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North Carolina Practice Questions

Q1. About 38 percent of all traffic fatalities involve which of the following?

- A) Both alcohol and multiple-vehicle crashes.
- B) Multiple-vehicle crashes only.
- C) Alcohol only.

Answer: C

Q2. At a stop sign, in what order should you scan the intersection before proceeding?

- A) Look left first
 - then right
 - then left again.
- B) Look right first
 - then left
 - then right again.
- C) Only check your rearview mirror.

Answer: A

Q3. How should you consider railroad crossings in terms of safety?

- A) Generally safe because trains are infrequent.
- B) Safe places to stop and park.
- C) Dangerous — always look and listen before crossing.

Answer: C

Q4. If your license is suspended a third time due to the point system, how long is the suspension?

- A) 10 weeks.
- B) 12 months.
- C) 10 months.

Answer: B

Q5. If an officer is directing traffic at an intersection where the traffic light is working, which should you follow?

- A) Your own judgment rather than either.
- B) The traffic light only.
- C) The officer's directions.

Answer: C

Q6. A flashing yellow traffic signal at an intersection means you should:

- A) Slow down and proceed with caution.
- B) Stop and wait for a green light.
- C) Continue through the intersection at normal speed.

Answer: A

Q7. When driving on major highways, you should:

- A) Fix your gaze on the center of the road to avoid distractions.
- B) Use cruise control at all times to reduce effort.
- C) Stay alert and continuously scan the road and traffic conditions.

Answer: C

Q8. If you become stranded during a snowstorm, what is the safest action?

- A) Get out and walk along the road to find help.
- B) Stay in your vehicle and wait for help.
- C) Lie down inside the vehicle and go to sleep.

Answer: B

Q9. Where is it unsafe or illegal to pass another vehicle?

- A) Where there is a separate turning lane.
- B) On a curve in the roadway.
- C) On a hill
 - at an intersection
 - or near a railroad crossing where your view is limited.

Answer: B

Q10. When you approach an intersection with a flashing yellow light, what should you do?

- A) Stop and wait for the light to change.
- B) Make a U-turn because the intersection is closed.
- C) Drive carefully through the intersection

Answer: C

Q11. Which headlights should you use when driving in fog?

- A) High beam headlights.
- B) Low beam headlights.
- C) Parking lights only.

Answer: B

Q12. Drinking coffee after alcohol will:

- A) Not reduce your blood alcohol concentration.
- B) Reduce your blood alcohol concentration quickly.
- C) Cancel the effects of alcohol.

Answer: A

Q13. You approach a railroad crossing and do not see or hear a train. You must stop when:

- A) When flashing red lights are activated or a gate is down
 - a stop sign is posted
 - a flagger signals you to stop
 - or a train is visible or close enough to be hazardous.
- B) Only if a crossing gate is lowered.
- C) Only if the crossing lights are flashing.

Answer: A

Q14. What is the best way to handle a driver who is tailgating you?

- A) Gradually slow down or change lanes to encourage them to pass.
- B) Slam on your brakes to frighten them away.
- C) Speed up to increase the gap to the vehicle ahead.

Answer: A

Q15. Where are stop lines (solid white lines) painted on the pavement?

- A) At intersections and pedestrian crosswalks.
- B) Next to churches and schools.
- C) In curves and on hills.

Answer: A

Q16. What color lines separate lanes of traffic moving in the same direction?

- A) Yellow
- B) Red
- C) White

Answer: C

Q17. When changing lanes on a highway, which actions should you take?

- A) Signal
 - check your mirrors
 - and look over your shoulder to be sure the blind spot is clear before changing lanes.
- B) Check mirrors only because they show everything you need.
- C) Signal only and then change lanes quickly.

Answer: A

Q18. If you hear or see an emergency vehicle approaching, how should you react?

- A) Proceed normally if the emergency vehicle is in the opposite direction on a divided highway and no lane change is needed.
- B) Stop immediately in your lane
 - even if you are in the middle of an intersection.
- C) Move as far to the right as is safe and stop until the emergency vehicle has passed.

Answer: C

Q19. What does an orange traffic sign usually indicate?

- A) A railroad crossing ahead.
- B) Construction
- C) A school zone ahead.

Answer: B

Q20. If you hear or see an emergency vehicle while on a divided multilane highway, what should you do?

- A) Disregard the signal if other lanes are open.
- B) Stop as quickly as possible in your lane.
- C) Slow down
 - move safely to the right (or out of its path) and stop until the emergency vehicle has passed.

Answer: C

Q21. When is it acceptable to stop your vehicle on railroad tracks?

- A) Never stop on the tracks.
- B) If no trains are nearby.
- C) Only when crossing and already partway across.

Answer: A

Q22. If you hear a siren but cannot immediately see the emergency vehicle, what should you do?

- A) Pull to the curb and look to determine if the emergency vehicle is on your street.
- B) Slow down but do not stop until you identify its location.
- C) Keep driving until you clearly see the vehicle.

Answer: A

Q23. When merging onto a highway from an entrance ramp, you should generally:

- A) Stop at the end of the ramp and wait for a large gap.
- B) Accelerate to match the speed of traffic and merge when safe.
- C) Enter slowly to avoid other vehicles.

Answer: B

Q24. If an approaching driver fails to dim high beams, where should you look?

- A) Toward the right side of the road to avoid being blinded.
- B) At the approaching vehicle's headlights.
- C) Toward the left side of the road.

Answer: A

Q25. A red flashing traffic light means the same as a:

- A) Solid red light.
- B) Stop sign.
- C) Yield sign.

