

Massachusetts RMV

Permit Practice Test 2026

25-question test with answer key · permitpractice.us

Massachusetts permit test: quick facts

Questions on the real test	25
Passing score	72% (18 of 25 correct)
Wrong answers allowed	7
Minimum age	16
Testing agency	Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV)
Official permit name	Class D Learner's Permit (Passenger)
Permit fee	\$30 (learner's permit exam fee; charged again for each retake)
If you fail	No published waiting period; retake by paying the \$30 exam fee again (via myRMV 'Retake Knowledge Exam' or a new RMV appointment). No published attempts limit.
Online testing	Yes - an online knowledge test option is available.
Driver's education	Required for applicants under 18.
Supervised practice	40 hours supervised driving (30 hours if a driver skills development program is completed) - Junior Operators under 18
Permit holding period	6 consecutive months (Junior Operators under 18, with a clean record); no hold period published for 18+
Under-21 alcohol limit	0.02% BAC or higher

How to use this PDF

1. This test has 25 questions, the same number as the real Massachusetts RMV knowledge test.
2. Answer every question before you look at the answer key. To pass you need 72% (18 of 25 correct).
3. Time: The RMV gives you 25 minutes for the Massachusetts knowledge test. Time yourself the same way.
4. Take it online, with every answer explained, at <https://permitpractice.us/massachusetts/> - the mock test there marks your answers only at the end, like the real test.

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

Massachusetts Permit Practice Test: 25 Questions

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

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

- A) You may refuse testing with no penalty
- B) You let police search your car at any stop
- C) You agree to chemical tests if arrested for DUI
- D) You agree to obey all traffic laws when you drive

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

- A) Turn the wheel sharply in the opposite direction
- B) Brake firmly and hold the wheel straight
- C) Shift to neutral and pull the parking brake
- D) Ease off the gas and steer where you want to go

3. What does a railroad advance warning sign look like?

- A) A round yellow sign with an X and RR
- B) A white X-shaped sign reading RAILROAD CROSSING
- C) A red and white triangle reading RR
- D) A yellow pentagon showing a train

4. The fog becomes so thick that you can barely see beyond your hood. What is the safest choice?

- A) Pull off the road as far as you can and stop
- B) Follow the taillights ahead of you closely
- C) Stop in your lane and wait for it to clear
- D) Switch to high beams so you can see farther

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

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

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

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

7. How much of a traffic lane is a motorcycle entitled to?

- A) Only the right third of the lane
- B) Whatever space other traffic leaves
- C) Half a lane, so a car may share it
- D) A full lane, the same as a car

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

- A) Speed up gently so the tires cut through
- B) Steer quickly toward the dry edge of the road
- C) Ease off the gas and keep the wheel straight
- D) Brake firmly until the tires grip again

9. 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) Speed up to pass the scene as fast as possible
- B) Change lanes away if safe, or else slow down
- C) Keep your speed and stay in your lane
- D) Stop in your lane until the vehicle leaves

10. What does a red traffic light mean?

- A) Stop, then go straight if the way is clear
- B) Prepare to stop - the light will change soon
- C) Stop completely before the intersection
- D) Slow down and yield to cross traffic

11. A yellow sign with two arrows pointing in opposite directions (one up, one down) means:

- A) Passing lane ahead
- B) Divided highway begins
- C) One-way traffic ahead
- D) Two-way traffic ahead

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

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

13. A round (circular) sign indicates:

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

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

- A) Lanes are one-way only
- B) You may not change lanes or pass here
- C) Lane changes are permitted when safe
- D) Traffic moves in opposite directions

15. A yellow sign showing a traffic signal symbol means:

- A) An emergency vehicle signal
- B) A traffic light is ahead
- C) The signal ahead is broken
- D) A railroad signal ahead

16. What shape is a stop sign?

- A) Pentagon (5-sided)
- B) Octagon (8-sided)
- C) Hexagon (6-sided)
- D) Triangle (3-sided)

17. 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

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

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

19. A yellow sign with a black arrow bending at a 90-degree angle indicates:

- A) A lane shift ahead
- B) A side road ahead
- C) A gentle curve
- D) A sharp turn ahead

20. What score do you need to pass the Massachusetts RMV written knowledge test?

- A) 80%
- B) 75%
- C) 72%
- D) 70%

21. A flashing yellow arrow on a traffic signal means:

- A) Turn freely - oncoming traffic is stopped
- B) Wait - the arrow is about to turn red
- C) Stop fully, then turn ahead of the oncoming cars
- D) Turn after yielding to traffic and pedestrians

