


# Smith System On Road Quiz Answer Key

  
**SMITH SYSTEM**  
™ THE CRITICAL POINT™ QUIZ

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Identification Number \_\_\_\_\_

Please read the following questions carefully. Take your time because many questions may contain more than one answer that is somewhat valid. Mark only the single best answer to each question, and as you do so, keep in mind that some questions may require drawing conclusions based on the information you have learned about the Smith System®. The recommended quiz taking time is 10 minutes. If you do not know the answer to a question, we suggest that you move on and come back to it if time permits.

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<p>1. Getting the "Big Picture" requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Maintaining a proper following distance</li><li>B. Checking your mirrors approximately every 5 to 8 seconds</li><li>C. Looking well ahead of your vehicle</li><li>D. All of the above</li></ul> <p>2. Besides stopping distance and reaction time, the proper following distance provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Room to increase your speed if it becomes necessary</li><li>B. Swerving room when you encounter the unexpected</li><li>C. Assurance that people will not "cut you off"</li><li>D. Increased visibility and additional time to make decisions</li></ul> <p>3. Following a large vehicle too closely most directly affects your ability to use which Key?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Aim High In Steering®</li><li>B. Keep Your Eyes Moving®</li><li>C. Leave Yourself An Out®</li><li>D. Make Sure They See You®</li></ul> <p>4. The vision defined as an "early warning system" is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Central cone</li><li>B. Peripheral</li><li>C. Clear</li><li>D. Investigative</li></ul> <p>5. A negative affect of a "fixed stare" is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Vision becomes blurred</li><li>B. Central cone vision is diminished</li><li>C. Peripheral vision is diminished</li><li>D. None of the above</li></ul> <p>6. The Smith System® suggests use of the mirrors every:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. 2 seconds</li><li>B. 10 to 15 seconds</li><li>C. Whenever your peripheral vision detects movement in any mirror</li><li>D. 5 to 8 seconds</li></ul> <p>7. The distance drivers look ahead should vary depending on speed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. True</li><li>B. False</li></ul>	<p>8. Which of the following is not one of the 5 Keys?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Get The Big Picture</li><li>B. Make Sure They See You</li><li>C. Detect Problems Early</li><li>D. Leave Yourself An Out</li></ul> <p>9. A 15-second eye-lead time is defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. The distance between you and the vehicle in front of you</li><li>B. The frequency of mirror checks in a quarter of a minute</li><li>C. The distance, measured in seconds, that your eyes lead your vehicle</li><li>D. Your total space cushion measured in seconds</li></ul> <p>10. It is wise to avoid letting your eyes pause on an object for more than:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. 4 seconds</li><li>B. 2 seconds</li><li>C. 5 to 8 seconds</li><li>D. 15 seconds</li></ul> <p>11. The "Smith System®" is designed to help compensate for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. The poor judgement of others</li><li>B. Changing conditions</li><li>C. Foul weather conditions</li><li>D. All of the above</li></ul> <p>12. Obtaining space, visibility and time are primary goals of the Smith System®.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. True</li><li>B. False</li></ul> <p>13. Which Key provides for communication with other drivers?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Get The Big Picture®</li><li>B. Leave Yourself An Out®</li><li>C. Make Sure They See You®</li><li>D. Aim High In Steering®</li></ul> <p>14. Peripheral vision provides about what degree of visibility for the average person?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. 45</li><li>B. 90</li><li>C. 180</li><li>D. 360</li></ul>
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## SMITH SYSTEM ON ROAD QUIZ ANSWER KEY

THE SMITH SYSTEM IS A WELL-ESTABLISHED DEFENSIVE DRIVING TECHNIQUE THAT EMPHASIZES SAFE DRIVING PRACTICES THROUGH A STRUCTURED APPROACH. IT IS WIDELY TAUGHT IN DRIVING COURSES AND IS PARTICULARLY USEFUL FOR NEW DRIVERS. ONE OF THE CRITICAL COMPONENTS OF UNDERSTANDING THE SMITH SYSTEM IS THE ABILITY TO ASSESS ONE'S KNOWLEDGE THROUGH QUIZZES AND TESTS. THIS ARTICLE WILL PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF THE SMITH SYSTEM, ITS PRINCIPLES, AND AN ANSWER KEY FOR A QUIZ BASED ON ITS CONCEPTS.

