

Pennsylvania PennDOT

Permit Practice Test 2026

18-question test with answer key · permitpractice.us

Pennsylvania permit test: quick facts

Questions on the real test	18
Passing score	83% (15 of 18 correct)
Wrong answers allowed	3
Minimum age	16
Testing agency	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT)
Official permit name	Non-Commercial Learner's Permit (commonly 'Learner's Permit'; 'Junior Learner's Permit' for under 18)
Permit fee	\$45.50 (Initial Permit and Four-Year License, combined fee)
If you fail	May retake the Knowledge Test the following business day; no attempt limit stated for the knowledge test (road test: 3 attempts per permit, 7-day wait if under 18)
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	65 hours incl. 10 at night and 5 in bad weather (under 18, parent/guardian certification form DL-180C)
Permit holding period	6 months from permit issue date (under 18) before road test
Under-21 alcohol limit	0.02% BAC or higher

How to use this PDF

1. This test has 18 questions, the same number as the real Pennsylvania PennDOT knowledge test.
2. Answer every question before you look at the answer key. To pass you need 83% (15 of 18 correct).
3. Time: We found no published time limit for the Pennsylvania knowledge test.
4. Take it online, with every answer explained, at <https://permitpractice.us/pennsylvania/> - the mock test there marks your answers only at the end, like the real test.

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

Pennsylvania Permit Practice Test: 18 Questions

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

1. A sign that reads 'DO NOT ENTER' on a red and white background means:

- A) Enter only after a full stop
- B) Only local traffic may enter
- C) Enter only if no cars are coming
- D) You may not enter the road ahead

2. At night, Pennsylvania law requires you to switch from high beams to low beams once an oncoming vehicle is within:

- A) 1,000 feet
- B) 500 feet
- C) 200 feet
- D) 350 feet

3. 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

4. A warning sign showing an arrow splitting into two directions around a vertical line indicates:

- A) A fork where you must choose a route
- B) A divided highway begins ahead
- C) A passing lane opens ahead
- D) Two-way traffic begins ahead

5. If a tire blows out while you are driving, the first thing you should do is:

- A) Steer hard toward the shoulder right away
- B) Brake hard to stop as quickly as you can
- C) Turn on hazard lights and stop in the lane
- D) Hold the wheel firmly and ease off the gas

6. 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

7. What does a sign showing a car with curved skid marks indicate?

- A) Loose gravel ahead
- B) Winding road
- C) Sharp curve
- D) Slippery when wet

8. A round (circular) sign indicates:

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

9. 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

10. 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

11. During the first 6 months, a Pennsylvania junior license holder may carry how many non-family passengers under 18?

- A) Three
- B) No limit
- C) One
- D) Two

12. For adult drivers (21+), what Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) is the legal limit in most states?

- A) 0.05%
- B) 0.02%
- C) 0.08%
- D) 0.04%

13. 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

14. A motorcycle coming toward an intersection has its turn signal blinking. What should you do before pulling out in front of it?

- A) Go - a blinking signal means it will turn
- B) Flash your headlights and then pull out
- C) Wait until you are sure it is really turning
- D) Pull out quickly before it reaches you

15. 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

16. 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

17. What does the 'basic speed law' require?

- A) Never drive more than 10 mph below the posted limit
- B) You may always drive at the posted limit, whatever the conditions
- C) Drive no faster than is safe for current conditions
- D) Keep up with the flow of traffic, even above the limit

18. Double solid yellow center lines mean:

- A) No passing from either direction
- B) Passing is allowed if the road ahead is clear
- C) A center lane for left turns only
- D) Passing is allowed from both directions

Answer Key & Explanations

1. D - You may not enter the road ahead

A 'Do Not Enter' sign means you must not enter the road or ramp ahead - usually because it is one-way or an exit ramp. Entering would put you in oncoming traffic.

Source: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2B.46

2. B - 500 feet

High beams can blind a driver coming toward you. Pennsylvania law requires low beams whenever an oncoming vehicle is within 500 feet.

Source: pa.gov - p.40 (PDF p.44), Driving at Night

3. 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

4. B - A divided highway begins ahead

This sign warns that a divided highway begins ahead - a median or barrier will separate the opposing lanes. Keep right of the divider.

Source: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2C.20

5. D - Hold the wheel firmly and ease off the gas

During a blowout, hold the steering wheel firmly to keep the vehicle straight, ease your foot off the accelerator, and let the car slow gradually. Hard braking can cause a spin. Pull off the road only after you have control.

Source: ksrevenue.gov - KS handbook - Tire blowout

6. 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

7. D - Slippery when wet

A yellow warning sign with a car and curved skid lines means the road is slippery when wet. Slow down and increase following distance in rain or snow.

Source: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2C.30

8. 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)

9. 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

10. 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

11. C - One

For the first 6 months, Pennsylvania junior drivers may carry only one non-family passenger under 18; after that, up to three.

Source: pa.gov - Ch. 1, Junior License restrictions, p. 4

12. C - 0.08%

In most US states, a BAC of 0.08% or higher is legally considered driving under the influence (DUI) for drivers 21 and older. Always check your state's specific laws.

Source: dmv.ca.gov - California Driver Handbook - Alcohol and drug limits

13. 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

14. C - Wait until you are sure it is really turning

Many motorcycle turn signals do not cancel by themselves, so a rider may have forgotten one. Wait until the motorcycle actually starts to turn.

Source: publicsafety.ohio.gov - Section 9 - Sharing the Road, Motorcyclists

15. 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

16. 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

17. C - Drive no faster than is safe for current conditions

Every state has a basic speed rule: never drive faster than is reasonable and safe for traffic, weather, visibility and road conditions. You can be cited for driving too fast for conditions even while under the posted limit.

Source: dps.texas.gov - TX handbook - Basic speed law

18. A - No passing from either direction

Double solid yellow lines separate traffic moving in opposite directions. Crossing them to pass is prohibited from both directions.

Source: assets.dps.mn.gov - MN handbook - Pavement markings

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Take the free interactive Pennsylvania PennDOT practice tests - shuffled every time, with instant explanations, road-sign picture questions, a missed-questions review and a 18-question exam simulator.

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

Official PennDOT website: <https://www.penndot.gov/>

Official Pennsylvania driver's handbook: <https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/penndot/documents/public/dvspubsforms/bdl/bdl-manuals/pa-drivers-manual-non-commercial/english/pub%2095.pdf>

