

Driver's Education Study Guide

Chapter 1: New Jersey Driver License System

- A lost or stolen Driver's license, permit, or non-driver ID, should be reported to the police.
- Under the GDL program, after passing the road test, a Probationary Driver is probationary for 1 year.
- A Special Learner's Permit may be purchased by an approved instructor when the applicant is at least 16 years old, has a signed consent form from a parent or guardian and is enrolled in an approved driving school.
- Under GDL restrictions the holder of a Probationary Driver License (under 21 yrs. old) is limited to dependents and one additional person, unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- The holder of a GDL Permit or Probationary Driver's License is not permitted to use handheld or hands-free interactive devices, wireless communication devices, cell phones, GPS or handheld video games while driving.
- The fine for violating any GDL Permit or Probationary License restrictions is \$100.
- The holder of a validated GDL Special Learner Permit may not drive between the hours of 11:01PM and 5:00AM.
- The holder of a validated GDL Permit (over 21 yrs. old) is not restricted to specific driving hours.
- At age 18 the holder of a GDL Permit is eligible to obtain a Basic Driver's License if they have completed all of the Probationary requirements without and suspensions or postponements.
- Any vehicle operated by a GDL driver under 21 yrs of age must display 1 reflective red decal on the front and rear license plate.
- While practicing driving, a holder of a Special Permit must be accompanied by an adult supervising driver, in the front seat, at least 21 years of age with a minimum of three years driving experience, have a validated special permit, and wear a seatbelt.
- Before practicing driving can begin, in addition to a valid registration and valid insurance card the GDL driver must also have a validated permit.
- Getting a driver's license illegally may result in a fine of \$250-\$500 and/or imprisonment of up to 30-90 days.
- The holder of a GDL Special Learner's Permit or Examination Permit is limited to passenger restrictions of any parents/guardian or dependant of the special permit holder and one additional passenger.
- Before practicing driving is permitted, the permit holder must pass the required MVC's Knowledge test and vision exam, have a validated permit and obtain two red reflective decals, one for each license plate.
- The driving hours of a GDL Examination Permit or Probationary License holder (under 21 yrs. old) are restricted to 5:01AM to 11:00PM.
- In order to obtain a Probationary License, the holder of a validated GDL Special Learners or Examination Permit (under 21 yrs. old) must pass a knowledge, vision and road test, they must be at least 17 years old and have completed a minimum of 6 months of supervised driving.

- During the road test, the applicant may be tested on stopping and turning, nearing corners and intersections, and steering properly.
- During the probationary period after receiving a special permit or examination permit, a motorist must enroll in a Probationary Driver Program when convicted of 2 or more moving violations totaling 4 or more points.
- Driving privileges will be postponed or suspended to any unlicensed person (13-21 yrs. old) convicted of graffiti, setting false alarms and buying alcoholic beverages.
- Upon completion of the GDL requirements (one year of supervised driving) the holder of the Probationary License must visit an MVC agency to obtain an unrestricted Basic License.
- At the time of your road test, you must present a valid vehicle registration, a valid examination permit, and a valid insurance ID card.
- Under State Law, the driver and all passengers are required to wear seatbelts.
- A supervising driver for the holder of a validated GDL permit must be 21 years or older, must be a New Jersey licensed driver seated in the front seat, and must be a licensed driver for a minimum of three years.
- In addition to a valid registration and insurance card, a motorist operating a motor vehicle in New Jersey must carry a validated permit and a probationary or basic license pertaining to the vehicle being driven.
- The driver is responsible for all passengers under 18 years of age.

Chapter 2: New Jersey Driver Testing

- An examiner must have access to a brake during a road test.
- Altering a driver license or showing one may result in a fine, a suspension and up to six months imprisonment

Chapter 3: Driver Safety and the Rules of the Road

- Whenever possible, child safety seats should be placed in the rear seat.
- An exhaust leak or blocked tailpipe and running the engine in an enclosed space such as a garage could potentially cause dangerous levels of carbon monoxide to accumulate inside a vehicle.
- Nausea and vomiting are possible symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning.
- If someone is suspected of suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning, it is important that you immediately remove them from the source of carbon monoxide and call 911.
- The meaning of a hand signal when the drivers' hand and arm are downward is stop.
- The meaning of a hand signal when the drivers' hand and arm are straight out is a left turn.
- In the event of a crash safety belts are important because they increase your chance of surviving an accident, being thrown from a vehicle and sliding off the seat.
- When parking uphill with the curb on your right, your vehicle's tires should be turned away from the curb.
- When parking downhill and the curb is on your right you should turn the wheels towards the curb.
- The most common type of parking on city streets and one that takes the most practice for a new motorist is parallel parking.
- If a motorist is passing you, slow down to make it easier to pass you.

