

Mississippi DPS

Permit Practice Test 2026

30-question test with answer key · permitpractice.us

Mississippi permit test: quick facts

Questions on the real test	Not published by the DPS
Passing score	80% correct
Wrong answers allowed	Depends on test length (not published)
Minimum age	15
Testing agency	Department of Public Safety (DPS)
Official permit name	Regular Learner's Permit
Permit fee	\$7.00 (valid 2 years)
If you fail	No wait published for first or second failure; after a third failure applicant must wait 30 days. Cheating or banned electronics in the test area bars retesting for 6 months.
Online testing	No - the knowledge test must be taken in person.
Driver's education	No - driver education is not required for the learner permit.
Supervised practice	50 hours certified by a parent/teacher/guardian affidavit (required for applicants under 17 to get the Regular License / road test waiver)
Permit holding period	12 months (under 17); applicants 17+ can get permit and license the same day
Under-21 alcohol limit	0.02% BAC or higher

How to use this PDF

1. The DPS does not publish how many questions the real test has. This test uses 30 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 Mississippi knowledge test.
4. Take it online, with every answer explained, at <https://permitpractice.us/mississippi/> - the mock test there marks your answers only at the end, like the real test.

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

Mississippi Permit Practice Test: 30 Questions

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

1. A school bus ahead of you turns on its flashing amber (yellow) lights. What does this tell you?

- A) The bus is turning, so pass it with care
- B) Children are crossing - stop right now
- C) The bus is pulling over with a breakdown
- D) The bus is about to stop - get ready to stop

2. A 'LANE ENDS' warning sign (showing one lane merging into another) means:

- A) Two-way traffic ahead
- B) A new lane opens on your right
- C) The highway ends ahead
- D) Your lane ends - merge over

3. What does a yellow pennant-shaped sign (a sideways triangle pointing right) on the left side of the road mean?

- A) No-passing zone begins
- B) A sharp curve
- C) Passing lane begins ahead
- D) Merge ahead

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

- A) Stay close behind a larger vehicle to block the wind
- B) Ride beside other cars so they always see you
- C) Keep space around you and stay out of blind spots
- D) Keep to the far left edge of your lane

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

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

6. 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

7. 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

8. 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

9. 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

10. 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

11. In Mississippi, writing, sending, or reading a text message while driving is:

- A) Allowed if the phone is in a dashboard mount
- B) Prohibited for all drivers
- C) Allowed at speeds under 25 mph
- D) Allowed for drivers 18 and older

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

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

13. 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

14. A freeway lane is marked with a white diamond symbol and HOV signs. Who may drive in it?

- A) Vehicles carrying the posted number of people
- B) Only police and emergency vehicles on a call
- C) Any driver who wants to pass slow traffic
- D) Only trucks and other large commercial vehicles

15. A yellow diamond sign showing a deer means:

- A) A wildlife park entrance
- B) A nature trail crossing
- C) Deer may cross the road
- D) Hunting is allowed nearby

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

- A) The pedestrian, since cars cannot stop quickly
- B) The driver must yield to the pedestrian
- C) The driver, but only at a traffic signal
- D) Whoever reached the crosswalk first

17. 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

18. 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

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. Brown signs are used to mark:

- A) Parks and historic sites
- B) Detours
- C) Toll roads and express lanes
- D) Hospitals and gas stations

21. Mississippi law requires you to use low beams when you are following another vehicle within:

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

22. A long train has just passed a crossing that has two sets of tracks. Before you cross, you should:

- A) Look for a second train on the other track
- B) Honk to warn any train and then cross quickly
- C) Cross as soon as the gates begin to rise
- D) Go at once, because the train has cleared the road

23. On a freeway, a green sign with a number in a small square (such as 'EXIT 25') refers to:

- A) The distance to the next city in miles
- B) The exit number, often the mile marker
- C) The posted speed limit on the exit ramp
- D) The route number of the highway

24. 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

25. 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

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

- A) Legal medicines are always safe to drive on
- B) Only if you take more than the dose listed
- C) Many cause drowsiness - check the label first
- D) Only prescription drugs can impair driving

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

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

28. A black-and-white rectangular sign reading 'NO TURN ON RED' means:

- A) Turn on red only if no cars are coming
- B) Turns are never allowed here
- C) Only left turns on red are banned here
- D) No turning on red, even after stopping

29. You are on a freeway on-ramp and the ramp meter signal shows red. What should you do?

- A) Merge carefully if the freeway looks clear
- B) Use the shoulder to go around the signal
- C) Slow down but keep rolling onto the freeway
- D) Stop at the line and wait for green

30. Unless a sign posts a longer distance, Mississippi bans parking within how many feet of a fire station driveway entrance?

