rely on your vehicle's lane departure warning system

25. When must you signal before a turn or lane change?

A) Only on highways
B) At least 100 feet in advance (distance varies by state)
C) Only when other vehicles are present
D) Signals are optional if no one is nearby

26. When parking uphill with a curb, which direction do you turn your front wheels?

A) Toward the curb (right)
B) Away from the curb (left)
C) Straight ahead
D) Either direction is acceptable

27. Green traffic signs provide:

A) Warning information
B) Regulatory information (laws)
C) Guide information (directions, distances)
D) Construction zone information

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

A) Turn immediately - green means go
B) Yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians, then turn
C) Honk to warn others before turning
D) Wait for oncoming traffic to stop

29. What does a flashing red light mean?

A) Slow down but do not stop
B) Treat it as a stop sign - stop and proceed when safe
C) The intersection is closed
D) Emergency vehicles are approaching

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

A) Immediately brake hard and stop
B) Shift to neutral, apply brakes steadily, and steer to safety
C) Turn off the engine first
D) Call 911 while continuing to drive

31. Double solid yellow center lines mean:

A) Passing is allowed from both directions
B) No passing from either direction
C) Passing allowed when safe
D) HOV lane ahead

32. Alcohol affects driving by:

A) Improving confidence without affecting skill
B) Impairing reaction time, judgment, coordination, and vision
C) Only affecting night vision
D) Making it easier to focus on driving

33. What does a railroad crossing sign look like?

A) A red octagon
B) A yellow circle with a black X and RR
C) An orange diamond with a train
D) A blue rectangle with a train symbol

34. If you begin to skid on ice or a slippery surface, you should:

A) Brake hard immediately
B) Turn the wheel sharply in the opposite direction
C) Ease off the gas and steer in the direction you want to go
D) Accelerate to power out of the skid

35. You must NOT park within how many feet of a fire hydrant?

A) 5 feet
B) 10 feet
C) 15 feet
D) 20 feet

36. What is the purpose of a broken white line between lanes?

A) Lanes are one-way only
B) Lane changes are permitted when safe
C) No passing allowed
D) Emergency vehicles only

37. When are you required to use windshield wipers?

A) Only during heavy rain
B) Whenever precipitation affects visibility and safe driving
C) Only at night during rain
D) They are optional in light rain

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

A) The merging vehicle
B) Traffic already on the highway
C) The vehicle that is moving faster
D) Whoever reaches the merge point first

39. What does a blue traffic sign indicate?

A) Warning of a hazard
B) Regulatory command (law)
C) Services such as rest areas, gas, food, lodging
D) Highway route information

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

A) Brake hard to slow down immediately
B) Accelerate to regain traction
C) Ease off the gas and hold the wheel steady - do not brake hard
D) Steer sharply to move off the water

41. It is illegal to park within how many feet of an intersection?

A) 10 feet
B) 20 feet
C) 30 feet
D) 50 feet

42. What does the Move Over Law require?

A) Move over one lane away from stopped emergency vehicles on the roadside; if impossible, slow down significantly
B) Always move over two lanes to the left
C) Stop your vehicle when you see emergency lights
D) Only applies to police vehicles

43. What is the correct action when a school bus stops with its red lights flashing and stop arm extended?

A) Slow to 15 mph and pass carefully
B) Stop - in both directions on undivided roads - and wait until lights stop flashing
C) Stop only if children are visible
D) Proceed if you are going in the opposite direction on a divided highway

44. A vehicle entering a roundabout (traffic circle) must:

A) Proceed immediately since they have right of way
B) Yield to traffic already in the roundabout
C) Stop completely before entering
D) Honk to alert drivers in the circle

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

A) To stop your vehicle faster by automatically pumping brakes
B) To prevent wheels from locking up so you can steer while braking hard
C) To increase braking distance on wet roads
D) To automatically apply brakes if you are distracted

46. A pentagon (5-sided) shaped sign is associated with:

A) Railroad crossings
B) School zones
C) Construction areas
D) Interstate highways

