The following information is a review of the lesson you just completed. Take time to review and study this information. Remember, this important information will be needed to pass your upcoming assessment, so take the necessary time in order to feel secure about your knowledge of this segment. This is not a graded portion of the course, but should be completed as an additional exercise.

TEXAS ALCOHOL LAWS

Millions of people take drugs every day and don’t realize these drugs can affect their driving. Alcohol, tranquilizers, marijuana—or any other mind-altering drug—can affect the mental and physical (psychomotor) skills needed to drive. Even some over-the-counter medicines can affect driving skills.

Different people’s driving skills can be affected differently by the same drug. The driver’s weight and emotional state, the amount of the drug and when it was taken—all influence the driver’s ability to size up an emergency situation or to judge speed or distance.

Taking more than one drug at the same time can be especially dangerous because each can add to the impact of the other. This is especially true when one of the drugs is alcohol.

THE NUMBER ONE KILLER

The number one killer of teenagers is driving under the influence. More than 4,000 teens are killed and another 110,000 seriously injured each year in car crashes involving alcohol. Not all have been drinking, but some are passengers or innocent targets of people who drink and drive. These statistics mean that from a high school of 475 students, two are likely to be killed or injured in drunk driving accidents. One could be your best friend. One could be you.
MARIJUANA
Research has shown that even typical social doses of marijuana can affect concentration, judgment, and the sensory and perceptual skills needed for careful driving. People who are under marijuana’s influence have impaired sensory and perceptual abilities.

STIMULANTS
While heavy amphetamine use will keep drivers awake and active for long stretches of time, it will also make them less coordinated, edgy, and, as one accident study found, four times more likely to be involved in a car crash. Research shows that typical social amounts of cocaine can produce lapses in attention and concentration.

Although caffeine can help the drowsy driver stay alert, it can’t make the drunk driver sober. Studies show that ordinary amounts of caffeine do not improve an inebriated subject’s driving skills.

TRANQUILIZERS AND OTHER SEDATIVE-HYPNOTICS
The sedative-hypnotic drugs, including barbiturates, are powerful depressants that calm people down or help them sleep. Sleepy or oversedated drivers, however, are not good drivers.

OVER-THE-COUNTER DRUGS
Many over-the-counter drugs produce drowsiness in some people that can affect their driving. Drivers should read the labels and be especially careful with antihistamines, other cold preparations, or any medicine that relaxes or promotes sleep.

ANY DRUG
Any drug you take might affect your ability as a driver. If you take more than one drug, or if you mix drugs (especially tranquilizers or other sedative-hypnotics) with alcohol, you could be asking for trouble—on the road and off. If you have doubts about a particular drug or drug mix, check with your doctor or pharmacist.

ALCOHOL
Each year alcohol, a depressant drug that affects coordination, judgment, perception, and emotional state, is responsible for half of all American highway deaths. Alcohol increases the depressant effects of tranquilizers and barbiturates. Mixing these drugs, on or off the road, can be extremely hazardous.
THE ALCOHOL TEST

A law enforcement officer, for good reason, may ask a driver to take a test to determine the amount of alcohol in his body. Refusal to give a blood or breath specimen for analysis or if a person has a blood alcohol level of 0.08% or greater makes the driver subject to a 60-90-day driver’s license suspension.

A person having a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08% or more is intoxicated according to the law.

MINOR IN POSSESSION

While this is not a direct driving offense, it is closely related. Minor In Possession (MIP) actually includes more than just “possessing” alcohol. There are five other charges associated with minors and alcoholic beverages.

Minor Attempting to Purchase Alcohol. It is illegal for a person under 21 to try to buy alcohol even if the sale is not actually made (ABC §106.025)

Minor’s Purchase of Alcohol. Actual buying an alcoholic beverage (ABC §106.02)

Minor’s Consumption of Alcohol. Regardless of how the alcohol was obtained, it is illegal for a person under age 21 to drink alcohol (ABC §106.04). The exception to this law is if a person under age 21 is in the visible presence of his/her adult parent, guardian, or spouse. Thus a minor could drink with their father or a husband/wife who is over 21, if that person is visible [ABC §106.04(b)]

Possession of Alcohol. This offense may be variously interpreted as possession is defined as “actual care, custody, control or management [(ABC §106.05]. Thus it is important for young people to understand that they may be charged with a MIP offense by merely being in the presence of alcohol without buying, drinking or even holding an alcoholic beverage. The exception to this is if it is in the scope of legally authorized employment or in the presence of an adult parent, guardian, spouse or other adult to whom the minor has been committed by a court [ABC §106.05(b)]

Misrepresentation of Age. A minor may not claim that he/she is 21 or older in order to purchase an alcoholic beverage from a retail or wholesale supplier (ABC §106.07).

Penalties. First and second offenses include fines up to $500, a court ordered period of community service, a court imposed loss of driver license, and a court imposed satisfactory completion of a state approved alcohol awareness course. Third and subsequent offenses may include a $250 to $2000 fine, jail time up to 180 days, a court imposed loss of driver license, and a court imposed satisfactory completion of a state approved alcohol awareness course (ABC §106.71).
KNOW YOUR LEGAL LIMIT

In Texas that means 0.08% of Blood-Alcohol Concentration or any amount which results in loss of normal use of mental or physical faculties. This is only a guide and not sufficiently accurate to be considered legal evidence. The figures you calculate are averages. Individuals may vary somewhat in their personal alcohol tolerance. Food in the stomach affects the rate of absorption. Medications, health, and psychological condition are also influential factors. In any case, if you’ve been drinking at all, be careful!

Drivers are encouraged to take drug and alcohol awareness courses to become better educated about the effects and consequences of drugs and alcohol. Insurance companies provide liability insurance discounts to drivers who complete the drug and alcohol awareness courses.

ILLEGAL USE OF LICENSE

Misrepresentation of age is a MIP related violation. The following uses of a Texas Driver License are illegal, penalties are Class B misdemeanor, and can result in a fine of up to $2000 and/or jail time up to 180 days.

- False name to get a license.
- Possess more than one license.
- Use a canceled or revoked license.
- Use of another persons license.
- Lend your license to someone else.
- Display or possess a false license.

ADMINISTRATIVE LICENSE REVOCATION

This law relates to license suspension of a driver who fails a breath or blood test. It is a civil action, apart from any possible criminal DWI case. License loss penalties for failure of a test are:

- First Adm. License Rev. Offense- 60 days
- Previous refusal/fail suspension - 120 days
- Previous DWI license suspension - 180 days