BC–Driver Exam Handbook

Checked November 2026 · facts from official pages only · questions and explanations are our own

What the exam looks like

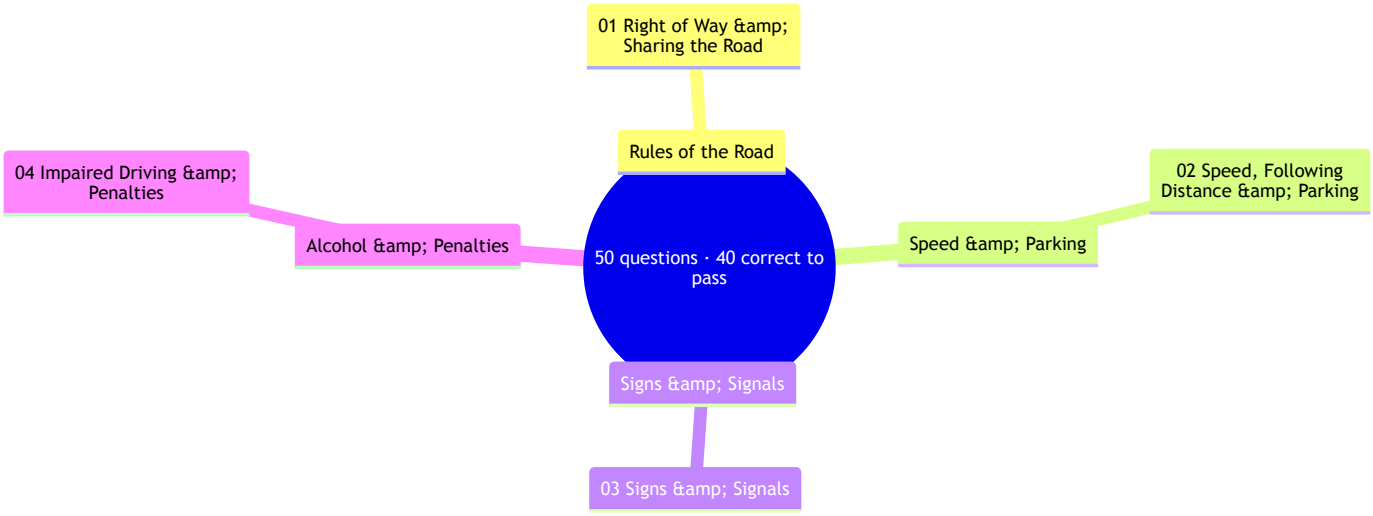
Item	Current rule	Checked
Pass mark	40 of 50 multiple–choice questions correct.	2026–11–15
Sign questions	Almost one in five questions are about road signs.	2026–11–15
Retakes	If you fail, you can retake after one day; there is a fee each time.	2026–11–15
Format and languages	Online (computer, webcam, keyboard and mouse) or on a touch–screen kiosk at an office; 12 languages including English, Simplified and Traditional Chinese, Punjabi, Farsi and Vietnamese.	2026–11–15
Test rules	No talking, study material or electronic devices; photographing the test, phones, smart glasses or translation devices mean an automatic fail.	2026–11–15
Learner licence	Your L is valid for 2 years; you must hold it at least 12 months if under 25, or 9 months if 25 or older, before the road test.	2026–11–15
Time limit	45 minutes in a single session; you cannot leave or pause.	2026–11–15

Where the marks are

ICBC publishes one ratio only: almost one in five questions are about road signs. The rest of our mix is estimated from our question bank: right–of–way, yielding, observation and attitude make up about 60%. With only 50 questions, 11 wrong means a fail.

Ch	Topic	Section	Priority	Mock
01	Right of Way & Sharing the Road	Rules of the Road	P1 Must score	29
02	Speed, Following Distance & Parking	Speed & Parking	P1 Must score	9
03	Signs & Signals	Signs & Signals	P1 Must score	10
04	Impaired Driving & Penalties	Alcohol & Penalties	P2 Hold steady	2

The whole exam on one map



How to use this handbook

1. Start with the 4–question diagnostic on the site to find your red chapters.
2. Before reading each chapter, answer its starter questions on instinct, then check them as you read.
3. Each chapter is two sides of one sheet: front = how it is tested, traps, mind map; back = key points and self–test cues (cover the right two columns).
4. Do this chapter's questions in the question book; for misses, do the variants.
5. The night before, read only the final review sheet.

Chapter 1 · Right of Way & Sharing the Road

Rules of the Road | P1 Must score | Rules of the Road · 29 mock questions

Read with these questions: When two vehicles come to a complete stop one after the other at a four–way stop, does first–to–stop go first or do you yield to the right?; How must you respond when an oncoming school bus stops with flashing red lights?; What is the statutory minimum lateral distance required when passing a cyclist on a highway with a speed limit over 50 km/h?; How should you adjust your safety margins when being closely tailgated by another vehicle?

