About the... Two-Wheel Motorcycle Skills Test

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) offers a skills test for motorcycle license applicants. The test consists of four exercises that measure your ability to handle a motorcycle including starting, accelerating, turning and braking.

Studies have shown that riders with less than one year of riding experience have more crashes than more experienced riders. The skills test ensures that you have the critical skills you'll need to safely operate a motorcycle on the road and to avoid crashes.

It's important that you are fully prepared to take your motorcycle skills test when you visit DMV. Virginia law requires anyone who fails the DMV motorcycle skills test twice to successfully complete a Virginia-licensed motorcycle rider training course prior to obtaining a motorcycle license.

What to Expect... When You Arrive for Your Test

In order to receive a motorcycle class license on your license, you must pass the motorcycle knowledge test and the motorcycle skills test. Refer to the *Virginia Motorcycle Operator Manual* and the *Virginia Driver's Manual* to prepare for the knowledge test.

Bring your motorcycle to a DMV customer service center for the skills test. Your motorcycle must have a valid license plate, a current state inspection sticker and be in good working condition. You must wear a motorcycle helmet and eye protection, and you should wear proper protective clothing, including boots or shoes that cover the ankles, a long sleeved jacket or shirt, full-length pants and gloves.
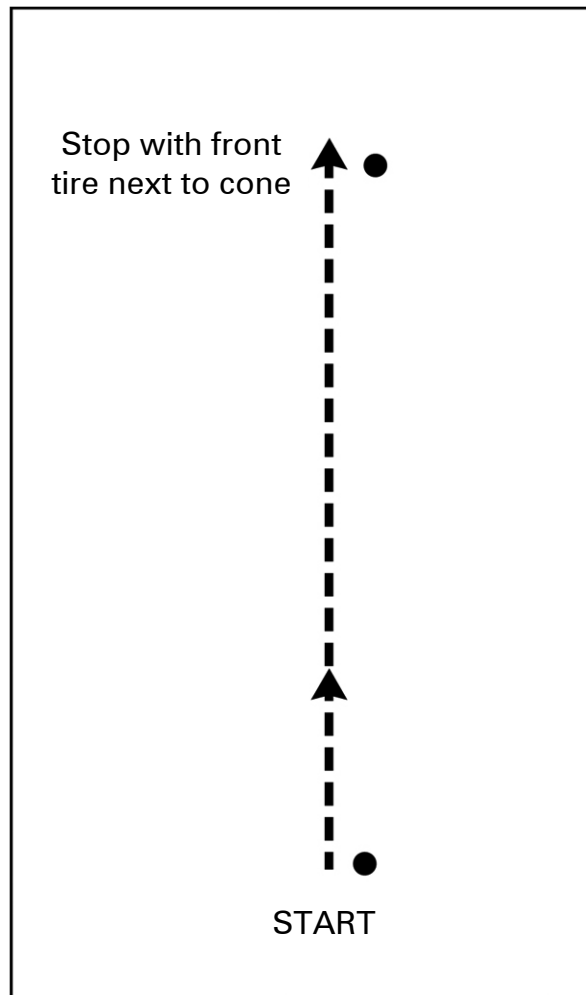
The DMV representative will explain each test exercise and scoring criteria before you begin the test. None of the exercises are difficult or dangerous for a person with basic riding skills. Most of the exercises involve speeds of about 15 mph or less. If you feel that an exercise is beyond your skill level, tell the DMV representative. You must successfully complete all the exercises to pass the skills test. The entire test takes about 15 minutes.