47. Which of the following is NOT a legal reason to use your horn?

A) To warn another driver of danger
B) To express frustration at another driver
C) To alert a pedestrian who steps into traffic
D) To signal a driver who is not seeing a hazard

48. What does 'implied consent' mean for drivers?

A) You agree to obey all traffic laws when you drive
B) By driving on public roads, you automatically consent to chemical tests for alcohol/drugs if lawfully arrested
C) Police can search your vehicle without a warrant
D) You consent to be recorded by traffic cameras

49. A red painted curb means:

A) Short-term parking only
B) No stopping, standing, or parking at any time
C) Fire lane - emergency vehicles only
D) Parking allowed for 30 minutes

50. When should you check your tire pressure?

A) Only when a tire looks flat
B) Monthly and before long trips, when tires are cold
C) Only at the gas station when fueling
D) Once per year during oil changes

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

A) Drink coffee or energy drinks throughout the trip
B) Open your window for fresh air
C) Take breaks every 2 hours or 100 miles
D) Turn up the radio

52. You are driving at 60 mph on a highway. How many feet does your vehicle travel per second?

A) 44 feet
B) 66 feet
C) 88 feet
D) 100 feet

53. What is the danger zone around a large truck where the truck driver cannot see you?

A) Only directly behind the truck
B) Directly behind, directly in front, and on both sides near the cab
C) Only to the left side of the truck
D) Large trucks have no blind spots with modern mirrors

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

A) Merge early - as soon as you see the sign - to be polite
B) Use both lanes until the merge point and alternate with other vehicles
C) Speed up to get ahead of traffic in the merging lane
D) Stop and wait for all traffic to clear

55. A yellow pennant (5-sided) sign posted on the left side of the road means:

A) No U-turn
B) No passing zone begins
C) Divided highway ahead
D) Bike lane ahead

56. Using a handheld cell phone while driving is:

A) Legal if you are traveling under 30 mph
B) Legal at red lights when stopped
C) Illegal in most states and significantly increases crash risk
D) Legal for drivers over 21

57. Only time will sober up a person who has been drinking. Which of the following will NOT help?

A) Drinking coffee
B) Eating food
C) Taking a cold shower
D) All of the above - only time removes alcohol from the body

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

A) Vehicles already in the intersection
B) Emergency vehicles
C) Vehicles on the terminating road
D) Pedestrians

59. If your headlights go out at night while driving, you should:

A) Pull over immediately and turn on hazard lights
B) Switch to parking lights and continue slowly
C) Flash your high beams to see better
D) Tap the brakes to signal other drivers

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

A) The centerline of the intersection
B) The stop line - once past it you must proceed
C) A distance where stopping safely becomes impossible
D) 50 feet from the traffic light

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

A) While double-parking to run a quick errand
B) When your vehicle is stopped or disabled on the road due to an emergency
C) In heavy rain to make your vehicle visible
D) When driving slowly on a highway below the speed limit

62. When parallel parking, you should position your car so that it is no more than how many inches from the curb?

A) 6 inches
B) 12 inches
C) 18 inches
D) 24 inches

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

A) Brake hard and steer sharply back onto the road
B) Ease off the gas, hold the wheel firmly, and steer back gently when speed has dropped
C) Accelerate to climb back onto the pavement
D) Turn the wheel hard left immediately

64. If a tire blows out while you are driving, the first thing you should do is:

A) Brake as hard as possible
B) Grip the wheel firmly and steer straight while easing off the gas
C) Turn on hazard lights and stop in the lane
D) Steer toward the shoulder immediately at full speed

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

A) Brake suddenly to warn the tailgater
B) Speed up well above the limit to create distance
C) Move over or increase your following distance to the car ahead and let them pass
D) Ignore them and maintain your exact speed

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

A) In fog for maximum light
B) On open roads with no oncoming traffic or vehicles ahead
C) Whenever it is dark, regardless of other traffic
D) In heavy rain to see farther

67. Which lane position helps other drivers see you and gives you the best view of the road ahead?

A) Driving in another vehicle's blind spot
B) Maintaining space and staying out of other vehicles' blind spots
C) Following as closely as possible
D) Driving on the lane line between two lanes

