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STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

# QUESTIONNAIRE *for* OPERATORS



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# QUESTIONNAIRE

## OPERATORS

(1) Is it ever lawful to wilfully refuse or fail to comply with any lawful order given by a peace officer when directing traffic? **Answer: No.**

(2) What is the maximum speed allowed by law in the following districts:

(a) Business? **Answer: 20 miles per hour.**

(b) Residence? **Answer: 25 miles per hour.**

(c) School zones? **Answer: 15 miles per hour.**

(d) Public highway outside city limits? **Answer: 45 miles per hour.**

(e) At a railroad grade crossing where the view is obstructed? **Answer: 15 miles per hour.**

(3) What does the law require of you when involved in a serious accident? **Answer: You must stop and give all necessary aid, give your name, address, license number of your car and show your operator's or chauffeur's license. You must also make a report to the Division of Motor Vehicles, the California Highway Patrol or to police headquarters within 24 hours.**

(4) Which vehicle has the right of way when two vehicles reach an intersection at about the same time? **Answer: The vehicle coming from the right.**

(5) Upon any grade, if the width of the roadway is insufficient to permit the passing of vehicles approaching from opposite directions at the point of meeting, is it compulsory for the driver of the vehicle descending the grade to back his vehicle to a place in the highway where it is possible for the vehicle to pass? **Answer: Yes.**

(6) When is a driver's view deemed to be obstructed? **Answer: When at any time during the last 100 feet of his approach to an intersection he does not have a clear, uninterrupted view of the intersection and the highways entering it for a distance of 200 feet.**

(7) What is the speed limit at an intersection where the driver's view is obstructed? **Answer: 15 miles per hour.**

(8) In what position on the street approaching an intersection must a car be before turning to the left? **Answer: Center of street or left line of traffic.**

(a) Before turning to the right? **Answer: Inside line of traffic or line nearest curb.**

(9) What must you do when driving away from the curb? **Answer: Look and see that you will not interfere with any vehicle and that you can do so safely. You must give the correct arm signal.**

(4)

(10) Do vehicles on the highway always have the right of way over vehicles entering the highway from a private drive? **Answer: Yes.**

(11) Under what conditions may a vehicle stand inside of 15 feet of a fire plug? **Answer: Only when local traffic authorities shall indicate a different length by signs or markings.**

(12) How should you park on the highway outside city limits? **Answer: Drive off main traveled or paved portion before parking.**

(13) Does the law permit parking in front of a private driveway? **Answer: No, nor in front of a fire station nor on the roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge or curb of a highway.**

(14) What does the law require when leaving a vehicle unattended? **Answer: The motor must be stopped and the brakes set.**

(15) Is it permissible to park your car on the highway outside city limits to change a tire? **Answer: Not if it is physically possible to get off the highway.**

(16) What are the proper signals to give when:  
(a) Turning to the left? **Answer: Hold arm straight out.**

(b) Turning to the right? **Answer: Hold arm out with forearm and hand pointing up.**

(c) Stopping? **Answer: Extend hand and arm down.**

(5)



(17) How far before turning or stopping should the signal be given? **Answer: The arm should be kept out during the last 50 feet, at least, before turning or stopping.**

(18) Where does the law permit you to make a U turn? **Answer: At an intersection, or in the residence district when no vehicle is approaching within 200 feet in either direction.**

(19) What vehicles have the right of way at all times? **Answer: Police and fire vehicles; ambulances.**

(20) What distinguishing marks do police and fire vehicles carry? **Answer: Red lights in front, and sirens.**

(21) What does the law require of you when you hear a siren? **Answer: Drive to the right side of the street or highway and stop, but do not stop in an intersection.**

(22) When does the law require lights on vehicles to be turned on? **Answer: One half hour after sunset to one half hour before sunrise, and any other time when a substantial object is not visible at 200 feet.**

**Note:—Both headlights and tail light must be lighted, regardless of what other lights are lighted.**

(23) What does the law require at boulevard stops? **Answer: Vehicles must stop and not proceed across street or into street until they can do so safely.**

(6)

