

## NEW DRIVERS

### HOMEWORK TO DO TO OBTAIN A LICENSE

**KELLY MANNING:** Welcome to DMV Infocast, an audio production of the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles. This is Kelly Manning, Infocast Editor.

With us today is **Elaine McDougal**, the Division Chief of the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles Branch Operations Division. Elaine oversees the branch offices throughout the State of Connecticut. She's here to talk with us today on what a student driver should do to prepare for his or her driver's license test.

**KELLY MANNING:** Elaine, what areas does the driver's exam consist of?

**ELAINE MCDUGAL:** The test consists of three different areas. There's the vision portion, the knowledge test portion, and the on-the-road skills test portion of the test.

**KELLY:** What happens if a student fails the vision portion of the test?

**ELAINE:** If someone fails the vision portion, the vision must be corrected before proceeding to any other part of the test.

**KELLY:** What should a student do to prepare for the knowledge portion of the driver's test?

**ELAINE:** The student should study the manual and take the sample tests that are available on the DMV website. This certainly helps prepare the student for the actual test.

**KELLY:** Are the questions on the sample test on the website and in the Driver's Manual the same as the questions that will be on the knowledge test?

**ELAINE:** They're very similar, and it gives the student good practice for the actual test.

**KELLY:** What is the difference between the learner's permit test and the knowledge portion of the driver's test?

**ELAINE:** The questions on the learner's permit test are more basic. They're for our new beginners that are just going out on the road. The knowledge test questions are a variety of all questions that any driver should know when they're on the road.

**KELLY:** How many questions are on the knowledge test and how many does a student need to get right to pass?

**ELAINE:** There's 16 questions on the knowledge test and you have to get 12 correct in order to pass the test.

**KELLY:** What should a student do to prepare for the skills portions of the driver's test?

**ELAINE:** Practice, practice, practice on the road as well as parking. There are 20 hours of on-the-road practice required for new students, but the more practice that you get on the road, the better the student will be.

**KELLY:** What areas are the student drivers tested on during the skills portion of the test?

**ELAINE:** You'll be tested on all areas that relate to operating the vehicle safely on the road. This begins with getting ready to drive such as fastening your seatbelts, checking your mirrors, and then continues on to operating the vehicle on the highway, multiple lane highways, residential areas. You'll be tested on proper lane selection, turn signals, proper speed, and you'll be asked to back a vehicle into a parking space when you come back to the test lot. So it covers a wide variety of issues on the road.

**KELLY:** If a student fails either the knowledge test or the skills part of the test, how long does he or she have to take it again?

**ELAINE:** You have to wait at least 30 days if it's your first test failure. If you've failed more than once, then you have to wait 60 days before you can take the test again.

**KELLY:** Will the student have to take all three parts again?

**ELAINE:** If you pass the knowledge test it's good for 90 days. If you fail the driver's test, you'll be required to take all aspects of the test again, which includes the vision, the knowledge and the driving. And again, if you do fail the vision, you're not allowed to take any of the portions of the test until your vision is corrected.

**KELLY:** How long does the whole process take on the day of the test?

**ELAINE:** Well, you're given as much time as you need to take the knowledge test. And then in addition to that the on-the-road skills test portion takes about 15 to 20 minutes.

**KELLY:** Do you have any advice for students before they come into the DMV to take the exam?

**ELAINE:** Sure. Be prepared. Make sure you bring all the required documents that are mentioned in the materials that we provide to you. And be familiar with the roadways. And again, practice, practice, practice.

**KELLY:** Well, thank you, Elaine, for being with us today and helping us prepare students for their driver's test.

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