How to Prepare for the Driving Test

ALMOST EVERYONE takes the state drive test too lightly. It is VERY comprehensive! As an examiner I always ask the driver, “ Have you been practicing? Have you prepared for today’s test?” and I frequently hear… “I’ve been driving a lot on the highway” or “ Nope, I’ve got this!” There’s where I shake my head and want to say “This isn’t going to be your day. But I don’t. Prepare and you will pass.

You should know that those testing start out with 100 points. During the test, points are deducted at varying rates of 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8 and 10 points. At the end of the test those with 75 or more points successfully pass.

In addition there are VIOLATIONS OF LAW AND DANGEROUS ACTS that a test taker might do that become what is consider AUTOMATIC FAILS. When one of these occur, the test stops immediately. I’d study these. <https://www.certifieddrivingschool.com/pdfs/DrivingTestAutomaticDisqualifications.pdf>

Points are DEDUCTED depending on how you:

1. Prepare the car to drive away
2. Parallel Park Can’t touch cones, drive up on curb, be within 18” from the curb, signal coming in and out, use mirrors and look thoroughly when leaving.
3. Park on a hill. Signal, turn steering wheel properly, anchor tire to curb, use parking brake, be within 18” of curb, use “Park”, signal, use mirrors and look when leaving.
4. Use the transmission. Are you always in the right gear?
5. Use the brakes. Use the parking brake, turn it off, make smooth stops, make unnecessary stops.
6. Control Speed properly. Not faster than posted speed, not 6 mph over, not 6 mph under.
7. Choose appropriate “gap” when entering traffic, didn’t refuse that gap or be aggressive.
8. Is the driver alert.? Hands on wheel, paying attention to traffic controls and other drivers.
9. Use Right of Way. Give and take right of way according to rules in driving manual. Aggressive or failed to take ROW?
10. Stops. Right place, complete stop.
11. Lights and Signs. Proper usage
12. Signals. Signal when appropriate, do so correctly.
13. Correct Lane Usage. Drives in correct lane without cutting across other lane, being wide when turning, uses closest lane, no weaving side to side.
14. Observation. Driver Turns head and looks down each and every intersecting road for possible t-bone danger, signals, uses mirrors and looks over shoulder in correct direction when changing lanes EVEN GOING INTO TURNING LANES! 10 PT penalty each offense!
15. Correct final park. Park between lines without hitting curb.

Also enclosed in this email is a link to the 2023 Driving Manual. It is in your best interest to review this publication.

Good luck on your test!

Larry