

# California Dmv Written Test Study Guide

DL 5 (REV. 12/2010)

## CALIFORNIA DRIVER'S EXAMINATION

(From the 2010 California Driver Handbook)

**Directions:** Study the driver handbook before you take the test.

Each question has three answer choices. Choose one answer and mark an X in the box across from the answer. Do not talk while taking the test, use any books or notes, or cell phone, or electronic devices, or leave the test area before your test has been graded. It may result in a test failure and you may be suspended or revoked.

**PASSING GRADE — 6 OR FEWER ERRORS FOR ORIGINAL APPLICANTS  
3 OR FEWER ERRORS FOR RENEWAL APPLICANTS**

1. It is illegal for a person **21 years of age or older** to drive with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) that is \_\_\_\_\_ or higher.  
0.08% - Eight hundredths of one percent ..... ☐  
0.10% - One tenth of one percent ..... ☐  
0.05% - Five hundredths of one percent ..... ☐
2. You must notify DMV within 5 days if you:  
Sell or transfer your vehicle ..... ☐  
Are cited for a traffic violation ..... ☐  
Paint your vehicle a different color ..... ☐
3. A police officer is signaling you to continue driving through a red traffic light. What should you do?  
Do as the officer tells you ..... ☐  
Wait for the green light ..... ☐  
Stop first. Then do what the officer tells you ..... ☐
4. When is it legal to use a cell phone without a hands-free device while driving?  
When making a call while stopped at a red light ..... ☐  
When making a call for emergency assistance ..... ☐  
Never ..... ☐
5. If you drive slower than the flow of traffic, you will most likely:  
Interfere with traffic and receive a ticket ..... ☐  
Improve traffic flow ..... ☐  
Demonstrate defensive driving techniques ..... ☐
6. You must make a written Report of Traffic Accident Occuring in

## California DMV Written Test Study Guide

Preparing for the California DMV written test can be a daunting task, but with the right study guide and resources, you can approach the exam with confidence. This article aims to provide you with a comprehensive overview of what to expect from the test, effective study strategies, and essential resources to help you succeed.

## Understanding the California DMV Written Test

The California DMV written test is designed to assess your knowledge of the rules of the road, traffic signs, and safe driving practices. The test consists of multiple-choice questions, and you must achieve a passing score to obtain your learner's permit or driver's license.

## Test Structure

- Number of Questions: The written test typically contains 46 questions.

- Passing Score: You need to answer at least 38 questions correctly to pass, which is approximately 83%.
- Time Limit: You will have 3 attempts to pass the test within a 12-month period.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

Before taking the written test, ensure you meet the following eligibility criteria:

1. Be at least 15 ½ years old.
2. Have completed a driver's education course (if under 17 ½).
3. Present valid identification and residency documents.

## **Key Topics to Study**

To effectively prepare for the written test, you should focus on several key areas outlined in the California Driver Handbook. These topics include:

- Traffic Signs and Signals
- Rules of the Road
- Safe Driving Practices
- Sharing the Road with Others
- Parking Regulations
- Handling Emergencies

## **Traffic Signs and Signals**

Understanding traffic signs and signals is crucial for safe driving. Familiarize yourself with the following types of signs:

- Regulatory Signs: Indicate laws and regulations (e.g., Stop signs, Yield signs).
- Warning Signs: Alert you to potential hazards (e.g., Curve ahead, Pedestrian crossing).
- Guide Signs: Provide information about routes and directions (e.g., Mile markers, Exit signs).

# Rules of the Road

The rules of the road cover various aspects of driving, including:

- Right-of-way rules
- Speed limits
- Lane usage
- Safe following distances

Understanding these rules will help you navigate the roads safely and comply with California traffic laws.

