

Maryland MVA

Permit Practice Test 2026

25-question test with answer key · permitpractice.us

Maryland permit test: quick facts

Questions on the real test	25
Passing score	88% (22 of 25 correct)
Wrong answers allowed	3
Minimum age	15 years 9 months
Testing agency	Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA)
Official permit name	Learner's Instructional Permit (Learner's Permit)
If you fail	May retake the next day; after failing two or more times must wait at least 7 calendar days before retesting
Online testing	No - the knowledge test must be taken in person.
Driver's education	Yes - an approved driver education course is required.
Supervised practice	60 hours incl. 10 at night, with a supervising driver age 21+ licensed 3+ years (Rookie Driver practice log)
Permit holding period	9 months (reset to 9 months after any moving-violation conviction/PBJ)
Under-21 alcohol limit	Zero tolerance (any measurable amount)

How to use this PDF

1. This test has 25 questions, the same number as the real Maryland MVA knowledge test.
2. Answer every question before you look at the answer key. To pass you need 88% (22 of 25 correct).
3. Time: The MVA gives you 20 minutes for the Maryland knowledge test. Time yourself the same way.
4. Take it online, with every answer explained, at <https://permitpractice.us/maryland/> - the mock test there marks your answers only at the end, like the real test.

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

Maryland Permit Practice Test: 25 Questions

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

1. 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

2. Your regular brakes have failed and pumping did not help. How should you use the parking (emergency) brake?

- A) Only after the car has stopped
- B) Apply it and release it rapidly
- C) Apply it slowly and gradually
- D) Pull it on as hard as you can

3. A Maryland driver under 18 with a learner's permit or provisional license may use a wireless phone while driving:

- A) At any time, like adult drivers
- B) Only with a hands-free device
- C) Only to make a 911 emergency call
- D) For calls, but not for texting

4. 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

5. 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

6. What does a yellow traffic light mean?

- A) Proceed normally
- B) Stop at once, no matter how close you are
- C) The light is about to turn green
- D) Stop if it is safe to do so

7. Blue signs along a highway typically indicate:

- A) Parks and recreation areas
- B) Gas, food, and lodging services
- C) Rules such as speed limits
- D) Exits and distances to nearby cities

8. In states that use colored curbs, what does a red curb generally mean?

- A) Passenger loading only
- B) No stopping, standing, or parking
- C) Loading for commercial trucks only
- D) Parking allowed if you stay with the car

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

- A) Straight ahead, parallel to the curb
- B) Either way, if the parking brake is set
- C) Toward the curb (right)
- D) Away from the curb (left)

10. 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

11. 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

12. A Maryland provisional driver under 18 generally may not drive unsupervised between:

- A) 1 a.m. and 6 a.m.
- B) Midnight and 5 a.m.
- C) 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.
- D) 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.

13. Your brake pedal suddenly sinks to the floor. Which action may build up brake pressure again?

- A) Turning the engine off at once
- B) Pumping the brake pedal quickly
- C) Shifting the car into neutral
- D) Holding the pedal on the floor

14. A diamond-shaped sign is used to indicate:

- A) A regulation you must obey
- B) A route number for a highway
- C) A warning of a hazard ahead
- D) A recreation or park area

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

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

16. 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

17. Green traffic signs provide:

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

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

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

19. A warning sign showing a truck on a downgrade indicates:

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

20. 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

21. 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

22. 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

23. A round (circular) sign indicates:

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

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

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

25. 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

Answer Key & Explanations

1. 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)

2. C - Apply it slowly and gradually

Setting the parking brake too hard or too fast can lock the wheels and throw the car into a skid. Apply it slowly while you steer to a safe place.

Source: assets.dps.mn.gov - p.84 (PDF p.87), Brake failure

3. C - Only to make a 911 emergency call

Maryland prohibits drivers under 18 with a learner's permit or provisional license from using any wireless communication device while driving, including a hands-free phone. The only exception is a 911 emergency call.

Source: mva.maryland.gov - Handbook PDF p.47, Section 9, 'Wireless Device Restriction'; Md. Transp. Code 21-1124

4. 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

5. 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

6. D - 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).

Source: dmv.ca.gov - CA handbook - Traffic Signals, Solid Yellow Light

7. B - Gas, food, and lodging services

Blue signs indicate motorist services - gas stations, food, lodging, hospitals, and rest areas - available at or near an exit.

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

8. B - No stopping, standing, or parking

Where curb colors are used, red means no stopping, standing or parking; it is often used for fire lanes and near hydrants. White usually means passenger loading, green limited-time parking and blue disabled parking. Curb rules vary by state and city, so obey posted signs.

Source: mvdmt.gov - MT handbook - Colored curb markings

9. D - 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.

Source: dmv.ca.gov - CA handbook - Parking on a hill

10. 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

11. 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

12. B - Midnight and 5 a.m.

Maryland provisional license holders under 18 may not drive unsupervised between midnight and 5 a.m. unless driving to, from, or during a job, or to or from an organized volunteer program, an official school activity, or an athletic event they take part in.

Source: mva.maryland.gov - Handbook PDF p.47, Section 9, 'Nighttime Restriction'; Md. Transp. Code 16-113

13. B - Pumping the brake pedal quickly

Pumping the pedal can restore enough pressure for the brakes to work. If it does not, shift to a lower gear and apply the parking brake slowly.

Source: oregon.gov - p.85 (PDF p.93), Brakes Fail

14. C - A warning of a hazard ahead

Diamond-shaped signs are warning signs. They alert you to hazards or changes in road conditions ahead, such as curves, intersections, or pedestrian crossings.

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

15. C - 20 feet

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

Source: dps.texas.gov - TX handbook - Do Not Park

16. 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

17. 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

18. A - Ease off the gas and steer back gently

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

Source: ksrevenue.gov - KS handbook - Vehicle leaves the pavement

19. A - A steep downhill grade ahead

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

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

20. 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

21. 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

22. 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

23. 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)

24. C - Go to the right of the divider

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

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

25. 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

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

Official MVA website: <https://mva.maryland.gov/>

Official Maryland driver's handbook: <https://mva.maryland.gov/media/148>