## UNDERSTANDING THE SMITH SYSTEM

THE SMITH SYSTEM WAS CREATED BY HAROLD SMITH IN THE 1950S TO PROMOTE SAFE DRIVING HABITS AND REDUCE THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS ON THE ROAD. THE SYSTEM IS DESIGNED TO HELP DRIVERS MAINTAIN AWARENESS OF THEIR SURROUNDINGS, ANTICIPATE POTENTIAL HAZARDS, AND REACT APPROPRIATELY.

# KEY PRINCIPLES OF THE SMITH SYSTEM

THE SMITH SYSTEM IS BUILT ON FIVE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES, OFTEN REFERRED TO AS THE "FIVE KEYS TO DEFENSIVE DRIVING." THESE KEYS ARE:

1. **AIM HIGH IN STEERING:** THIS PRINCIPLE ENCOURAGES DRIVERS TO LOOK AHEAD AND ANTICIPATE ROAD CONDITIONS, RATHER THAN JUST FOCUSING ON THE IMMEDIATE AREA IN FRONT OF THE VEHICLE. BY AIMING HIGH, DRIVERS CAN BETTER RECOGNIZE POTENTIAL HAZARDS AND MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS.
2. **GET THE BIG PICTURE:** DRIVERS ARE URGED TO TAKE IN THE ENTIRE DRIVING ENVIRONMENT. THIS INCLUDES CHECKING MIRRORS REGULARLY, SCANNING FOR PEDESTRIANS, CYCLISTS, AND OTHER VEHICLES, AND BEING AWARE OF ROAD SIGNS AND SIGNALS.
3. **KEEP YOUR EYES MOVING:** CONTINUOUS MOVEMENT OF THE EYES HELPS MAINTAIN AWARENESS OF SURROUNDINGS. DRIVERS SHOULD AVOID FIXATING ON ANY SINGLE OBJECT, AS THIS CAN LEAD TO MISSING IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE DRIVING ENVIRONMENT.
4. **LEAVE YOURSELF AN OUT:** THIS PRINCIPLE EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING AN ESCAPE ROUTE IN CASE OF DANGER. DRIVERS SHOULD ENSURE THEY HAVE SPACE TO MANEUVER THEIR VEHICLE SAFELY TO AVOID COLLISIONS.
5. **MAKE SURE THEY SEE YOU:** COMMUNICATION IS KEY IN DRIVING. THIS PRINCIPLE ENCOURAGES DRIVERS TO MAKE THEIR PRESENCE KNOWN TO OTHERS ON THE ROAD THROUGH THE USE OF SIGNALS, HEADLIGHTS, AND EYE CONTACT.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF QUIZZES IN DEFENSIVE DRIVING

QUIZZES AND ASSESSMENTS ARE CRUCIAL IN REINFORCING THE PRINCIPLES OF THE SMITH SYSTEM. THEY HELP DRIVERS GAUGE THEIR UNDERSTANDING AND READINESS TO IMPLEMENT SAFE DRIVING PRACTICES.

### BENEFITS OF QUIZZES

- **KNOWLEDGE REINFORCEMENT:** QUIZZES HELP SOLIDIFY THE CONCEPTS LEARNED IN DRIVING COURSES, ENSURING THAT DRIVERS RETAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION.
- **SELF-ASSESSMENT:** BY TAKING QUIZZES, DRIVERS CAN ASSESS THEIR KNOWLEDGE LEVEL AND IDENTIFY AREAS NEEDING IMPROVEMENT.
- **PREPARATION FOR REAL-LIFE SCENARIOS:** QUIZZES OFTEN INCLUDE REAL-LIFE SCENARIOS THAT DRIVERS MAY ENCOUNTER ON THE ROAD, HELPING THEM TO THINK CRITICALLY AND APPLY THEIR KNOWLEDGE.

