

Alberta Class 7 Knowledge Test

Complete Study Guide

All 9 Topics Covered

Updated for 2025

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Test Format & Information

Format:	30 multiple-choice questions (4 options each)
Passing Score:	25 out of 30 correct (83%)
Time Limit:	60 minutes
Languages:	Available in 25 languages
Location:	Registry agent offices throughout Alberta
Cost:	Approximately \$17 (may vary by location)

Topic 1: Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) Program

What is the GDL Program?

The Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) program is a two-stage licensing system designed to help new drivers gain experience gradually with certain restrictions to keep them and others safe on the road.

The Two Stages:

Stage 1: Class 7 (Learner's License) - Minimum 1 year before you can take the Class 5-GDL road test

Stage 2: Class 5-GDL (Graduated Driver's License) - Minimum 2 years (or 1 year with approved driver education course)

Class 7 Restrictions - CRITICAL INFORMATION

- **Supervising Driver Required:** MUST have a fully licensed supervisor (18+ years old, full Class 5 or higher license) beside you in the front passenger seat at ALL times
- **Curfew:** Cannot drive between midnight (12:00 a.m.) and 5:00 a.m. (Exception: traveling to/from work with written proof or emergency)
- **Zero Alcohol/Drug Tolerance:** 0.00% blood alcohol content - absolutely no alcohol or drugs allowed
- **Passenger Restrictions:** Cannot have more passengers than working seatbelts in the vehicle
- **License:** Must carry your license at all times while driving

Path to Full License:

1. Pass Class 7 Knowledge Test → Get Class 7
2. Hold Class 7 for minimum 1 year → Practice driving with supervisor
3. Pass Class 5-GDL Road Test → Get Class 5-GDL
4. Hold Class 5-GDL for 2 years (or 1 year with approved driver education)
5. Pass Advanced Road Test → Get full Class 5 license

Demerit Points for GDL Drivers:

IMPORTANT: If you accumulate 8 or more demerit points (Class 7 or Class 5-GDL), your license will be suspended. This is lower than the 15 points for fully licensed drivers.

Topic 2: Traffic Control & Road Signs

1. Regulatory Signs

These signs tell you what you **MUST** or **MUST NOT** do. They are legally enforceable.

- **STOP Sign (Red Octagon):** Must come to complete stop at stop line or crosswalk. At 4-way stops, first vehicle to arrive goes first; if simultaneous, vehicle on right has right-of-way.
- **YIELD Sign (Inverted Triangle):** Slow down, be prepared to stop. Give right-of-way to vehicles and pedestrians.
- **Speed Limit Signs:** Maximum speed in ideal conditions. Must reduce speed in poor weather or hazards.
- **Do Not Enter / Wrong Way:** Prohibits entry (one-way streets or exit ramps).
- **No Parking:** Fire hydrant - no parking within 5 meters (16 feet).

2. Warning Signs

Yellow diamond-shaped signs that alert you to potential hazards ahead. Orange diamonds indicate construction zones.

- **School Zone:** 30 km/h when children are present (usually 8 a.m.-9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. on school days, when lights flashing)
- **Playground Zone:** 30 km/h from 8:30 a.m. to 1 hour after sunset, every day including weekends
- **Railway Crossing:** **MUST** stop if train is within 500 meters. Stop at least 5 meters from nearest rail.
- **Curve/Turn Ahead:** Sharp curve or turn approaching, may show recommended speed
- **Pedestrian Crossing:** Watch for people crossing the road
- **Slippery When Wet:** Road may be slippery in rain or snow

3. Construction/Maintenance Signs

Orange with black text/symbols. Reduce speed in construction zones. DOUBLE FINES for speeding when workers present. Follow flaggers' directions - they have authority over signs and signals.

