

North Dakota DOT

Permit Practice Test 2026

25-question test with answer key · permitpractice.us

North Dakota permit test: quick facts

Questions on the real test	Not published by the DOT
Passing score	Not published by the DOT (our practice tests use 80%)
Wrong answers allowed	Depends on test length (not published)
Minimum age	14
Testing agency	Department of Transportation (DOT)
Official permit name	Class D Instruction Permit (NDDOT calls it a Learner's Permit)
Permit fee	\$5 knowledge test + \$5 permit (in person, per attempt); \$10 for the online KnowTo Drive knowledge test
If you fail	One attempt per day (\$5 per attempt in person)
Online testing	Yes - an online knowledge test option is available.
Driver's education	Required for applicants under 16.
Supervised practice	50 hours of practice driving in variable conditions
Permit holding period	12 months if starting at age 14 (NDDOT: hold a valid learner's permit at least one year; 6 months only for permits issued before Jan 1, 2012)
Under-21 alcohol limit	0.02% BAC or higher

How to use this PDF

1. The DOT does not publish how many questions the real test has. This test uses 25 questions, the length of our online mock test.
2. Answer every question before you look at the answer key. To pass you need Not published by the DOT (our practice tests use 80%).
3. Time: We found no published time limit for the North Dakota knowledge test.
4. Take it online, with every answer explained, at <https://permitpractice.us/north-dakota/> - the mock test there marks your answers only at the end, like the real test.

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

North Dakota Permit Practice Test: 25 Questions

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

1. A 'STOP' sign at a railroad crossing with no gates means you must:

- A) Slow down and look, then roll across
- B) Stop fully, then cross when it is safe
- C) Stop only if the lights are flashing
- D) Stop only if a train is in sight

2. The single most effective way to avoid an alcohol-related crash is to:

- A) Not drive at all after drinking any alcohol
- B) Drink coffee and wait 30 minutes before driving
- C) Stay under 0.08% by counting your drinks
- D) Drive slowly and stay in the right lane

3. In North Dakota, a driver under 18 with a Class D license may not use which of the following while the vehicle is in motion (except in an emergency)?

- A) The car's built-in rearview camera
- B) The vehicle's cruise control system
- C) A cell phone or other communication device
- D) The radio or the car's music player

4. 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

5. 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

6. When passing on a two-lane road in North Dakota, you should be back in your own lane at least how far before meeting an oncoming vehicle?

- A) 500 feet
- B) 100 feet
- C) 200 feet
- D) 50 feet

7. 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

8. You are driving at 60 mph on a highway. How many feet does your vehicle travel per second?

- A) 100 feet
- B) 88 feet
- C) 44 feet
- D) 66 feet

9. 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

10. 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

11. 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

12. 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

13. 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

14. You are nearing a railroad crossing in North Dakota and your view of the track is blocked. Unless another limit is posted, what is the maximum speed?

- A) 15 mph
- B) 20 mph
- C) 30 mph
- D) 25 mph

15. Hydroplaning is most likely to occur when:

- A) Braking gently on an icy road in the cold
- B) Driving slowly through deep, soft snow on a hill
- C) Driving on dry pavement on a very hot day
- D) Driving fast on a wet road, mainly with worn tires

16. Under North Dakota's point system, a driver faces license suspension once the driving record reaches how many points?

- A) 15 points
- B) 8 points
- C) 10 points
- D) 12 points

17. Green guide signs are used to show:

- A) Hazards on the road ahead
- B) Locations of gas and food
- C) Directions and distances
- D) Parks and historic sites

18. 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

19. 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

20. 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

21. What is the purpose of an anti-lock braking system (ABS)?

- A) To let you pump the brakes faster in a skid
- B) To brake for you when a car ahead stops
- C) To keep wheels from locking so you can steer
- D) To stop your vehicle faster by automatically pumping brakes

22. 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

23. In North Dakota, how far must you park from a stop sign, flashing beacon, or traffic signal at the side of the road?

- A) At least 50 feet
- B) At least 30 feet
- C) At least 15 feet
- D) At least 10 feet

24. 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

25. What does a downward-pointing triangle sign mean?

- A) Merge
- B) Do not enter
- C) Yield
- D) Stop ahead

Answer Key & Explanations

1. B - Stop fully, then cross when it is safe

A stop sign at a railroad crossing requires a complete stop. Look and listen carefully in both directions, and cross only when you are sure no train is coming.

Source: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 8B.04 Paragraph 06

2. A - Not drive at all after drinking any alcohol

There is no safe way to drive after drinking. The only sure prevention is to not drive at all after consuming alcohol - arrange a designated sober driver, taxi, or rideshare instead.

Source: flhsmv.gov - FL handbook - Alcohol

3. C - A cell phone or other communication device

Under N.D.C.C. 39-08-24, a driver at least 16 and under 18 with a Class D license may not use an electronic communication device to talk, compose, read, or send an electronic message while the vehicle is moving. The only exceptions are getting emergency help, preventing a crime, or when someone's life or safety is in danger.

Source: ndlegis.gov - N.D.C.C. 39-08-24

4. 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

5. 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

6. C - 200 feet

The manual says to finish the pass and return to your lane at least 200 feet before you meet an approaching vehicle. If you cannot do that, do not start the pass.

Source: dot.nd.gov - p.21 (PDF p.25), Passing

7. 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

8. B - 88 feet

At 60 mph, a vehicle travels about 88 feet per second ($60 \times 5,280 / 3,600 = 88$). Understanding stopping distances is critical - at 60 mph you need approximately 300 feet to stop.

Source: nj.gov - NJ handbook - Stopping distance

9. 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

10. 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

11. 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

12. 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: dmvc.ca.gov - CA handbook - Distracted driving

13. 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

14. B - 20 mph

When your view of the track is blocked as you approach a railway crossing, North Dakota limits you to 20 mph unless a sign shows otherwise. The same 20 mph limit applies at an intersection with a blocked view.

Source: dot.nd.gov - p.20 (PDF p.24), Speed Limits

15. D - Driving fast on a wet road, mainly with worn tires

Hydroplaning happens when a layer of water builds between your tires and the road, usually at higher speeds on wet pavement. Worn tires and standing water increase the risk. Slow down in the rain to keep tire contact with the road.

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

16. D - 12 points

When a North Dakota record reaches 12 or more points, the driver is told the license will be suspended and may ask for a hearing. Points can come off over time, one point for every three months with no new points.

Source: dot.nd.gov - p.40 (PDF p.44), Point System

17. C - Directions and distances

Green signs provide guidance: route numbers, directions, distances, and destination names. They help you navigate to where you are going.

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

18. 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

19. 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

20. 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

21. C - To keep wheels from locking so you can steer

ABS prevents wheels from locking during hard braking, allowing you to maintain steering control. When ABS activates, you may feel pulsing in the brake pedal - this is normal. Press firmly and steer.

Source: assets.dps.mn.gov - MN handbook - Anti-lock brakes

22. 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

23. C - At least 15 feet

The manual says not to park within 15 feet of a flashing beacon, a stop sign, or a traffic control signal beside the road, so other drivers can see them.

Source: dot.nd.gov - p.26 (PDF p.30), Do Not Park

24. 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

25. C - Yield

An inverted (downward-pointing) triangle is always a YIELD sign. Slow down, be ready to stop, and give the right of way to traffic and pedestrians.

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

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<https://permitpractice.us/north-dakota/>

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Official North Dakota driver's handbook: <https://www.dot.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Drivers%20-%20documents/noncommercial-manual.pdf>