How it is tested

- Intersection priority judgment: Given a four–way stop, uncontrolled intersection, or left–turn crossing scenario, tests whether the candidate applies the two–stage hierarchy of 'first to complete stop goes first –> yield to the right if arriving simultaneously –> left turns yield to oncoming straight traffic', rather than blindly applying 'yield to the right' or asserting personal priority.
- Protection of vulnerable road users: Uses scenarios such as pedestrians at intersections without painted crosswalks, visually impaired pedestrians raising a white cane, right turns encountering bicycles, or left turns facing oncoming motorcycles to test whether drivers proactively take on heightened duty to scan and yield.
- Statutory actions for special vehicles: Tests required stopping areas, the applicability of median exceptions, and speed or distance conditions across different scenarios involving flashing–light and siren emergency vehicles, school buses stopped with flashing red lights, transit buses signaling to leave a stop, and fire trucks on duty.
- Blind spot observation and safe passing criteria: Assesses the three–step sequence of 'mirror –> signal –> shoulder check' for lane changes and turns, 360–degree vision plus turning around while reversing, reasons for no–passing zones on crests and curves, and the binary criterion of only merging back when the passed vehicle's front bumper is fully visible in the rearview mirror.
- Defensive communication and emergency recovery: Tests whether candidates can suppress the instinctive impulse to slam on the brakes or counter–steer sharply during tailgating, rear–wheel skids, hydroplaning, or tire blowouts, choosing controlled actions such as easing off the accelerator, steering in the intended direction, or expanding forward following distance.

Traps (watch for the signal)

Remembering yielding to the right while forgetting arrival order: Question stem mentions a four–way stop, uncontrolled intersection, or turning left on green, and clearly describes arrival order or oncoming straight traffic.

Applying the median divider exception to school buses: Question stem mentions both a school bus with alternating flashing red lights and oncoming lanes or a central median.

Assuming no painted lines means no crosswalk: Question stem describes an intersection with no painted lines, a vehicle turning or exiting a driveway, or a pedestrian carrying a white cane.

Blindly relying on visual estimation and mirrors: Question stem involves changing lanes, turning right across a bike lane, reversing, an oncoming motorcycle, or a large truck swinging wide before a right turn.

Instinctively slamming on the brakes during emergencies: Question stem mentions rear wheels skidding, hydroplaning, a tire blowout, or being closely followed by a tailgater.

Mind map


Right of Way
Intersection Priority Rules
Yield to traffic inside roundabout
Side road yields through road
Left turns yield to straight
First stopped goes first
Emergency Handling
Hydroplaning ease off steer straight
Skid ease off steer target
Blowout grip wheel slow down
Observation and Passing Communication
Merge when seeing whole car
Mirror signal then shoulder check
Increase space against aggressive tailgaters
Vulnerable Road Users
Both directions stop for school bus
Look back before opening door
Pass cyclists 1 to 1.5 metres clear
Never pass truck on right
Do not estimate motorcycle speed
Pedestrians and Special Vehicles
Unmarked crosswalks protected
Yield bus sixty or under
Stop completely for white cane
Keep 150 metres behind firetruck

Chapter 1Key points (cover the right two columns to self-test)

Key points	Exam term	Rule / number
Four-way stop two-stage judgment	Four-way stop / Uncontrolled intersection	The vehicle that comes to a complete stop first proceeds first; yield to the vehicle on the right only when arriving at the exact same time; if oncoming vehicles arrive simultaneously, left turns must yield to straight traffic.
Conditional entry at yield signs	Yield sign	At a yield sign, you must yield to all vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists on the through street; you may proceed without stopping only when the through street is clear and safe.
Unmarked crosswalks and white canes	Unmarked crosswalk & White cane	The prolongation of sidewalk lines at every intersection forms a legally protected unmarked crosswalk; when a visually impaired pedestrian raises a white cane, you must come to a complete stop and remain stopped without waving.
Mandatory stopping in both directions for flashing red school bus lights	School bus with flashing red lights	When a school bus stops with alternating flashing red lights, traffic in all lanes in both directions must stop and wait; there is no median divider exception.
Following fire trucks and yielding to transit buses	Emergency vehicle & Public transit bus	Maintain at least 150 metres of following distance behind a fire truck responding to an emergency; on roads with a speed limit of 60 km/h or lower, you must yield to a public transit bus that is signaling and displaying its yield sign to leave a stop.
Statutory lateral passing distance for cyclists	Minimum passing distance for cyclists	When passing a cyclist or roadside pedestrian, leave at least 1 metre on general roads, at least 1.5 metres on roads with speed limits exceeding 50 km/h, and at least 0.5 metres if they are on a sidewalk or separated bike lane.
Large vehicle blind spots and turning left before motorcycles	Large vehicle blind spots & Motorcycles	If you cannot see the truck driver's face in their mirror, you are in their blind spot; never pass or stop on a truck's right side while it turns right; do not estimate oncoming motorcycle speed when turning left, wait until it clears, and maintain a 3-second following distance.
Observation sequence for lane changes and passing return	Mirror, signal, shoulder check	When changing lanes or turning, check blind spots in the strict sequence of mirror, signal, and shoulder check; after overtaking, merge back only when the passed vehicle's entire front bumper is visible in your rearview mirror.
Handling aggressive driving and tailgating	Aggressive driving	When tailgated or provoked, de-escalate conflict, avoid eye contact and hand gestures, and increase following distance in front of your vehicle; if followed persistently, never drive home, but head toward a police station or populated area.
Handling skids, hydroplaning, and tire blowouts	Skidding, hydroplaning, and tire blowout	In a rear-wheel skid, ease off the gas and steer in the direction you want to go; during hydroplaning, ease off the gas and hold the wheel straight without braking; in a blowout, grip the wheel firmly, ease off the gas to slow down naturally, and then pull over.