4. Information/Guide Signs

- **Blue signs:** Services (gas, food, lodging, hospitals)
- **Green signs:** Direction and distance to destinations
- **Brown signs:** Recreation and tourist areas

5. Pavement Markings

Yellow Lines: Separate traffic traveling in OPPOSITE directions

- **Solid yellow:** No passing allowed
- **Broken yellow:** Passing allowed when safe
- **Double solid yellow:** No passing from either direction

White Lines: Separate traffic traveling in SAME direction

- **Solid white:** Lane change discouraged (but not illegal)
- **Broken white:** Lane change permitted
- **Double solid white:** Do not cross (HOV lanes, exit lanes)

6. Traffic Signals

- **Red:** STOP completely. Stay stopped until light turns green
- **Yellow/Amber:** Light is about to turn red. Stop if you can safely do so
- **Green:** Proceed if intersection is clear and safe
- **Advanced Green Arrow:** You have right-of-way to turn in direction of arrow
- **Flashing Red:** Treat as STOP sign
- **Flashing Yellow:** Proceed with caution, slow down

Topic 3: Intersections & Right-of-Way

Types of Intersections

- **Controlled Intersections:** Have traffic signals or stop signs to control traffic flow
- **Uncontrolled Intersections:** No signs or signals. Vehicle on the right has right-of-way. Slow down and be prepared to stop.

Right-of-Way Rules

- **Four-Way Stop:** First vehicle to arrive has right-of-way. If two vehicles arrive simultaneously, vehicle on the RIGHT goes first.
- **Uncontrolled Intersection:** Vehicle on the RIGHT has right-of-way
- **Left Turns:** Must yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians
- **Right Turns on Red:** Allowed after complete stop and when safe (unless sign prohibits)
- **Pedestrians:** ALWAYS have right-of-way at marked crosswalks and intersections
- **Emergency Vehicles:** Must pull over and stop for emergency vehicles with sirens/lights
- **School Buses:** MUST STOP when red lights are flashing (both directions on undivided roads)

Roundabouts and Traffic Circles

- Yield to traffic already in the roundabout
- Enter when there is a safe gap in traffic
- Travel counter-clockwise around the center island
- Signal your exit (right turn signal)
- Do not stop inside the roundabout
- Stay in your lane - don't change lanes inside

Railway Crossings - CRITICAL

MUST STOP if a train is within 500 meters of the crossing. Stop at least 5 meters from the nearest rail. Look both ways, listen for trains. Never try to beat a train - trains cannot stop quickly.

Merging onto Highways

- Use acceleration lane to match highway speed

- Signal your intention to merge
- Check blind spots before merging
- Merge smoothly into traffic when safe
- Vehicles already on highway have right-of-way
- Use zipper merge technique when lanes end

Topic 4: Safe Driving Practices

Following Distance

- **2-Second Rule:** In ideal conditions, maintain at least 2 seconds behind vehicle ahead
- **4-Second Rule:** In poor conditions (rain, snow, ice, fog), increase to 4 seconds or more
- **How to measure:** Pick a fixed point (sign, tree). When vehicle ahead passes it, count 'one thousand one, one thousand two'. You should reach the point after counting.
- **Increase following distance:** For larger vehicles, poor weather, heavy traffic, or when being tailgated

Speed Management

- Posted speed limits are for IDEAL conditions only
- Reduce speed in poor weather, heavy traffic, or construction zones
- Match your speed to road, traffic, and weather conditions
- Driving too slowly can also be dangerous - maintain reasonable speed
- School zones: 30 km/h when children present
- Playground zones: 30 km/h from 8:30 a.m. to 1 hour after sunset daily

Driving in Adverse Weather

Rain:

- Reduce speed - roads are slippery, especially when rain first starts
- Increase following distance to 4+ seconds
- Turn on headlights for visibility
- Watch for hydroplaning - if it happens, ease off gas and steer straight
- Avoid sudden braking or steering

Snow and Ice:

- Reduce speed significantly - ice can't be seen
- Increase following distance to 8-10 seconds
- Accelerate and brake gently to avoid skidding
- Clear ALL snow and ice from windows, lights, mirrors, and roof before driving
- Black ice forms on bridges and shaded areas first

Fog:

- Reduce speed and increase following distance
- Use low-beam headlights (NOT high beams - they reflect back)
- Use fog lights if equipped
- Use wipers and defrosters
- If fog is too thick, pull over safely and wait

