

Pencils down! It's time to review answers to last week's pop quiz

Do you know as much as you thought you did, or is this a much-needed refresher on the finer points of driving?

Welcome back, class! I'm sure you're all eager to find out how you did on last week's exam, correct?

For those of you just tuning in, last week I asked ten questions very similar to those you should know before taking a driver's exam.

The whole point of the column was to drag everybody back to high school for a quick retest, just to see how much we remembered of that one exam, considering its huge importance.

So, now that you've found the scrap of paper with your scrawled answers, let's go over the questions!

Question number one asked which vehicle had the right of way if two vehicles arrived simultaneously at a four way stop. Answer: the vehicle on the left yields to the vehicle on the right. This is an interesting point. The right of way rules specify who yields to whom. This is important, as it implies you never have the right of way; someone else has to give it you.



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Next question: 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? No. However, the driver should be extremely cautious and watch for children popping out of nowhere.

No squealing

And behind door number three: you must park at least nine metres away from a stop sign or any other traffic signal. I don't care how terrific that garage sale looks, don't think about invading that space.

Number four may surprise you. It is against the law to squeal your tires.

It's also really annoying, so would all guilty parties out there please find another way of communicating?

Number five: if you're parking your vehicle perpendicular to the curb, you should generally be within 45 centimetres of it. That's eighteen inches for those of us who refuse to convert to metric. Parking is a municipal responsibility, though, so you may want to double check that number with your local police.

Number six asked if vehicles in a funeral procession are allowed to go through a red light or stop sign. If traffic conditions permit, yes, they are allowed to cautiously proceed through red lights or stop signs. And, the law also states that you must yield to the procession. I saw someone the other day actually passing a funeral procession one vehicle at a time. Please, have some respect.

Studded tires, question number seven, are illegal between April 30

and October 1. Freak snowstorms do not change the dates in any way.

Number eight is absolutely false. Pregnant women are completely safe wearing any kind of seatbelt, assuming it has been properly adjusted. If you're pregnant and you're not sure how to wear your seatbelt, ask your doctor or contact the MPI Road Safety office at (204) 985-7199.

Kinetic energy

Number nine was tricky. It asked: if you require 4.5 metres to stop when braking at 30 km/h, would you require 13.5, 25 or 40.5 metres at 90 km/h? Now, logic says that if we're traveling three times faster, we need three times the distance to stop, so 13.5 metres should be correct. Wrong. Thanks to the kinetic energy created by the speed you're traveling, you'd need 40.5 metres to stop. Big difference.

And lastly, number 10. Which provides less traction, wet gravel or wet concrete? If we assume that the

perfect friction factor is 1—excellent tires stopping on a perfectly smooth surface—then wet gravel comes in at 0.5, and wet concrete at 0.4. Thus, wet concrete is actually more slippery than wet gravel.

So, how did you do? If you got more than a couple wrong, I'd suggest you may want to consider a quick read through your driver's handbook (available for sale at any driver testing or licencing office and through some Autopac agents) to refresh your memory on the particulars of safe and legal driving.

Class dismissed. Until next week, be **RoadWise**.

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