



What You Should Know About Taking the Pennsylvania Driver's License Test

When you are going for your exam, remember to RELAX and trust you will pass the test. Having a good attitude and positive outlook about the test and the examiner will help you succeed. If for any reason the exam ends unsuccessfully, it's not the end of the world. You can take it again! Most students who are unsuccessful are nervous and/or too excited. Being nervous or having a bad attitude will set you up for failure. Think positively. The test examiners are there to help you pass the exam, they are genuine people who follow all and adhere to all PennDOT rules and guidelines. Their job is to be sure you are a safe driver. If you are a safe driver and have executed proper safe driving skills, you will pass.

Make sure to have the following:

- Your VALID PA Learner's Permit.
 - Please review all of the information on your PA Learner's Permit for accuracy. Make sure you are eligible to take the exam, that your permit is still valid and not expired, the permit is clearly legible and not laminated, that tape has not been applied to the front of the permit, and that you have the most recently issued permit with you. If you arrive at a testing center for an exam and the information on your permit is not correct, you are not eligible, the permit is expired, the permit is illegible or torn/ripped in a manner that has caused illegibility, the permit has been laminated or tape has been applied to the front, or it is not the most recently issued permit the examiner will not be able to exam you and a cancellation fee will apply
- A parent/guardian or a licensed driver over the age of 21 with a VALID Driver's License.
 - Please note: Camera Cards are NOT ACCEPTED as per PennDOT
 - Please note: If your parent/guardian will not be with you at the time of the exam, PennDOT requires the DL-180C – 65 Hour Parent or Guardian Certification Form which must be signed by a parent/guardian and then notarized.
 - *The DL-180C form is available on our website under the "resources" page.*

If you are using your own vehicle, you will also need to have:

- The valid registration card for the vehicle you will be driving during the test.
- The valid insurance card for the vehicle you will be driving during the test.
- Compare the Vehicle Identification number on each to assure they are exact. If the insurance card is different contact them immediately.
- **Check to be sure your inspection is current and that your headlights, high beams, all turn signals, hazard lights and brake lights are in working order.**

Remember you cannot move the automobile without a licensed driver over the age of 21 in it.



The PA Driver's License Skills Test

Parallel Park: The first thing you will be asked to do is demonstrate your knowledge of the vehicle's controls. You will be asked to turn on the headlights, high beams, L/R turn signals, four-way flashers (hazard lights), windshield wipers, and sound the horn. Rear hazard lights, L/R turn signals and brake lights will also be checked. The examiner will then ask you to locate the front and rear defrosters and apply the emergency brake. If any of these controls are inoperable, you will not be permitted to use that vehicle for the test. Failure to operate any of the controls will result in a fault value.

Parallel Park: You must park within the 8' X 24' space marked with posts, cones, or barrels. You have 1 attempt but are allotted 3 reverse and 3 forward maneuvers to park the vehicle completely inside the space. The tires must be totally inside the white line, upon completion if any of the tires are on the line the exam will end unsuccessfully as per PennDOT's rules and guidelines. You may not touch the cones on the way in or the way out of the parallel parking space. You may touch the curb but may not hit it forcefully or encroach on it. When exiting the area, you have unrestricted adjustments. Tapping any of the markers will also result in an unsuccessful exam. Everything is done with practical conditions in mind; therefore, you must use your turn signals as you go into and out of parallel parking, in addition, to looking for traffic coming out of parking. If the attempt at parallel parking is unsuccessful, the test will end as per PennDOT's rules and guidelines.

Road Test: You will then be directed onto the road. Remember, the examiner can only give you directions, they cannot tell you specifically what to do.

Things to Remember

- The entire test only takes approximately 15 minutes.
- The examiner will test you on basic driving skills.
- The test is on main roads.
- Pay attention to the speed limit.
- Stop prior to the stop line or stop sign. The stop line overrides the stop sign therefore if there is a stop line you must stop before the stop line.
- Make full stops, making sure the odometer reads "0", you will feel the vehicle rock back.
 - Look left, right, left and glance right again before pulling out.
- As you enter the intersections be sure to check left, right, left to observe the traffic around you.
 - Physically move your head so that it is visible that you are looking both ways.
- Steering wheel hand placement should be at 10 and 2 or 9 and 3.
 - Make sure both hands are on the steering wheel, NO one handed steering.
 - You may use the hand over hand technique or the shuffle technique.
- Make sure you stay in your lane.
- Don't cut turns short or wide.
- Always use your turn signals.
- Avoid hitting any curbs.

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