



CHAPTER 2

Getting Ready: Your State Driving Test

You will learn a great deal about driving that will help you with your state driving test. It is important that you know how to prepare yourself and your vehicle for the test. Knowing how to prepare will help you succeed.

LESSON ONE

Introducing Graduated Driver Licensing

LESSON TWO

Getting Ready for the Knowledge Test and the In-Vehicle Test

LESSON THREE

Getting the Vehicle Ready for the Test

LESSON FOUR

Taking the Final Test: The In-Vehicle Test

OBJECTIVES

1. Discuss the purpose of graduated driver licensing.
2. Name the three stages of the graduated licensing system.

KEY TERM

graduated driver licensing (GDL)

Introducing Graduated Driver Licensing

No matter how much you have practiced, you cannot go from being a **beginner** to a fully experienced, safe driver overnight. For **this reason**, some states are introducing a system called **graduated driver licensing (GDL)**. It is based on the idea that a teen with a new driver's license needs time and guidance to gain driving experience and skills in reduced-risk settings.

The Stages of the GDL System

In some states, a person will have full driving privileges as soon as he or she passes the driving tests. In states with a **GDL system**, newly licensed drivers will graduate from one licensing stage to the next as they achieve the goals at each level. AAA offers **guidelines to states setting up** a GDL system. Most **GDL systems** include three stages.

Stage 1: The Learner's Permit

The first stage in the GDL system lasts four to **six months**. The new driver practices **basic driving skills** and safe driving **practices** under totally supervised conditions.

TIPS

FOR NEW DRIVERS

Don't Rush Yourself

If your state has not implemented a graduated driver licensing system, you might want to consider creating a plan of your own based on the GDL recommendations in the lesson. For several months after you have received your license, continue to **practice driving** only with a licensed adult in the vehicle. Then drive unsupervised for another 50 hours, limiting your driving to the hours between 5 A.M. and midnight. Remember that when you are behind the wheel, you have assumed responsibility for yourself and for others. Take that responsibility seriously: Lives depend on it.

Recommendations for eligibility To qualify for Stage 1, the new driver should:

- be the minimum age required by the state.
- have a parent's written permission.
- have passed the state's vision and written knowledge tests.

Recommended components Stage 1 drivers should be:

- in possession of a learner's permit.
- supervised at all times by a licensed driver who is at least 21 years old.
- required to take a basic driver education course.
- provided with 30 to 50 hours of behind-the-wheel driving certified by a parent, guardian, or licensed instructor.

- required to remain free of any at-fault crashes or moving violations for at least six months before progressing to the next stage.
- penalized more for traffic violations than are experienced drivers.

Stage 2: Intermediate/Probationary License

During unsupervised, low-risk driving practice, the new driver is exposed to more demanding situations than those in Stage 1.

Recommendations for eligibility To qualify for Stage 2, the driver should:

- be at least the minimum age required by the state.
- have completed a minimum of four to six months of supervised driving.
- have successfully completed Stage 1.
- have passed the road test given by an approved agency.

Recommended components Stage 2 drivers should be:

- required to pass an advanced driver education course.
- required to complete 50 more hours of behind-the-wheel driving.
- restricted from driving between midnight and 5 A.M., unless accompanied by an adult who is at least 21 years old.
- required to remain free of any at-fault crashes or moving violations for at least 12 months or until age 18.
- penalized more for traffic infractions than are experienced drivers.

Stage 3: Full License

This license allows the driver unrestricted driving privileges.

Recommendations for eligibility To qualify for Stage 3, the driver should:

- be at least 18 years of age.
- have successfully completed Stage 2.
- have passed a final road test.