## SAMPLE SMITH SYSTEM QUIZ

HERE IS A SAMPLE QUIZ BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF THE SMITH SYSTEM.

1. WHAT DOES "AIM HIGH IN STEERING" MEAN?
2. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO "GET THE BIG PICTURE" WHILE DRIVING?
3. HOW CAN A DRIVER "KEEP THEIR EYES MOVING"?
4. WHAT DOES "LEAVE YOURSELF AN OUT" ENTAIL?
5. DESCRIBE A SITUATION WHERE "MAKE SURE THEY SEE YOU" IS ESSENTIAL.

## ANSWER KEY FOR THE SMITH SYSTEM QUIZ

BELOW ARE THE ANSWERS TO THE SAMPLE QUIZ PROVIDED ABOVE:

1. **AIM HIGH IN STEERING:** THIS MEANS TO LOOK FAR DOWN THE ROAD RATHER THAN JUST DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF THE VEHICLE. BY SCANNING FURTHER AHEAD, DRIVERS CAN BETTER ANTICIPATE AND REACT TO POTENTIAL HAZARDS.
2. **GET THE BIG PICTURE:** IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE A FULL AWARENESS OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS, INCLUDING OTHER VEHICLES, PEDESTRIANS, AND ROAD CONDITIONS. THIS HELPS DRIVERS MAKE BETTER DECISIONS AND AVOID DANGEROUS SITUATIONS.
3. **KEEP YOUR EYES MOVING:** DRIVERS SHOULD REGULARLY SCAN THEIR ENVIRONMENT, CHECKING MIRRORS AND LOOKING AT VARIOUS POINTS OF INTEREST TO MAINTAIN SITUATIONAL AWARENESS AND AVOID DISTRACTIONS.
4. **LEAVE YOURSELF AN OUT:** THIS PRINCIPLE ENCOURAGES DRIVERS TO ALWAYS MAINTAIN A SAFE DISTANCE FROM OTHER VEHICLES AND TO HAVE A PLAN FOR ESCAPE IN CASE A HAZARD SUDDENLY APPEARS. THIS COULD MEAN CHANGING LANES OR BRAKING EARLY.
5. **MAKE SURE THEY SEE YOU:** THIS INVOLVES USING TURN SIGNALS, HEADLIGHTS, AND MAKING EYE CONTACT WITH OTHER DRIVERS OR PEDESTRIANS TO ENSURE THEY ARE AWARE OF YOUR PRESENCE AND INTENTIONS.

## IMPLEMENTING THE SMITH SYSTEM IN DAILY DRIVING

TO EFFECTIVELY USE THE SMITH SYSTEM PRINCIPLES IN DAILY DRIVING, DRIVERS SHOULD ACTIVELY PRACTICE THESE CONCEPTS EVERY TIME THEY GET BEHIND THE WHEEL.

## PRACTICAL TIPS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- **PRACTICE DEFENSIVE DRIVING:** ALWAYS BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS AND ANTICIPATE THE ACTIONS OF OTHER DRIVERS. THIS WILL HELP YOU REACT MORE QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY.
- **REGULARLY CHECK YOUR MIRRORS:** MAKE IT A HABIT TO CHECK YOUR MIRRORS EVERY 5-10 SECONDS. THIS PRACTICE WILL HELP YOU STAY INFORMED ABOUT THE VEHICLES AROUND YOU.
- **USE TURN SIGNALS:** ALWAYS SIGNAL YOUR INTENTIONS TO OTHER ROAD USERS. THIS SIMPLE ACT CAN PREVENT MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND ACCIDENTS.
- **MAINTAIN SAFE FOLLOWING DISTANCES:** KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE BETWEEN YOU AND THE VEHICLE IN FRONT OF YOU. THIS WILL GIVE YOU TIME TO REACT IF THEY SUDDENLY STOP.
- **STAY CALM AND FOCUSED:** AVOID DISTRACTIONS SUCH AS USING YOUR PHONE OR EATING WHILE DRIVING. STAYING FOCUSED HELPS YOU ADHERE TO THE SMITH SYSTEM PRINCIPLES.