Self-test cues (Cornell left column)

1. Why is a green light considered permission rather than right of way? What is the order of priority at four-way stops and uncontrolled intersections?
2. Where do unmarked crosswalks exist? What must you do when a visually impaired pedestrian raises a white cane?
3. How does the requirement differ between approaching flashing emergency vehicles and a stopped school bus with flashing red lights on a road with a central median?
4. What are the strict rules for passing cyclists, responding to a large truck swinging left before a right turn, and turning left across an oncoming motorcycle?
5. Why must you never brake suddenly when experiencing a rear-wheel skid, hydroplaning, a tire blowout, or being tailgated closely?

Summary: In one sentence, summarize the underlying logic of which road user bears the duty to yield, and write out the three-step sequence for lane changes along with the shared first action for three major emergencies (skid, hydroplaning, blowout).

Chapter 2 · Speed, Following Distance & Parking

Speed & Parking | P1 Must score | Speed & Parking · 9 mock questions

Read with these questions: Is it lawful in the exam to drive at the posted 80 km/h on a heavy rainy night, or to keep up with fast traffic?; Why must you leave more seconds behind a motorcycle than behind an ordinary passenger car?; A tow truck with flashing amber lights is stopped at the roadside on a road posted at 90 km/h. How far must you slow down when passing?; When parking uphill with a curb versus without a curb, which way do you turn the front wheels so the car does not roll into traffic?

How it is tested

- Speed limit scenario judgment: Given conditions such as rainy nights, dense fog, icy roads, or speeding traffic flow, tests whether you understand that posted speed limit signs represent the maximum ceiling under ideal conditions only, requiring you to slow down in adverse conditions and never speed just to go with the flow.
- Following distance seconds and special distance rules: Given scenarios of good weather, following a large truck or motorcycle, heavy rain with slick pavement, or following a fire truck responding with flashing lights, tests the 2–second, 3–second, and 4–second tier rules along with the 150–metre absolute distance requirement.
- Slow Down, Move Over situational questions: Given a roadside–stopped tow truck, maintenance vehicle, or police car displaying flashing lights, combined with the posted speed limit (80 km/h and above, or below 80 km/h), tests the maximum passing speed (70 km/h or 40 km/h) and the duty to change lanes when safe.
- Parking distance and no–parking zone identification: Tests statutory distances from a fire hydrant (5 metres), crosswalk or traffic light (6 metres), railway tracks (15 metres), and curb clearance (30 centimetres), or uses fabricated options such as 'blue curb' to test prohibited parking rules.
- Hill parking and vehicle control response: Given combinations of uphill or downhill with or without a curb, tests front wheel direction, as well as correct actions for black ice on bridge decks, hydroplaning, and using engine braking on long downgrades.

Traps (watch for the signal)

Treating the posted speed limit as a target to maintain: Question stem mentions heavy rain, icy road, poor visibility, or keeping up with traffic faster than the posted limit.

Reversing the direction to turn front wheels when hill parking: Question stem mentions parking uphill or parking downhill and explicitly specifies with a curb or without a curb.

Mixing up minimum statutory parking distances: Question stem asks how close you may park to a fire hydrant, crosswalk, stop sign, or railway crossing, or options mention a blue curb.

Narrowing the protected vehicles and thresholds under Slow Down, Move Over: Question stem mentions an official vehicle with flashing lights, tow truck, or maintenance worker, and provides the posted speed limit for that road.

Confusing following distance seconds with special vehicle distances: Question stem mentions following a motorcycle, large commercial vehicle, wet or icy pavement, or following a fire truck responding to an emergency.

