

Preparing For Your Road Test

Class 5 (basic and advanced) and Class 4



Knowing what to expect on your road test will make you better **prepared** and increase the chance you will be **successful** the first time. A road test is just a driver examiner observing your driving on a route they determine for you. The information provided in this guide will help you learn what a driver examiner is looking for. The sections match the road test checklist used by your examiner.

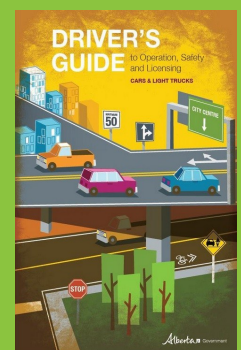
Driving errors that are committed during a road test result in points against you and are scored on a checklist. Some errors are five points and some are 10 points. The same error can be marked three times during the test. **Pay attention to the tips** — these are the areas where drivers commonly make mistakes and pick up points.

Make sure you are familiar with the Driver's Guide to Operation, Safety and Licensing (available online at <http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/531.htm>). It contains information on **good driving practices**. You may have received similar information from your driving instructor if you took driver education.

Road test prices and availability may be different at each registry office. Contact more than one office to find the **right fit for you**. All of the registry offices in Alberta are listed at: www.servicealberta.ca/1641.cfm.

The registry agent office where you book your road test will give you an information sheet. This sheet explains the office's cancellation and rescheduling policies, as well as information about the vehicle you will need to provide for the test. Make sure you **understand** all of this information when you book your test.

Before the road test starts, the examiner will explain how he or she will provide directions while you are driving. Make sure this is clear and that you ask any questions **before** the test starts. Remember, the examiner **cannot help you** during the test - they are only there to observe your driving. At the end of the test, the examiner will give you a copy of the road test checklist, provide a summary, and explain areas where points were assigned.



Okay, let's get started!

A) Controls

You are expected to be familiar with all the controls in the vehicle you are using and identify them when requested by the examiner. During the test, the examiner will evaluate your use of the controls. Know how to:

- use the defroster when the windows fog up;
- turn on the windshield wipers;
- keep both hands on the wheel whenever possible (approximately 9 o'clock and 3 o'clock);
- use your signal light when moving away from the curb, turning , or changing lanes;
- steer smoothly at all times;
- accelerate smoothly, adjusting to weather, road and traffic conditions; and
- bring the vehicle to a smooth stop and start braking in advance of your stopping position to avoid sudden stops.

B) Parking/starting/backing

Parking safely requires good control of the vehicle, accurate judgment, and observation and steering skills. During the road test you will be required to perform a parallel and a hill park. Inability to successfully complete one of these skill maneuvers in three attempts will result in a failure of the road test.

Parallel park

The examiner will have you position the vehicle beside a parked vehicle, and then back into a legally parked position behind it. One pull-ahead is allowed on each attempt to correct the vehicle position. If either tire is more than 50 cm from the curb, the park attempt is repeated.

Tips:

- Observe around and behind you by both turning and using the mirrors before and during backing.
- Perform the manoeuver smoothly.
- Do not hit the curb hard or allow your tires to climb over the curb.
- If a back-up camera is equipped on your vehicle, it may be left on and used as a reference. However, you must complete the parking using all of the required observations. You will be assigned points for not using the mirrors or looking behind you. You may not use a feature that controls the vehicle while parking (i.e., park assist).

