

Maine BMV

Permit Practice Test 2026

30-question test with answer key · permitpractice.us

Maine permit test: quick facts

Questions on the real test	30
Passing score	80% (24 of 30 correct)
Wrong answers allowed	6
Minimum age	15
Testing agency	Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV)
Official permit name	Learner's Permit (Class C noncommercial)
Permit fee	\$35 examination fee (includes first road test); reexamination \$35
Online testing	No - the knowledge test must be taken in person.
Driver's education	Required for applicants under 18.
Supervised practice	70 hours incl. 10 at night, with a parent/guardian or licensed driver at least 20 years old (applies under 21)
Permit holding period	6 months (applicants under 21)
Under-21 alcohol limit	Zero tolerance (any measurable amount)

How to use this PDF

1. This test has 30 questions, the same number as the real Maine BMV 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 Maine knowledge test.
4. Take it online, with every answer explained, at <https://permitpractice.us/maine/> - the mock test there marks your answers only at the end, like the real test.

Questions are original study questions written from the Maine driver's handbook and general traffic law. They are not copies of actual BMV exam questions. State facts last reviewed 2026-09-28. Free for personal study; do not resell. © 2026 permitpractice.us

Maine Permit Practice Test: 30 Questions

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

1. A yellow diamond sign showing arrows that curve around in a circle indicates:

- A) A roundabout ahead
- B) A detour loop ahead
- C) A U-turn area ahead
- D) A dead-end turnaround

2. 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

3. Using a handheld cell phone while driving is:

- A) Legal for every driver in every state
- B) No riskier than talking to a passenger
- C) Safe as long as you keep your eyes on the road
- D) Banned in most states and a major crash risk

4. 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

5. 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

6. 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 left
- C) The car that signals first
- D) The car on the right

7. In Maine, you must switch from high beams to low beams when an oncoming vehicle comes within:

- A) 1000 feet
- B) 200 feet
- C) 300 feet
- D) 500 feet

8. What color are warning signs?

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

9. 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

10. 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

11. 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

12. A yellow pennant-shaped sign (a long triangle pointing sideways) posted on the left side of the road means:

- A) No passing zone begins
- B) Divided highway ahead
- C) Passing lane ahead
- D) Road narrows ahead

13. 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

14. 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

15. 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

16. 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

17. 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

18. 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

19. 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

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

- A) Are only illegal when they cause a crash
- B) Are safe for skilled drivers in light traffic
- C) Raise crash risk and can lead to reckless charges
- D) Save enough time to make up for the added risk

21. 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

22. Under Maine law, by what point must you finish passing another vehicle on a two-lane road?

- A) Before a no passing zone begins
- B) Within one mile of where it began
- C) Within 30 seconds of pulling out
- D) Before the next speed limit sign

23. In Maine, drivers under 18 may not:

- A) Listen to the car radio while driving
- B) Carry family members as passengers
- C) Drive with headlights on in daytime
- D) Use a mobile phone or handheld device

24. 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

25. Total stopping distance is made up of:

- A) Perception, reaction, and braking distance
- B) Braking distance plus one car length
- C) Reaction distance and braking distance only
- D) Perception distance and braking distance

26. When are you required to use headlights?

- A) Only at night on roads without streetlights
- B) At night and when visibility is reduced
- C) Only on highways at night, not on city streets
- D) Only when it is fully dark, not in bad weather

27. 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

28. With no speed limit sign posted, how fast may you drive in a Maine business or residential district?

- A) 30 mph
- B) 20 mph
- C) 35 mph
- D) 25 mph

29. What color background is used for most warning signs?

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

30. 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

Answer Key & Explanations

1. A - A roundabout ahead

The Circular Intersection sign (a yellow diamond showing arrows curving counterclockwise in a circle) warns of a roundabout ahead. Slow down, yield to traffic already in the circle, and enter when there is a safe gap. Round signs are used only for railroad crossing advance warnings.

Source: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) Section 2A.05, Table 2A-1 and Section 2C.02

2. 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 - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2C.07 Paragraph 05

3. D - Banned in most states and a major 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.

Source: dmv.ca.gov - CA handbook - Distracted driving

4. 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: wisconsindot.gov - WI handbook - High beams

5. 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

6. D - 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.

Source: dps.texas.gov - TX handbook - Right-of-Way at Intersections

7. D - 500 feet

Maine law requires you to dim your lights within 500 feet of an oncoming vehicle. When you follow another vehicle, dim them within 300 feet.

Source: maine.gov - p.8-16 (PDF p.90), Seeing Well at Night

8. 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 - TX handbook - Chapter 5, sign colors

9. 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

10. 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 - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2C.20

11. 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

12. A - No passing zone begins

The no-passing zone sign is the only pennant-shaped sign: a yellow, sideways triangle pointing to the right. It is posted on the left side of the road at the start of a no-passing zone, where a solid yellow line also appears on your side of the centerline.

Source: ksrevenue.gov - Kansas Driving Handbook (Rev. Feb 2022), Passing - No Passing Zone sign; MUTCD 11th ed. Table 2A-1 (W14-3)

13. 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

14. 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 - p.53 (PDF p.56), Railroad crossing safety

15. 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

16. 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

17. 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

18. 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 - MN handbook - Stop signs / stop lines

19. 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 - (PDF p.116), Signs - Shared center lane left turn only

20. C - Raise crash risk and can lead to reckless charges

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.

Source: assets.dps.mn.gov - MN handbook - Aggressive driving

21. 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

22. A - Before a no passing zone begins

Maine law requires you to complete a pass before you reach the start of a no passing zone. If you cannot finish in time, do not start the pass.

Source: maine.gov - p.7-8 (PDF p.68), Passing - Signs and Markings

23. D - Use a mobile phone or handheld device

Maine specifically prohibits drivers under 18 from using a mobile phone or handheld electronic device while driving.

Source: maine.gov - PDF p.9, 'How Do You Obtain A Permit in Maine?' (licensed drivers under 18)

24. 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

25. A - Perception, reaction, 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.

Source: flhsmv.gov - FL handbook - Total Stopping Distance

26. B - At night and when visibility is reduced

Every state requires headlights at night and when visibility is reduced. The exact period varies: some states say sunset to sunrise, many say 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise. Many states also require headlights whenever your wipers are on or you cannot see a set distance (often 500 or 1,000 feet) ahead.

Source: dps.texas.gov - TX handbook - Chapter 9, Headlights

27. 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

28. D - 25 mph

Maine's default limit in business districts, residential districts, and built-up areas is 25 mph unless a different limit is posted.

Source: maine.gov - p.8-7 (PDF p.81), Speed Limits

29. 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 - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2C.02

30. 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

Ready for the real Maine test?

Take the free interactive Maine BMV practice tests - shuffled every time, with instant explanations, road-sign picture questions, a missed-questions review and a 30-question exam simulator.

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

Official BMV website: <https://www.maine.gov/sos/bmv/>

Official Maine driver's handbook: https://www.maine.gov/sos/sites/maine.gov.sos/files/inline-files/Maine%20Driver%20License%20Manual_2.pdf