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

- A) To warn a driver drifting into your lane
- B) To warn others on a blind mountain curve
- C) To alert a child about to run into the road
- D) To express frustration at another driver

23. What is the only real cure for drowsiness while driving?

- A) Turning the radio up loud
- B) Drinking strong coffee
- C) Getting sleep or rest
- D) Opening a window for cold air

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

- A) 16 years old
- B) 15 years old
- C) 17 years old
- D) 18 years old

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

- A) Large trucks have no blind spots with modern mirrors
- B) In front, behind, and along both sides
- C) Only beside the cab on the driver's side
- D) Only behind the trailer and on its right

Answer Key & Explanations

1. C - You agree to chemical tests if arrested for DUI

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.

Source: pa.gov - PA handbook - Pennsylvania's Implied Consent Law

2. D - Ease off the gas and steer where 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.

Source: dmv.ny.gov - NY handbook - Skids

3. A - A round yellow sign with an X and RR

The round yellow sign with an X and "RR" is the railroad advance warning sign, usually the first sign you see before a highway-rail crossing. At the tracks you will see the white X-shaped crossbuck, which means yield to trains.

Source: dps.texas.gov - TX handbook - Chapter 5, Table 17: Signs by Shape

4. A - Pull off the road as far as you can and stop

When visibility drops to near zero, get completely off the road and wait for the fog to lift. Stopping in a travel lane invites a rear-end crash.

Source: in.gov - p.44 (PDF p.49), Fog

5. C - 15 feet

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

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

6. C - Regulatory

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

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

7. D - A full lane, the same as a car

A motorcycle has the right to use a full lane. Never drive alongside a motorcycle in the same lane, even if the rider is far to one side.

Source: alea.gov - p.26 (PDF p.28), Sharing the road with motorcycles

8. C - Ease off the gas and keep the wheel straight

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.

Source: assets.dps.mn.gov - MN handbook - Hydroplaning

9. B - Change lanes away if safe, or else slow down

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.

Source: dmv.ca.gov - CA handbook - Emergency vehicles

10. C - 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.

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

11. D - Two-way traffic ahead

This sign warns that you are leaving a divided roadway and entering a two-way road. Oncoming traffic will now be present - keep right and do not pass unless permitted.

Source: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2C.51

12. B - A school zone or crossing

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

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

13. 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)

14. C - 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.

Source: dmv.ca.gov - CA handbook - Broken White Lines

15. B - A traffic light is ahead

A signal-ahead warning sign tells you a traffic light is coming up, often where it may be hard to see in time. Be prepared to slow and stop.

Source: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2C.35

16. B - 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.

Source: dps.texas.gov - TX handbook - Chapter 5, Table 17: Signs by Shape

17. 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

18. 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

19. D - A sharp turn ahead

A sharp-angle arrow warns of a sharp turn (not a gentle curve) ahead. Slow down significantly before the turn - the recommended speed is often posted below.

Source: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2C.07 Paragraph 02

20. C - 72%

To pass the RMV test you need 72% (18 of 25 correct).

21. D - Turn after yielding to traffic and pedestrians

A flashing yellow arrow means you may turn in that direction after yielding to oncoming traffic and pedestrians. It is an unprotected turn - proceed only when safe.

Source: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 4A.04 Paragraph 01 B.2

22. D - 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.

Source: assets.dps.mn.gov - MN handbook - Horn

23. C - Getting sleep or rest

Coffee, cold air and loud music may help for a short time, but they do not last. Only sleep or rest fixes fatigue, so stop and rest when you are tired.

Source: assets.dps.mn.gov - p.91 (PDF p.94), Drugs and fatigue

24. A - 16 years old

In Massachusetts you can apply for a learner's permit at 16 after passing the RMV knowledge test and a vision screening.

25. B - In front, behind, and along both sides

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.

Source: dmv.ca.gov - CA handbook - Blind Spots (the No Zone)

Ready for the real Massachusetts test?

Take the free interactive Massachusetts RMV practice tests - shuffled every time, with instant explanations, road-sign picture questions, a missed-questions review and a 25-question exam simulator.

[**https://permitpractice.us/massachusetts/**](https://permitpractice.us/massachusetts/)

Official RMV website: <https://www.mass.gov/rmv>

Official Massachusetts driver's handbook: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/english-drivers-manual/download>

