

NEW NONCOMMERCIAL DRIVING TEST AT THE FREDERICK AND WALDORF MVA BRANCH OFFICES

Effective December 15, 2008, the MVA will be piloting a new noncommercial driving skills test at the Frederick and Waldorf branch offices. The new driving test will consist of both an off-road (course) portion to test various driving skills and a portion that will be performed on a public road.

Please see, “How to Prepare for Your Driver’s Test” for more information. This brochure can be found at the Frederick and Waldorf Branches, Driving Schools, and on the MVA’s Internet at www.marylandmva.com.

NOTE: Vehicles used during the test must be in safe operating condition and have at least 1/4 tank of gas.



How To Prepare For Your Driver's Test



Basic Vehicle Control Skills Test

Your basic control skills test may be performed off-street, on-street during the road test, or both. It will consist of two or more of the following exercises:

- Forward Two-point Turnabout
- Reverse Two-point Turnabout
- Three-point Turnabout
- Left-side Parallel Park
- Right-side Parallel Park

These exercises are shown on the following pages.

With a parent/guardian or friend, who is properly licensed and over the age of 21, practice these exercises in a safe area, such as a parking lot or residential area until you can correctly complete them. Try practicing the exercises in a variety of vehicles and locations.

Instructions

The examiner will give you detailed instruction for completing the test exercises and you will be given the opportunity to ask questions.

Scoring

Reversal – A reversal is when you stop and reverse direction to get a better position. Each time you reverse direction it is counted as an error. Stopping without changing direction does not count as a reversal.

Encroachments – Touching or crossing over an exercise boundary line or cone with any part of your vehicle, other than the vehicle's mirrors is considered an encroachment. Each encroachment will count as an error.

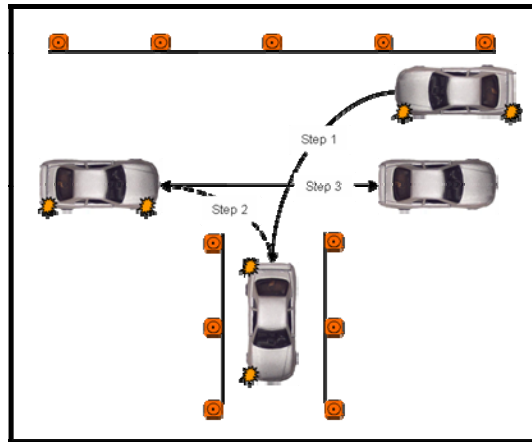
Turn Signals – When performing an exercise you must use the correct turn signal when turning or backing. Each time you fail to use or improperly use your turn signal it will count as an error. If your turn signal cancels automatically make sure to reactivate it when necessary.

Head/Traffic Check(s) – When performing an exercise it is important to check traffic prior to entering or exiting a roadway. You must make sure that it is safe to perform the exercise and that the roadway is clear in both directions before entering back into traffic or leaving the exercise area. You will be scored if you do not use head/traffic checks during the exercises.

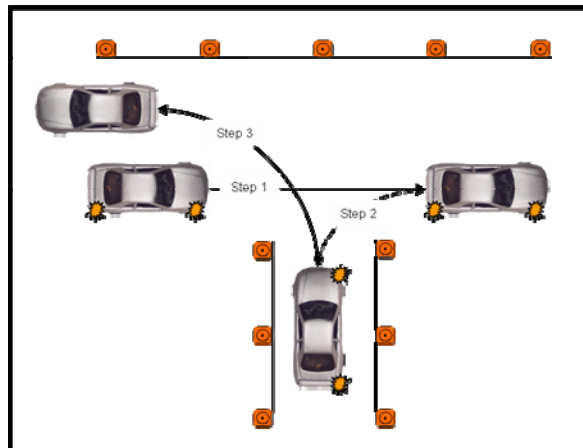
Final Position – It is important that you finish each exercise exactly as the examiner has instructed you. If you do not maneuver the vehicle into its final position as described by the examiner, points will be added to your score.