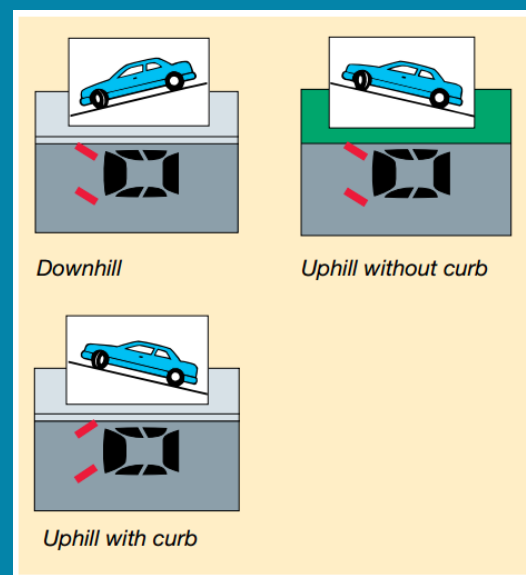


Hill park

The examiner will ask you to park facing either up or down a hill, with or without a curb, as if the vehicle will be left for the day. You must know how to turn the wheels and how far to be from the edge of the roadway. If a hill is unavailable, this manoeuvre may be simulated. The examiner will describe the slope of the hill.

Tips:

- The attempt must be repeated if either curb-side tire is more than 50 cm from the curb (if present).
- Turn wheels correctly.
- Remember to select “park” or a low gear and set the parking brake.



C) Lane driving/changing lanes/position

A traffic lane is a section of the roadway wide enough to accommodate the movement of vehicles, whether or not it is indicated by markings on the roadway. There are no designated “parking lanes” in urban areas.

Keep your vehicle in the proper traffic lane. High-traffic areas will have pavement markings to identify lanes in the same or opposite directions. Residential or rural locations will not have lane markings. These are referred to as unmarked lanes. This means there may be more than one lane in each direction if the road is wide enough.

Tips:

- Avoid driving in the centre of an unmarked roadway (usually residential) whenever possible.
- When making a right turn from an unmarked residential roadway, be sure to look over your right shoulder before you move over to the curb lane. Although the lanes are unmarked, you are making a lane change.
- Change lanes only when enough space is available.
- Maintain good lane position, speed and space cushions (keeping room between your vehicles and those around you).



D) Intersections/Turns

When turning right or left, you are required to enter and exit an intersection in the lane closest to the curb (right turn) or the first available lane (left turn). If, however, there is a parked vehicle or other obstruction within half of a block on the new road, you may turn directly into the second lane. Be sure to look down the road to plan correctly.

Unless otherwise shown by a traffic sign, crosswalks exist at all intersections, whether or not they are indicated by markings on the roadway.

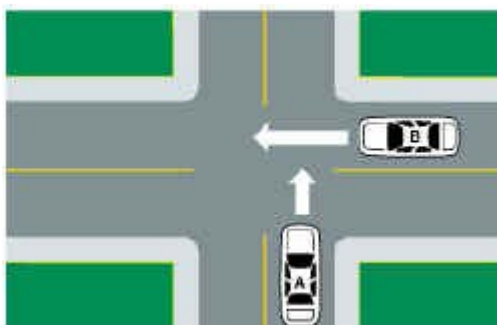
Know the meanings of all traffic signs, signals and pavement markings and obey them consistently. See Chapter 2 in the Driver's Guide.

Being too aggressive is dangerous and increases the chance of a collision. Being too cautious affects traffic behind you. Both errors show a lack of good driving judgment. Remember, other road users expect drivers to know and follow the rules of the road and to assume the right of way when it is safe to do so.



Tips:

- Come to a full and complete stop for stop signs or red lights.
- When required to stop and a stop line or crosswalk is present, the vehicle must stop before crossing them.
- If there is no stop line or marked crosswalk you must stop within three metres (10 feet) of the intersecting roadway.
- Avoid stopping or braking unnecessarily at controlled intersections where you have the right of way.
- Keep your wheels straight while waiting to make a left turn.
- Show good sense of timing in deciding when to turn. Do not be too cautious or too aggressive.
- Some intersections have no traffic signs and no traffic signal lights. These are uncontrolled intersections: you must yield the right of way to a vehicle on your right.



An uncontrolled intersection:

A yields to B: This intersection has no signs or signals and B is to the right of A.

E) Traffic lights/signs

You need to be aware of all traffic lights and signs, know what they mean, and drive accordingly.

Tips:

- Watch for “stale” green lights. These are when the pedestrian crossing light has changed to “do not cross,” meaning the green light will turn amber shortly.
- Be prepared to stop and do not enter the intersection when the light is amber. It is your responsibility to anticipate when the light will change.
- Show caution when approaching flashing amber lights.
- Remember to observe all traffic lights in a timely fashion.
- Always make a full and complete stop for a red light before turning right.