Night Driving

- Use headlights from 1 hour after sunset to 1 hour before sunrise
- Dim lights for oncoming traffic (within 150 meters)
- Don't overdrive your headlights - you should be able to stop within visible distance
- Watch for eye shine of animals on road shoulders
- Reduce speed - visibility is reduced at night

Sharing the Road

Cyclists:

- Give at least 1 meter clearance when passing
- Check for cyclists before opening doors
- Watch for cyclists at intersections - they have same rights as vehicles
- Be patient - don't honk or rush them

Motorcycles:

- Check blind spots carefully - motorcycles are smaller and harder to see
- Give full lane width - don't share lanes
- Allow extra following distance
- Be extra cautious at intersections

Large Trucks:

- Stay out of blind spots (No Zone) - sides and rear
- Never cut in front - they need more stopping distance
- Pass quickly and safely on the left
- Be patient - they accelerate slowly and need wide turns

Topic 5: Emergency Procedures

Leaving the Paved Roadway

1. **Don't panic** - keep a firm grip on steering wheel
2. **Don't brake suddenly** - this can cause loss of control
3. **Ease off gas pedal** gradually
4. **Keep wheels straight** - don't try to steer back immediately
5. **Slow down** to a safe speed
6. **Check traffic** behind and beside you
7. **Signal** your intention to return
8. **Steer back** onto pavement gradually when safe

Vehicle Breakdown

- Pull over as far right as safely possible
- Turn on hazard lights
- If on highway, try to reach exit or safe area
- Stay in vehicle with seatbelt on if on busy road
- Call for help (911 if in danger, tow service otherwise)
- Use warning triangles or flares if you have them
- Be visible - raise hood or tie cloth to antenna

Collision Procedures

CRITICAL: If involved in a collision, you MUST stop. Leaving the scene is a criminal offense.

1. **Stop immediately** and turn on hazard lights
2. **Check for injuries** - call 911 if anyone is hurt
3. **Move vehicles** out of traffic if possible and safe (take photos first if able)
4. **Exchange information:** name, address, phone, driver's license number, vehicle registration, insurance
5. **Call police** if: injuries, property damage over \$2,000, impaired driver suspected, hit and run
6. **Take notes:** damage, location, weather, road conditions, witnesses

7. **Report to insurance** company within 24 hours

8. **Never admit fault** at the scene

Emergency Vehicles

- Pull over to the right and STOP when you see/hear emergency vehicle with lights/sirens
- Don't block intersections
- Stay stopped until emergency vehicle has passed
- Check before pulling back into traffic
- If on one-way street or divided highway, pull to nearest curb and stop
- Never follow emergency vehicle closer than 150 meters

Tire Blowout

- Keep firm grip on steering wheel
- Don't brake suddenly - this causes loss of control
- Ease off gas pedal gradually
- Keep vehicle straight
- Allow vehicle to slow down naturally
- When slow enough, brake gently and pull over safely
- Turn on hazard lights

Brake Failure

- Pump the brake pedal several times - this may build up pressure
- Shift to lower gear to slow down
- Use parking/emergency brake gradually (don't lock wheels)
- Sound horn and flash lights to warn others
- Look for safe escape route (open field, uphill)
- As last resort, rub against curb or guardrail to slow down

Skidding

- **Don't panic** and don't slam on brakes
- **Ease off gas** pedal

- **Steer in direction you want to go** (not where you're sliding)
- **Don't oversteer** - small steering corrections
- **Once you regain control**, straighten wheels and proceed carefully

Topic 6: Responsible Driving

Impaired Driving - ZERO TOLERANCE

As a Class 7 driver, you have ZERO TOLERANCE for alcohol and drugs. 0.00% BAC. This means absolutely no alcohol or drugs before or while driving.

- Alcohol slows reaction time, impairs judgment, reduces coordination
- Effects vary by weight, gender, food intake, and tolerance
- Never rely on coffee, cold showers, or time alone to sober up
- Prescription and over-the-counter drugs can also impair driving
- Cannabis impairs driving - don't drive high
- Penalties: immediate license suspension, vehicle seizure, criminal charges, jail time

Distracted Driving

Distracted driving is a leading cause of collisions in Alberta.