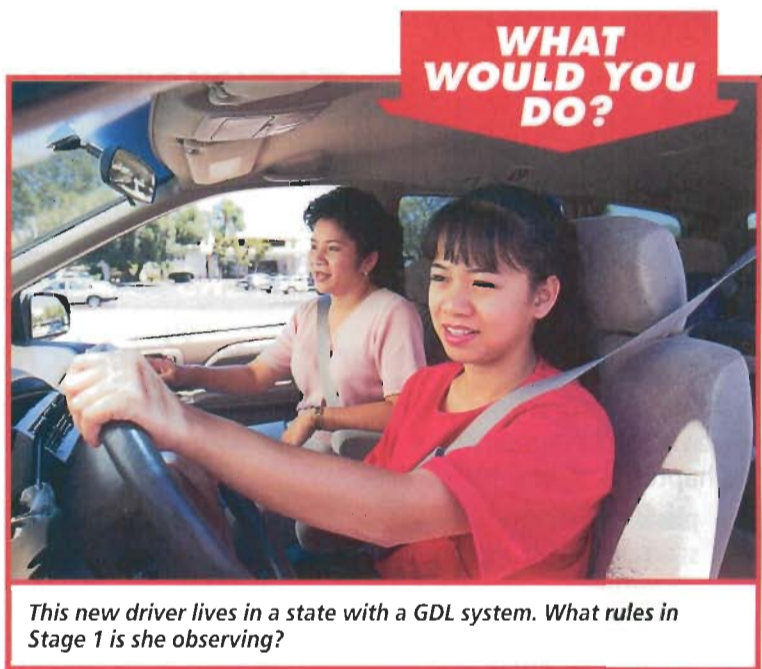
Additional recommendations for the GDL system include the mandatory use of seat belts and a limit on the number of passengers, which in no case should exceed the number of seat belts in the vehicle.

Lesson 1 Review

1. What is the purpose of graduated driver licensing?
2. What are the three stages of the GDL licensing system?

FYI

States with GDL laws have experienced crash and traffic violation reductions of 5 to 16 percent.



OBJECTIVES

1. Name four ways in which you can prepare yourself for the knowledge test, and describe how you would go about implementing each.
2. List three preparations you can make for the in-vehicle test, and explain how to carry out each of the preparations.

Getting Ready for the Knowledge Test and the In-Vehicle Test

In addition to a vision test, you must pass a knowledge or written test and a driving performance test. Application and testing procedures for obtaining a driver's license vary from state to state. To find out what the requirements are where you live, check your state driver's manual or ask your driver education instructor.

In a number of states, your driver education teacher will administer the in-vehicle performance test, or road test, **after you** have passed a knowledge test. In some states, your teacher will **arrange** for an examiner to come to your school to give the test. In both **of these** cases, you will take your in-vehicle performance test in the vehicle you've **been using** during the driver education course. In other states, you must **make your** own arrangements with the department of motor vehicles to take all the necessary tests.

How Can You Prepare for the Knowledge Test?

Getting ready to take the knowledge test for your driver's license is not much different from preparing for a test in school. Study the material in advance, be well rested when you take the test, and think carefully before answering the questions.

TIPS**FOR NEW DRIVERS*****Practicing for the In-Vehicle Test***

When practicing your driving, here are some of the **skills you** may need to demonstrate. You will learn about these skills in Chapters 8, 9, and 10:

- parallel parking
- starting and stopping smoothly
- shifting gears
- backing up safely
- turning
- passing
- following at a safe distance
- signaling
- executing turnabouts

Study Wisely

Your state driver's manual contains the information that you will need **in order to study** for the knowledge test. **Follow these guidelines** for studying the manual.

- Read one section at a time. Use a marker to **highlight important** information you think may be on the test, or keep a notebook in which you write this information.

- Reread the section and summarize it for yourself. Write your summary in your notebook.
- Study with someone else who is going to take the test, or ask a friend or family member to quiz you on information from the manual.
- Take the sample test, if there is one in your state's manual. If there is anything in the manual that you don't understand, ask your driver education instructor to explain it to you.
- Review the chapter and unit tests in this book. Look up the answers if you don't remember them.

Budget your study time. Don't wait until the last minute and then try to cram for the test. Figure out how much time you have to study. Then decide how much time you'll devote to studying each day or week, perhaps leaving additional study time just before you take the knowledge test.

Keep in mind that the real purpose of studying the driver's manual is not just to pass the test. Your true goal is to learn driving rules and safe practices so that you can be a responsible driver.

Get Yourself Ready Physically

Get a good night's sleep before the test. No matter how much you have learned, you'll never pass the test if you're too sleepy to think clearly.

Don't skip meals before taking the test. Eating right will keep your energy level high and help you focus your thoughts.

