

# What's Your Driving IQ?

## Instructions:

- Have a passenger observe and rate your driving skills by marking yes "Y" or no "N" in the appropriate box
- Skills with two boxes should be observed twice
- There should be no discussion between the driver and passenger during this observation
- After the vehicle has been parked, the observer should discuss the observation with the driver
- Based on the 100 possible skills observations below, add up the yes "Y" marks for your Driving IQ %

### Before starting up

- |                          |   |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | When approaching the vehicle, looks in front, under and behind    | <input type="checkbox"/> | Checks the condition of the vehicle prior to driving      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Scans for any objects in the travel path                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | Adjusts seat and mirrors to fit prior to vehicle movement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Verifies that all occupants are buckled prior to vehicle movement | <input type="checkbox"/> | Eliminates distractions prior to driving                  |

### Pay attention while driving!

- |                          |  |                          |   |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Does not become distracted while driving | <input type="checkbox"/> | Keeps eyes scanning for hazards while driving |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|

### Maintain at least a 4 second space cushion

- |                          |                          |  |                          |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Maintains a 4 second following time  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Increases following time in inclement weather  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Backs off and re-establishes the proper following time when another vehicle moves into the space cushion | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | When stopped in traffic, leaves a space cushion and counts to 4 when the vehicle ahead starts to move to establish the initial space cushion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Increases following time as speed increases  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Increases following time as road conditions change   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Constantly scans for hazards   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Uses a space cushion to avoid sudden stops   |

### Back only when necessary

- |                          |                          |   |                          |                          |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Avoids all unnecessary backing                            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Backs immediately after scanning the area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Continuously scans area into which the vehicle is backing | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Backs slowly and is aware of children     |

### Prior to entering an intersection, look left, right, and left again.

- |                          |                          |  |                          |                          |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Looks left, right and left again at every intersection         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Watches closely for motorcycles                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Is always prepared to stop, even if they have the right-of-way | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Doesn't underestimate the speed of approaching vehicles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Obeys all traffic signs, signals and pavement markings         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Applies right turn on red correctly                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Doesn't assume that other drivers will obey the law            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Stops behind stop line or crosswalk                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Comes to a full stop at stop signs                             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Turns into the correct lane                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Signals intention to turn well in advance                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Turns left when the traffic is clear                    |

### To help maintain traction

- |                          |                          |  |                          |                          |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Reduces speed in poor weather conditions | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Adjusts speed to varying road and traffic conditions                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Reduces speed when entering curves       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Knows that in icy weather, bridges and overpasses freeze over first |

### Shift your eyes every 2 seconds at different hazards

- |                          |                          |  |                          |                          |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Shifts eyes every 2 seconds to the most important hazards                              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Checks to the rear when slowing or stopping                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Understands that trees, bushes and objects near the road may hide animals and children | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Checks one of the mirrors to follow-up on any hazard at least every 8 seconds |

### Establish eye contact

- |                          |                          |   |                          |                          |                       |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Stops when approaching a stopped school bus | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yields to pedestrians |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|

### When changing lanes

- |                          |                          |   |                          |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Signals, checks mirror and turns head when changing lanes | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | When entering a highway, search for open spaces where you can merge and establish your space cushion |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|

### When driving near parked vehicles

- |                          |                          |   |                          |                          |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Slows down and is prepared for pedestrians, especially children, to be around or exiting the vehicles | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Looks for signs that the vehicle is occupied and is prepared for the vehicle to pull out into the lane of traffic |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|

### Keep your eyes out front, aiming at an area at least 12 seconds ahead of your vehicle

- |                          |                          |  |                          |                          |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Aims at an area at least 12 seconds ahead of the vehicle | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Stays centered in traffic lane |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Slows down when approaching work zones and school zones  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Remains patient in traffic     |

### Do not speed!

- |                          |                          |  |                          |                          |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Does not speed and knows the speed limit | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Slows down in areas where pedestrians are expected, such as in shopping centers and school lots |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|

### When entering curves

- |                          |                          |  |                          |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Reduces speed in curves to avoid losing traction and moving out of your lane | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Enters curves with an escape route in case another vehicle is in your lane |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|

Your Driving IQ = \_\_\_\_\_%

# The 15 Point Driving IQ Scorecard

**Number 1: Never drive impaired!** *Don't ride in any vehicle with a driver that is impaired. Don't drink and drive. Emotions can affect your driving. Reckless driving, racing and aggressive driving all increase your chance of being in an accident with others. Remain patient in traffic and alert at all times. There are many hazardous situations on the road that will require your immediate attention.*