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

A) They never affect driving ability
B) Only illegal drugs impair driving
C) Many can cause drowsiness or impairment - always check the label and warnings
D) They improve concentration

69. When may you legally drive in a bike lane?

A) Anytime traffic is heavy
B) Never, under any circumstances
C) Only to make a turn, enter/exit a driveway, or park where permitted
D) Whenever no cyclists are present

70. What does 'covering the brake' mean?

A) Pressing the brake and gas together
B) Resting your foot lightly over the brake pedal without pressing it, ready to stop
C) Covering the brake pedal with a mat
D) Pumping the brake repeatedly

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

A) Open the hood immediately to douse the fire
B) Pull over, turn off the engine, get everyone out, and move far away
C) Keep driving to the nearest fire station
D) Pour water on the engine while it runs

72. Total stopping distance is made up of:

A) Only braking distance
B) Perception distance, reaction distance, and braking distance
C) Only reaction time
D) Speed multiplied by weight

73. When driving at night, you should:

A) Drive faster to reach your destination sooner
B) Reduce speed and increase following distance because visibility is limited
C) Use only parking lights
D) Look directly at oncoming headlights

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

A) Proceed without stopping
B) Stop, then proceed when safe - the cross traffic does not have to stop
C) Wait for the light to turn green
D) Yield only to vehicles on your left

75. A solid white line between lanes of traffic going the same direction means:

A) Lane changes are encouraged
B) Lane changes are discouraged - stay in your lane
C) The road is one-way
D) Passing is required

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

A) Make the car louder
B) Reduce traction and greatly increase the risk of hydroplaning and skidding
C) Lower fuel economy only
D) Cause the radio to malfunction

77. Aggressive driving behaviors such as tailgating, weaving, and excessive speeding:

A) Save significant time and are low-risk
B) Greatly increase crash risk and may be cited as reckless driving
C) Are legal on highways
D) Only matter in heavy traffic

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

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

79. What should you do before opening your car door after parking on a street?

A) Open it quickly to save time
B) Check mirrors and look for approaching traffic and cyclists
C) Honk first
D) Open it only on the traffic side

80. Hydroplaning is most likely to occur when:

A) Driving slowly through deep snow
B) Driving at higher speeds on a wet road, especially with worn tires
C) Driving on dry pavement
D) Braking gently on ice

81. When approaching a stopped vehicle displaying a blue and red flashing light on the roadside, the safest and often legally required action is to:

A) Maintain speed and stay in your lane
B) Move over a lane if safe, or slow down significantly if you cannot
C) Stop in your lane until the vehicle leaves
D) Speed up to pass quickly

82. The single most effective way to avoid an alcohol-related crash is to:

A) Drink coffee before driving
B) Drive slowly after drinking
C) Not drive after consuming any alcohol - use a sober driver, taxi, or rideshare
D) Only drive on back roads

Answer Key & Explanations

1. A - 70 mph
Iowa sets the interstate speed limit at 70 mph. Always obey the posted limit, which may be lower.

2. A - Hold your phone, type, scroll, or enter GPS unless it is voice-activated/hands-free
Iowa's hands-free law prohibits holding a phone, typing, scrolling, entering GPS, streaming, or calling unless the device is used hands-free.

3. A - 0.02 or more
Iowa's zero-tolerance law revokes the license of a driver under 21 who operates with a BAC of 0.02 or more.

4. A - 12:30 a.m. and 5 a.m.
Iowa intermediate license holders may drive unsupervised between 5 a.m. and 12:30 a.m., but not between 12:30 a.m. and 5 a.m.

5. A - One unrelated minor passenger, when driving without adult supervision
For the first six months, an Iowa intermediate driver with a passenger restriction may carry only one unrelated minor passenger while driving without adult supervision.

6. A - 14 years old
In Iowa you can apply for a learner's permit at 14 after passing the DOT knowledge test and a vision screening.

7. A - 80%
The DOT requires 80% to pass - that is 28 of 35 questions correct.

8. B - Stop completely before the intersection
A red light means you must stop completely before the stop line, crosswalk, or before entering the intersection. You must remain stopped until the light turns green.

