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Get ready to ace your CA DMV test with our study guide. The latest version of the California driver's handbook PDF is available on this page, covering essential topics like road rules, signs, and safe driving practices. After reading through it, take a look at our free practice permit tests for an edge in your actual written exam prep.Safety should always be your top priority when driving, as California roads are unfortunately filled with avoidable tragedies. Since 2010, over 30k people have been killed, and another 100k injured on the state's roads, particularly those on foot or bike. As drivers, it's crucial to stay alert and defensive around pedestrians and cyclists.To combat these statistics, California is implementing various traffic safety measures, but we need your help too! Practice safe driving habits like buckling up, following all traffic laws, and being extra cautious near vulnerable road users. The California Driver Handbook covers a wide range of topics, including driver's licensing procedures, seat belt requirements, rules of the road, and more.Studying this guide and taking our practice tests will not only help you pass your DMV test but also contribute to making California roads safer for everyone.While studying the handbook is a solid start, it's essential to put your knowledge to the test with practice tests. Our California DMV practice tests mimic the official written test questions, removing uncertainty and anxiety from the experience. By taking free DMV practice tests, you'll leave the local DMV office as a licensed driver! Additionally, we offer access to the official California DMV driver's 2025 handbook in various languages: English, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Punjabi, Farsi, Armenian, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. Each version is available for download in PDF format.In California, all drivers must obtain an instruction permit before applying for a driver's license. To get this permit, you'll need to pass a vision test, a knowledge (permit) test on safe driving, and complete a driver's education course if under 18. The official knowledge test is based on topics covered in the manual, but failing the test is common about 55.3% of those who took it failed their first attempt.To ensure you pass the knowledge test, we recommend following our entire test preparation program, including our graduated series of practice tests and AI assistant that provides hints, explanations, and clarifications. We've also created an audiobook version of the English driver's handbook in MP3 format, allowing you to study while performing other activities or listening along with the PDF manual.In addition to the official handbook, we offer a permit test study guide covering essential topics like required documents, fees, frequently missed questions, and last-minute tips.To obtain a driver's license in California, individuals without a valid out-of-state license must first apply for an instruction permit. This requires providing proof of identity, two proofs of residency, and a legal full name document if the name on the identification and application do not match. Additionally, a social security number is required, although exceptions may apply. For those seeking a REAL ID, it's essential to visit dmv.ca.gov/realid for current requirements and acceptable documents. To apply for a Class C instruction permit, applicants must be at least 15 years old, complete a driver education program, and have a parent or guardian sign the application to accept financial responsibility. The application process involves completing a Drivers License & ID Card Application, providing necessary documents, paying an application fee, passing knowledge and vision tests, and waiting until behind-the-wheel training begins with a validated instructor. Driver education and training programs are available at DMV-licensed schools and some high schools, with instructors required to carry an ID card. Practice driving is allowed with a California-licensed driver aged 18 or older, who must be able to take control of the vehicle if needed. To progress to a driver's license, applicants must pass a behind-the-wheel drive test, be at least 16 years old, have held an instruction permit for six months (or turn 18), complete both driver education and training, and practice driving for at least 50 hours with a licensed driver aged 25 or older, including ten hours at night.For minors under 18, the driver's license will be marked as provisional, carrying restrictions such as not driving between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. Full details on application steps, requirements, and additional resources like the Parent Teen Driving Contract and Driving Performance Evaluation Score Sheet are available on the DMV website at dmv.ca.gov/dlservices.In California, teen drivers with a license for the first year are subject to certain restrictions. They can't transport passengers under 20 unless accompanied by a licensed parent or guardian over 25 years old. Additionally, they're not allowed to drive commercial vehicles requiring Class A, B, or C licenses. However, there are exceptions: * If you have a medical condition and can't find alternative transportation, you must carry a note from your doctor.* For school-related activities, you need a note from the principal or dean.* If driving for work reasons, an employer-signed note is required.