Mind map


Speed Following and Parking
Default Speed Limits and Principles
Fifty inside eighty outside municipality
Ceiling under ideal conditions only
Alley twenty school zone thirty
Drive slower in bad weather
Following Distance Rules
Three seconds trucks and motorcycles
Four seconds bad weather slippery
Two second rule ideal conditions
Keep 150 metres behind firetruck
Parking Distances and Prohibited Zones
Fifteen metres rails thirty curb
Five metres from fire hydrant
No parking yellow red curb bridge tunnel
Six metres crosswalk and lights
Slow Down Move Over Rules
Includes tow trucks maintenance vehicles
Change lane away when safe
Under eighty reduce to forty
Eighty or over reduce seventy
Hill Parking Uturns and Emergencies
Black ice hydroplaning lower gear
No uturn within 150 metres
Uphill with curb turn left
All other hill parking right

Chapter 2Key points (cover the right two columns to self-test)

Key points	Exam term	Rule / number
Legal nature of posted speed limits	Speed limit / Speed relative to conditions	The posted speed limit is the maximum permitted speed under ideal conditions only; driving at the posted speed in adverse conditions can still result in a separate ticket for driving too fast for conditions, and you must never speed to keep up with traffic.
Statutory default speed limits	Default speed limits	When no signs are posted, the default speed limit is 50 km/h inside a municipality and 80 km/h outside a municipality; narrow alleys up to 8 metres wide in municipalities with bylaws are 20 km/h without requiring signs, and signed school and playground zones are 30 km/h.
Three-tier safe following distances	Following distance / Two-second rule	Leave at least 2 seconds in good weather and road conditions; leave at least 3 seconds on highways or when following large vehicles or motorcycles; leave at least 4 seconds in adverse weather, uneven roads, or slippery pavement.
Slow Down, Move Over for flashing vehicles	Slow down, move over	When approaching stopped police, ambulance, fire, tow, or road maintenance vehicles displaying flashing lights, slow to 70 km/h on roadways posted at 80 km/h or higher, slow to 40 km/h on roadways posted below 80 km/h, and change lanes away when safe on multi-lane roads (violators face a $173 fine and 3 penalty points).
Statutory minimum parking distances	Parking distances	Park at least 5 metres from a fire hydrant (measured from the point on the curb closest to it), at least 6 metres from a crosswalk, intersection, stop sign, or traffic light, at least 15 metres from the nearest rail at a railway crossing, and parallel within 30 centimetres of the curb.
Strictly prohibited parking zones	No-parking zones	Parking is strictly prohibited on sidewalks, in front of driveways, inside intersections, in bicycle lanes, on bridge decks, inside tunnels, where signs are obstructed, and along yellow or red painted curbs (blue curbs are frequently used as exam distractors).
Front wheel angles and gears for hill parking	Hill parking	Turn front wheels to the left (away from the curb) only when parking uphill with a curb; turn front wheels to the right for uphill without a curb and in all downhill situations. Set the parking brake, shift an automatic to Park, and shift a manual to first gear uphill or reverse downhill.
U-turn prohibited zones and visibility criteria	U-turn restrictions	U-turns are prohibited on curves, near the crest of a hill where other drivers cannot see you within 150 metres, at intersections with traffic lights, where a no U-turn sign is posted, and in business districts except at intersections without traffic lights.
Black ice, iced bridge decks, and hydroplaning	Black ice / Hydroplaning	Bridge decks freeze earlier than regular roadways due to cold air circulating above and below, requiring you to slow down before the bridge and avoid braking or steering on it; hydroplaning is caused by speed, water depth, and tread depth (the only factor controllable in advance), and when it occurs, ease off the accelerator, keep the wheel straight, and do not brake.
Downgrade engine braking and distance behind fire trucks	Engine braking / Brake fade	Coasting in neutral on long downgrades is strictly prohibited; shift into a lower gear early to use engine braking and prevent brake fade. When following a fire truck responding to an emergency, you must maintain a distance of at least 150 metres.

Self-test cues (Cornell left column)

1. Why is a posted speed limit sign described as a ceiling under ideal conditions only? Why can driving at the posted speed in rain or fog still result in a traffic ticket?
2. When do the three following distance tiers of 2 seconds, 3 seconds, and 4 seconds apply? Why must you leave at least 3 seconds when following a motorcycle?
3. When approaching roadside vehicles with flashing lights (including tow trucks and maintenance vehicles), what are the exact reduced speed ceilings and the dividing speed threshold under Slow Down, Move Over?
4. What are the statutory minimum parking distances for a fire hydrant, a crosswalk/stop sign, and railway tracks? What is the maximum legal distance from the curb?
5. What is the single uphill scenario where front wheels are turned to the left? What is the essential first response for black ice on bridges, hydroplaning, and long downgrades?

Summary: In three sentences, summarize the key numbers of this chapter. First, the default speed limits and the two Slow Down, Move Over speed thresholds. Second, the three following-distance tiers in seconds and the four parking distances (5

m, 6 m, 15 m, 30 cm). Third, the rule of thumb for wheel direction on hills and the principle for handling loss of control.

Chapter 3 · Signs & Signals

Signs & Signals | P1 Must score | Signs & Signals · 10 mock questions

Read with these questions: When snow covers a sign face leaving only an octagon or inverted triangle outline, what actions do they command?; On a Sunday afternoon when passing a playground zone and a school zone, which 30 km/h speed limit is in effect?; When encountering a flashing circular green light in BC, is it an advance left-turn signal or a pedestrian-controlled intersection?; Is a speed limit sign still in effect late at night in an empty construction zone with no workers, and how should you answer about fines on the exam?

