

WASHINGTON STATE

KNOWLEDGE TEST CHEAT SHEET 2026

40 Questions · 80% to Pass · 32 Correct Required

driving-schoolnear.me | Source: dol.wa.gov | Updated June 2026

PASS SCORE AT A GLANCE

Total Questions	40
Correct Answers Needed	32 (80%)
Questions You Can Miss	8
Test Format	Multiple choice + True/False — Computer-based
Time Limit	None (self-paced — most finish in 20–30 min)
Test Location	Washington DOL office or certified 3rd-party center
Languages Available	14 — English, Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Vietnamese + more
First Attempt Fee	\$30–\$35
Retake Fee	\$15–\$20 (no retake limit, no mandatory waiting period)
Score Validity	2 years — must get permit or complete road test within window

EXAM WEIGHT — 5 CHAPTERS OF THE WA DRIVER'S GUIDE

CHAPTER	TITLE	EXAM WEIGHT	APPROX. QUESTIONS
Chapter 4	Roads	~45%	~18 of 40
Chapter 5	Hazards	~30%	~12 of 40
Chapter 1	Licenses	~15%	~6 of 40
Chapters 2 & 3	Vehicles + Self-Evaluation	~10%	~4 of 40

STUDY PRIORITY: Read Chapter 4 and Chapter 5 first — they cover ~75% of the test. Read them twice before taking any practice tests.

CHAPTER 5: HAZARDS — EXACT LEGAL THRESHOLDS (Must Memorize)

LEGAL THRESHOLD	VALUE	WHO IT APPLIES TO
Adult BAC Legal Limit	0.08%	Drivers 21 and older
Minor BAC Limit	0.02%	Drivers under 21
THC Blood Limit	5.00 ng/mL	Adult drivers (21+)

THC — Under 21	Any detectable amount	Drivers under 21 — zero tolerance
Implied Consent — Refusal	Automatic license suspension	All drivers
Open Container	Illegal in passenger area	All drivers and passengers

WARNING: These values are tested as exact numbers on the knowledge test. 'Drunk driving is illegal' is not enough — you must know 0.08, 0.02, and 5.00 ng/mL.

CHAPTER 1: LICENSES — INTERMEDIATE DRIVER LICENSE (IDL) RULES

IDL RULE	DETAIL
Nighttime Curfew	No unsupervised driving between 1:00 AM and 5:00 AM
Passenger Restriction	No passengers under 20 (excl. immediate family) — first 6 months
First IDL Violation	6-month suspension of passenger + nighttime privileges
Second IDL Violation	1-year suspension OR until age 18 — whichever is longer
Licensed Supervisor	Must be 25+ with a valid WA license seated next to driver

CHAPTER 4: ROADS — RIGHT-OF-WAY RULES (Most Tested Area)

SITUATION	RIGHT-OF-WAY RULE
Uncontrolled intersection	Yield to vehicle on your RIGHT
T-intersection	Through-road traffic has full right of way
Entering from unpaved road	Yield to ALL traffic on the paved road
Roundabout	Yield to traffic already inside the roundabout
Unprotected left turn	Yield to all oncoming traffic and pedestrians
Emergency vehicle (lights/siren)	Pull to the right and stop completely
School bus (flashing red lights)	Stop — all lanes, both directions, unless divided highway

CHAPTER 4: ROAD SIGNS — SHAPE AND COLOR GUIDE

SHAPE / COLOR	MEANING	EXAMPLES
Yellow Diamond	WARNING ahead	Curve, merge, pedestrian crossing
Red Octagon	STOP — full stop required	Stop sign
Red Triangle (inverted)	YIELD — slow and give way	Yield sign
White Rectangle	REGULATORY — obey the rule	Speed limit, no U-turn
Orange Diamond/Rectangle	CONSTRUCTION ZONE — slow down	Work zone signs
Green Rectangle	GUIDE — direction and distance	Highway exit, distance
Blue Rectangle	SERVICES available ahead	Gas, food, hospital
White Pentagon	SCHOOL ZONE — children present	School warning signs

Red Circle + Diagonal Bar	PROHIBITION — action not allowed	No left turn, no entry
Flashing Yellow Light	CAUTION — slow down, proceed carefully	Intersection warning
Flashing Red Light	STOP — treat as stop sign	Intersection with power out

CHAPTER 4: PAVEMENT MARKINGS — QUICK REFERENCE

MARKING	MEANING
Dashed yellow center line	Passing permitted when safe — both directions
Solid yellow center line	No passing on your side
Double solid yellow lines	No passing in either direction
Dashed white line	Lane change permitted — same direction traffic
Solid white line	Stay in lane — do not cross
White crosswalk lines	Pedestrian crossing — yield to pedestrians
Yellow edge line (left)	Left edge of roadway — do not drive left of this
White edge line (right)	Right edge of roadway

CHAPTERS 2 & 3: VEHICLES + SELF-EVALUATION — KEY TEST FACTS

RULE	EXACT REQUIREMENT
Minimum tire tread depth	2/32 inch — below this, tires are illegal in Washington
Headlight requirement	Required when visibility drops below 500 feet
Headlights in rain	Required when wipers are in use
ADAS systems (lane-keep / cruise)	Legal aids only — driver retains full legal responsibility
Vehicle registration	Must be current and in the vehicle at all times
Emissions — Clean Car Rule	Washington enforces emissions standards — Chapter 2

PASS vs. FAIL — SCORE REFERENCE TABLE

QUESTIONS CORRECT	SCORE	RESULT
40	100%	PASS
36–39	90–97.5%	PASS
32–35	80–87.5%	PASS — minimum at 32
31	77.5%	FAIL — 1 question short
28–30	70–75%	FAIL
Below 28	Below 70%	FAIL — restudy Chapters 4 & 5

RETAKE RULES — WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU FAIL

Waiting Period	None — you can retake the next business day (or same day if slots available)
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Retake Fee	\$15–\$20 per attempt at most testing centers
Retake Limit	No cap — you can sit the test as many times as needed
Instant Feedback	Screen shows exact score + which topic categories you missed immediately
Post-fail strategy	Return to the specific chapter — do not restart from Chapter 1
Score expiry after passing	2 years — get your permit or complete road test before it expires

TEST DAY DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

1.	WDL Number	Pre-register at DOL License Express portal BEFORE arriving — mandatory
2.	Photo ID	Valid, unexpired — passport, state ID, school photo ID accepted
3.	Social Security Number	Must provide number (or sign declaration if ineligible)
4.	Proof of WA Residency	TWO documents — utility bill, bank statement, or rental agreement
5.	Parental Authorization	Required for applicants under 18 — must be signed

RECOMMENDED STUDY PLAN — 3 SESSIONS TO TEST-READY

SESSION	TASK	TIME	TARGET SCORE
Session 1	Read Chapter 4 (Roads) + Chapter 5 (Hazards) in full. Take one 40-question practice test.	2–3 hours	First try: 65–75%
Session 2	Re-read sections you missed. Memorize threshold table. Take two more practice tests.	2–3 hours	Target: 85–90%
Session 3	Read Chapters 1, 2, and 3. Take one final full test. Book DOL appointment.	2 hours	Book when: 90%+