Exercises

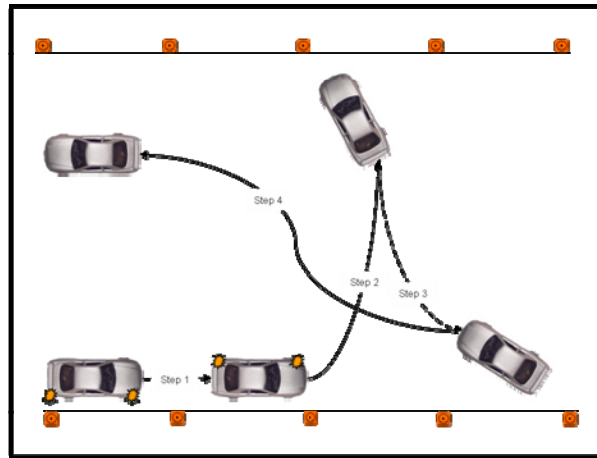
Forward Two-point Turnabout– You may be asked to pull forward into a driveway or alley (during the road test or in an off-street area marked by traffic cones and/or lines) until the back end of your vehicle passes the front set of cones and the vehicle is not in the roadway. You will then back the vehicle to the right into the street and drive forward out of the exercise area, returning to the area where you started. This exercise demonstrates your ability to execute a two-point turnabout and to utilize a street, alley or driveway to reverse the direction you are traveling on a two-lane road. Basic skills needed for this exercise consist of visual skills, judgment of space, use of mirrors and turn signals, steering, braking and acceleration control, etc.



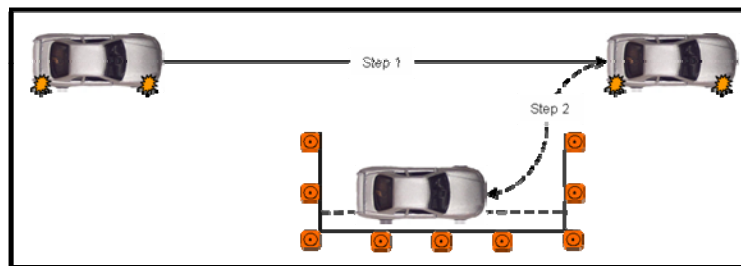
Reverse Two-point Turnabout– You may be asked to drive past the entrance to a driveway or alley (during the road test or in an off-street area marked by traffic cones and/or lines) and back to the right into the street or alley until the front end of your vehicle clears the front set of cones and the vehicle is not in the roadway. You will then drive the vehicle to the left into the street, returning to the area where you started and then drive forward out of the exercise area. This exercise demonstrates your ability to execute a reverse two-point turnabout and to utilize a street, alley or driveway to reverse the direction you are traveling on a two-lane road. Basic skills needed for this exercise consist of backing skills, visual skills, judgment of space, use of mirrors and turn signals, steering, braking and acceleration control, etc.



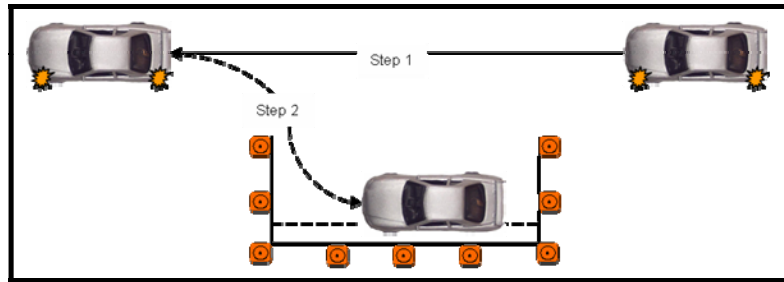
Three-point Turnabout – You may be asked to drive forward into a three-point turnabout area (during the road test or in an off-street area marked by traffic cones and/or lines) and execute a three-point turnabout. This exercise demonstrates your ability to execute a three-point turnabout and to utilize a street to reverse the direction you are traveling on a two-lane road. Basic skills needed for this exercise consist of backing skills, visual skills, judgment of space, use of mirrors and turn signals, steering, braking and acceleration control, etc.