CELL PHONES: Cannot use handheld devices while driving. This includes:

- Calling or texting
- Holding phone in hand
- Using phone for any purpose except 911 emergency
- Hands-free devices ARE allowed

Other distractions to avoid:

- Eating or drinking
- Personal grooming
- Reading (including maps, unless stopped)
- Programming GPS while moving
- Reaching for objects
- Interactions with passengers

Penalties: \$300 fine and 3 demerit points

Fatigue

- Drowsy driving is as dangerous as impaired driving
- Warning signs: yawning, heavy eyelids, difficulty focusing, drifting from lane

- Don't drive if you're tired - the only solution is sleep
- Take breaks every 2 hours on long trips
- Share driving duties when possible
- Coffee or energy drinks are NOT substitutes for sleep

Seatbelt Requirements

ALL occupants must wear seatbelts. Driver is responsible for passengers under 16.

- Seatbelts reduce risk of death by 45% and serious injury by 50%
- Wear seatbelt properly: low across hips, shoulder strap across chest
- Never wear seatbelt under arm or behind back
- Pregnant women must wear seatbelts
- One person per seatbelt - no sharing or doubling up
- Penalties: \$162 fine and 3 demerit points

Child Restraint Requirements

- **Infants (under 40 lbs):** Rear-facing car seat in back seat
- **Toddlers (40-80 lbs):** Forward-facing car seat with harness
- **Children (under 145 cm tall):** Booster seat until they fit seatbelt properly
- **Children under 13:** Should ride in back seat when possible
- Never place rear-facing car seat in front of active airbag
- Follow car seat manufacturer's instructions carefully

Aggressive Driving and Road Rage

- Stay calm - don't let other drivers affect your emotions
- Don't engage with aggressive drivers - let them pass
- Avoid eye contact with angry drivers
- Don't make gestures or honk unnecessarily
- If being followed, drive to police station or busy public area
- Call 911 if you feel threatened
- Be courteous and patient with other drivers

Topic 7: Demerit Points & Penalties

How the Demerit Point System Works

- Points are assigned for traffic violations and remain on record for 2 years
- **Class 7 & Class 5-GDL:** License suspended at 8 points
- **Full Class 5:** License suspended at 15 points
- You'll receive warning letter at 7 points (Class 7/5-GDL) or 8-14 points (Class 5)
- At suspension threshold, must surrender license and cannot drive for minimum 1 month
- After suspension, must apply for reinstatement and may need re-examination

Common Offenses and Demerit Points

Offense	Points	Fine (approx)
Distracted driving (cell phone)	3	\$300
Not wearing seatbelt	3	\$162
Failing to stop for school bus	6	\$402
Running a red light	3	\$388
Running a stop sign	3	\$388
Speeding 1-15 km/h over	2	\$78
Speeding 16-30 km/h over	3	\$167
Speeding 31-50 km/h over	4	\$300+
Speeding 51+ km/h over	6	\$474+
Careless driving	6	\$405
Failing to yield right-of-way	3	\$388
Improper passing	3	\$233
Following too closely	3	\$155
Driving left of center	3	\$233

Special Penalties

- **School Zones:** Fines are doubled when speeding in school zones when children present
- **Construction Zones:** Fines are doubled when workers are present

- **Excessive Speeding (50+ km/h over):** Immediate vehicle seizure for 7 days, court appearance required
- **Street Racing:** Immediate 7-day vehicle seizure, license suspension, criminal charges
- **Failing to Stop for School Bus:** 6 demerits, \$402 fine, possible license suspension
- **Impaired Driving (Class 7):** Immediate 90-day suspension, vehicle seizure, criminal charges

Accumulating Too Many Demerits

IMPORTANT FOR CLASS 7: Remember, you only have 8 points before suspension. This means just a few violations can result in losing your license. Drive carefully and obey all traffic laws.