Bring the Necessary Papers

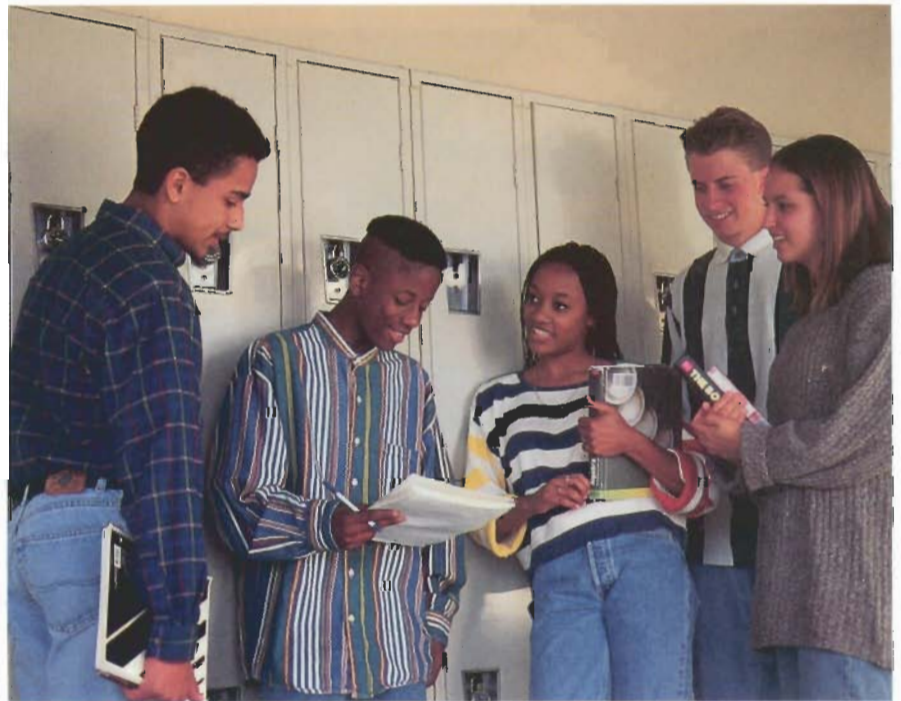
If you have to go to the department of motor vehicles office to take your test, you will have to bring several documents with you. You'll need proof of age and identity. The best proof of both is your birth certificate.

Some states require that you bring proof that you have satisfactorily completed a course in driver education if you are under age 18 or 19. In most cases, a parent or some other adult who has a driver's license will have to accompany you.

FYI

While most states still give road tests in actual traffic, some states do all their testing on closed courses. These tests usually emphasize parallel parking, turns, and turnabouts.

◆ *Before taking your knowledge test, ask a friend or family member to quiz you on the material in the manual.*



Check the driver's manual or call the department of motor vehicles beforehand to find out the specific documents your state requires. People who work for a state's department of motor vehicles usually allow no exceptions to the rules. If the manual says to bring your Social Security card with you, then be sure to do so. Failure to bring necessary documents may result in your not being able to take the test.

FYI

The first drivers' licenses in the United States were issued by the Board of Examiners of Operators of Automobiles in Chicago, Illinois, on July 6, 1899.

Stay Calm

As you prepare for the knowledge test and on the day that you actually take it, stay calm. Read each question carefully, and take time to think before selecting your answer. If you get stuck on a question, skip it and return to it later.

Don't let a tough question throw off your concentration. Just relax and keep going. Generally, there is no time limit on how long you have to complete the test (so long as it is before the department's closing time).

How Can You Prepare for the In-Vehicle Test?

To pass the in-vehicle or road test, you need to show the examiner that you have a working knowledge of the rules of the road and that you have mastered basic driving skills. As with most tests, the key to success is advance preparation.

◆ *Practice the maneuvers you find especially difficult, such as backing or three-point turns.*



Know What You Are Doing

Practice, practice, practice—that's the best advice for preparing for the in-vehicle test. The more hours you spend behind the wheel, the more skilled and confident you will become as a driver.

When you practice driving, ask the person you're with to point out any areas in which you might need improvement. Spend extra time perfecting any maneuvers you find difficult.

Be alert for road signs as you practice. Be sure you understand what each sign means and what procedures you should follow at each. Review your driver's manual if you're uncertain about any sign or traffic rule.