* You can also drive an immediate family member if you carry a note signed by your parent or guardian.The DMV conducts vision and knowledge tests to ensure drivers are safe on the road. For the vision test, applicants must pass with or without corrective lenses; if they don't pass, their eye doctor must complete a Report of Vision Examination form. The knowledge test has multiple-choice questions and allows three attempts; minors must wait seven days before retaking.The behind-the-wheel drive test assesses your ability to safely operate a vehicle. You'll need a permit or license, another licensed driver over 18 (or 25 for minors), a safe vehicle, proof of insurance, and registration. Note that minors must wait 14 days to retake the test if they fail.Lastly, when preparing for the behind-the-wheel drive test, ensure your vehicle is in good condition and meets all requirements: The driver-side window must be operable, and the windshield must be clear of any obstructions.Your vehicle must meet specific requirements before taking a drive test with the DMV examiner. These include: a clear windshield view, at least two rearview mirrors (one on the left side), functioning brake lights and turn signals, proper tire tread depth, and an operable foot brake. Additionally, your horn should be designed for your vehicle, in good working condition, and audible from at least 200 feet away. The parking brake must also be set and released correctly. All seat belts must function properly and be used during the test. Recording devices are not allowed during the drive test, except for certain situations involving service animals or law enforcement. Advanced driver assistance systems, such as automated parallel parking, are also prohibited.Driving requirements for California residents include not using freeways to get to essential places and installing an additional right-side mirror. To access the Driver Skills Self-Assessment Questionnaire, users should visit dmv.ca.gov/driver-skills. Californians aged 70 or older must renew their driver's license in person and pass a vision test upon expiration unless DMV instructs otherwise. A renewal notice is typically sent to residents 90 days prior to license expiration; if not received, individuals can apply online at dmv.ca.gov/dlservices or in-person at a DMV office. For those required to take a knowledge test, the "eLearning" option is available when completing the online application.The Community Liaison's primary role is to advocate for public safety interests, focusing on senior and teen drivers. They can assist as mediators between drivers and DMV officials to ensure fairness and respect. While liaisons cannot represent individuals in hearings or reexaminations, they provide useful resources and information. To learn more about outreach services and contact a liaison, call (833) 493-0675.Dementia presents a significant challenge for safe driving; ultimately, it may be up to caregivers, physicians, and law enforcement to stop affected seniors from driving and arrange alternative transportation. For reexamination process details, visit dmv.ca.gov/reexamination.The Mature Driver Improvement Program is an eight-hour course designed for drivers aged 55 and older, covering topics relevant to mature drivers. Completion may lead to insurance discounts; participants should contact their provider with a certificate copy. The certificate remains valid for three years, after which another four-hour course can be taken for renewal.Individuals aged 62 or older are eligible for a no-fee Senior ID card. Those unable to drive safely due to physical or mental conditions may exchange their driver's license for an ID card at no charge; details on this process can be found at dmv.ca.gov/id-cards.A California driver's license permits driving on public roads, but first, applicants must pass knowledge and behind-the-wheel tests based on information in the handbook. The correct license type is required to drive a specific vehicle class; most people need a noncommercial Class C driver's license for passenger vehicles. Commercial drivers, motorcyclists, or operators of other vehicles require different licenses.Starting May 2025, Californians will need to provide proof of either completing a DMV-approved traffic safety course or providing a doctor's note confirming they are not affected by any condition that could impact their driving skills.To be accepted as identification, an ID card must meet REAL ID standards if used for:boarding domestic flights,accessing military bases, and entering most federal facilities.For more information on applying for a REAL ID, visit dmv.ca.gov/realid.California provides driver's licenses to all residents regardless of immigration status. See dmv.ca.gov/di for more details.For veteran benefits and requirements, go to dmv.ca.gov/veterans.ID cards are issued to eligible individuals of any age but don't enable driving. To get an ID card, provide identity documents, residency papers, and social security info. Find current acceptable documents on dmv.ca.gov/id-cards.When applying, have your driver's license or ID number, vehicle plate number, or VIN handy.Check dmv.ca.gov/vrservices for vehicle registration renewal.See dmv.ca.gov/dlservices for driver's license renewals.Visit dmv.ca.gov/make-an-appointment to schedule a DMV office visit.Find other online services on dmv.ca.gov/online.Look up kiosk locations and services at dmv.ca.gov/kiosks.Call 1-800-777-0133 to speak with a representative or 1-800-368-4327 for assistance.

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