

Texas DPS

Permit Practice Test 2026

30-question test with answer key · permitpractice.us

Texas permit test: quick facts

Questions on the real test	Not published by the DPS
Passing score	70% correct
Wrong answers allowed	Depends on test length (not published)
Minimum age	15
Testing agency	Department of Public Safety (DPS)
Official permit name	Learner License
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	30 hours behind the wheel (10 at night) with a licensed adult 21+ (parent-monitored), in addition to the 7 hours behind-the-wheel and 7 hours in-car observation of the driver education course
Permit holding period	6 months (unless you turn 18 first) before applying for the provisional license
Under-21 alcohol limit	Zero tolerance (any measurable amount)

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 70% correct.
3. Time: We found no published time limit for the Texas knowledge test.
4. Take it online, with every answer explained, at <https://permitpractice.us/texas/> - the mock test there marks your answers only at the end, like the real test.

Questions are original study questions written from the Texas 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

Texas Permit Practice Test: 30 Questions

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

1. 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

2. At an uncontrolled T-intersection, vehicles on the through road have right of way over:

- A) Pedestrians in a marked crosswalk
- B) Vehicles on the terminating road
- C) Emergency vehicles using sirens
- D) Vehicles already in the intersection

3. In Texas, what does a white sign color generally indicate?

- A) Motorist services guidance
- B) Public recreation and scenic guidance
- C) Regulation
- D) Construction and maintenance warning

4. 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

5. In most states, you may not park within how many feet of a crosswalk at an intersection?

- A) 5 feet
- B) 50 feet
- C) 20 feet
- D) 10 feet

6. First-offense DWI in Texas (adult, BAC 0.08%+) can result in a jail sentence of:

- A) No jail for first offense
- B) Up to 72 hours
- C) 72 hours to 180 days
- D) Up to 2 years

7. According to the Texas handbook, about how deep must water on a road be to float many cars?

- A) Three inches
- B) Twelve inches
- C) Three feet
- D) Six inches

8. Aggressive driving behaviors such as tailgating, weaving, and excessive speeding:

- A) Are only illegal when they cause a crash
- B) Are safe for skilled drivers in light traffic
- C) Raise crash risk and can lead to reckless charges
- D) Save enough time to make up for the added risk

9. 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

10. 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

11. Your car stalls on railroad tracks and a train is coming. After you get out, which way should you run?

- A) Away from the train, along the rails
- B) Stay beside the car and wave at the train
- C) Toward the train, between the rails
- D) Toward the train and off to one side

12. How much following distance does the Texas handbook recommend when you drive behind a motorcycle?

- A) Four to six seconds
- B) Exactly one car length
- C) One to two seconds
- D) Two to three seconds

13. What is the safest way to check your blind spot before changing lanes?

- A) Check your rearview mirror, then signal and go
- B) Check both side mirrors only
- C) Trust your car's blind-spot warning light
- D) Glance over your shoulder toward the new lane

14. What does a yellow traffic light mean?

- A) Proceed normally
- B) Stop at once, no matter how close you are
- C) The light is about to turn green
- D) Stop if it is safe to do so

15. 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

16. 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

17. 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

18. 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

19. 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

20. Traffic is backed up just past a railroad crossing. When should you start across the tracks?

- A) Whenever the crossing lights are not flashing
- B) Only when there is room to get fully past the tracks
- C) When the car ahead of you has started to cross
- D) Right away, since no train is in sight now

21. What is the 'point of no return' when approaching a yellow light?

- A) The stop line - once past it you must proceed
- B) The moment the light changes from green to yellow
- C) The point where you can no longer stop safely
- D) Exactly 100 feet before the intersection

22. 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

23. 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

24. 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

25. What does a 'MERGE' warning sign (two lines coming together) mean?

- A) Your lane ends - you must merge
- B) Traffic will merge into your lane
- C) The road divides into two routes
- D) Two roads cross just ahead

26. 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

27. 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

28. What must you do when you see or hear an emergency vehicle with lights and/or siren on?

- A) Pull to the left lane and slow down
- B) Pull to the right edge and stop
- C) Stop immediately where you are
- D) Slow down but stay in your lane

29. 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

30. During Phase Two of Texas's graduated license program, a provisional driver may not drive during which hours, except for work, school activities, or a medical emergency?

- A) 1 a.m. to 6 a.m.
- B) Midnight to 5 a.m.
- C) 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- D) 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.

Answer Key & Explanations

1. 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

2. B - Vehicles on the terminating road

At a T-intersection (where one road ends and meets another), vehicles on the through road (the top of the T) have the right of way over vehicles on the terminating road (the bottom of the T).