**Number 2: Before starting up,** *scan for objects in your travel path and check the condition of your vehicle. When approaching your parked vehicle, look in front, under and behind, scanning for any objects in your travel path. It is also important to check the condition of your vehicle prior to driving. On the outside, check the body and tires, while looking for leaks underneath. Once behind the wheel, adjust the seat, check your lights, steering, brakes, windshield wipers and horn and make sure that your mirrors are properly set prior to vehicle movement.*

**Number 3: Seat belts** *must be worn anytime the vehicle is in motion. Verify that all vehicle occupants are belted-in prior to movement. Unrestrained passengers can injure other passengers in a collision.*

**Number 4: Maintain at least a 4 second space cushion** *with the vehicle in front at all times. Increase the following time as your speed increases or road conditions change. When another vehicle moves into the space cushion, back off to re-establish the proper following time. When stopped in traffic, leave enough space in front to see the rear tires of the vehicle ahead and count to three when the vehicle starts to move to establish your initial space cushion.*

**Number 5: Back only when necessary.** *If you must back, back immediately after scanning the area. Backing is the most common cause of crashes. Before and during your back, continuously scan the areas into which your vehicle is backing by looking back as well as using your mirrors. A driver's visibility to the rear is limited so back at a slow speed. Be aware of children in residential areas.*

**Number 6: Prior to entering an intersection, look left, right, and left again.** *Always be prepared to stop, even if you have the right-of-way. Intersection collisions cause a high number of injuries. Any crossroad should be considered an intersection. This would include driveways and parking lots. Obey all traffic signs, signals and pavement markings. Don't assume that other drivers will obey the law. Come to a full stop at stop signs. Apply right turn on red correctly. Stop behind stop line or crosswalk. Signal your intention to turn well in advance. Watch closely for motorcyclists. Most motorcycle accidents occur when the car driver turns in front of the oncoming motorcycle. Don't underestimate the speed of approaching vehicles. Turn right into the right lane and turn left into left lane. Never make a last-minute turn – it's too dangerous.*

**Number 7: To help maintain traction** *for your vehicle, reduce your speed in poor weather conditions. While fog will reduce your visibility, rain, snow and ice can cause your vehicle to lose traction and begin to skid. Remember that in icy weather, bridges and overpasses tend to freeze over before the rest of the road.*

**Number 8: Shift your eyes every 2 seconds at different hazards** *out in front of your vehicle and check your mirrors every 8 seconds. Defensive drivers constantly look for hazards. Trees, bushes or objects near the road may hide animals or children. The only way to know what is happening around your vehicle is to scan out front and then check to the side and rear using your vehicle's mirrors. Check your mirrors when slowing or stopping to avoid getting hit in the rear.*

**Number 9: Establish eye contact** *with other motorists and pedestrians. Whenever you're depending on the movements of others, it's important to make sure they see you. Stop when approaching a stopped school bus that is unloading and loading passengers and watch for children. Drivers must yield to pedestrians.*

**Number 10: When changing lanes** *or moving into traffic from the curb always use your blinker, check your mirror and turn your head to clear your path. Communicate in traffic and always let other drivers know of your intentions. When entering a highway, search for open spaces where you can merge and establish your space cushion.*

**Number 11: When driving near parked vehicles,** *be prepared for pedestrians, especially children, around or exiting the vehicles. If the vehicle is occupied, be aware that the driver could pull into your travel path. Children can be unpredictable. Slow down and be ready for the unexpected.*

**Number 12: Keep your eyes out front, aiming at an area at least 12 seconds ahead of your vehicle,** *in the center of your travel path. This will allow you to recognize hazards in advance and gives you more time to react. As a defensive driver, you're responsible for all of the hazards in this space ahead of your vehicle. Always have an escape route in any hazardous situation. If your wheel drops off the pavement, slow down and ease your way back onto the road. Recognize traffic signs by their shape.*

**Number 13: Do not speed!** *Know the posted speed limit and your speed at all times. Speed limits are set for your safety on dry roads. Adjust your speed to varying road, weather and traffic conditions. Stay alert to changes in speed limits. When approaching a road work zone, reduce your speed. Slow down in areas where you expect pedestrians, such as in shopping centers and school lots.*

**Number 14: When entering curves** *reduce your speed to avoid losing traction and moving out of your lane. Head-on crashes can be deadly. Stay centered in your lane and be prepared for the poor actions of other drivers. Don't pass on a hill or curve or make a u-turn where it is not possible to see oncoming vehicles.*

**Number 15: Pay attention while driving!** *Driver inattention is a major cause of crashes, especially in rear-end collisions. Distractions, such as interacting with passengers, eating, personal grooming, using the phone, or adjusting the stereo system, are especially dangerous.*