- A) 15 feet
- B) 50 feet
- C) 20 feet
- D) 10 feet

Answer Key & Explanations

1. D - The bus is about to stop - get ready to stop

Flashing amber lights are a warning that the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Slow down and prepare to stop; the red lights come on when the bus stops.

Source: oregon.gov - p.55 (PDF p.63), School Buses

2. D - Your lane ends - merge over

A lane-ends sign warns that the number of lanes is being reduced ahead. Merge safely into the continuing lane before your lane disappears.

Source: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2C.47

3. A - No-passing zone begins

A yellow pennant-shaped sign on the left side of the road marks the beginning of a no-passing zone. It supplements the solid yellow line on the pavement.

Source: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2C.53

4. C - Keep space around you and stay out of 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.

Source: assets.dps.mn.gov - MN handbook - Blind spots

5. A - Counterclockwise; circulating traffic 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.

Source: flhsmv.gov - FL handbook - Roundabouts

6. 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

7. 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

8. 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

9. 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

10. 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

11. B - Prohibited for all drivers

The Mississippi Driver's Manual states that texting while driving is not allowed: writing, sending, or reading text messages, and reading or posting to social networking sites on a hand-held phone, are prohibited for all drivers.

Source: driverservicebureau.dps.ms.gov - Handbook pp.22-23 (PDF p.23), 'Cellphone Use' (all drivers; Miss. Code 63-33-1)

12. A - 15 years old

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

13. 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

14. A - Vehicles carrying the posted number of people

The diamond marks a high-occupancy vehicle (carpool) lane. The signs show how many people must be in the vehicle and when the rule applies.

Source: dol.wa.gov - (PDF p.134), Lanes - HOV / carpool

15. C - Deer may cross the road

A deer symbol warns that animals frequently cross this stretch of road. Be especially alert at dawn and dusk, scan the roadsides, and slow down.

Source: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2C.55

16. 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.

Source: dmv.ca.gov - CA handbook - Pedestrians / Crosswalks

17. 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

18. 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

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. A - Parks and historic sites

Brown signs point to recreational and cultural sites - parks, campgrounds, historical landmarks, and scenic areas.

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

21. A - 500 feet

You must switch to low beams within 500 feet of an oncoming vehicle and when following within 500 feet of another vehicle, so you do not blind the other driver.

Source: driverservicebureau.dps.ms.gov - p.63 (PDF p.63), Using Your Headlights

22. A - Look for a second train on the other track

One train can hide another coming from either direction on a second track. Wait until you can see clearly both ways and all signals have stopped.

Source: oregon.gov - p.64 (PDF p.72), Railroad Crossings

23. B - The exit number, often the mile marker

Exit number signs identify highway exits. In most states the exit number corresponds to the nearest mile marker, helping you judge distance to your exit.

Source: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2E.22

24. 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

25. 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

26. C - Many cause drowsiness - check the label first

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.

Source: dps.texas.gov - TX handbook - Drugs

27. 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

28. D - No turning on red, even after stopping

A 'No Turn on Red' sign prohibits turning while the signal is red, even after a complete stop. You must wait for a green light to turn.

Source: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2B.60

29. D - Stop at the line and wait for green

A ramp meter works like a traffic light. Stop at the stop line on red and go when it turns green, then speed up to merge.

Source: dol.wa.gov - (PDF p.113), Freeway ramp meters

30. C - 20 feet

You may not park within 20 feet of the driveway entrance to a fire station. Where it is posted, the no-parking distance grows to 75 feet.

Source: driverservicebureau.dps.ms.gov - p.60 (PDF p.60), Parking - Prohibited Parking

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

Official DPS website: <https://www.dps.state.ms.us/>

Official Mississippi driver's handbook: <https://www.driverservicebureau.dps.ms.gov/sites/default/files/2025-02/1.15.2025%20Revised%20MDPS%20Driver%27s%20Manual.pdf>

