

Minnesota DVS

Permit Practice Test 2026

40-question test with answer key · permitpractice.us

Minnesota permit test: quick facts

Questions on the real test	Not published by the DVS
Passing score	80% correct
Wrong answers allowed	Depends on test length (not published)
Minimum age	15
Testing agency	Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS)
Official permit name	Class D Instruction Permit
Permit fee	\$29.50 (Class D instruction permit, valid 2 years; renewal \$24.50); \$10 state fee for a third or later knowledge test after two consecutive failures; third-party online proctors may charge up to \$10 per test
If you fail	Only one knowledge test allowed per day (so earliest retake is the next day); \$10 fee applies to the third and any subsequent attempt after two consecutive failures. No attempts limit published.
Online testing	Partially - online testing is available only in some cases (see the official site).
Driver's education	Required for applicants under 18.
Supervised practice	50 hours incl. 15 at night (40 hours incl. 15 at night if a parent/guardian completes the parent awareness class) - under 18
Permit holding period	6 months (under 18, with no moving/alcohol violations); no hold period published for 18+
Under-21 alcohol limit	Zero tolerance (any measurable amount)

How to use this PDF

1. The DVS does not publish how many questions the real test has. This test uses 40 questions, the length of our online mock test.
2. Answer every question before you look at the answer key. To pass you need 80% correct.
3. Time: We found no published time limit for the Minnesota knowledge test.
4. Take it online, with every answer explained, at <https://permitpractice.us/minnesota/> - the mock test there marks your answers only at the end, like the real test.

Questions are original study questions written from the Minnesota driver's handbook and general traffic law. They are not copies of actual DVS exam questions. State facts last reviewed 2026-10-19. Free for personal study; do not resell. © 2026 permitpractice.us

Minnesota Permit Practice Test: 40 Questions

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

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

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

2. When you pull a camper or trailer in Minnesota, what is the minimum following distance you must keep from other vehicles?

- A) 200 feet
- B) 300 feet
- C) 1,000 feet
- D) 500 feet

3. A yellow diamond sign showing a 'T' shape indicates:

- A) A truck route begins here
- B) A four-way crossroad ahead
- C) A side road enters from one side
- D) Your road ends at a T ahead

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

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

5. In Minnesota, drivers under 18 with an instruction permit or provisional license may use a cell phone while driving:

- A) Only for GPS map directions
- B) Only to call 911 in an emergency
- C) Only with a hands-free headset
- D) Only for calls under one minute

6. 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

7. 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

8. You are on a divided highway and a school bus with flashing red lights is stopped on the other side of the median. You must:

- A) Keep going; no stop is required
- B) Stop until the lights go off
- C) Slow to 20 mph and pass
- D) Stop at least 20 feet away

9. 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

10. Green traffic signs provide:

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

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. 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

13. 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) Stop right in your lane and wait for help
- D) Keep driving slowly and follow the car ahead closely

14. 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

15. 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

16. 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

17. If an emergency forces you to stop on a Minnesota freeway, where should you place flares or reflectors?

- A) 100 to 500 feet behind your vehicle
- B) Right next to your rear bumper
- C) 1,000 feet in front of your vehicle
- D) In the lane beside your vehicle

18. 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

19. 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

20. 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

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

- A) Shift to neutral, brake, and steer to safety
- B) Keep driving and call for help on your phone
- C) Switch off the engine and remove the key
- D) Shift into park and pull the parking brake

22. A white rectangular sign generally provides:

- A) A rule you must obey
- B) A hazard warning ahead
- C) Directions to a city
- D) A suggested safe speed

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

- A) Ignore them and maintain your exact speed
- B) Tap your brakes hard to warn them off
- C) Speed up well past the limit to pull away from them
- D) Move over or add space ahead and let them pass

24. 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

25. What does the Move Over Law require?

- A) Keep your lane and speed, but use flashers
- B) Stop your vehicle when you see emergency lights
- C) Move over a lane, or slow down if you cannot
- D) Move over only if a police car is stopped

26. Which of these will sober up a person who has been drinking?

- A) Eating a big meal
- B) Taking a cold shower
- C) Drinking strong coffee
- D) Only time

27. 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

28. 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

29. What does a blue traffic sign indicate?

- A) Recreation areas such as state parks
- B) Motorist services like gas and food
- C) Rules you must obey, such as limits
- D) Highway route information

30. 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

31. On a road with a speed limit above 35 mph, a Minnesota school bus turns on its flashing yellow lights at least how far before it stops?

