

NY Permit Test — Study Sheet

Everything on the written knowledge test, on one page. Free from Exam Practice Hub.

How the test works

20 multiple-choice questions. You must get 14 correct to pass — and at least 2 of the 4 road-sign questions right. The test is offered in about 14 languages. You may retake it; there is no limit on attempts.

Road signs — read the shape and colour first

OCTAGON	Stop. Full stop — wheels not moving — at the line, crosswalk, or intersection edge.
TRIANGLE	Yield. Slow down, give way, stop if that is what yielding requires.
DIAMOND	Warning. Yellow = permanent hazard ahead. Orange = temporary, road work.
PENTAGON	School zone or school crossing. Reduced limit during posted hours.
PENNANT	No-passing zone. Always on the LEFT side of the road.
CIRCLE	Railroad crossing ahead.
RECTANGLE	White = regulatory law you must obey. Green = directions. Blue = services. Brown = parks.

Speed limits

New York City	25 mph unless posted otherwise
School zones	15–20 mph during posted hours
Cities & villages	30 mph unless posted
State maximum	55 mph, or 65 mph where posted
Basic Speed Law	Never faster than is safe for conditions — you can be ticketed while under the posted limit.

Right of way

- No signs or signals: yield to the vehicle on your RIGHT.
- Turning left: yield to oncoming traffic and to pedestrians crossing the street you enter.
- Entering from a driveway, parking lot, or alley: yield to everyone.
- Roundabout: yield to traffic already circulating; it comes from your left.
- Pedestrian with a white cane or guide dog: you must come to a FULL STOP.
- Emergency vehicle: pull to the right and stop. Clear the intersection first if you are in one.

Alcohol and drugs

0.08% BAC	DWI — legally intoxicated, age 21+
0.05–0.07%	DWAI — can still be charged
0.02%	Under 21 — Zero Tolerance Law
0.04%	Commercial drivers (CDL)
Refusing a test	Licence revoked at least 1 year, plus a civil penalty

Only time removes alcohol. Coffee, food, a cold shower and fresh air do nothing.

New York laws people fail on

- School bus with flashing red lights: STOP in BOTH directions — unless a physical barrier divides the road.
- Move Over Law: change lanes for a stopped vehicle with flashing lights; slow down if you cannot.
- Handheld phone use and texting are illegal while driving.
- Seat belts are required for the driver and every passenger.
- Right on red is allowed after a full stop — EXCEPT in New York City, where it is banned unless a sign permits it.
- Headlights: from half an hour after sunset to half an hour before sunrise, and whenever your wipers are on.

Space, weather and control

- Following distance: 3 seconds minimum, 4+ in rain, 8–10 on snow or ice.
- Bridges and overpasses freeze before the rest of the road.
- Skid: ease off the accelerator, do not brake hard, steer where you want the front of the car to go.
- Hydroplaning can start near 30 mph. Ease off, do not brake hard, keep the wheel straight.
- Fog: use LOW beams. High beams reflect back and make it worse.
- Parking downhill: turn wheels toward the kerb. Uphill with a kerb: turn away and roll back onto it.
- Drowsiness: the only fix is sleep. Pull over.