Topic 8: Vehicle Operation

Pre-Trip Vehicle Inspection

Before driving, walk around your vehicle and check the following:

- **Tires:** Proper inflation, adequate tread depth, no visible damage
- **Lights:** Headlights, brake lights, turn signals, license plate lights all working
- **Mirrors:** Clean and properly adjusted
- **Windows:** Clean, clear of ice/snow/frost, no obstructions
- **Windshield wipers:** Working condition, blades not worn
- **Fluid levels:** Check oil, coolant, washer fluid
- **Brakes:** Test before driving - should feel firm, not spongy
- **Horn:** Working properly
- **Seatbelts:** All working and accessible
- **Load:** Properly secured, not blocking visibility

Before Starting the Vehicle

- Adjust seat so you can reach pedals comfortably and see clearly
- Adjust all mirrors (rearview, side mirrors) to minimize blind spots
- Fasten seatbelt properly
- Ensure all passengers are wearing seatbelts
- Check that parking brake is engaged
- Ensure gear is in Park (automatic) or Neutral (manual)

Mirror Adjustment

- **Rearview mirror:** Center the rear window in the mirror
- **Side mirrors:** Should see a small sliver of your vehicle's side and mostly the lane beside you
- Adjust mirrors to minimize blind spots
- Don't rely only on mirrors - always shoulder check before lane changes

Safe Lane Changes

1. Check mirrors for traffic
2. Signal your intention (3-5 seconds before)
3. Shoulder check blind spot
4. Check mirrors again
5. Move smoothly into new lane when safe
6. Cancel signal after completing lane change
7. Maintain steady speed during lane change

Blind Spots

Blind spots are areas not visible in your mirrors. Always shoulder check before changing lanes or merging. Other vehicles, cyclists, and motorcycles can easily hide in blind spots.

Parking

Parallel Parking:

- Signal and pull alongside vehicle in front of space
- Align your mirrors, about 2 feet apart
- Shift to reverse, check surroundings
- Turn wheel fully right and back slowly
- When at 45-degree angle, straighten wheel and continue backing
- Turn wheel left to straighten vehicle in space
- Adjust position so you're centered and parallel to curb

Angle and Perpendicular Parking:

- Signal before entering parking lot
- Position vehicle appropriately before turning into space
- Turn when front bumper is past line of adjacent vehicle
- Center vehicle in space
- Check that you're within lines on both sides

When Parking on Hills:

- Uphill with curb: Turn wheels LEFT (away from curb)
- Uphill without curb: Turn wheels RIGHT (toward shoulder)
- Downhill: Turn wheels RIGHT (toward curb/shoulder)
- Always set parking brake

- Leave vehicle in Park or appropriate gear

Backing Up Safely

- Check all around vehicle before backing up (walk around if necessary)
- Turn body to look over right shoulder through rear window
- Use mirrors to monitor both sides
- Back up slowly - no faster than walking speed
- Keep foot hovering over brake
- If you lose sight of something/someone, STOP
- Sound horn if necessary to warn others

Dashboard Warning Lights

- **Check Engine Light:** Engine problem - have checked soon
- **Oil Pressure Light:** Low oil pressure - STOP immediately
- **Battery Light:** Charging system problem
- **Brake Warning Light:** Brake system problem or parking brake engaged
- **ABS Light:** Anti-lock brake system malfunction
- **Tire Pressure Light:** One or more tires low on air
- **Temperature Light:** Engine overheating - STOP immediately

Topic 9: Insurance & Documentation

Required Documents While Driving

You **MUST** carry the following documents at all times when driving:

- **Driver's License:** Valid Alberta Class 7 license
- **Vehicle Registration:** Proof that vehicle is registered in Alberta
- **Insurance Certificate (Pink Card):** Proof of valid auto insurance

Failure to produce these documents when requested by police can result in fines. You may be given time to produce documents later, but it's best to always have them with you.

