

Alberta Class 7 Study Guide

Every rule, number and threshold the Class 7 learner's knowledge test asks about — condensed

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What this is: an independent study summary written by passyourlearners.ca. It is **not** the official Alberta Driver's Guide and does not reproduce it. The Driver's Guide is a free Government of Alberta publication and is the source the real knowledge test is written from — download it at open.alberta.ca. Rules can change; always confirm against the current official guide.

This is our own study guide for the Alberta Class 7 learner's knowledge test — written by us, not copied from anywhere. It condenses everything the test asks about into one page you can read in a sitting: the numbers, the thresholds, and the rules that questions are actually built from.

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1. What the test actually is

- 30 multiple-choice questions. You need 25 correct to pass — no more than 5 wrong.
- There is no time limit. Most people finish in 20 to 30 minutes.
- It's taken in person on a computer at any registry agent in Alberta, not online. Results are immediate.
- Offered in 25 languages. Call your registry to confirm which ones they have available.
- Fees are set by each registry — typically around \$17 — and you pay again on every attempt.
- You can attempt it once per day, with no limit on total attempts. Failing doesn't go on your record.
- Minimum age is 14, with a parent or guardian's signed consent if you're under 18.
- Bring ID proving identity, age, and Alberta residency. There's a short vision screening first.

Five topic areas are tested: road signs, rules of the road, right-of-way, safe driving, and penalties and demerits. Road signs is the largest single area.

2. Road signs: learn the system, not 299 pictures

Our sign catalogue alone covers 299 Alberta signs. You will never memorize them all, and you don't need to — shape and colour tell you a sign's category before you read a word of it. Learn the system and you can classify a sign you have never seen before.

- Red octagon — Stop. The only octagonal sign. Come to a complete stop at the line, crosswalk, or before entering the intersection.
- Downward-pointing triangle — Yield. Let other traffic and pedestrians go first; slow or stop if you need to.
- Yellow diamond — Warning. A hazard or change in the road ahead: curve, intersection, crossing.
- Orange diamond — Construction or maintenance zone. Same meanings, temporary. Fines are typically doubled when workers are present.
- White rectangle — Regulatory. It's the law: MAXIMUM 50 means a legal 50 km/h limit.
- Red circle with a diagonal slash — the action shown is prohibited (no left turn, no U-turn).

- Green circle — the action shown is permitted.
- Green rectangle — guidance: destinations, distances, directions. No rules imposed.
- Blue rectangle — motorist services: fuel, food, lodging, hospitals.
- Fluorescent yellow-green pentagon or diamond with children — school or playground area. Slow down and watch for children.

Two shapes carry their meaning in the outline alone: the stop octagon and the yield triangle. If snow covers the face of the sign, you can still obey it.

Traffic lights, in the words the test uses

- Solid amber (yellow) — the light is about to turn red. Stop before the stop line if you can do so safely; continue only if you're too close to stop safely. It is not a signal to speed up.
- Flashing red — treat it exactly like a stop sign: complete stop, then proceed when safe.
- Flashing yellow — caution. Slow down and proceed carefully; you don't have to stop.

3. Rules of the road: the numbers to memorize

Speed limits apply unless a sign says otherwise:

- 50 km/h — default in an urban area.
- 100 km/h — provincial highway outside an urban area.
- 80 km/h — provincial highway inside a city's corporate limits.
- 30 km/h — school zones during posted hours. Playground zones are also reduced-speed areas during their posted hours; check the posted sign.

Distances and thresholds that show up as questions:

- Stop about 20 metres (four to five car lengths) back from a school bus with flashing red lights.
- Don't park within 5 metres (16 feet) of a fire hydrant.
- With no stop line or marked crosswalk, stop within 3 metres (10 feet) of the intersecting roadway.
- Stay at least 150 metres (500 feet) behind an emergency vehicle running its lights or siren.

Lines, lanes and signalling

- A solid line on your side means no passing. Pass only when the broken line is on your side.
- Signal every turn and every lane change, well in advance — even when you can't see anyone.
- After passing, return to your lane only once you can see the passed vehicle in your rear-view mirror.
- Turn into the correct lane. Swinging wide through two lanes is improper and unsafe.
- Shoulder-check left before a left turn off a two-lane highway — someone may already be passing you.
- A centre lane with two-way left-turn arrows is shared: drivers from both directions use it to wait and turn left.
- A diamond painted on a lane marks a reserved lane; a sign says who may use it (buses, taxis, bicycles, carpools).
- Headlights are required at night and whenever visibility is poor.
- Seat belts are required by law for the driver and every passenger.
- Hand-held phones are illegal while driving — 3 demerit points and a fine.

Turning on a red light

- Right on red: allowed after a complete stop and yielding to pedestrians and traffic, unless a sign prohibits it.
- Left on red: allowed only from a one-way street onto another one-way street, after a complete stop and yielding, and only if no sign prohibits it. That is the only legal left on red.

School buses

- Flashing amber lights mean the bus is about to stop and the red lights are coming. Be ready to stop.
- Flashing red lights on an undivided road: traffic in BOTH directions must stop and stay stopped until the lights stop flashing.
- Flashing red lights on a divided highway: only traffic behind the bus, travelling the same direction, must stop.