(24) When can an officer of the California Highway Patrol, upon the public highway, direct that the operator of a motor vehicle stop and submit to an inspection of such vehicle and its equipment? **Answer: Whenever the officer has reasonable cause to believe it is not lawfully equipped or is otherwise being operated in violation of the provisions of the California Vehicle Act.**

(25) What vehicles are required to stop at railroad crossings? **Answer: Vehicles carrying passengers for hire, stages, school buses, or loads of inflammables or explosives.**

(26) What is the penalty for driving recklessly, or under the influence of intoxicating liquors or drugs? **Answer: Maximum penalty for reckless driving is \$250 fine or 90 days in jail or both. Maximum penalty for driving while drunk is 3 years in prison or \$5,000 fine.**

(27) In what position upon the highway are you required to operate a motor vehicle? **Answer: On the right-hand side.**

(28) Are loads allowed to project from the sides of passenger vehicles? **Answer: They must not project beyond the line of the hub caps on the left side, nor more than six inches beyond the line of the hub caps on the right side.**

(7)

(29) What does the law require of you when you are about to overtake and pass a vehicle going in the same direction? **Answer:** (a) You must pass to the left and not return to the right side of the highway until safely clear of the overtaken vehicle. (b) Outside of a business or residence district you must give audible warning with your horn or other warning device before attempting to pass. (c) You must not drive to the left side of the center line of the highway unless it is clearly visible and is free from oncoming traffic for a sufficient distance ahead to permit your passing to be made without interfering with the safe operation of the vehicle overtaken or oncoming. (d) You must return to the right side of the highway before coming within 100 feet of any oncoming vehicle. (e) You must not drive to the left side of the center line when approaching the crest of a grade or upon a curve in the highway when the driver's view is obstructed along the highway.

(30) What must you do when another vehicle gives a signal showing that it desires to pass? **Answer:** You must give way to the right if possible and not increase speed until completely passed.

(31) Is it unlawful for license plates to be obscured? **Answer:** Yes. They must be attached so as to be clearly visible and kept free from foreign matter so that they can be easily read.

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(32) How soon after moving are you required by law to notify the Division of Motor Vehicles of your new address? **Answer:** Within ten days.

(33) Is it unlawful for any person to allow his or her child under 21 years, or employee, regardless of age, to drive without the proper license? **Answer:** Yes.

(34) When does a motor vehicle license expire? **Answer:** At midnight, December 31st of the year for which license was issued.

(35) What is required to effect annual renewal of license for a motor vehicle? **Answer:** Certificate of Registration (white slip) for the year just closed, together with the required fee, must be presented or mailed to the Division of Motor Vehicles.

(36) When does the law permit passing a street car that is stopped or about to stop for the purpose of receiving or discharging any passenger? **Answer:** Where there are regular safety zones or traffic is controlled by an officer, or a traffic stop and go signal; otherwise the vehicle must come to a full stop and not proceed until such passenger has reached a place of safety.

(37) How close may the driver of a motor vehicle follow another vehicle? **Answer:** Not closer than is reasonable and prudent, having due regard to the

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speed of such vehicle and the traffic upon and condition of the highway.

(38) What does the law require of the driver of a vehicle on the public highway outside of a residence or business district upon *meeting* or *overtaking* any school bus which has stopped on the highway for the purpose of receiving or discharging any school children? **Answer: The driver shall bring such vehicle to a stop immediately before passing said school bus and may then proceed at a safe speed, but in no event greater than 10 miles per hour.**

(39) What does the law require an owner to do with his certificate of registration (white slip)? **Answer: It must be placed in the container and the container securely fastened in plain sight within the driver's compartment.**

(40) Is it ever legal to drive through or over a safety zone? **Answer: No.**

(41) Can you lawfully park between a safety zone and the adjacent curb? **Answer: No.**

(42) What does the law say about throwing lighted substances from a vehicle? **Answer: Outside of a business or residence district no person shall wilfully or negligently throw from any vehicle any lighted cigarette, cigar, ashes or other flaming or glowing substance, or any substance or thing which may cause a fire.**

(43) Must the driver of a vehicle approaching an intersection yield the right of way to any vehicle which has entered the intersection? **Answer: Yes.**