Answer: B

Q26. Which of the following statements about railroad crossings is true?

- A) It is against the law to go around lowered crossing gates.
- B) All railroad crossings have flashing lights and gates.
- C) You do not have to stop when directed by a flagger.

Answer: A

Q27. Approximately what percentage of crashes involve alcohol?

- A) About 10 percent.
- B) About 18 percent.
- C) About 38 percent.

Answer: C

Q28. If a tire blows out while driving, you should:

- A) Brake hard immediately to stop as quickly as possible.
- B) Hold the steering wheel firmly
- C) Maintain speed and steer straight until reaching a repair shop.

Answer: B

Q29. What is a primary effect of distracted driving?

- A) It always makes drivers more alert.
- B) It usually causes drivers to react more slowly to hazards.
- C) It never affects driving ability.

Answer: B

Q30. What color are guide or destination signs that give directional and mileage information?

- A) Red.
- B) Yellow.
- C) Green.

Answer: C

Q31. What is the most common color for warning signs?

- A) Yellow.
- B) Red.
- C) Green.

Answer: A

Q32. How do eating and drinking while driving affect performance?

- A) They distract the driver and increase the likelihood of leaving their lane or losing control.
- B) They prevent drivers from making errors.
- C) They make drivers better because they are not hungry.

Answer: A

Q33. If the crossing signals at a railroad crossing are flashing, what should you do?

- A) Slow down and proceed if you don't see a train.
- B) Stop and remain stopped until the signals and gates (if any) are no longer active and it is clearly safe to cross.
- C) Speed up to beat the train.

Answer: B

Q34. What does a yellow-and-black diamond-shaped sign usually indicate?

- A) Directions to cities and towns ahead.
- B) Warning — conditions on or near the road ahead.
- C) Traffic laws and regulations you must follow.

Answer: B

Q35. When is it permitted to cross a dashed (broken) white line?

- A) When it is safe to change lanes.
- B) At any time.
- C) Only during daylight hours.

Answer: A

Q36. When should you drive below the posted speed limit?

- A) Only when traffic is heavy.
- B) Whenever conditions (weather
 - traffic
 - or visibility) make the posted speed unsafe.
- C) Only when you see a police car.

Answer: B

Q37. When approaching a school bus stopped on the opposite side of a center turning lane on a four-lane roadway, drivers may:

- A) Stop until the stop arm is lifted regardless of lane layout.
- B) Continue driving but exercise extra caution.
- C) Must stop until the bus moves.

Answer: B

Q38. Under the North Carolina point system, accumulating how many points within three years (after a prior suspension) will result in license suspension?

- A) 15 points.
- B) 10 points.
- C) 8 points if previously suspended; 12 points if not previously suspended.

Answer: C

Q39. If you miss your exit on an interstate, what should you do?

- A) Get off at the next exit and circle back safely.
- B) Stop and make a U-turn on the shoulder.
- C) Back up in your lane to reach the missed exit.

Answer: A

Q40. A diamond-shaped traffic sign normally indicates:

- A) A warning about a road hazard or special condition.
- B) A school crossing area.
- C) An interstate route marker.

Answer: A

Q41. What does a steady yellow traffic signal mean?

- A) You have the right-of-way to speed through the intersection.
- B) Slow down and prepare to stop because the light will soon be red.
- C) Come to a complete stop immediately no matter where you are.

Answer: B

Q42. Why must you use extra caution near a pedestrian using a white cane?

- A) They are law enforcement officers.
- B) They are likely blind and may require you to slow and yield.
- C) They are always crossing illegally.

Answer: B

Q43. When approaching a school bus stopped on the opposite side of a center turning lane on a three-lane roadway, you must:

- A) Honking before passing to alert children.
- B) Stop until the bus's stop arm is retracted and lights stop flashing.
- C) Proceed with caution without stopping.

Answer: C

Q44. How would you classify distracted driving?

- A) Very uncommon.
- B) Extremely risky behavior.
- C) Not a concern for safe drivers.

Answer: B

Q45. When it is raining, which headlights should you use?

- A) Parking lights only.
- B) Low beam headlights.
- C) High beam headlights.

Answer: B

Q46. When must drivers yield to pedestrians in the street?

- A) Only if the pedestrian is on the same side of the road as the driver.
- B) Only when the pedestrian is in a marked crosswalk.
- C) Drivers must yield to pedestrians in the roadway whenever necessary to avoid a collision
 - including in both marked and unmarked crosswalks.

Answer: C

Q47. What effect can drinking alcohol while also taking drugs have?

- A) It will decrease the effects of the drugs and alcohol.
- B) It can increase the effects of both the alcohol and the drugs.
- C) It will help the medication work faster.

Answer: B

Q48. Who has the right-of-way when a funeral procession is present?

- A) The funeral procession generally has the right-of-way over other traffic
 - but must still yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and emergency vehicles.
- B) Other drivers always have the right-of-way over a funeral procession.
- C) Pedestrians always have the right-of-way
 - and funeral processions must obey all signals exactly like normal traffic.

Answer: A

Q49. What does the slow-moving vehicle emblem look like?

- A) A circular green sign.
- B) A rectangular red sign.
- C) A reflective orange triangle.

Answer: C

Q50. When riding in a vehicle, small children should:

- A) Be held by a strong adult on the seat.
- B) Stand on the floor in the back of the vehicle.
- C) Be properly restrained in child safety seats appropriate for their size and age.

Answer: C