9. B - Stop if it is safe to do so
A yellow (amber) light means the signal is about to turn red. You should stop if it is safe to do so. Only proceed if stopping would be unsafe (e.g., you are too close to the intersection).

10. B - The driver must yield to the pedestrian
Drivers must always yield to pedestrians who are crossing in a marked or unmarked crosswalk. Pedestrian safety is the highest priority.

11. C - Octagon (8-sided)
Stop signs are always octagonal (8-sided) and red. This unique shape allows drivers to recognize them even when covered in snow or seen from behind.

12. C - 3-second rule
The 3-second rule is the minimum recommended following distance in good conditions. Pick a fixed point - when the car ahead passes it, count 3 seconds. Increase to 4-6 seconds in bad weather.

13. C - 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.

14. B - The maximum legal speed under ideal conditions - you must drive slower when conditions require it
A prima facie speed limit is the legal maximum under ideal conditions. You must drive more slowly when weather, traffic, or road conditions make the posted limit unsafe.

15. B - 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.

16. B - The car on the right
When two vehicles arrive at a 4-way stop simultaneously, the driver on the LEFT must yield to the driver on the RIGHT. This is the standard right-of-way rule.

17. B - From sunset to sunrise and when visibility is reduced
Headlights are required from sunset to sunrise and any time when visibility is reduced to the point where persons or vehicles cannot be seen at 1,000 feet (distances vary by state).

18. B - Yield - slow down and give right of way
A yield sign is triangular with a red border and white background. It means slow down and give the right of way to traffic or pedestrians. Only stop if necessary.

19. C - Loading and unloading only (no parking)
A yellow curb marks a loading and unloading zone. Drivers may stop briefly to load or unload passengers or freight, but cannot park. Rules vary by location and time of day.

20. B - Pull to the right edge and stop
When an emergency vehicle approaches with lights or siren, you must immediately pull to the right edge of the road and stop. Remain stopped until the vehicle has passed.

21. B - A construction or work zone warning
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.

22. B - Use low-beam headlights and increase 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.

23. B - 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.

24. C - Glance quickly over your shoulder in the direction of the lane change
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.

25. B - At least 100 feet in advance (distance varies by state)
You must signal before turning or changing lanes - generally at least 100 feet in advance in urban areas and 200 feet in rural areas. Always signal regardless of whether other vehicles are visible.

26. B - Away from the curb (left)
When parking uphill with a curb, turn your wheels away from the curb (left). If the car rolls backward, it hits the curb and stops. Downhill: turn toward the curb.

27. C - Guide information (directions, distances)
Green signs provide guidance information such as highway route numbers, exit numbers, destinations, distances, and directions. They help drivers navigate.

28. B - Yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians, then turn
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.

29. B - Treat it as a stop sign - stop and proceed when 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.

30. B - Shift to neutral, apply brakes steadily, 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.

31. B - No passing from either direction
Double solid yellow lines separate traffic moving in opposite directions. Crossing them to pass is prohibited from both directions.

32. B - Impairing reaction time, judgment, coordination, and vision
Alcohol impairs all the skills needed to drive safely: reaction time slows, judgment and decision-making deteriorate, coordination suffers, and vision (especially peripheral) is reduced.

33. B - A yellow circle with a black X and RR
A railroad crossing advance warning sign is round and yellow with a black X and the letters RR. It warns that a railroad crossing is ahead.

34. C - Ease off the gas and steer in the direction you want to go
In a skid, take your foot off the gas (do not brake hard) and gently steer in the direction you want the front of the car to go. Smooth inputs are key - sudden movements worsen the skid.

35. C - 15 feet
In most states, parking within 15 feet of a fire hydrant is prohibited. This ensures fire trucks can access the hydrant quickly in an emergency.

36. B - Lane changes are permitted when safe
Broken (dashed) white lines separate lanes of traffic moving in the same direction. You may change lanes when it is safe to do so.

37. B - Whenever precipitation affects visibility and safe driving
Windshield wipers must be used whenever rain, snow, sleet, or other precipitation reduces visibility or makes safe driving difficult. Many states also require headlights when wipers are in use.