4. Right-of-way: a different rule for every situation

There is no single "be polite" rule. The test gives you a scenario and expects the specific rule for it.

- Four-way stop — first to come to a complete stop goes first. Arrive together, and the driver on the right goes.
- Uncontrolled intersection (no signs or lights) — yield to any vehicle already in the intersection, and to the vehicle on your right if you arrive together.
- Turning left — yield to oncoming traffic going straight or turning right. This holds even at an uncontrolled intersection.
- Roundabouts — traffic already circulating has the right-of-way; entering vehicles yield. Signal and shoulder-check before changing lanes or exiting, and never stop or reverse inside the circle.
- Pedestrians — yield to anyone in a crosswalk and let them finish crossing. An intersection is a legal crosswalk whether or not lines are painted.
- Entering from a driveway, alley, or private road — yield to traffic on the roadway and to pedestrians on the sidewalk.
- Merging onto a highway — use the ramp to get up to highway speed, then fit into a gap. Highway traffic does not have to slow down for you.
- Emergency vehicles with lights and siren — pull over to the right edge and stop. Don't stop in an intersection.
- Cyclists — slow down, leave plenty of room, and pass only when it's safe.

5. Safe driving: space, speed, and conditions

- Following distance: at least 2 seconds in good conditions; 4 seconds or more on snow and ice.
- Check your rear-view mirrors every 8 to 12 seconds — roughly every block in the city.
- Mirrors do not cover your blind spots. Shoulder-check before every lane change and merge.
- Skid: ease off the accelerator and steer gently where you want the front of the car to go. Don't brake hard.
- Hydroplaning: ease off the gas, keep the wheel straight, wait for the tires to grip. Don't brake hard.
- Rain, snow, fog: use low beams. High beams reflect back off the precipitation and make it worse.
- Fog too thick to continue: pull well off the road, hazard lights on, and wait it out.
- Shiny black asphalt where you expected grey — suspect black ice. Slow down, no sudden braking or steering.
- At night, don't overdrive your headlights: stay slow enough to stop within the distance they light.
- Glare: slow down, and keep the windshield clean inside and out.
- Large trucks and buses have huge blind spots. If you can't see the driver's mirrors, they can't see you.

- Fatigue impairs you much like alcohol. Coffee and fresh air wear off; the only real fix is to stop and rest.

6. Penalties, demerits and your GDL conditions

This is the shortest section of the material and one of the easiest places to pick up marks, because the answers are just numbers.

- Fully licensed driver: suspension at 15 demerit points in two years.
- Class 7 learner (GDL): suspension at 8 demerit points — a much lower bar.
- Demerit points stay on your record for two years from the date of the offence, then come off.

Demerit values worth knowing:

- 7 points — failing to remain at the scene of a collision (the highest on the standard table).
- 6 points — failing to stop for a school bus with red lights flashing; careless driving; racing; speeding 51 km/h or more over the limit.
- 4 points — following too closely; failing to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk.
- 3 points — distracted driving, such as using a hand-held phone.

Your Class 7 conditions

- A supervising driver must sit beside you in the front passenger seat: fully licensed, non-GDL, and at least 18. A probationary Class 5-GDL driver does not qualify, however long they've been driving.
- No driving between midnight and 5 a.m.
- Zero blood alcohol. Any alcohol can lead to suspension.
- Passengers are limited to the number of seat belts, with your supervisor in the front seat.
- You must hold the Class 7 for at least one year before attempting the Class 5 (GDL) road test.
- To leave GDL entirely: be at least 18, hold a Class 5-GDL for two years, and have no suspensions in the previous 12 months.
- A child under six who weighs 18 kg (40 lb) or less must be secured in a child safety seat.

7. The mix-ups that fail people

- Merge vs. added lane — merge means traffic joins yours and you adjust; added lane means a new lane appears and nobody has to merge.
- Yield vs. stop — yield means give way and proceed when clear; stop means a full stop every time, empty road or not.
- School zone vs. playground zone — both are reduced-speed areas, but they apply on different days and hours. Read the sign, don't assume.
- Solid amber — stop if you safely can. Not "hurry through."
- School bus on a divided highway — only your direction stops. On an undivided road, both directions stop.
- Left on red — legal only one-way to one-way.
- Left turn at an uncontrolled intersection — you still yield to the oncoming driver going straight.
- 8 demerits, not 15 — the learner threshold is roughly half.
- A probationary Class 5-GDL driver cannot supervise you.
- Merging — you yield to the highway, not the other way around.

8. How to use this guide

Read it once end to end to see the shape of the test. Then take a practice test and come back to the sections you lost marks in — a wrong answer while the material is fresh tells you exactly what to re-read. Repeat until you're scoring 90% or better on fresh mock exams, not just once but consistently. The real pass mark is 25 of 30, so 90% in practice gives you a real buffer instead of walking in exactly at the line.

Want to study away from a screen? Print this guide, or grab our free question PDFs — 154 practice questions with answers and explanations, available in English, Punjabi, and Hindi.

And for the official source of truth, go to the Government of Alberta's Driver's Guide — free from open.alberta.ca. Our guide to the Alberta learner's handbook explains which edition to look for.