Remember, too, that driving is more than just a series of physical movements. Becoming a good driver means exhibiting sound judgment and decision-making skills. In other words, knowing how to make a left turn is important, but knowing when it is safe to make the turn is even more important.

If possible, practice driving in the same vehicle in which you will take your test. Ideally, this should also be the vehicle you'll be driving *after* you get your driver's license. At the very least, your practice vehicle should be similar to the one you'll be using. If, for example, you'll be using a stick shift on the day of the test, be sure to practice driving in a stick-shift vehicle.

Be Alert and Ready

Many of the same suggestions made earlier about preparing yourself for the knowledge test apply for the in-vehicle test. To be at your best, get a solid night's sleep before the day of the test, and don't skip meals before the test.

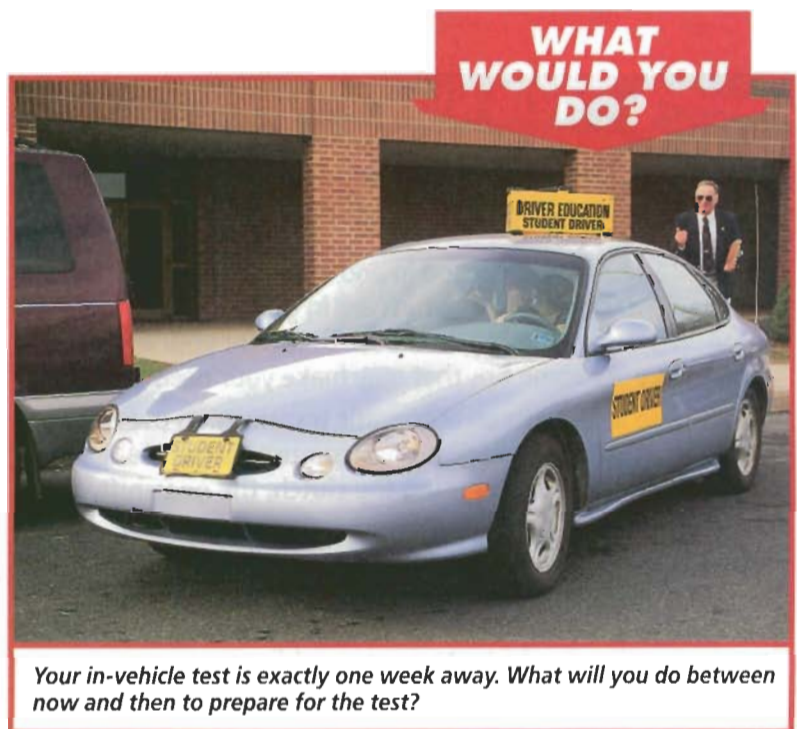
Bring What You Need

For the in-vehicle test, you will need certain documents. Your state may require you to present your valid driver's permit as well as proof of vehicle registration and adequate insurance for the vehicle you're driving. You may also need proof that the vehicle has been properly inspected and has passed an emissions test. Check your state driver's manual to learn what documents your state requires.

Also bring enough money or a check to pay the licensing fees, and any other items you may need, such as a seat or back cushion and your prescription glasses or sunglasses, if you need to wear them when you drive.

Lesson 2 Review

1. How can you plan to study for the knowledge test?
2. What preparations can you make for the in-vehicle test?



WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

DRIVER EDUCATION STUDENT DRIVER

STUDENT DRIVER

Your in-vehicle test is exactly one week away. What will you do between now and then to prepare for the test?

OBJECTIVES

1. Name two ways in which you can prepare your car for the in-vehicle test.
2. List the actions you should take before and on the day of the test.

Getting the Vehicle Ready for the Test

If you are not going to take your in-vehicle test in the school's driver-training car, you will have to provide the vehicle. Be sure the one you use is as ready for the test as you are.

How Can You Get the Test Vehicle Ready?

The vehicle you drive for your test should be in top condition. It should be clean inside and out. All windows should be in good condition, and the door handles should work properly. In addition, the vehicle should be in good mechanical condition. The last thing you need on the day of your test is a mechanical or other problem.

Choose Your Vehicle Wisely

If you have a choice of what vehicle to use for your test, choose one that is in good all-around condition and that you feel comfortable driving.

