The National Driving Test
Hosted by Christopher Reeves

Objectives

• To stimulate knowledge of defensive driving techniques, rules of the road, basic mechanical know-how, and handling “the unexpected.”

• To make viewers aware of the hazards of operating a motor vehicle and the technique for safe, defensive driving.

• To review the staggering statistics of driving accidents.
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Synopsis

There are over 164 million drivers in America. Each year there are over 2 million disabling injuries and close to 50,000 deaths resulting from traffic accidents. Actor Christopher Reeve takes viewers through the National Driving Test which tests and sharpens various aspects of driving rules, techniques and situations. Other celebrity participants in this video are actors Lorenzo Lamas, Meredith Baxter Birney, Susan Ruttan, Perry King, and Sara Gilbert along with race car driver Al Unser, Mr. And Olympic Gold Medalist Bruce Jenner.

Professional drivers are used in all of the driving scenes which were filmed throughout Southern California. Viewers will see, in a dramatic format, the consequences of an incorrect judgment or action in real driving situations.
The National Driving Test

(25 questions/100 points)

Part I: Good Defense

1. There is an oncoming car in your lane, what should you do? (4 points)
   A. Turn quickly into the left lane.
   B. Slow down and move to the right.
   C. Stay in your lane and maintain your speed.
   D. Stop immediately in your lane.

(The correct answer is “B”. Slowing down helps maintain control. Move to the right and keep moving to avoid a collision.)

2. Driving through a blind intersection, you collide with another vehicle that crossed in front of you. How could you have avoided the collision? (4 points)
   A. Turned sharply to the left
   B. Sounded your horn as you approached the intersection.
   C. Braked and then kept your foot over the brake pedal as you approached the intersection.
   D. There was nothing you could have done to avoid it.

(The correct answer is “C”. Slow down at a blind intersection, that is, one with no marked stop signs. Covering the brake while traveling 30 mph lets you stop 20-25 feet sooner.)

3. You’re on a two-lane road when the car in front of you stops suddenly, and you run into it. How could you have avoided this collision? (4 points)
   A. Looked further down the road.
   B. Left more distance between your car and the car in front of you.
   C. Stepped on your brake harder.
   D. Watched the brake lights of the car ahead.

(The correct answer is “B”. Always look 12-15 seconds ahead, about the distance of a city block. A good method
to use is the 2-Second Rule. Watch the vehicle in front of you pass a fixed object, such as a telephone pole, and count one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two. If your car passes before you finish counting then you’re driving too close.)

4. You’re driving at night and a car is coming towards you in the other lane with its high beams on. You’ve already tried to signal by using your headlights but have gotten no response. What you should do now is turn on your high beams to counteract glare to help you see the roadway. TRUE or FALSE? (4 points.)

(The correct answer is “FALSE.” In most states it is illegal to use high beams within 500 feet of on-coming cars. The common practice is to flash high beams, but it’s dangerous to leave high beams on. It blinds on-coming vehicles and doubles the danger.)

5. On a multi-lane highway the car overtaking you appears out of control. The best course of action is to stay in your lane and maintain your speed. TRUE or FALSE? (4 points.)

(The correct answer is “FALSE.” If safe, pull into another lane or pull off the road and stop to get as far away from the car as possible.)

**Part II: Rules of the Road**

6. What was the last road sign you saw during this video sequence? (4 points)

(The correct answer is “School Xing.” 80% of all drivers could not remember the road sign.)

7. Students must identify and define each of the eight signs presented in this scene. (1/2 point each.)

(Slippery When Wet/Red Light-Green Arrow/No “U” turn/Road Narrows/Merge/Flashing Red Light/Wrong Way/Workers Ahead)
8. The lane on the left is marked by a solid and broken yellow line. What is this lane for? (4 points.)
   A. Passing other cars.
   B. Left turns.
   C. Driving around to avoid congestion.
   D. Momentary stops.

(The correct answer is “B.” Beginning or ending left turns. Some states allow “U” turns, check with each state to be sure.)

9. You’re approaching a school bus with its red lights flashing. What should you do? (4 points.)
   A. Come to a complete stop, then continue carefully.
   B. Come to a complete stop and wait to move until the lights are no longer flashing and the bus is actually moving.
   C. Slow down and pass the bus carefully.
   D. Come to a complete stop only if you see kids around.

(The correct answer is “B.” In most states you don’t have to stop if you’re driving on the opposite side of a divided highway. Always be careful because you may not see kids getting on or off the bus.)