## Safe Driving Practices

Safe driving is paramount to avoid accidents. Key practices include:

- Always wearing a seatbelt
- Avoiding distractions while driving
- Maintaining a safe distance from other vehicles
- Using turn signals when changing lanes or turning

## Sharing the Road with Others

Drive defensively and be aware of other road users, including:

- Pedestrians
- Bicyclists
- Motorcyclists
- Large vehicles (e.g., trucks and buses)

Recognizing the rights and limitations of these road users will enhance your safety and theirs.

## Parking Regulations

Proper parking is essential to avoid penalties or accidents. Study the following regulations:

- Where and how to park legally
- Understanding disabled parking requirements
- The importance of curb markings

# Effective Study Strategies

To maximize your study efforts, consider the following strategies:

1. **Read the California Driver Handbook:** This is your primary resource for studying. Make sure to read it thoroughly, as it contains all the information tested on the written exam.
2. **Take Practice Tests:** Utilize online resources to take practice exams. These tests will familiarize you with the format of the questions and help you identify areas where you need more study.
3. **Flashcards:** Create flashcards for traffic signs and important rules. This method can enhance your memory retention and recall speed during the test.
4. **Group Study:** Join a study group with friends or family who are also preparing for the test. Discussing topics and quizzing each other can reinforce your knowledge.
5. **Review Mistakes:** When practicing, review any questions you get wrong to understand your mistakes and prevent repeating them.

## Essential Resources

Utilizing the right resources can greatly enhance your study experience. Here are some recommended materials:

### California Driver Handbook

- Available for free on the California DMV website, the handbook is the most authoritative source of information for the written test. It covers all topics you need to know.

### Online Practice Tests

- Websites like DMV.org and the official California DMV site offer free practice tests. These simulate the actual test environment and help you gauge your readiness.

### Mobile Apps

- Consider downloading mobile applications designed for DMV test preparation. These apps

often include interactive quizzes, flashcards, and progress tracking.

## **On Test Day**

Preparing for the day of the test can help ease anxiety. Here are some tips:

- Arrive Early: Give yourself plenty of time to find the DMV location and complete any necessary paperwork.
- Bring Required Documents: Ensure you have your identification, proof of residency, and any other required documents.
- Stay Calm: Take deep breaths and stay relaxed during the test. Remember, you've prepared for this!

## **Conclusion**

The California DMV written test is a crucial step in your journey to obtaining a driver's license. By utilizing this study guide, focusing on key topics, and employing effective study strategies, you'll be well-equipped to pass the test. Remember, thorough preparation not only helps you succeed in the exam but also contributes to your development as a responsible and safe driver on the road. Good luck!

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What topics are covered in the California DMV written test study guide?**

The study guide covers topics such as traffic laws, safe driving practices, road signs, and the rules of the road.

### **How many questions are on the California DMV written test?**

The California DMV written test consists of 36 questions for regular licenses, and you must answer at least 30 questions correctly to pass.

### **Is there a fee for taking the California DMV written test?**

Yes, there is a fee to take the DMV written test, typically around \$38, which also covers the cost of your driver's license application.

## **Can I take the California DMV written test online?**

Yes, California offers an online option for taking the written test, but you must first make an appointment and meet certain eligibility requirements.

## **Where can I find a California DMV written test study guide?**

You can find the California DMV written test study guide on the official DMV website, as well as in local DMV offices and bookstores.

## **How often can I retake the California DMV written test if I fail?**

You can retake the California DMV written test after a 7-day waiting period if you fail.

## **Are there practice tests available for the California DMV written test?**

Yes, there are many online resources and apps that offer practice tests for the California DMV written test to help you prepare.

## **What identification do I need to bring to the California DMV when taking the written test?**

You need to bring a valid form of identification, such as a passport or state ID, and proof of residency when taking the written test.

## **How long is the California DMV written test?**

The California DMV written test typically takes about 30 minutes to complete.

## **What is the passing score for the California DMV written test?**

The passing score for the California DMV written test is 83%, meaning you need to answer at least 30 out of 36 questions correctly.

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