Remember that you may have to show proof that the vehicle is registered and insured and that it has been properly inspected and has passed an emissions test. Do *not* bring to the test a vehicle that:

- you have seldom or never driven.
- frequently stalls.
- restricts your ability to see.
- does not have safety belts.
- has muffler problems.
- you have difficulty getting into or out of.

TIPS**FOR NEW DRIVERS**

Choosing a Vehicle for the Test

Suppose you have practiced in and are equally comfortable driving two cars, both of which are in good mechanical condition. Which car should you choose to use for your in-vehicle test? Here are some tips that may make your decision easier.

- Choose a car with an automatic transmission over one with a manual transmission. Nervousness can make you have trouble coordinating the clutch, the gearshift, and the accelerator.
- Choose a smaller car over a larger car. Smaller cars are generally easier to maneuver.
- Choose a conservative, family-type car over a sports car or "souped-up" vehicle. Make a good first impression on the examiner.

Check Out the Vehicle in Advance

Before the day of the test, conduct basic predriving checks of the following items:

- defroster/defogger
- brakes
- clutch and gas pedals
- all lights
- horn
- fluid levels
- tire pressure
- windshield wipers and windshield washer fluid

By checking out the test vehicle in advance, you can make sure that whatever is not in good working order will be fixed in time for the test. Be sure you know where all the controls are and how to operate them.

On the day of the test:

- Clean the interior of the vehicle.
- Clean the windows.
- Adjust and clean the mirrors.
- Clean the lights.
- Verify that you have enough fuel.

Remove any obstructions from inside the car, such as packages or hanging ornaments. Be sure your vehicle's safety belts are working properly.

To review other suggestions for advance preparation of your vehicle, see Chapters 7 and 17.

Lesson 3 Review

1. Why is it important to check out your vehicle in advance of taking the test?
2. What predriving checks should you make on your vehicle before you take the test?



◆ *Be sure that your mirrors—inside and outside—are clean and that you adjust them properly.*

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Two photographs of cars are shown side-by-side. On the left is a red car, which appears to be a small hatchback. On the right is a blue car, which is a larger sedan. Both cars are parked outdoors.

Which car would you choose for your test next week? Explain your choice.

OBJECTIVES

1. Name at least four guidelines to keep in mind when taking the in-vehicle test.
2. Describe in detail what each guideline entails.

Taking the Final Test: The In-Vehicle Test

The big day has finally arrived: You're about to take the in-vehicle test for your driver's license. You've practiced driving for many hours, but you feel nervous just the same. You want to pass the test on your first try.

What Should You Do Once You Are Sitting Behind the Wheel?

The examiner who rides with you during your test will evaluate your skill at handling the vehicle as well as your ability to drive safely and responsibly. In most states, you will fail the test automatically if you violate a traffic law or commit a dangerous act.

Make All Necessary Adjustments First

Before you start the engine, recheck your vehicle to see if any adjustments are needed.

- Make sure your seat is adjusted so that you have a clear view of the road and can reach the accelerator and brake pedals comfortably. If you use a seat or back cushion, put it in place.

◆ *Concentrate on your driving and the examiner's instructions during the in-vehicle test.*



- Make sure your head restraint on the back of your seat is correctly adjusted.
- Make sure the rearview and sideview mirrors are positioned for maximum visibility.
- Make certain that no objects inside the vehicle are blocking your view.
- Fasten your safety belt.

Follow these procedures after you've started the engine.

- If necessary, turn on window defrosters and windshield wipers.
- Turn on the low-beam headlights.
- If the radio is on, turn it off.
- Check your mirrors and blind spots before starting to drive.

Concentrate on What You Are Doing

Follow these **guidelines** for keeping your mind on your driving during the in-vehicle test.

Listen carefully to any instructions. Follow the examiner's instructions exactly. If you don't understand something the examiner says, ask for clarification.

Don't chat with the examiner. During the test, the examiner may say very little to you. Don't let it bother you if your examiner is the silent type. This may just be his or her personality. On the other hand, if your examiner is talkative and asks a lot of questions, don't let that distract you from concentrating on driving.

Don't worry about what the examiner is writing. During the test, expect the examiner to be writing and making notes on a form. Don't assume the examiner is being critical. Many categories have to be tested and noted. The examiner may be writing favorable comments too.