Chapter 4: Safe Driving Rules and Regulations

- The NJ speed limit in a residential or business district is 25 MPH.
- The NJ speed limit in a school zone is 25 MPH.
- You cannot park in front of a fire hydrant, bus stop zone, or in front of a driveway.

- You may not park within 10 feet of a fire hydrant.
- You may not park within 50 feet of a stop sign.
- You may not park within 25 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection.
- Acceleration lane is the extra lane on a highway entrance.
- Deceleration lane is the extra lane on a highway exit.
- Motorists are subject to double fines for any motor vehicle violations committed on a Safe Corridor and/or construction or work area.
- When it's legal to turn right on red you must make a full stop and check traffic.
- Headlights must be used between ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise, anytime in bad weather when visibility is less than 500 feet and when your wipers are on.
- During daylight hours with rain, snow or ice, motorist must turn on wipers and headlights.
- When driving in reverse you should turn your head and body to the right looking through the back window.
- A person driving on private or public property to avoid traffic sign or signal will receive a 2 point moving violation.
- Signals should be used when turning, changing lanes, stopping or slowing down.
- Before turning you must signal at least 100 feet.
- You may pass on the right on a two lane roadway when the driver in front of you is turning left and there is sufficient room on the right to pass.
- To make a safe right turn, you should approach the intersection as far to the right at possible.
- If you are approaching a school bus and it shows a flashing red light you must stop.
- When a school bus has stopped directly in front of a school, a motorist may pass from either direction at a speed of no more than 10 MPH
- When approaching a railroad crossing with flashing lights, you must stop at least 15 feet from the crossing.
- The best way to take a curve is to slow down before entering the curve.
- If you miss your exit on the expressway you should go to the next exit.
- When making a left turn from a two-way road, onto a two-way road, you should approach the lane nearest to the center of the road.
- You should always yield to emergency vehicles, pedestrians, and all other vehicles already in the intersection.
- A motorist should always be prepared to yield to trains, buses, and postal vehicles.
- When approaching or nearing an uncontrolled intersection you should reduce speed and be ready to stop.
- At an uncontrolled intersection, as a general rule the vehicle to the left must yield to the vehicle on the right.
- Failure to stop for pedestrians in a crosswalk carries a fine of up to \$500, up to 25 days in jail, 6 month license suspension, 2 point and community service.
- Fines will be imposed to motorists failing to remove snow or ice from their vehicle, leaving a vehicle idling for more than 3 minutes and those who violate the "move over law"
- A motorist should never stop or park in front of a public or private driveway unless directed to do so by a police officer.
- Some measures a motorist must take in order to secure the safety of all pedestrians are yielding to the right-of-way in a crosswalk, being alert and obeying speed limits, and never pass another vehicle that has stopped to yield to pedestrians.

- Before entering an intersection and nearing a yellow or amber traffic signal, you should stop.
- As of March 1, 2008, motorists in New Jersey may not use a handheld cellular telephone while driving except for emergency situations such as, fire, traffic accidents, and medical emergency.
- If a motorist's vehicle becomes disabled he/she must pull off as far as possible onto the shoulder or the median.
- Police cars, fire trucks, ambulances, volunteer fire and rescue squad members responding to emergencies use sirens and red or blue flashing lights. When you see or hear these you must steer to the extreme right of the roadway and stop, letting them pass you.

Chapter 5: Defensive Driving

- After driving through a deep puddle of water pump your brakes to test them.
- Road surfaces are slipperiest during the first few minutes of rainfall.
- To avoid highway hypnosis you should avoid looking at any one thing for more than a few seconds.
- You can reduce your chances of being involved in an accident by knowing and using the standard collision prevention formula; be alert, be prepared, and act in time.
- The best way to talk to other drivers is to use your horn, lights and hand signals.
- To maintain a proper distance when driving, you should stay at least 3 seconds behind the vehicle in front of you.
- In city driving you should drive more slowly, watch for pedestrians and look at least 12 seconds ahead.
- On snow covered roads, a good rule is to maintain a following distance of six or more seconds.
- When driving around a curve, your vehicle will tend to keep going straight.
- To avoid hydroplaning and losing control of the vehicle on a wet road surface, you should slow down and drive on the highest point of the road.
- Driving at a speed of 35 MPH or more on wet roads can cause car to hydroplane.
- The braking distance on a dry surface when traveling at 60 MPH is 300 feet.
- When driving at night, be sure that you can stop within the distance you can see ahead.
- A motorist should be cautious in farm country or in open land because of unexpected crossing of livestock and/or deer.
- The bright beam lights are used for open country driving and when there is no traffic in sight.
- If you have a flat tire or a blowout, slow down gradually letting the car coast to a stop, grip the wheel firmly and take your foot off the pedals.
- To avoid a spin while in a skid you turn the wheel in the direction that the rear of the car is skidding.
- If you go into a skid, take your foot off the gas pedal.
- If your brakes fail, shift to a lower gear and pump them.
- If the gas pedal sticks you should keep your eyes on the road, shift to neutral and steer the vehicle off the roadway.
- Adjusting the radio or CD player, eating, and using a cellular phone or any other electronic device could all lead to distracted driving.
- In extreme cases, an aggressive driver may cause an accident.
- Improper or erratic traffic lane changes, failing to yield to the right of way, and following another vehicle too closely are all possible signs of an aggressive driver.