- A) 500 feet
- B) 100 feet
- C) 300 feet
- D) 200 feet

32. 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

33. 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

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

- A) 14 years old
- B) 15 years old
- C) 16 years old
- D) 17 years old

35. 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

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

- A) The road is one-way
- B) Lane changes are allowed when safe
- C) Lane changes are discouraged
- D) Traffic moves in opposite directions

37. Why should you use low beams instead of high beams when driving in fog?

- A) High beams drain the battery faster in damp air
- B) High beams reflect off the fog and cause glare
- C) Low beams make your car look larger to others
- D) High beams are only allowed on freeways

38. A round (circular) sign indicates:

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

39. 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

40. What color are warning signs?

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

Answer Key & Explanations

1. 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

2. D - 500 feet

Minnesota requires drivers towing a camper or trailer to stay at least 500 feet behind other vehicles, because the extra weight makes stopping take longer.

Source: assets.dps.mn.gov - p.79 (PDF p.82), Campers and trailers

3. D - Your road ends at a T ahead

A 'T' symbol warns that the road you are on ends ahead at a T-intersection. Be prepared to stop or yield and turn left or right.

Source: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2C.41

4. 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

5. B - Only to call 911 in an emergency

Minnesota prohibits drivers under 18 who hold an instruction permit or provisional license from using a cell phone, whether handheld or hands-free, except to call 911 in an emergency.

Source: assets.dps.mn.gov - PDF p.82, 'Illegal driver behaviors in Minnesota'

6. 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

7. 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

8. A - Keep going; no stop is required

On a divided roadway, Minnesota does not require you to stop for a school bus that is on the opposite side of the divider. Without a divider, you must stop whether you face the front or back of the bus.

Source: assets.dps.mn.gov - p.42 (PDF p.45), Passing a school bus

9. 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

10. 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

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. 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

13. 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.

Source: portal.ct.gov - CT handbook - Headlight Failure

14. 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)

15. 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

16. 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

17. A - 100 to 500 feet behind your vehicle

Park on the shoulder as far from traffic as you can, turn on hazard lights, and set flares or reflectors 100 to 500 feet behind the vehicle on the right edge of the road.

Source: assets.dps.mn.gov - p.77 (PDF p.80), Stopping, parking and backing up

18. 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

19. 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

20. 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

21. A - Shift to neutral, brake, 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.

Source: ksrevenue.gov - KS handbook - Accelerator Failure

22. A - A rule you must obey

White rectangular signs are regulatory signs. They tell you the law - such as speed limits, lane usage, and turning rules - and must be obeyed.

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

23. D - Move over or add space 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.

Source: dmv.ca.gov - CA handbook - Space: tailgaters

24. 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

25. C - Move over a lane, or slow down if you cannot

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.

Source: flhsmv.gov - FL handbook - Move Over Law

26. D - Only time

Only time removes alcohol from the body. Coffee, food and a cold shower do not lower blood alcohol, so the person is still impaired.

Source: dps.texas.gov - TX handbook - Myths about Drinking Alcohol

27. 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

28. 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

29. B - Motorist services like gas and food

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

Source: dps.texas.gov - TX handbook - Chapter 5, sign colors

30. 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

31. C - 300 feet

Bus drivers start the yellow lights at least 300 feet before a stop in zones over 35 mph, and at least 100 feet before a stop in zones of 35 mph or less. Yellow lights mean get ready to stop.

Source: assets.dps.mn.gov - p.41 (PDF p.44), Stopping for a school bus

32. 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

33. 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

34. B - 15 years old

In Minnesota you can apply for a learner's permit at 15 after passing the DVS knowledge test and a vision screening.

35. 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

36. C - Lane changes are discouraged

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.

Source: flhsmv.gov - FL handbook - Pavement markings

37. B - High beams reflect off the fog and cause glare

Fog reflects the bright light of high beams back at you, making it harder to see. Low beams light the road with less glare. Also slow down.

Source: oregon.gov - p.77 (PDF p.85), Fog, Dust and Smoke

38. 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)

39. 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

40. 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

Ready for the real Minnesota test?

Take the free interactive Minnesota DVS practice tests - shuffled every time, with instant explanations, road-sign picture questions, a missed-questions review and a 40-question exam simulator.

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

Official DVS website: <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/dvs/>

Official Minnesota driver's handbook: <https://assets.dps.mn.gov/files/dvs/dvs-class-d-drivers-manual-english.pdf>