Don't let a mistake throw you. If you make a mistake, maintain your concentration. Don't let a minor error rattle you so much that you make a worse mistake. If you're going through a complicated maneuver, move the vehicle slowly, paying special attention to the gear you're in, the direction your wheels are turned, and the obstacles and traffic around you.

Stay Calm

Because this is an **important** test and you care about the results, you are **going** to be nervous. This is natural. But you can do some things to **minimize** your nervousness and help you concentrate on your driving.

Be well prepared. If you have practiced a **great deal**, you should be prepared for the in-vehicle test. Thorough preparation is the best defense against making mistakes during the test.

Admit that you're nervous. It's helpful to admit that you're **nervous** in a situation **that** is making you tense. Even though you're **prepared**, be aware of how you feel, and don't be afraid to tell your examiner. Don't be disappointed, however, if **the** examiner does not reassure you.

Have a positive attitude. Remember that you are well prepared. Be **confident** that you are going to do your best.

Bring support. The licensed driver who drives you **to the test** should be **positive**, **optimistic**, **supportive**, and **calm**. However, **do not expect that person to be allowed** to accompany you while you are **taking the in-vehicle test**.

SAFETY TIPS

If your vehicle has automatic shoulder belts, be sure you also fasten your lap belt for maximum protection.

Energy Tips

Don't rev the engine when you are stopped at a stop sign or red light or while you are stopped in traffic. Revving the engine wastes fuel and may annoy the examiner.

ADVICE FROM THE EXPERTS



Judy L. Alton

Sergeant, Texas Department of Public Safety

When you take the in-vehicle test, try to relax. Imagine that the examiner is your best friend. In Texas we grade on four categories: control, observation, position, and signaling. Controlling the vehicle is knowing how to handle it. Observation is making sure you look at all times—turn your head so the examiner can tell when you are looking. Position has to do with always maintaining the proper lane position. You should signal to make a turn or lane change and also with your horn if you need to give a warning.

Breathe deeply. Pay attention to the way you're breathing. When people are anxious, they tend to hold their breath. Deep breathing will keep the oxygen moving through your system and help you stay calm.

Exercise Good Judgment

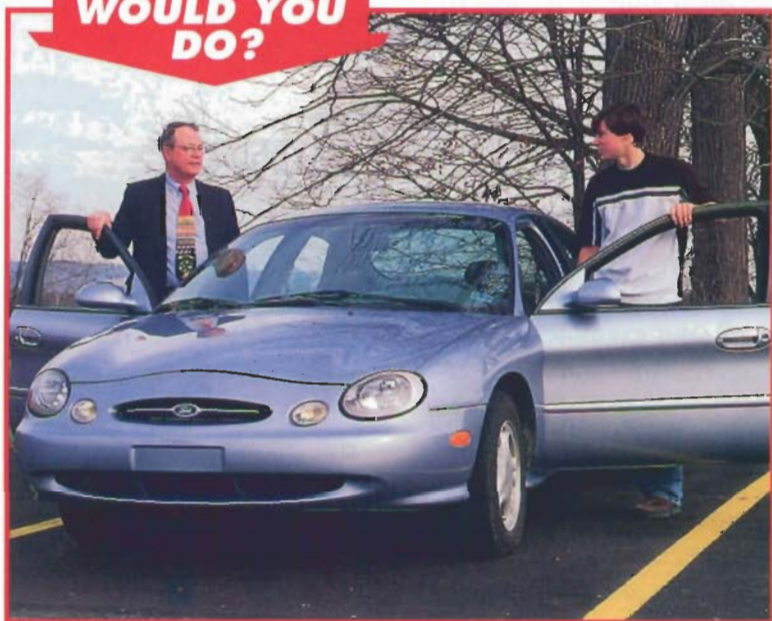
Show the examiner that you are a mature, responsible person. **Always** be courteous, both to the examiner and to the pedestrians and other drivers you may meet on the roadway. Above all, do not smoke while you are taking the in-vehicle test.

Demonstrate the skills you learned in your driver education course. Allow yourself plenty of time to pull out into traffic. **Search** the path ahead for **any** object or condition that could **raise the** level of risk. **Follow other** vehicles at a proper **distance**. **Be alert** for traffic control devices, and remember to **signal** your intentions.