- A motorist should increase the following distance behind a large vehicle so its driver can see the motorist's vehicle in the rearview mirror.
- Emotions can have a great effect on your driving: if you're angry or excited, you should give yourself time to cool off.
- If your wheels drift onto the shoulder of the road and you want to return to the paved road, you should slow down and regain control.
- A motorist that's sleep deprived, a motorist driving alone, and young people are all motorists at risk for drowsy driving.

Chapter 6: Drinking, Drugs, and Health

- BAC slightly above .05% doubles your chance of an accident.
- BAC at .10% increases your chances of an accident by 6 times.
- BAC of .15% increases your chances of an accident by 25 times.
- Time is the only thing that will sober up a drunk person.
- Reduce your chances of an alcohol related accident--do not drink and drive
- BAC is determined by the amount you drink, your weight, and how quickly drinks are consumed.
- After 2-4 drinks, alcohol begins to impair your reaction time, coordination, balance, vision, and judgement.
- If under 21, New Jersey Law states that you may be under the influence if your BAC is more than .01%
- Driving while under the influence of intoxicating beverages means a driver's senses and judgement are impaired by alcohol.
- Cold pills, tranquilizers and some prescription medication are all drugs that may affect basic driving skills.
- Driving while under the influence of intoxicating beverages means driving even if he driver has had 1 drink.
- Weaving, quick stops, and speeding are all signs of a driver under the influence.
- Operating under the influence of liquor/drugs and refusal to take a Breathalyzer test will result in an insurance surcharge.

Chapter 7: Driver Privileges & Penalties

- Implied consent law means when you operate a motor vehicle on NJ roads you have agreed to take a breath test following an arrest for a suspected drinking and driving offence.
- If a person leaves your home and gets into an accident you may be involved in a lawsuit.
- 12 ounces of beer = 5 ounces of wine = 1.5 ounces of 86 proof liquor.
- Refusal to take a breath test in NJ is equal to driving with a BAC of .10% and a MVC insurance surcharge of \$1000 per year for 3 years.
- After completing a MVC Driver Improvement Program, you will be on probation for a period of 1 year.
- If your driving privilege is suspended for a motor vehicle violation or any other violation you may not drive for any reason until the period of suspension ends and your license is restored.
- If you are involved in a motor vehicle accident that causes injury to another person while driving privileges are suspended you will be subject to fine, a continued suspension and potential jail sentence.
- A habitual offender is any motorist whose license has been suspended three times in three years.

- New Jersey law allows up to three points to be subtracted from a motorist's point total for every year that a motorist goes without a violation or suspensions although the point total will never be reduced below zero.
- Driving with an uninsured vehicle can result in fines, community service, and license and registration suspension and violation surcharge.
- Motorists who accumulate six or more points within three years are subject to a surcharge of \$150 for 6 points and \$25 for each additional point.

Chapter 8: Sharing the Road with Others

- When passing a large truck or bus, it's important to remember there are several no-zone (blind spots) in which the driver cannot see you.
- Trucks can take 25% longer to stop in adverse weather conditions.
- When sharing the road with large trucks or buses, you should give them more road space, leave more space when stopping behind them and maintain a consistent speed when you pass them.
- When driving or stopping behind a large truck or bus, you should leave enough space so that the truck driver can spot you in his/her rearview mirror.
- Under New Jersey Law, inline skaters, skateboarders, and bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as a moving motor vehicle.
- Under New Jersey Law, motorists signaling a right turn must yield to inline skaters and skateboarders, bicyclists and pedestrians.
- The penalty for a pedestrian under 17 who violates the pedestrian law (N.J.S.A. 39:4-203.3) is \$22

Chapter 9: Vehicle Information

- Every vehicle registered in NJ must have liability insurance.
- Old license plates should be turned into the MVC.
- Any address change must be reported within 1 week to the MVC.
- When you move into New Jersey from another state, you must have your vehicle inspected within 14 days after registering it.
- Except new vehicles, your car must be inspected at either a state inspection facility or a state licensed private inspection facility every two years.

Appendix: Driver Safety

- A diamond shaped sign is a warning sign.
- A triangular shaped sign is a yield sign.
- An eight sided sign means stop.
- A railroad crossing sign is black and yellow (circle).
- The order of colors on a traffic light hung vertically is: red, yellow, green.
- Crossing center lines on a two lane roadway for passing is legal when the broken line is on your side.
- Double solid lines in the center of the road means passing is prohibited.
- Dim your lights to low beams when a vehicle is approaching you or when you are behind other vehicles.