

Driver Licensing Exam Update

Washington State Transportation Commission

October 18, 2016

- Young drivers 16-25 make up 14% of WA licensed drivers but are involved in 35% of the state's fatality collisions.
- Align driver training curriculum, driver guide and written knowledge test for the first time.
- Ensure we're testing on the leading causal factors associated with crashes (impairment, distraction, speed, hazard awareness).
- Additional questions to make sure drivers have the requisite knowledge for safe driving.
 - Exam increased from 25 to 40 questions.
- Build a more robust question bank (cheating).

- **Distracted Driving**
 - 30% of all fatality collisions; 23% serious injury
- **Impairment (alcohol, prescription drugs, marijuana, other drugs)**
 - 57% of all fatality collisions; 22% serious injury
- **Hazard Awareness (situational questions)**

- New 40 question test went live on August 15.
- ~60,000 students complete traffic safety education in WA each year.
- Over 230,000 knowledge tests per year.
 - About 35,000 at DOL offices.
 - About 200,000 at contract locations (schools).
- Passage rate before new exam: ~65%
- Passage rate after new exam: ~55-60%

After spending summer vacation at her parents' home in Mill Creek, Jenny is excited to drive back to Pullman for the start of her senior year of college. Jenny is planning to leave late tonight around 11pm to avoid traffic. Jenny should _____.

- A. go out with friends and celebrate all evening
- B. drink coffee to help her stay awake during her drive
- C. change her plans and leave tomorrow morning after a good night's sleep
- D. take a nap and eat a large meal before she leaves

Correct Answer: C

Questions?