10. Refer to the video for the corresponding scenes to this question. (4 parts, 1 point each.)

   A. At a four-way stop, cars “A” and “B” arrive at the same time. Which car should yield to the other?

   (Car “A” should yield to car “B.” A car arriving first has the right of way.)

   B. Two cars facing each other at an intersection are both turning onto the same street. Which car should yield?

   (Car “A” should yield. Cars making left turns need to yield to all on-coming traffic.)
C. A car approaches an unregulated intersection where a pedestrian starts to cross the street with no marked crosswalk. Who should yield the right of way?

(The car should yield to the pedestrian at any intersection, even if there is no marked crosswalk.)

D. Car “A” is about to make a right hand turn from a driveway as car “B” approaches in the same lane. Who should yield?

(Car “A” should yield. Cars entering the roadway should always yield to those already on the road.)

TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE- 40

Part III: The Driving Environment

11. You’re driving down the street, and everything is fine. You turn the corner and “bang” you’re blinded by the glare of the sun. Name three things you should do as a driver to minimize sun glare.

(Make sure your windshield is clean inside and out; adjust the sun visor, but don’t block your view of the road; wear sun glasses—polarizing gray lenses are most effective.)

3 correct answers=4 points
2 correct answers=2 points
1 correct answer=1 point

12. When do you think the road is slickest during a rainfall? (4 points.)
A. Anytime it is raining.
B. During the first minutes of rain.
C. 30 minutes after the rain stops.
D. Toward the end of the storm.
(The correct answer is “B.” Oil on the road, which is lighter than water floats to the surface and creates a thin, slippery road. If it rains hard enough, the oil gets washed away.)

13. If your car goes into a slid, you should (4 points)
   A. Take your foot off the accelerator.
   B. Keep your foot off the brake so they won’t lock up.
   C. Steer the vehicle in the direction of the skid.
   D. All of the above.

The correct answer is “D.” After the car is in control, accelerate gently to get back to a normal situation.)

14. Under what conditions could you get a ticket for driving the posted speed limit? (4 points.)
   A. During bad weather conditions.
   B. In heavy traffic.
   C. In a residential zone where children are playing in the street.
   D. All of the above.

(The correct answer is “D.” This falls under the Basic Speed Law which says that you must slow down if conditions make it unsafe to drive the posted speed limit. Use common sense.)

15. When driving in fog you should always use your high beams. TRUE or FALSE? (4 points.)

(The correct answer is “FALSE.” Always use low beams in fog. The moisture in the fog reflects light back to you.)

TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE - 60

Part IV: The Unexpected

16. You’re driving on a downhill slope approaching a stop sign when you step on the brakes-they fail. What’s the first thing you should do? (4 points)
A. Shift your car into a lower gear.
B. Apply the emergency brake.
C. Pump your brake pedal and try to build pressure.
D. If possible, steer off the road to the right to a clear area.

(The correct answer is “C.” If brakes fail, pump the brake pedal to try to build up pressure, there still may be enough pressure, so try this first. Next, shift into a lower gear, let the engine slow the car down, the parking brake is for the final part of the stop. Apply gently so that the brakes won’t lock.)

17. You’re driving along at 45 mph and suddenly your right wheels drop off the side of the pavement. What should you do? (4 points.)
   A. Slow gradually before turning back onto the pavement.
   B. Turn back onto the pavement at once.
   C. Drive onto the shoulder and stop.
   D. Steer straight ahead and speed up to gain maximum control of your vehicle.

(The correct answer is “A.” Get a firm grip on the steering wheel. When it is safe and your speed is under control, turn the steering wheel quickly about 1/4 turn to the left.)

18. While driving down the street, you take your foot off the accelerator to brake and find that the accelerator is stuck. After tapping the gas pedal to try and free it which of the following should you never do? (4 points.)
   A. Turn off the ignition.
   B. Immediately put your car in neutral and brake.
   C. Reach down and try to pull the gas pedal up with your hand.
   D. None of the above.

(The correct answer is “C.” This blocks your vision of the roadway. If tapping the accelerator doesn’t work then shift the car into neutral and apply brakes. Drive off the road if possible or as far to the right side as you can. Be careful if you turn off the ignition so that you don’t turn the key so far that it locks the steering wheel.)
Part V: Under the Hood

19. Name four fluids that should be checked regularly and replaced when necessary (there are seven). (1 point each, up to 4 fluids.)

(Oil, automatic transmission fluid, brake fluid, radiator coolant/and or water, battery water, windshield washer fluid, steering fluid.)