How it is tested

- Scenario identification questions: Describe scenes where signs are obscured by snow or backlit by glare, testing whether you can identify the highest-priority driving instruction solely by its unique geometric outline (octagon, inverted equilateral triangle, fluorescent yellow-green pentagon).
- Timeframe and condition comparison questions: Mix the effective days, operating hours, and bottom tab rules for school zones and playground zones, testing whether you understand that school zones follow the calendar and clock while playground zones follow daylight.
- BC-specific signal distinction questions: Use interprovincial differences regarding flashing circular green lights and advance green arrows as distractors, testing your correct response when encountering different green signal types in BC.
- Intersection signals and right-of-way practical questions: Combine situations such as steady yellow lights, blacked-out traffic light failures, railway crossing red lights that have just stopped flashing, or having a traffic control person present in a construction zone to test statutory stopping conditions and command priority.
- Pavement marking crossing rules: Present roadway combinations of single solid yellow lines, double solid yellow lines, or solid yellow lines paired with broken lines, combined with specific actions such as passing, turning left into or out of a private driveway, or passing a cyclist, to test the precise legal boundaries of marking colors and solid versus broken lines.

Traps (watch for the signal)

Swapping school zone and playground zone hours: The question stem mentions School zone or Playground zone along with weekends (such as Sunday afternoon), non-school days, or specific timeframes.

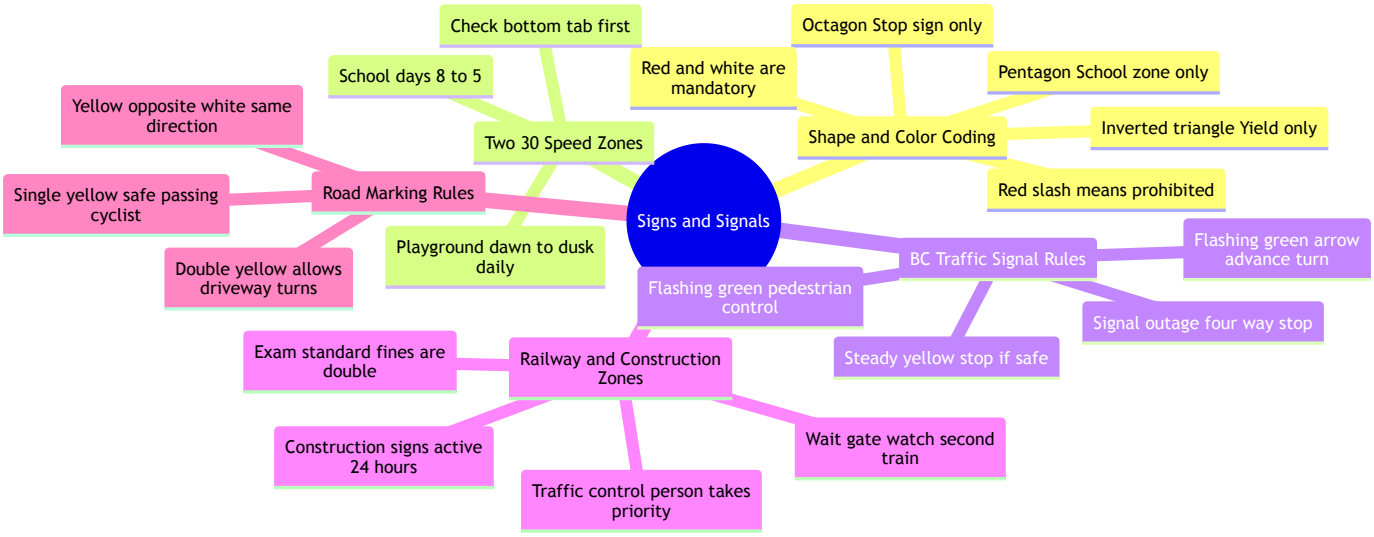
Mistaking a flashing circular green light for an advance left turn or an impending red light: The question stem mentions a flashing green light (without the word arrow) and asks about the signal meaning or the proper action when approaching the intersection.

Assuming all solid lines can never be crossed under any circumstances: The question stem mentions single solid yellow line or double solid yellow line paired with passing a cyclist or turning left into a private driveway.

Failing to slow down in an empty construction zone or getting hung up on the exact fine multiplier: The question stem mentions a construction zone, no workers present, or asks about construction zone speeding fine rules.

Misinterpreting a red circle without a slash as a prohibition or ignoring the safety condition for a yellow light: The question stem describes a red circle without a slash or a steady yellow light.