Source: dmv.ca.gov - CA handbook - Right-of-way rules

3. C - Regulation

The Texas Driver Handbook lists white (and black) as regulation colors, and vertical rectangles are generally used for regulatory signs such as speed limit signs. Orange means construction/maintenance, blue means motorist services, and brown means recreation and scenic guidance.

Source: dps.texas.gov - p.26 (PDF p.32), Ch. 5, Table 16 Standard Colors and Table 17 Signs by Shape

4. 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

5. C - 20 feet

Most states prohibit parking within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection (and, separately, within 30 feet of a stop sign or traffic signal in many states). A few use other distances, such as 25 feet in New Jersey, so check your handbook.

Source: dps.texas.gov - TX handbook - Do Not Park

6. C - 72 hours to 180 days

A first-offense DWI in Texas carries 72 hours to 180 days in jail, a fine of up to \$2,000, and a 90- to 365-day license suspension. Under Transportation Code 709.001, a conviction also brings an additional state traffic fine of \$3,000 (or \$6,000 if the BAC was 0.15 or more).

Source: dps.texas.gov - p.58 (PDF p.64), Ch. 10, Table 31

7. B - Twelve inches

Six inches of water reaches the bottom of most cars and can cause stalling, 12 inches can float many cars, and 2 feet of rushing water can carry away trucks and SUVs. Never drive into water on the road.

Source: dps.texas.gov - p.50 (PDF p.56), Floods

8. C - Raise crash risk and can lead to reckless charges

Aggressive driving dramatically increases the risk of a crash and can lead to reckless driving citations, points, and higher insurance. The time saved is minimal compared to the danger created.

Source: assets.dps.mn.gov - MN handbook - Aggressive driving

9. 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

10. 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

11. D - Toward the train and off to one side

Get out fast and move away from the tracks. The Texas handbook says to run toward the oncoming train but off to the side of the tracks, so you are clear of flying debris when the train hits the car.

Source: dps.texas.gov - p.22 (PDF p.28), Additional Safe Driving Procedures at Railroad Crossings

12. A - Four to six seconds

Even light contact can throw a rider, so allow at least four to six seconds behind a motorcycle. That gives the rider room to maneuver or stop in an emergency.

Source: dps.texas.gov - p.53 (PDF p.59), Allow Plenty of Space When Following a Motorcycle

13. D - Glance over your shoulder toward the new lane

Mirrors have blind spots. Always glance over your shoulder in the direction you plan to move before changing lanes, in addition to checking your mirrors.

Source: dps.texas.gov - TX handbook - Changing lanes

14. D - Stop if it is safe to do so

A yellow (amber) light means the signal is about to turn red. You should stop if it is safe to do so. Only proceed if stopping would be unsafe (e.g., you are too close to the intersection).

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

15. 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

16. 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

17. 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

18. 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

19. 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

20. B - Only when there is room to get fully past the tracks

Never stop on railroad tracks. Wait behind the crossing until there is enough space on the other side for your whole vehicle.

Source: assets.dps.mn.gov - p.53 (PDF p.56), Railroad crossing safety

21. C - The point where you can no longer stop safely

The 'point of no return' is the position from which stopping safely (without running the light or causing a rear-end collision) becomes impossible. Before this point, slow and stop. After it, proceed through safely.

Source: pa.gov - PA handbook - Traffic signals - steady yellow

22. 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

23. 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

24. 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

25. B - Traffic will merge into your lane

A Merge sign warns that traffic from another roadway (such as an entrance ramp) will be joining your lane ahead. Watch for merging vehicles and adjust your speed and position so they can blend in smoothly. A lane that is ending has its own 'Lane Ends' sign.

Source: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov - MUTCD 11th ed. (Dec 2023) 2C.45 Paragraph 01

26. 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

27. 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

28. B - Pull to the right edge and stop

When an emergency vehicle approaches with lights or siren, you must immediately pull to the right edge of the road and stop. Remain stopped until the vehicle has passed.

Source: dps.texas.gov - TX handbook - Yield Right-of-Way to Emergency Vehicles

29. 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

30. B - Midnight to 5 a.m.

Until age 18, a provisional license holder may not drive from midnight to 5:00 a.m. unless it is needed for work, a school-related activity, or a medical emergency. They also may not carry more than one passenger under 21 who is not a family member.

Source: dps.texas.gov - p.3 (PDF p.9), Graduated Driver License - Phase Two

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

Official DPS website: <https://www.dps.texas.gov/section/driver-license>

Official Texas driver's handbook: <https://www.dps.texas.gov/internetforms/Forms/DL-7.pdf>

