

Lesson 7: RMV Practice Tests - How to Study for the Test

Goal:

This lesson will offer strategies to **study and prepare by using the MA Driver's Manual**. While the last lesson introduced the topics of the test, this lesson covers studying, developing testing strategies for, and taking the test.

Practice Tests Lesson Part A

Review:

After the last lesson, what do you expect will be difficult about taking the practice test? How can you best prepare to take the test?

It can be intimidating, but the Practice Test only gives you about one minute per question. This is an extra obstacle for test-takers who have limited experience with multiple choice tests, the language of the test, and the content of the test. Even when you know the answer to the question, the wording or phrasing of the question might be confusing.

Eliciting Prior Knowledge:

Have you taken a multiple choice test before? If so, what features or elements stand out? What test-taking strategies have you used in the past?

Taking Practice Tests

The best way to study is by answering many questions. Unfortunately, the RMV does not have an official study guide for the test. Therefore, it can help to find an unofficial practice exam, like this one: <https://driving-tests.org/massachusetts/rmv-practice-test/>

If you haven't taken a multiple-choice test before, review some of the kinds of questions you may be asked. Some questions will ask you to "finish the sentence," like this question from [this practice test](#):

Traffic warning signs in work zones are usually...

- a. Red
- b. Yellow
- c. Green
- d. Orange

Other questions will ask a direct question and list possible answers, like this question:

Which of the following statements about making turns is true?

- a. Start from the lane further from where you want to go
- b. Always start from the rightmost lane
- c. Always start from the leftmost lane
- d. Start from the lane closest to where you want to go

Some questions will ask you to “fill in the blank,” like this one:

The driver of a car being passed must _____ until the pass is complete.

- a. Stop
- b. Move to the left
- c. Increase speed
- d. Not increase speed

During this lesson, practice taking the test as much as you can - preferably on a computer, if you can access one. Here are some more tips for taking multiple-choice tests:

- 1) Read the full question and the potential answers, in full, before answering.
- 2) If you're confused about a question, or don't know the answer, try to rule out any answers that are obviously wrong, rather than choosing the right answer. At the very least, this increases your chances of guessing correctly.

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- 3) Be aware of the time!
- 4) Make sure you know some test-taking vocabulary, like “all of the above,” “none of the above,” etc.

Using the Driver’s Manual to Answer Questions

While you study, you should use the Driver’s Manual to check answers or to look up answers you don’t yet know. This will help identify sections of the Manual to study.

This strategy requires a digital, searchable pdf of the Driver’s Manual (found here: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/drivers-manual/download>).

If the test asks you, for instance:

The screenshot shows the 'driving tests MASSACHUSETTS' interface. At the top, there's a blue header with 'driving tests MASSACHUSETTS', 'Premium Login', and 'Pass the First Time, Guaranteed'. Below the header, the breadcrumb trail reads 'Home » Massachusetts » MA RMV Practice Test 2'. A 'SHOW DESCRIPTION' link is next to it.

On the left, there's a 'Your Progress' section with a table of 40 questions. Questions 1 through 3 are highlighted in green, indicating they are completed. Below the table, it states '11 mistakes allowed to pass' and 'Passing score required at the MA RMV: 72%'. There are two buttons: 'Restart' and 'Challenge Bank 14'.

The main content area displays a question: 'The vision test for the driver's license evaluates'. The options are: 'color vision.', 'acuity.', 'peripheral vision.', and 'all of the above.' The 'all of the above.' option is selected, indicated by a blue circle. Below the options is a 'Hint' section, which is currently empty. At the bottom of the question area, there are links for 'Report a problem', 'Like', and 'Share', along with the text '3.1K people like this. Sign Up to see what your friends like.'.

At the bottom left, there is a button labeled 'Back to all MA tests'.

A digital word search can help us find the answer. Open the Driver’s Manual pdf. Hold down the keys “Control” and “F”. This enables you to search for specific terms in the document. Then choose a distinct word or phrase of the question - in this case, “peripheral vision” - and search the document. See below:

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Chapter 428 of the Acts of 2006 prohibits the RMV from taking a photograph of the applicant if the applicant is wearing eyeglasses.

peripheral vision

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Massachusetts Driver's License Limited to Massachusetts Residents

By law, a Massachusetts driver's license or ID card (except for a Liquor ID card) can only be issued to a resident of Massachusetts. Licenses cannot be issued for the convenience of business persons or tourists from other states or countries who may be here temporarily or to non-residents who own property or temporarily live in Massachusetts but maintain their legal residence outside the state. To obtain a license, you must meet all the requirements for a driver's license under the law, including the requirement that you be lawfully present in the U.S. and be a legal resident of Massachusetts.

Massachusetts law requires those convicted of sex offenses to register with their local police departments. For more information, call 1-800-93-MEGAN.

Vision Screening Requirements

Testing your vision is a necessary part of ensuring that you are capable of operating a motor vehicle safely. An RMV clerk will screen your vision when you apply for a learner's permit or driver's license. You will be screened for visual acuity, color vision, and **peripheral vision**. If you normally wear contact lenses or corrective lenses to see at a distance, then you must wear them during the vision screening examination.

To be eligible for a Class D or M license, your vision must be at least 20/40 visual acuity in your better eye (corrected) and at least 120 degrees of horizontal peripheral vision (both eyes together) for a full license. If your corrected vision is between 20/50 and 20/70 in the better eye, you may be eligible for a daylight only license. If you fail the vision screening examination, decline to take the examination, or are unable to take the vision screening examination, you may submit an original RMV Vision Screening Certificate that your ophthalmologist or optometrist, licensed in Massachusetts, has completed. The RMV may accept this Vision Screening Certificate in lieu of the vision screening examination to demonstrate compliance with the minimum vision standards to obtain a driver's license.

Drivers With Monovision

Monovision is a method of visual correction (either through surgery or by contact lens) that allows for the use of one eye for distance vision and the other eye for near vision. If you have monovision, you may have trouble with the RMV's vision screening examination. A Vision Screening Certificate (VSC), completed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist and

Developing personal strategies

Tutors and tutees should rely on the experience of taking many practice tests to determine the best test-taking strategy. Some tutees will struggle with the time of the test, while others will struggle with tricky or unclear wording. Be sure to develop specific strategies for each tutee, to be practiced in tutoring sessions and at home, if possible.

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