Mind map


Signs and Signals
Two 30 Speed Zones
Check bottom tab first
School days 8 to 5
Playground dawn to dusk daily
Road Marking Rules
Yellow opposite white same direction
Single yellow safe passing cyclist
Double yellow allows driveway turns
Shape and Color Coding
Octagon Stop sign only
Red and white are mandatory
Pentagon School zone only
Inverted triangle Yield only
Red slash means prohibited
BC Traffic Signal Rules
Flashing green arrow advance turn
Signal outage four way stop
Steady yellow stop if safe
Flashing green pedestrian control
Railway and Construction Zones
Exam standard fines are double
Construction signs active 24 hours
Traffic control person takes priority
Wait gate watch second train

Chapter 3Key points (cover the right two columns to self-test)

Key points	Exam term	Rule / number
Three Unique Geometric Shapes	Octagon / Inverted triangle / Pentagon	An octagon exclusively represents a Stop sign, an inverted equilateral triangle exclusively represents a Yield sign, and a fluorescent yellow-green pentagon exclusively represents a School zone.
Legal Force of Sign Colors and Circle-Slash Toggle	Regulatory sign / Red circle	Red signs and white regulatory signs with black lettering carry mandatory legal obligations, while green and blue backgrounds carry no required actions; a red circle with a red diagonal slash indicates a prohibition, a green circle indicates permission, and a red circle without a slash indicates a restriction.
Comparison of Effective Hours Between School Zones and Playground Zones	School zone vs. Playground zone	Both have a 30 km/h speed limit: school zones are in effect only on school days from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (or extended hours on a tab), while playground zones are in effect every day from dawn to dusk.
Exclusive Meaning of a Flashing Circular Green Light in BC	Flashing green light	In BC, a flashing circular green light indicates a pedestrian-controlled intersection (side street traffic faces a stop sign); it does not mean the green light is about to turn red, nor does it indicate an advance left turn (advance left turns are shown by a flashing green arrow).
Procedures for Steady Yellow Lights, Steady Red Lights, and Blacked-Out Traffic Lights	Steady yellow light / Blacked-out traffic light	At a steady yellow light, you must stop before entering the intersection (unless unsafe to do so); at a steady red light, after coming to a complete stop with no prohibitory sign and yielding to all three traffic groups, you may turn right or turn left onto a one-way street; completely dark signal outages are treated as a four-way stop.
Railway Crossing Rules and Second-Train Hazard	Railway crossing	When red lights are flashing, you must come to a complete stop and wait; after the lights stop flashing and the gates are fully raised, you must still look both ways along all tracks to confirm no second train is approaching from the opposite direction and ensure space on the far side before crossing.
24-Hour Validity, Fine Standard, and Command Priority in Construction Zones	Construction zone / Traffic control person	A construction zone is in effect 24 hours a day whenever signs are posted (regardless of whether workers are present); the exam standard answer is 'fines are double' (warning signs display a $196 minimum fine), and directions from a traffic control person take precedence over signs and traffic signals.
Yellow and White Pavement Markings and Exceptions for Solid Yellow Lines	Double solid yellow line / Single solid yellow line	Yellow lines separate opposing traffic and white lines separate traffic moving in the same direction; double solid yellow lines prohibit passing, but when safe and not prohibited by a sign, you may cross them to turn left into or out of a road or private driveway; a single solid yellow line permits passing with extra caution (including passing a cyclist).
Approaching a Stale Green Light and Steering Wheel Hand Position	Stale green light / 9 and 3 o'clock	When approaching a stale green light that has been green for a long time, ease off the accelerator early and prepare to stop rather than speeding up to beat the light; current exam materials teach a 9 and 3 o'clock hand position on the steering wheel rather than the older 10 and 2 o'clock advice.

Self-test cues (Cornell left column)

1. When snow completely covers a sign, which three unique shapes tell you immediately that you must stop, yield, or watch for a school zone?
2. What is the essential distinction in meaning among a red circle with a slash, a red circle without a slash, and a green circle?
3. Both having a 30 km/h speed limit, how do school zones and playground zones differ in their effective days and operating hours?
4. In BC, what do a flashing circular green light and a flashing green arrow paired with a steady red light each indicate?
5. What are the specific rules for crossing a single solid yellow line versus a double solid yellow line when passing, passing a cyclist, or turning left into a private driveway?

Summary: In one sentence, summarize the rule that shape determines category and color determines tone, and state the memory aid for when 30 km/h speed limits apply in school zones versus playground zones.

Chapter 4 · Impaired Driving & Penalties

Alcohol & Penalties | P2 Hold steady | Alcohol, Drugs & Penalties · 2 mock questions

Read with these questions: If you refuse to blow into a roadside screening device, is the penalty lighter than blowing 0.08?; If an N driver drinks half a glass of beer at a gathering, what else do they lose besides an immediate suspension?; Can drinking strong coffee or taking a cold shower help lower your blood alcohol concentration faster after evening drinks?; If you do not own a car but get caught using a phone while driving a friend's car, what other bill will you receive besides the ticket?