38. B - 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.

39. C - Services such as rest areas, gas, food, lodging
Blue signs provide information about motorist services: gas stations, food, lodging, hospitals, and rest areas. They help drivers find services along the route.

40. C - Ease off the gas and hold the wheel steady - do not brake hard
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.

41. C - 30 feet
In most states, parking within 30 feet of an intersection is prohibited. This keeps sightlines clear for drivers and pedestrians.

42. A - Move over one lane away from stopped emergency vehicles on the roadside; if impossible, slow down significantly
All 50 states have Move Over laws requiring drivers to move over at least one lane away from stopped emergency, police, and maintenance vehicles. If changing lanes is unsafe, slow to well below the speed limit.

43. B - Stop - in both directions on undivided roads - and wait until lights stop flashing
When a school bus displays flashing red lights and its stop arm is extended, ALL traffic in both directions must stop on undivided roads. On a divided highway, traffic going the opposite direction may proceed. Wait until the lights stop and the arm is retracted.

44. B - Yield to traffic already in the roundabout
When entering a roundabout, yield to all vehicles already circulating inside. Enter only when there is a safe gap in traffic. Drive counterclockwise around the circle.

45. B - To prevent wheels from locking up so you can steer while braking hard
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.

46. B - School zones
Pentagon-shaped signs (pointing up or down) are used for school zones and school crossings. They are yellow-green in color and alert drivers that children may be present.

47. B - To express frustration at another driver
Horns are safety devices used to warn others of danger. Using your horn out of frustration or anger is not a legal use and can be considered aggressive driving in many states.

48. B - By driving on public roads, you automatically consent to chemical tests for alcohol/drugs if lawfully arrested
Implied consent laws mean that by driving on public roads, you have already consented to chemical tests (breath, blood, urine) if you are lawfully arrested for suspected DUI. Refusing has serious consequences including license suspension.

49. B - No stopping, standing, or parking at any time
A red curb means absolutely no stopping, standing, or parking at any time. It is typically a fire lane or location where stopping could create a hazard.

50. B - Monthly and before long trips, when tires are cold
Check tire pressure monthly and before long trips, using a gauge when tires are cold (not recently driven). Proper inflation improves fuel economy, tire life, and braking performance.

51. C - 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.

52. C - 88 feet
At 60 mph, a vehicle travels about 88 feet per second (60 × 5,280 ÷ 3,600 = 88). Understanding stopping distances is critical - at 60 mph you need approximately 300 feet to stop.

53. B - Directly behind, directly in front, and on both sides near the cab
Large trucks have significant blind spots (no-zones): directly in front (20 feet), directly behind (30 feet), to the right (2 lanes wide), and to the left (1 lane). If you cannot see the driver's face in their mirror, they cannot see you.

54. B - Use both lanes until the merge point and alternate with other vehicles
The zipper merge is the safest and most efficient method. Use both lanes until the merge point, then alternate like a zipper. Studies show this reduces backups by up to 40% compared to early merging.

55. B - No passing zone begins
The no-passing zone pennant sign is yellow and five-sided, pointing to the right. It is posted on the left side of the road at the start of a no-passing zone where solid yellow lines appear on the road.

56. C - Illegal in most states and significantly increases crash risk
Handheld cell phone use while driving is banned in most US states. Using a phone quadruples crash risk. Even hands-free calls significantly impair attention. Use do-not-disturb mode when driving.

57. D - All of the above - only time removes alcohol from the body
Nothing speeds up alcohol metabolism. Coffee, food, and cold showers may make a person feel more alert but do not lower BAC. The liver processes about 0.015% BAC per hour. Only time works.

58. C - 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).

59. A - Pull over immediately and turn on hazard lights
If your headlights fail at night, immediately activate your hazard lights, signal, and safely pull completely off the road. Do not continue driving without headlights as it is extremely dangerous and illegal.

60. C - A distance where stopping safely becomes impossible
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.

61. B - When your vehicle is stopped or disabled on the road due to an emergency
Hazard lights should be used when your vehicle is disabled or stopped in an emergency situation on the roadway. Using them while driving in rain or moving slowly can confuse other drivers about your intentions.

