

Cycling Knowledge Test (based on the *Effective Cycling* video)

Purpose

This test is intended as a “Bicycle Diversion Training Program”, a supplement or alternative to part of the traffic fine for bicycle-related traffic violations (including violations by motorists who endanger or harass cyclists). The offender should be allowed to watch the *Effective Cycling* video while taking the test.

The test addresses serious misconceptions that lead to accidents:

- The attitude that cyclists need not follow standard “rules of the road”.
- The belief that bicycles are not vehicles and that they “do not belong” on the road.
- The “fear from the rear” superstition that makes novice cyclists excessively afraid of unlikely accidents while they ignore hazards that are much more likely to cause accidents.
- The tendency not to yield to traffic when changing lanes.
- Making turns from the wrong position on the road.
- Confusion about which vehicle has the right of way.
- The dangerous practice of riding without lights in the dark.

The court should provide the video and player (perhaps through a local library). Where necessary, sections of the tape can be replayed. A perfect score should be expected because it is “open book”. The test can also be an effective training tool for police and other law enforcement officials.

The *Effective Cycling* video is available for \$25 postpaid from the League of American Bicyclists, 1612 K St NW #401, Washington, DC 20006-2802, phone 202-822-1333.

There are other safety issues that are not covered in the video or in this test. *Ohio Bicycling Street Smarts*, distributed by the Ohio Dept. of Public Safety and the Pennsylvania *Bicycle Drivers Manual*, available from the PDOT is an excellent source of information. The manual can be found on-line at <http://www.dot.state.pa.us/Internet/hwyIntHS.nsf/frmBikeManual>. The commercial version of *Bicycling Street Smarts* can be purchased from Rubel Bikemaps, <http://www.bikemaps.com/bss.htm>.

For more extensive training in bicycle safety and for more serious violations, a 10 hour *Bike Ed* course is more suitable than the video. *Bike Ed* (formerly called *Effective Cycling*) is sponsored by the League of American Bicyclists. For certified instructors in your area, contact the League at <http://www.bikeleague.org/educenter/education.htm>, by mail at 1612 K Street NW, #401, Washington, DC 20006-2082, by phone at 202-822-1333, fax at 202-822-1334 or by email at bikeleague@bikeleague.org.

Revised Jun 2002 by Fred Oswald.

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Cycling Knowledge Test

Test to be given "open book" with the *Effective Cycling* video.

1) Complete: **Cyclists fare best** when they _____

2) What are the **5 basic traffic principles**?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

3) What should a cyclist do before changing lanes? _____

4) What is the cause of the most frequent motorist-caused bicycle accident?

5) What percent of serious car-bike collisions occur at intersections? _____ percent

6) Complete: In a **normal width lane**, both _____

7) Complete: A **narrow lane** is too narrow _____

8) A cyclist should always ride near _____ of a **narrow lane** so motorists won't _____

9) Right of way rules _____ and allow _____

10) What effect does a hand signal have on who has the right of way? _____

11) What are the duties of a driver who is passing another vehicle? _____

12) What are the duties of a driver who is being passed? _____

13) What two errors are common around bike lanes? 1. Right turning _____ and 2. Left turning _____

14) Complete: Bike paths are safe at _____ but dangerous at _____

15) What should a cyclist do to make his brakes work in wet weather? _____

16) What are three keys for safe riding at night? 1. _____

2. _____ 3. _____

Cycling Knowledge Test -- ANSWERS

(A perfect score should be required.)

- 1) Complete: Cyclists fare best when they act and are treated as drivers of vehicles
- 2) What are the 5 basic traffic principles?
 1. Ride on the RIGHT
 2. Yield to cross traffic
 3. Yield when changing lanes
 4. Intersection positioning rule: use lane that serves your destination
 5. Speed positioning rule: slow vehicles to right, faster to left
- 3) What should a cyclist do before changing lanes? Look (or scan) over shoulder to see that it is safe
- 4) What is the cause of the most frequent motorist-caused bicycle accident?
Left-turning motorist cuts across cyclist's path
- 5) What percent of serious car-bike collisions occur at intersections? 80 percent
- 6) Complete: In a normal width lane, both motorists and cyclists can share the lane in reasonable safety
- 7) Complete: A narrow lane is too narrow for motorists and cyclists to share safely
- 8) A cyclist should always ride near the center of a narrow lane so motorists won't be tempted to squeeze by
- 9) Right of way rules prevent collisions and allow faster travel
- 10) What effect does a hand signal have on who has the right of way? none
- 11) What are the duties of a driver who is passing another vehicle? Overtake safely, allowing ample room and do not return to the right lane until safely past
- 12) What are the duties of a driver who is being passed? Make overtaking easy if it is safe and reasonable
- 13) What two errors are common around bike lanes? 1. Right turning motorists turn in front of cyclists and 2. Left turning cyclists stay in the bike lane too long (until they turn left)
- 14) Complete: Bike paths are safe at low speeds but dangerous at high speeds
- 15) What should a cyclist do to make his brakes work in wet weather? apply brakes early to dry the rims
- 16) What are three keys for safe riding at night?
 1. being detected
 2. being recognized
 3. being avoided