If you see these fluids dripping from underneath your car or on your driveway you could have a problem:
Red fluid- automatic transmission fluid
Green fluid- coolant
Brown fluid- dirty oil
“clear” fluid- clean oil
reddish/brown fluid- steering fluid

19. Having under-inflated tires on a dry road gives you: (4 points)
   A. Better control of steering and braking.
   B. More traction.
   C. Less control of steering and braking.
   D. Better gas mileage.

(The correct answer is “C.”)

Thirty-four states and the District of Columbia have mandatory safety belt laws. Before you put the key in the ignition, you have to buckle up.

21 (1 point each)
   A. Wearing a safety belt gives you a greater chance of escaping a burning or submerged vehicle.
      TRUE or FALSE?

(The correct answer is “TRUE.” A safety belt will increase your chance of being conscious and in position to either get out of the car or control it.)
B. Safety belts reduce injuries only in collisions above 15 mph.  TRUE or FALSE?

(The correct answer is “FALSE.” A driver’s head can hit the dashboard, windshield, or steering wheel at speeds as low as 5 mph.)

C. Safety belts are more effective on the highway than for local street driving.  TRUE or FALSE?

(The correct answer is “FALSE.” 80% of accidents occur at speeds of 40 mph or less.)

D. The safest place for your baby is in an infant seat in the back seat facing backward.  TRUE or FALSE?

(The correct answer is “TRUE.” Make sure you secure the infant seat with a safety belt. Larger babies or toddlers weighing up to 40 pounds can be in the forward facing toddler seats with the safety belt attached. When the child reaches the point where his head clears the back seat, then use the regular safety belt. Just be sure that the shoulder strap doesn’t cut across his heck. The lap belt should be tight across the hips, not the stomach. The shoulder strap should be comfortable but snug. Even in new cars with automatic safety belts you still have to buckle the lap belt to be fully protected.)

22. Adjusting your car mirrors eliminates all the blind spots.  TRUE or FALSE? (4 points.)

(The correct answer is “FALSE.” Even with mirrors properly adjusted there are still blind spots. If you can’t see the rear view mirror of the car you are passing or overtaking, then he can’t see you either.)

**TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS 88**

23. (2 points each)

A. The average mixed drink has a stronger effect on a person than a glass of wine or a mug of beer.  TRUE or FALSE?
(The correct answer is “FALSE.” 1 ounce of whiskey, 5 ounces of wine, and 12 ounces of beer all contain the same alcohol content.)

**B. Drinking black coffee, performing strenuous exercise, or taking a cold shower reduces the effects of alcohol. TRUE or FALSE?**

(The correct answer is “FALSE.” The only way to reduce the effects of alcohol is to stop drinking and wait.)

24. Over-the-counter medication can affect one’s driving ability. TRUE or FALSE? (4 points)

(The correct answer is “TRUE.” Many over-the-counter medications such as cold medicine, allergy pills, cough medicines and others affect one’s driving ability. Combined with alcohol, the effects can multiply. DO NOT DRIVE OR OPERATE MACHINERY WHILE TAKING THIS MEDICINE AS IT MAY CAUSE DROWSINESS.)

25. As we get older, which ability is usually the first to deteriorate? (4 points)
   A. Reaction time.
   B. Sense of direction
   C. Hearing
   D. Night vision

(The correct answer is “D.” Night vision deteriorates first and fastest and at a noticeable difference after the age of 40. The video gives a night vision test on screen.)

**DRIVING TEST SCORES**

90-99 POINTS  Better than average. But it takes better than average skills to survive on today’s highways.

82-89 POINTS  Average. An average driver makes two mistakes for each mile he or she drives.

76-81 POINTS  A little below average.

76-under POINTS Below average. Think about your driving. You may want to take a defensive driving course.
Length
29 Minutes

Subject areas
Driver Education, Safety

Audience levels
Senior High-Adult

Catalog number
#8323-EN-VID-SG

Related Titles in the AIMS Collection
#8285-EN-VID-SG: Habit Defense: Covering the Brake
#8403-EN-VID-SG: Winter Driving Tactics Update
#8313-EN-VID-SG: Driving Training: Controlling Auto Skids
#8189-EN-VID-SG: City Driving Tactics (2nd edition)

Annotation
Ten major safety organizations contributed to this test of what every responsible driver should know. Twenty-five dramatized questions, introduced by popular television and sports personalities, probe a wide range of driving rules and tactics. The test includes questions on defensive driving techniques, rules of the road, basic car maintenance, breakdowns, and the effects of alcohol and drugs on a driver’s reaction time. From Blanki and Bodi Productions.