How it is tested

- Scenario judgement questions: Present everyday driving scenarios after drinking or consuming drugs (such as drinking coffee to sober up, commuting the next morning, or having half a glass of beer at a gathering), testing the only factor that lowers blood alcohol concentration (time) and the novice zero-tolerance rule.
- Threshold and escalation questions: Compare the blood alcohol concentration thresholds of 0.05 (WARN) and 0.08 (FAIL), testing the number of driving prohibition days and vehicle impoundment days under an Immediate Roadside Prohibition (IRP), as well as the principle that refusing a breath test equals a FAIL.
- Novice restrictions and reset questions: Target Learner (L), Novice (N), or Class 5 drivers with Restriction 55, testing the immediate 12-hour roadside suspension (non-reviewable) upon detecting any alcohol or drugs and the mechanism where a subsequent driving prohibition resets the N-stage timeline to zero.
- Violation costs and joint liability questions: Combine scenarios such as distracted driving and excessive speeding (more than 40 km/h over the limit), testing penalty points (4 points triggering a DPP premium), billing drivers even without vehicle ownership, and the rule that registered owners must pay vehicle towing and impound fees when a non-owner speeds.
- System framework distinction questions: Test the relationship between provincial administrative penalties (IRP/ADP, issued immediately roadside by police without requiring a court conviction) and federal criminal prosecution (requiring a court conviction) as two parallel systems that do not exempt each other.

Traps (watch for the signal)

Assuming under 0.08 means no penalty: The question stem mentions having only one or two drinks, being certainly under 0.08, or detecting a trace of alcohol or THC in an L or N driver.

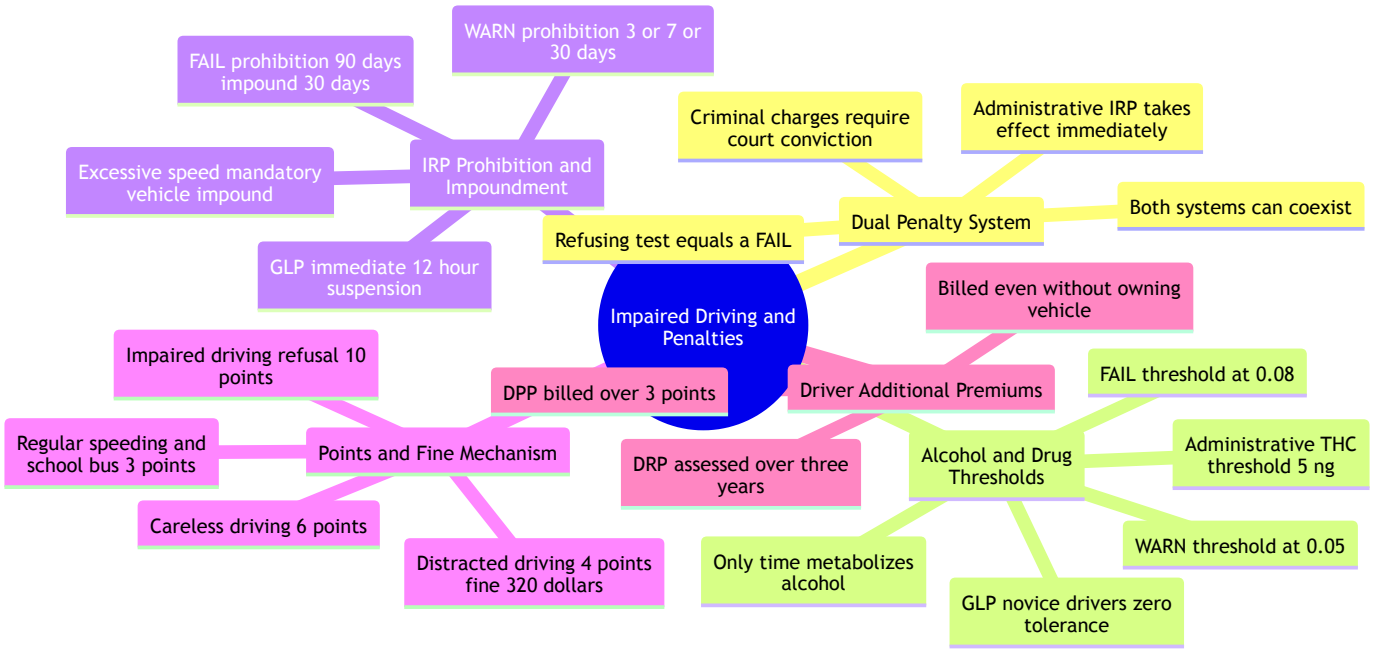
Believing sobering remedies work: The question stem asks how to drive safely sooner after drinking, or options include coffee, cold shower, fresh air, or exercise.

Refusing a test to avoid severe penalties: The question stem describes a driver refusing to cooperate or stalling when asked to provide a sample into an Approved Screening Device (ASD) at the roadside.

Assuming prohibition and impoundment days are identical: The question stem asks for specific driving prohibition and vehicle impoundment days for blowing FAIL (0.08 or higher), refusing a test, or speeding over 40 km/h.

Believing the ticket is the only cost: The question stem mentions owning no vehicle, being caught using a phone for the first time, or lending a car to a friend who drives 41 km/h or more over the limit.