Vehicle Insurance Requirements

- **Mandatory in Alberta:** All vehicles must have valid auto insurance
- **Minimum Coverage:** \$200,000 third-party liability coverage
- **What it covers:** Damage/injury you cause to others and their property
- **Pink Card:** Proof of insurance - must be current (not expired)
- **Penalties for driving without insurance:**
 - - \$2,875 fine for first offense
 - - Vehicle seizure
 - - License suspension
 - - Higher insurance rates in future

Optional Insurance Coverage

- **Collision:** Covers damage to your vehicle in a collision
- **Comprehensive:** Covers theft, vandalism, weather damage, etc.
- **Specified Perils:** Limited comprehensive coverage
- **Accident Benefits:** Medical expenses for you and passengers
- **Increased Liability:** More than minimum \$200,000 coverage

Vehicle Registration

- All vehicles must be registered with Alberta Registries

- Registration must be renewed annually
- License plate must be visible on rear of vehicle
- Registration certificate must be carried in vehicle
- Notify registries of address changes within 14 days
- Transfer registration when selling/buying vehicle

License Plate Rules

- Must be securely fastened to rear of vehicle
- Must be clean and visible at all times
- Cannot be altered, defaced, or obscured
- Must display current registration sticker
- Temporary plates allowed for up to 14 days when transferring ownership

Address Changes

You must notify Alberta Registries of any address change within **14 days**. This ensures you receive important documents and notifications from the government.

Selling or Buying a Vehicle

- **When selling:** Complete bill of sale and transfer registration at registry
- **When buying:** Transfer registration to your name immediately
- **Used vehicles:** Obtain vehicle information package to check history
- **Insurance:** Contact insurance company before driving vehicle
- **Out-of-province vehicles:** Must be registered in Alberta within 90 days of moving

Final Study Tips & Test Day Advice

How to Study Effectively

- Review this guide multiple times - repetition helps retention
- Focus on key numbers: speed limits, distances, demerit points
- Pay special attention to Class 7 restrictions and GDL rules
- Understand the 'why' behind rules, not just memorizing
- Take practice tests online to identify weak areas
- Study the Alberta Driver's Handbook (available at registry offices)
- Quiz yourself or have someone quiz you
- Get plenty of sleep before the test

Key Numbers to Remember

School zone speed	30 km/h when children present
Playground zone speed	30 km/h (8:30 a.m. to 1 hour after sunset, daily)
Railway crossing stop distance	At least 5 meters from nearest rail
Railway crossing - must stop when	Train within 500 meters
Fire hydrant parking distance	No parking within 5 meters
Following distance (ideal)	2 seconds
Following distance (poor weather)	4+ seconds
Demerit point suspension (Class 7)	8 points
Class 7 minimum holding period	1 year
Class 7 blood alcohol limit	0.00%
Class 7 curfew hours	Midnight to 5 a.m.
Dim headlights distance	Within 150 meters of oncoming traffic
Emergency vehicle following distance	Not closer than 150 meters

On Test Day

- Arrive at registry office early
- Bring required identification and payment
- Read each question carefully - don't rush

- If unsure, eliminate obviously wrong answers first
- Don't change answers unless you're certain - first instinct often correct
- Watch for words like 'always', 'never', 'must' - these indicate absolute rules
- Take your time - you have 60 minutes for 30 questions
- Review your answers if time permits
- Stay calm and confident - you've prepared well!

Common Test Question Types

- **Sign identification:** Know shapes, colors, and meanings
- **Right-of-way scenarios:** Who goes first in various situations
- **Speed limits:** School zones, playground zones, specific situations
- **Following distances:** 2-second rule, adjustments for conditions
- **GDL restrictions:** Curfew, supervisor requirements, BAC limit
- **Demerit points:** How many points for suspension, common offenses
- **Emergency procedures:** What to do in various emergency situations
- **Required documents:** What must be carried while driving

Good Luck!

You've reviewed all 9 topics covered on the Alberta Class 7 knowledge test. With thorough preparation and careful attention to the rules, you'll be well-prepared to pass. Remember that these rules exist to keep you and others safe on the road. Safe driving is not just about passing the test - it's a lifelong commitment to responsible driving.

Once you pass your knowledge test, you'll be ready to start your practical driving experience with your Class 7 license. Drive safely, follow all restrictions, and enjoy the journey to becoming a fully licensed driver!