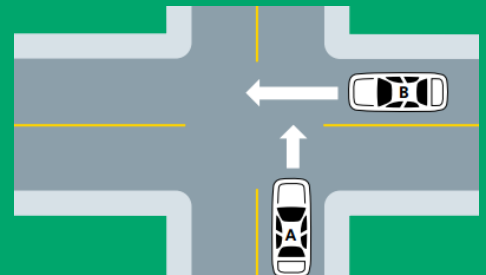


F) Right-of-way

Where roadways meet and intersect, there is the possibility for a collision. The examiner will observe your understanding and knowledge of the right-of-way.

When approaching an occupied crosswalk, a pedestrian must be granted a sufficient distance to ensure that he or she will not be affected by your vehicle. The rule at intersections is that a pedestrian’s right-of-way cannot be affected. Leave pedestrians lots of room.

If another driver surrenders their right-of-way and waves for you to proceed, you may proceed cautiously, observing for other road users.



Tips:

- Avoid stopping unnecessarily for potential jaywalkers.
- When approaching crosswalks, scan for pedestrians waiting to cross and be prepared to slow or stop.
- Assume your own right-of-way if it is safe to do so, including turning right at a red light.

G) Speed

Obey the posted speed limits. Remember to adjust your speed properly due to weather, road, visibility, and traffic conditions: the speed limit is the maximum allowed under ideal conditions.

You are allowed a small margin of error on your speed, but make sure to maintain your speed at or slightly below the limit.

During your road test you will drive in a school and/or playground zone. Playground zone speed limits are in effect every day. School zone speed limits are in effect only on days when school is held. If you are unsure if school is held on the day of your test, check with the local school district.

If you do not slow down to obey a school or playground zone when the speed limit is 30 km/h, you will fail the road test. Likewise, you will be assigned points for driving 30km/h if the zone is not in effect. If other vehicles behind you are affected by this slow driving, you may be assigned a fail.

Tips:

- Be aware of when school and playground zones are in effect. Obey these speed limits.
- Avoid travelling too slow or too fast for road, weather, and traffic conditions.



H) Disqualifications

The following road test disqualifications result in a fail on the road test if they occur.

1) Accumulating too many points

- Class 4: more than 50 points
- Class 5 (basic and advanced): more than 75 points.

2) Failing to yield as required and another vehicle or pedestrian is affected

3) Committing a traffic light violation:

- Failing to stop for a red light;
- Failing to stop for a yellow light when able to do so. It is your responsibility to anticipate that the light may change and to adjust speed accordingly; or
- Failing to stop completely prior to turning right on a red light.

4) Failing to stop completely for a stop sign

5) Exceeding the speed limit

6) Your tires climb over a curb

7) Lacking caution at an uncontrolled intersection:

- At an uncontrolled intersection, you must yield to vehicles on the right. This includes “T” intersections. Check for traffic and reduce speed to the point where a stop can be made, if necessary. The appropriate speed is determined by road conditions and visibility obstructions (e.g. hedges, trees, parked vehicles, etc.). If you cannot see approaching traffic, slow down to a speed where you can stop safely, if necessary.

8) Obstructing traffic by:

- Driving too slowly;
- Failing to proceed as required (being unnecessarily cautious); or
- Otherwise obstructing traffic unnecessarily.

9) Failing to complete a required manoeuvre (such as a parallel, hill, or angle park) within three attempts

10) Making contact with another vehicle or object

11) Lacking sufficient skill and control. This may include:

- A skill like steering or shifting gears is inadequate;
- The examiner has to intervene to assist or provide advice; or
- Driving in the middle of a marked roadway for extended distances

12) Making an unsafe action. This may include:

- Driving straight through an intersection from a designated turning lane;
- Driving at an unsafe speed for the conditions (conditions may require you to drive below the posted speed limit); or
- Driving on the wrong side of the road.