Mind map


Impaired Driving and Penalties
IRP Prohibition and Impoundment
WARN prohibition 3 or 7 or 30 days
FAIL prohibition 90 days impound 30 days
Excessive speed mandatory vehicle impound
GLP immediate 12 hour suspension
Refusing test equals a FAIL
Dual Penalty System
Criminal charges require court conviction
Administrative IRP takes effect immediately
Both systems can coexist
Driver Additional Premiums
Billed even without owning vehicle
DPP billed over 3 points
DRP assessed over three years
Points and Fine Mechanism
Impaired driving refusal 10 points
Regular speeding and school bus 3 points
Careless driving 6 points
Distracted driving 4 points fine 320 dollars
Alcohol and Drug Thresholds
FAIL threshold at 0.08
Administrative THC threshold 5 ng
WARN threshold at 0.05
Only time metabolizes alcohol
GLP novice drivers zero tolerance

Chapter 4Key points (cover the right two columns to self-test)

Key points	Exam term	Rule / number
Parallel Administrative and Criminal Systems	Immediate Roadside Prohibition (IRP) / Criminal Code	An administrative driving prohibition is issued and takes effect immediately at the roadside by police without requiring a court conviction; receiving an administrative penalty does not protect a driver from criminal prosecution.
WARN and FAIL Blood Alcohol Concentration Thresholds	Warn range (0.05) / Fail (0.08)	A blood alcohol concentration of 0.05 or higher triggers a WARN (first offence brings a 3-day driving prohibition, 3-day vehicle impoundment, totaling about $600), while 0.08 or higher triggers a FAIL (90-day driving prohibition, 30-day vehicle impoundment, totaling about $1,430).
Refusing a Breath Test Equals the Maximum Penalty	Refusing to provide a breath sample	Refusing to provide a breath sample legally equals a FAIL, resulting in an immediate 90-day driving prohibition, mandatory 30-day vehicle impoundment, and a $500 administrative penalty.
Zero Tolerance for Graduated Licensing Program Drivers	Zero tolerance (GLP L and N drivers)	Learner (L), Novice (N), and Class 5 drivers with Restriction 55 who have any detectable alcohol, THC, or cocaine in their body face an immediate 12-hour suspension (non-reviewable); if a subsequent driving prohibition is imposed, all accumulated months in the N stage are reset to zero.
Administrative Driving Prohibition Thresholds for Drug-Impaired Driving	Blood Drug Concentration (BDC) / Drug Recognition Expert (DRE)	Under provincial Administrative Driving Prohibition (ADP) rules, the blood drug concentration threshold for THC alone is 5 ng/mL, while cocaine, LSD, and methamphetamine require only any detectable amount; the threshold for combined alcohol and THC is 50 mg/100 mL of alcohol and 2.5 ng/mL of THC.
Penalty Points and Fines for Distracted Driving	Using an electronic device while driving	Using an electronic device or texting while driving carries 4 penalty points (higher than regular speeding at 3 points) and a $320 fine ($295 if paid within 30 days); a single violation exceeds the 3-point threshold and triggers a $214 DPP premium.
Mandatory Impoundment and Owner Liability for Excessive Speeding	Excessive speed / Vehicle impoundment	Driving more than 40 km/h over the speed limit (starting at 41 km/h) constitutes excessive speeding and results in immediate mandatory vehicle impoundment (7 days for a first offence, 30 days for a second, and 60 days for a third or subsequent offence within two years); towing and storage fees are charged to the vehicle owner, and 3-day and 7-day impoundments cannot be appealed.
Two Driver Premium Systems: DPP and DRP	Driver Penalty Point (DPP) Premium / Driver Risk Premium (DRP)	The Driver Penalty Point (DPP) premium is billed when a driver accumulates more than 3 points in a 12-month period (starting at $214 for 4 points), while the Driver Risk Premium (DRP) is assessed on high-risk driving records over the past three years (such as 10-point offences, excessive speeding, or two electronic device convictions within three years); bills are sent even if the driver owns no vehicle, and when both apply, only the higher single amount is charged.
Time as the Only Method to Metabolize Alcohol	Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) metabolism	Only time allows the liver to metabolize alcohol and lower blood alcohol concentration at a relatively fixed rate; strong coffee, cold showers, fresh air, or vigorous exercise only increase subjective alertness without lowering blood alcohol concentration.

Self-test cues (Cornell left column)

1. Why can police immediately suspend a licence and impound a vehicle at the roadside without a court conviction?
2. How many prohibition days, impoundment days, and total costs correspond to 0.05 (WARN), 0.08 (FAIL), and refusing a test?
3. What two stages of penalties do L and N novice drivers face when a trace of alcohol or THC is detected, and how does it affect graduation?
4. How many penalty points and fines apply to distracted driving and speeding over 40 km/h, and why can you owe money even when lending your car or owning no car?
5. Why does drinking strong coffee or taking a cold shower actually make an impaired driver more dangerous?

Summary: In one sentence, summarize how BC brings the consequences of violations forward to the roadside through 0.05 immediate roadside prohibitions, novice zero tolerance, treating test refusals as maximum penalties, and charging driver premiums once points exceed 3.