## CONCLUSION

THE SMITH SYSTEM IS AN INVALUABLE TOOL FOR DRIVERS LOOKING TO ENHANCE THEIR SAFETY ON THE ROAD. BY ADOPTING THE FIVE KEYS TO DEFENSIVE DRIVING AND REINFORCING THESE CONCEPTS THROUGH QUIZZES, DRIVERS CAN SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE THEIR RISK OF ACCIDENTS. UNDERSTANDING AND APPLYING THE PRINCIPLES OF THE SMITH SYSTEM NOT ONLY FOSTERS A SAFER DRIVING ENVIRONMENT BUT ALSO BUILDS CONFIDENCE IN ONE'S DRIVING ABILITIES. THE QUIZ AND ANSWER KEY PROVIDED IN THIS ARTICLE SERVE AS A STARTING POINT FOR DRIVERS TO ASSESS THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND COMMITMENT TO SAFE DRIVING PRACTICES. WHETHER YOU ARE A NEW DRIVER OR AN EXPERIENCED ONE, INTEGRATING THE SMITH SYSTEM INTO YOUR DRIVING HABITS CAN MAKE A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN YOUR OVERALL SAFETY ON THE ROAD.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### WHAT IS THE SMITH SYSTEM IN DRIVING EDUCATION?

THE SMITH SYSTEM IS A DEFENSIVE DRIVING STRATEGY THAT EMPHASIZES FIVE KEY PRINCIPLES TO HELP DRIVERS ANTICIPATE AND RESPOND TO POTENTIAL HAZARDS ON THE ROAD.

## WHAT ARE THE FIVE KEYS OF THE SMITH SYSTEM?

THE FIVE KEYS ARE: AIM HIGH IN STEERING, GET THE BIG PICTURE, KEEP YOUR EYES MOVING, LEAVE YOURSELF AN OUT, AND MAKE SURE THEY SEE YOU.

## HOW DOES 'AIM HIGH IN STEERING' BENEFIT DRIVERS?

AIMING HIGH IN STEERING ENCOURAGES DRIVERS TO LOOK FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD, WHICH HELPS THEM ANTICIPATE POTENTIAL HAZARDS AND MAKE BETTER DRIVING DECISIONS.

## WHAT DOES 'GET THE BIG PICTURE' MEAN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SMITH SYSTEM?

GETTING THE BIG PICTURE INVOLVES BEING AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS, INCLUDING OTHER VEHICLES, PEDESTRIANS, AND ROAD CONDITIONS, TO MAKE INFORMED DRIVING CHOICES.

## WHY IS 'KEEP YOUR EYES MOVING' IMPORTANT WHILE DRIVING?

KEEPING YOUR EYES MOVING HELPS PREVENT FIXATION ON ONE OBJECT, ALLOWING DRIVERS TO REMAIN AWARE OF THEIR SURROUNDINGS AND TO SPOT POTENTIAL DANGERS.

## WHAT DOES 'LEAVE YOURSELF AN OUT' IMPLY FOR DRIVERS?

LEAVING YOURSELF AN OUT MEANS MAINTAINING A SAFE DISTANCE FROM OTHER VEHICLES AND HAVING AN ESCAPE PLAN IN CASE OF SUDDEN STOPS OR EMERGENCIES.

## HOW CAN 'MAKE SURE THEY SEE YOU' IMPROVE SAFETY ON THE ROAD?

MAKING SURE OTHERS SEE YOU INVOLVES USING SIGNALS, HEADLIGHTS, AND ENSURING YOUR VEHICLE IS VISIBLE, WHICH HELPS PREVENT ACCIDENTS CAUSED BY MISCOMMUNICATION.

## WHERE CAN I FIND THE ANSWER KEY FOR THE SMITH SYSTEM ON ROAD QUIZ?

THE ANSWER KEY FOR THE SMITH SYSTEM ON ROAD QUIZ CAN TYPICALLY BE FOUND IN DRIVING EDUCATION MATERIALS, OFFICIAL SMITH SYSTEM TRAINING RESOURCES, OR BY CONTACTING DRIVING SCHOOLS THAT OFFER THE CURRICULUM.

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