Preparing for your driver licensing tests

Passenger vehicles Class 5 and 7

We all want safer roads in British Columbia. Our crash prevention programs can help us get there. They also help us control the cost of insurance claims and keep our insurance rates low and stable.

The Graduated Licensing Program (GLP) was developed to help new drivers gain experience gradually, so they can increase their driving confidence under conditions that are safer for everyone. As part of this program, new drivers must pass a knowledge test and a road test before being eligible to apply for a Class 5 licence.

Driver examiners have been trained to test each driver in the same way. They use score sheets to track results so that drivers across the province are tested equally and fairly.

To help you prepare for your road test, these two booklets are essential:

- *Learn to Drive Smart* — free
- *Tuning up for Drivers* — free for new drivers; $5 for all others.

You can download our *Learn to Drive Smart* online manual or ICBC app on icbc.com. Or pick up a copy from any of our driver licensing offices.

We want you to be happy with your results. Studying these guides thoroughly and practising your driving carefully will give you the best chance of success.

Are you a new B.C. resident?

Welcome! If you have a valid driver's licence from another province, state, or country, you can drive for 90 days in B.C. After that, you'll need to apply for a B.C. driver's licence, which will include bringing in your old driver's licence, passing a vision test and medical screening — you may have to pass the knowledge and driving tests.

Preparing for your knowledge test (Class 7L)

Learn to Drive Smart is your best resource when preparing for your knowledge test, as all the questions are based on this booklet. To see how well you know the information, you can take our free online practice test on icbc.com. It's best to arrive early for your knowledge test. While most of our driver licensing offices offer these tests without an appointment, we may not be able to test everyone if it's busy.

Before taking your knowledge test, you will need to pass a simple vision and medical screening to make sure you're in good enough shape to drive. For more information on the vision and medical screening, please see *Learn to Drive Smart*, Chapter 9 — your licence.

Knowledge test

What's in it?

The knowledge test has 50 multiple-choice questions that test how well you know the information in *Learn to Drive Smart*. It's available in English, French, Arabic, Cantonese, Croatian, Farsi, Mandarin, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish, Ukrainian and Vietnamese.

Where do I take it?

This test can be taken online or at any of our driver licensing locations.

How do I prepare?

Here are some simple and important tips:

- It's harder than you may think, so study the *Learn to Drive Smart* guide well.
- Keep in mind that many questions are designed to require thinking and understanding, not just memorized facts.
- We recommend that you take a practice test online at icbc.com.
- Make sure you have two pieces of ID for your learner's licence application (please see *Learn to Drive Smart* or icbc.com for a list of acceptable documents).
- Don't stress during the test. Read through each question and take your time.

What does it cost?

The fee for both the online and in-office knowledge test is $15, and $10 for your Class 7L photo learner's licence.

About your road test

Your road test is an opportunity to show how well you know and understand the rules of the road and how confident you are driving safely.

Before the road test, you will meet your driver examiner, who will explain what to expect during the road test, including the driving manoeuvres that you will be tested on. Your driver examiner will be glad to answer any questions before your road test, but can only answer questions about directions once the road test begins.

To avoid distracting you during the road test, your driver examiner will remain quiet, except to give you directions or tell you about a situation that requires your attention. Your driver examiner will not try to trick you or ask you to do anything illegal. At any point, if you are not clear about directions, you can ask your driver examiner for clarification.

Keep in mind that your driver examiner is not there to teach you or coach you through the road test, but to evaluate your driving against criteria based on safe-driving practices and the rules of the road.

At the end of the test, your driver examiner will explain your results and give you some helpful suggestions to further improve your driving.

Preparing for your road test

The best way to prepare for your road test is to read and re-read *Tuning up for Drivers*. Then, it's all about practise, practise, practise. The more hours you can practise, the more skilled, confident and competent you'll be during your road test.

What to practise?

- Skills, such as observation, speed control and communication.
- Hazard perception, such as trucks turning, children, pedestrians, and blind spots.
- Manoeuvres, such as turning left, right or going straight at intersections, backing up, changing lanes and parallel parking.

For more information on the driving skills and manoeuvres you may be tested on, please review Chapter 9 in *Learn to Drive Smart* and Session 20 in *Tuning up for Drivers*.

One more thing — you'll need to provide a registered, insured vehicle that meets safety standards for a road test. For more information on this, see Chapter 9 in *Learn to Drive Smart*.

Tips for passing your road test

Here are some tips from our driver examiners on how to pass the Class 5 and 7 road tests:

- Practise all the driving manoeuvres you may be asked to do as part of your road test, including parallel parking, parking on hills, and two- and three-point turns.
- Keep to posted speed limits. Do not keep up to speeding traffic.
- Watch for school zones and playgrounds. Speeding through school zones and playgrounds is a common reason for drivers to fail their test.
- Keep a safe distance from other vehicles.
- Make full stops for stop signs, and stop in the correct position. When it's safe to move out, pull out slowly, scanning the intersection.
- When turning right, shoulder check so you know there are no cyclists, pedestrians or other road users heading straight through the intersection (and therefore into your path).
- Signal, mirror-check and shoulder-check whenever you change lanes or direction.
- Scan intersections before entering, even if it's a green light while you approach.
- Make it a habit to always look for potential hazards. Study the list of hazardous situations in *Learn to Drive Smart* and call them out to the examiner during the hazard perception part of the road test. For example, many drivers have failed to call out blind driveways during their tests.

Our driver examiners recommend all new drivers review the helpful, detailed information about safe-driving habits in *Learn to Drive Smart* and *Tuning up for Drivers*.

Ready to take your road test?

Booking road tests

Book online at icbc.com or or call:

Metro Vancouver:	604-982-2250
Victoria:	250-978-8300
Toll-Free:	1-800-950-1498

- In other areas, contact the nearest driver licensing office.
- Arrive 15 minutes early to check in before your road test appointment begins.
- You'll need the same identification you used to apply for your learner's licence, plus your learner's licence.
- Make sure your vehicle meets safety standards and is properly insured. And remember to have your vehicle registration papers with you.
- You'll also have to pay for your test and your new licence. For more information on current test fees check the Driver Licensing section on icbc.com.
- Please provide at least 48 hours' cancellation notice or a valid reason acceptable to ICBC if you can't make your road test appointment. Otherwise you will be charged a $25 fee.

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