Right-side Parallel Park - You may be asked to park in a parallel parking space that is on your right side. You are to drive past the parking space and back into it. You must get the vehicle completely within the parking space. Try to bring the vehicle within 12 inches of the curb side of the space without crossing side or rear boundaries marked by lines or cones. This exercise demonstrates your ability to parallel park a vehicle. This is an essential skill for parking. A parallel park is one of the best indicators that you have the basic skills necessary to safely operate a motor vehicle. Basic skills needed for this exercise consist of visual skills, judgment of space, use of mirrors and turn signals, steering, braking and acceleration control, etc.

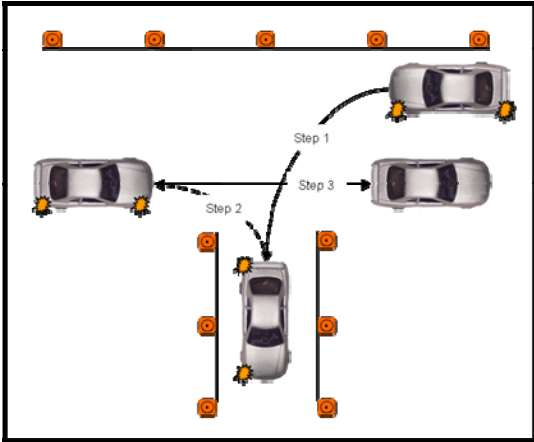


Left-side Parallel Park – You may be asked to park in a parallel parking space that is on your left side. You are to drive past the parking space and back into it. You must get the vehicle completely within the parking space. Try to bring the vehicle within 12 inches of the curb side of the space without crossing side or rear boundaries marked by lines or cones. This exercise demonstrates your ability to parallel park a vehicle. This is an essential skill for parking. A parallel park is one of the best indicators that you have the basic skills necessary to safely operate a motor vehicle. Basic skills needed for this exercise consist of visual skills, judgment of space, use of mirrors and turn signals, steering, braking and acceleration control, etc.

