

Sure you're an experienced driver—but could you still pass the test?

Feeling confident? Check your driving know-how with a few basic questions straight from MPI's driver training manual

There's nothing like being a grown up. You can have microwave popcorn for dinner if you feel like it. No one gets on your case if you decide (quite rightly) that brussels sprouts are highly poisonous and aren't meant for human consumption. You don't stay up until midnight doing homework anymore—now it's fun stuff like David Letterman or the late show.

High school is a faint memory (one you've probably distorted so your kids believe you were better behaved than they are). You've forgotten three quarters of what you learned in Canadian Social Studies, most of the European capitals, and—unless you're crazy about the latest in lab wear—absolutely anything related to Chemistry or the Periodic Table.

Most of the quizzes you took in high school are long forgotten, and with good reason if the subject matter never factored into your future. However, I'd



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hazard a guess that your driving exam is filed way back in your brain, too, along with the scientific name for fluffy white clouds and the fascinating wing formations of a fruit fly.

Uh oh.

Welcome back

Could it be that we've hit upon one exam you took years ago in which the results maybe, just maybe, are as important now as they were then? Sure, you've been driving for years, and have become what we term an "experienced driver." Fair enough. But could you still pass the test?

Welcome back to high school,

folks, and the two words that have struck terror into the hearts of generations of students: POP QUIZ.

I've gone through MPI's Driver Education Driving Manual, and pulled out a few rules, regulations and Q and A's—the kind you're expected to know if you plan on passing a driving test.

Now, since we're all seasoned drivers here, this should be a piece of cake, right? (I can see thousands of MPI's Driver's Education students across Manitoba handing this column to their parents and giggling with anticipation...)

OK, so here goes:

1. If two or more vehicles arrive simultaneously at a four-way stop, which one has the right of way?
2. If an oncoming vehicle approaches a stopped school bus, complete with flashing lights, and there is a median between the two, does the vehicle have to stop?

3. How far away must you park from a stop sign?

4. Is it against the law to squeal your tires?

5. If you are parking your vehicle perpendicular to the curb, how close to the curb must you be?

6. Can vehicles in a funeral procession go through a red light or stop sign?

7. Studded tires are illegal between what dates?

8. Pregnant women should avoid the use of lap belts, and buckle up strictly with three-point shoulder seatbelts as the best protection for them and their unborn child: true or false?

9. If you require 4.5 metres to stop when braking at 30 km/h, how much distance will you require when braking at 90 km/h: 13.h metres, 25 metres or 40.5 metres?

10. Which surface provides less traction: wet gravel or wet concrete?

No sweat?

Ten out of ten, right? No sweat, got them all on the first try? Well, I know the anticipation is killing you, but you'll have to wait until next week to find out if you're as smart as you think you are.

By the way, in keeping with this theme, feel free to email me any questions you may have about driving or road safety in general. If I don't know the answer, I'll find it for you. My email address is pallen@mpi.mb.ca.

That's it for this week. Until next week, don't cheat and accost the nearest MPI Driver's Education student for a copy of their manual—and be **RoadWise**.

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