62. C - 18 inches
When parallel parking, you should park within 18 inches of the curb. This ensures your vehicle is not obstructing traffic and prevents others from hitting your protruding vehicle.

63. B - Ease off the gas, hold the wheel firmly, and steer back gently when speed has dropped
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.

64. B - Grip the wheel firmly and steer straight while easing off the gas
During a blowout, hold the steering wheel firmly to keep the vehicle straight, ease your foot off the accelerator, and let the car slow gradually. Hard braking can cause a spin. Pull off the road only after you have control.

65. C - Move over or increase your following distance to the car 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.

66. B - On open roads with no oncoming traffic or vehicles ahead
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.

67. B - Maintaining space and staying out of other vehicles' blind spots
Maintain a space cushion around your vehicle and avoid lingering in others' blind spots. This keeps you visible, gives you escape routes, and improves your view of developing hazards.

68. C - Many can cause drowsiness or impairment - always check the label and warnings
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.

69. C - Only to make a turn, enter/exit a driveway, or park where permitted
Bike lanes are reserved for bicyclists. Motor vehicles may only enter them briefly to complete a turn, enter or leave a driveway, or park where parking is allowed - and must yield to cyclists first.

70. B - Resting your foot lightly over the brake pedal without pressing it, ready to stop
Covering the brake means moving your foot off the gas and holding it just above the brake pedal in situations where you may need to stop quickly - such as near intersections, schools, or playing children. It shortens reaction time.

71. B - Pull over, turn off the engine, get everyone out, and move far 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.

72. B - Perception distance, reaction distance, and braking distance
Total stopping distance = perception distance (seeing the hazard) + reaction distance (moving your foot to the brake) + braking distance (the vehicle physically stopping). All three increase with speed, which is why higher speeds are far more dangerous.

73. B - Reduce speed and increase following distance because visibility is limited
At night your visibility is reduced, so reduce speed and increase following distance. Do not overdrive your headlights - be able to stop within the distance you can see. Avoid staring at oncoming lights; glance to the right edge of your lane.

74. B - Stop, then proceed when safe - the cross traffic does not have to 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.

75. B - Lane changes are discouraged - stay in your lane
A solid white line discourages or prohibits lane changes. A broken (dashed) white line means lane changes are permitted when safe. White lines separate traffic moving in the same direction.

76. B - Reduce traction and greatly increase the risk of hydroplaning and 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.

77. B - Greatly increase crash risk and may be cited as reckless driving
Aggressive driving dramatically increases the risk of a crash and can lead to reckless driving citations, points, and higher insurance. The time saved is minimal compared to the danger created.

78. B - Counterclockwise; traffic already in the circle 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.

79. B - Check mirrors and look for approaching traffic and cyclists
Before opening your door into traffic, check your mirrors and look over your shoulder for approaching vehicles and cyclists. 'Dooring' a passing cyclist is dangerous and illegal in many states.

80. B - Driving at higher speeds on a wet road, especially with worn tires
Hydroplaning happens when a layer of water builds between your tires and the road, usually at higher speeds on wet pavement. Worn tires and standing water increase the risk. Slow down in the rain to keep tire contact with the road.

81. B - Move over a lane if safe, or slow down significantly if you cannot
Move Over laws require drivers to change lanes away from stopped emergency and service vehicles when safe. If you cannot move over, slow down well below the speed limit and pass with extreme caution.

82. C - Not drive after consuming any alcohol - use a sober driver, taxi, or rideshare
There is no safe way to drive after drinking. The only sure prevention is to not drive at all after consuming alcohol - arrange a designated sober driver, taxi, or rideshare instead.

Ready for the real Iowa test?

Take the free interactive Iowa DOT practice tests - shuffled every time, with instant explanations, road-sign picture questions, a missed-questions review and a 35-question exam simulator.

https://permitpractice.us/iowa/

Official DOT website: https://iowadot.gov/mvd
Official Iowa driver's handbook: https://iowadot.gov/mvd