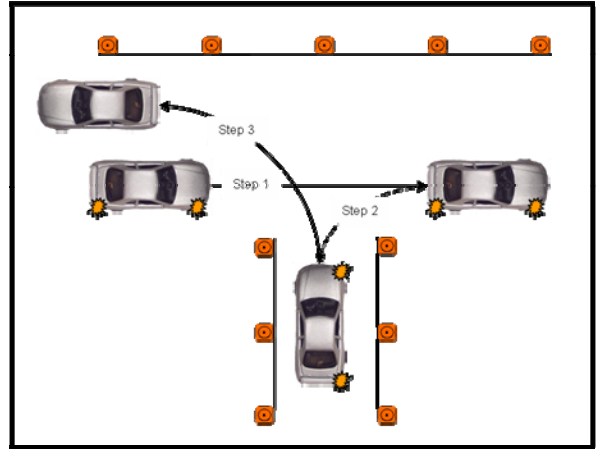


Basic Control Skills Test Guide

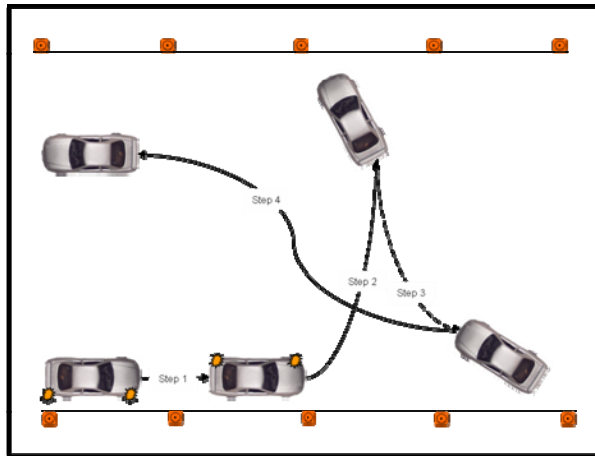
Forward Two-point Turnabout



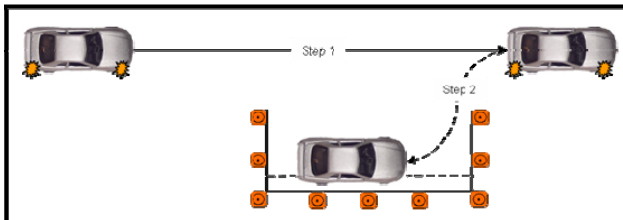
Reverse Two-point Turnabout



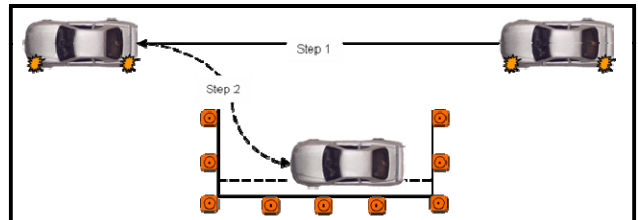
Three-point Turnabout



Right-side Parallel Park



Left-side Parallel Park



Road Test

You will drive over a test route that may have a variety of traffic situations. You will follow the directions of the examiner. Directions will be given to you so you will have plenty of time to do what the examiner has asked. You will not be asked to drive in an unsafe manner. At all times during the test, you must drive safe and responsibly. During the driving test, the examiner will be scoring you on specific driving maneuvers as well as on your general driving behavior.

How You Will Be Tested

Turns

- You have been asked to make a turn. As you approach the turn:
 - Check traffic in all directions, use the correct turn signal, brake smoothly and evenly and safely get into the correct lane needed for the turn.
- If you must stop before making the turn because of traffic, signals or signs:
 - Smoothly come to a complete stop without skidding behind the stop line, crosswalk, or stop sign. A safe gap when stopping behind another vehicle is to stop where you can see the rear tires of the vehicle ahead of you. Keep the front wheels aimed straight ahead.
- When ready to turn:
 - Check traffic in all directions. Keep both hands on the steering wheel during the turn. Maintain smooth even acceleration and yield to pedestrians and other traffic. Keep checking your mirror to make sure the vehicle does not hit anything on the inside of the turn. Do not move into oncoming traffic or drive over the curb. Keep the vehicle in the proper lane.
- After turn:
 - Make sure you finish completing the turn in the correct lane and that your turn signal has cancelled. Accelerate to the speed of traffic, use your turn signal, check your blind spots by looking over your shoulder (head check), check your mirrors and move into the right-most lane when it is safe to do so (if not already there).

Intersections

- As you approach an intersection:
 - Check traffic thoroughly in all directions. Brake smoothly and evenly and maintain lane position.

- When stopping at an intersection:
 - If necessary, come to a complete stop behind any stop signs, signals, sidewalks, or stop lines. If stopping behind another vehicle maintain a safe gap. You should be able to see the rear tires of the vehicle ahead of you.
- When driving through an intersection:
 - Check traffic thoroughly in all directions. Keep both hands on the wheel and slow down and yield to any pedestrians or traffic in the intersection. Do not change lanes while proceeding through the intersection.
- Once through the intersection:
 - Continue checking mirrors and traffic behind you. Accelerate smoothly. If there are multiple lanes of traffic, accelerate to the speed of traffic, use your turn signal, check your blind spots by looking over your shoulder (head check), check your mirrors and move into the right-most lane when it is safe to do so (if not already there).

Urban

- During this part of the test, you are expected to make regular traffic checks, check cross traffic and maintain a safe following distance. Your vehicle should be centered in the proper lane (right-most lane) and you should keep up with the flow of traffic, but not exceed the posted speed limit.

Rural/Open Highway

- During this part of the test, you are expected to make regular traffic checks, check cross traffic and maintain a safe following distance. Your vehicle should be centered in the proper lane (right-most lane) and you should keep up with the flow of traffic, but not exceed the posted speed limit.

Lane Changes

- During multiple lane portions of the test, you will be asked to change lanes to the left, and then back to the right. You should make the necessary traffic checks first by looking in your mirrors and checking your blind spots by looking over your shoulder (head check). Make sure you use the correct turn signal and smoothly change lanes when it is safe to do so. Cancel your turn signal upon completion and check traffic.

Expressway

- When entering the expressway:
 - Check traffic by looking in your mirrors and checking your blind spots by looking over your shoulder (head check). Make sure you use your turn signal. While increasing speed, smoothly merge into the proper lane of traffic without stopping or crossing over any solid painted lines. Cancel your turn signal upon completion of the merge.