Lesson 4 Review

1. What **adjustments** will you need to make **to your** vehicle before you start your engine?
2. How can you concentrate and stay calm during the in-vehicle test?

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?



The examiner is ready for you to begin the in-vehicle test. What actions will you take before starting the engine?



The High Cost of Fuel

Oil, the precious resource that is the source of the gasoline that powers our motor vehicles, has been the cause of a confusing mix of benefits and drawbacks to the Inuits of Alaska. In the 1800s, these native people witnessed the exploration of their homeland by navigators searching for a quick Arctic sea route from the New World to the wealth of Asia. This sea route, the Northwest Passage, was finally traveled in 1903 by the Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen.

Today the Inuits are affected by another exploration—the search for oil in the waters of the Northwest Passage. With the discovery of oil at Prudhoe Bay on Alaska’s north coast, human-made oil-drilling islands have been built amidst the 18,000 islands of the 4,000-mile-long Northwest Passage.

The trans-Alaska pipeline carries the oil from Prudhoe Bay to ports in southern Alaska, where it is transferred to huge ice-breaking tankers that carry the oil to refineries outside of Alaska.

For many Inuits, the frozen-over sea is like the land. Driving a ship through it is like driving a bulldozer across a farmer’s field. The tankers

also pose a danger to the environment, such as that caused when the *Exxon Valdez* struck a reef and poured 10.9 million gallons of crude oil into Prince William Sound. The oil destroyed wildlife that lived in these waters and was absorbed in the gravel beaches along the shoreline.

The threat to the environment and to the Inuit way of life are somewhat balanced by the increased income and other material gains that oil has brought to these Native Americans of Alaska. In the Alaskan Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, the U.S. government gave Alaskans with at least one Native American grandparent a share in the oil-rich lands.

The Inuits are in the forefront of a movement that while recognizing the need for oil and its economic benefit, also recognizes the need to protect the environment. The threat of pollution has been an important topic in the five Inuit Circumpolar Conferences that have been held since 1977 to discuss the future of Arctic peoples.

What Do You Think Now?

How can the need for oil and the economic advantages it brings be balanced by the need to protect and preserve the environment?



CHAPTER 2 REVIEW

KEY POINTS

Lesson One

1. No matter how much you practice for your driving test, you can't go from being a complete beginner to being an experienced driver overnight. For this reason, some states have implemented a system called graduated driver licensing (GDL).
2. GDL is a three-stage system that gives people time to increase their driving skills gradually in low-risk settings. A GDL system generally includes beginning, intermediate, and full licensing stages.

Lesson Two

1. To prepare for the knowledge test, study your state driver's manual thoroughly. Read one section at a time and summarize it, study with a friend, and take any sample tests. Go for the test well rested, and take with you any documents you may need. When you take the test, stay calm, read each question carefully, and take time to think before selecting your answer.
2. To prepare for the in-vehicle test, practice driving as much as you can, preferably in the same vehicle in which you will take your test.

Be alert and ready by getting a good night's sleep before the day of the test. Bring what you need, including correct documentation, money or a check, and other necessary items, such as sunglasses and a cushion.

Lesson Three

1. Be sure the vehicle you choose for the test is in top condition. Check out your vehicle before you take the test.
2. Conduct predriving checks the day before the in-vehicle test. Check the brakes, fluid levels, pedals, lights, horn, tires, defoggers, and windshield wipers. On the day of the test, make sure that your vehicle's windows, mirrors, lights, and interior are clean.

Lesson Four

1. When taking the in-vehicle test, first make all necessary adjustments before you start to drive: seat, head restraint, mirrors, and safety belt. Stay calm. Be prepared, admit you're nervous, be positive, and breathe deeply.
2. Concentrate on what you are doing while you are driving. Listen carefully to the examiner; don't chat with him or her; and try not to worry.

PROJECTS

1. Write five questions that you think may be on your knowledge test. Exchange questions with a partner in your class. Try to answer your partner's questions. Check all answers in your driver's manual.
2. Interview two people who have acquired their licenses in the past year. What maneuvers were they required to make during the in-vehicle test? What was easiest and hardest about the test. Discuss your findings with your class.

interNET CONNECTION



Drive through the Web to learn more about graduated driver licensing, including the status of GDL in your state.
drivedred.glencoe.com