- Once on the expressway:
 - Maintain proper lane positioning, vehicle spacing and vehicle speed. Continue to check traffic thoroughly in all directions.

- When exiting the expressway:
 - Make necessary traffic checks. Use proper signals and brake smoothly once you enter the deceleration lane. Continue to decelerate within the lane markings, follow posted warning speeds and maintain adequate spacing between your vehicle and other vehicles. Cancel your turn signal upon completion of exiting the expressway.

Limited Access Roadway

- When entering the limited access roadway:
 - Check traffic by looking in your mirrors and checking your blind spots by looking over your shoulder (head check). Make sure you use your turn signal. While increasing speed, merge or turn smoothly into the proper lane of traffic without stopping (unless necessary) or crossing over any solid painted lines. Cancel your signal upon completion of the merge or turn.

- Once on the limited access roadway:
 - Maintain proper lane positioning, vehicle spacing and vehicle speed. Continue to check traffic thoroughly in all directions.

- When leaving the limited access roadway:
 - Make necessary traffic checks. Use proper signals and brake smoothly once you enter the deceleration or turning lane. Continue to decelerate within the lane markings, follow posted warning speeds and maintain adequate spacing between your vehicle and other vehicles. Cancel your signal upon completion of exiting the limited access roadway.

Curve

- When approaching a curve:
 - Check traffic thoroughly in all directions. Before entering the curve, reduce your speed so further braking is not required in the curve. Keep vehicle in the lane. Continue checking traffic in all directions. Maintain a safe speed through the curve and follow posted warning signs.

Traffic Signs

- During the road test you will be asked to identify a number of traffic signs. They can be located anywhere on the road test. If the examiner asks you what road sign you just passed you should be able to tell the examiner.

General Driving

- Use brakes properly:
 - Do not brake harshly. Brake smoothly using steady pressure. Come to a complete stop at traffic signs or signals.
- Proper steering:
 - Keep both hands on the outside of the steering wheel at all times unless using other controls. Once you have completed using other controls return both hands to the steering wheel. All methods of steering are acceptable (i.e., hand-over-hand and hand-to-hand) as long as both hands are on the outside of the wheel.
- Proper lane usage:
 - Do not put vehicle over curbs, sidewalks or lane markings. Complete a turn in the proper lane on a multiple lane road (vehicle should finish a left turn in the left-most lane, the one directly to the right of the centerline). Finish a right turn in the right-most (curb) lane. Move to or remain in the right-most lane unless lane is blocked. Do not attempt lane changes at intersections.
- Regular traffic checks/head checks:
 - Check traffic and mirrors regularly. Check traffic and mirrors before, while in and after an intersection, turn or lane change. Watch for hazards by searching left and right at intersections, driveways, store entrances, railroad tracks or any other areas where traffic intersects. Scan and check traffic in high volume areas and areas where pedestrians are expected to be present. Check traffic by looking over your shoulder (head check) when necessary (i.e. lane change, merging).

- Use of turn signals:
 - Use turn signals when required. Activate turn signals at appropriate times. Do not signal too early or too late. Cancel turn signals upon completion of a turn or lane change.
- Stopping at stop line or crosswalk or gap:
 - When stopping at a stop sign or traffic signal do not stop over marked stop line, pedestrian crosswalk, sidewalk or other marker. Do not stop vehicle in the intersection. When stopping behind another vehicle make sure you can see the rear wheels of the vehicle in front of you.

Automatic Failures

If any of the following errors occur during the road test the examiner will automatically fail you for the remainder of the test:

- If you do not use your safety belt.
- If you receive a traffic citation for a moving violation, disobey signs or signals, speed, roll through stops, or ignore traffic laws.
- If you do not yield to pedestrians or other roadway users.
- If you are involved in an avoidable crash or if your vehicle has physical contact with other vehicles, objects or pedestrians.
- If you commit any unsafe act or if another driver is forced to take evasive actions in order to prevent a crash.
- If you put the vehicle over sidewalks or curbs unnecessarily.
- If the examiner has to take control of the vehicle.