The procedures used to score your performance are objective. For example, you will receive error points for going outside the lines or putting your foot down during an exercise.
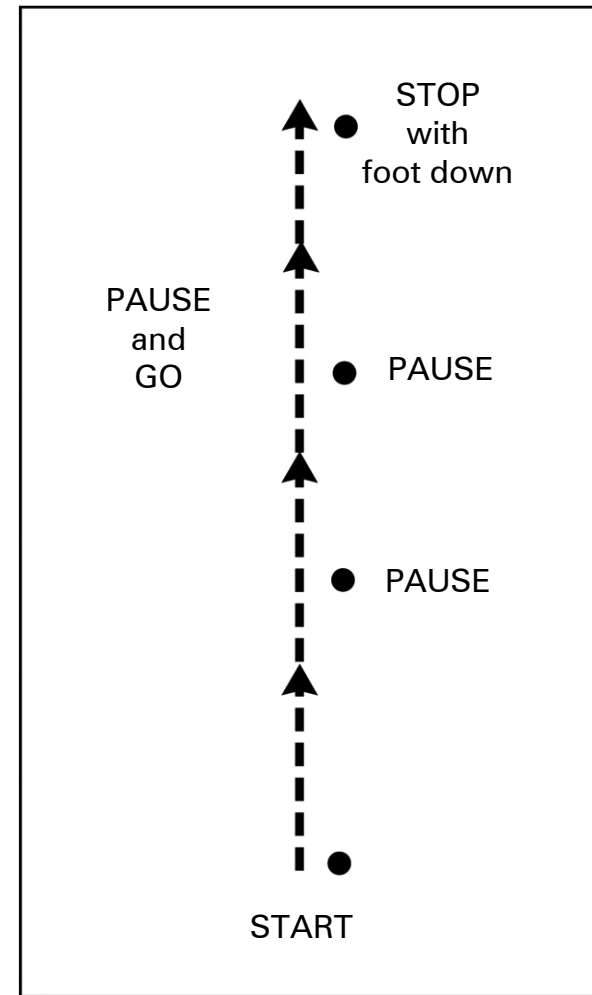
Remember, study the *Virginia Motorcycle Operator Manual* and the *Virginia Driver's Manual.* The manuals are available online.

www.dmvNow.com

Test Exercises and Scoring Criteria

Stop with front tire next to cone

START

Exercise one tests your ability to stop a motorcycle at a designated point, such as at a crosswalk or stop sign. You will be evaluated on your ability to come to a normal stop at the cone using both brakes.
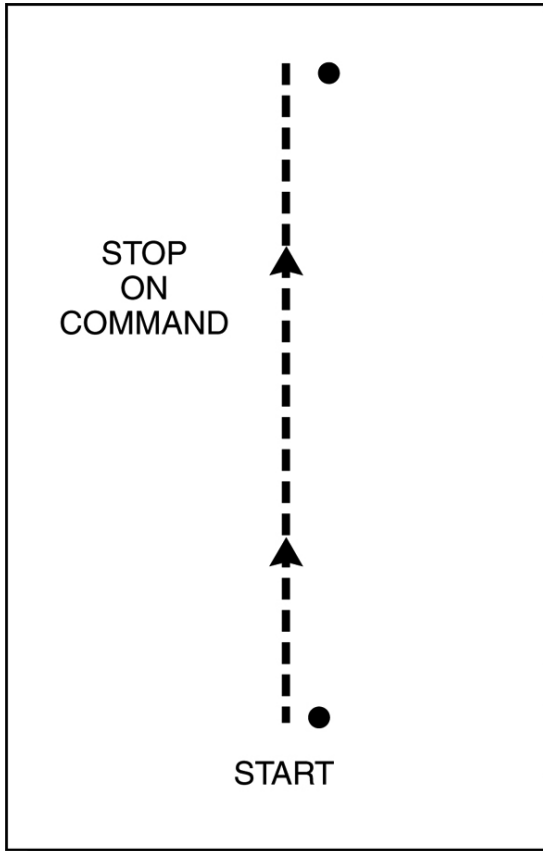
STOP with foot down

PAUSE and GO

PAUSE

PAUSE

START

Exercise two tests your overall control of a motorcycle. You will be evaluated on your ability to use balance, brakes, clutch and throttle to pause and go without putting your foot down.
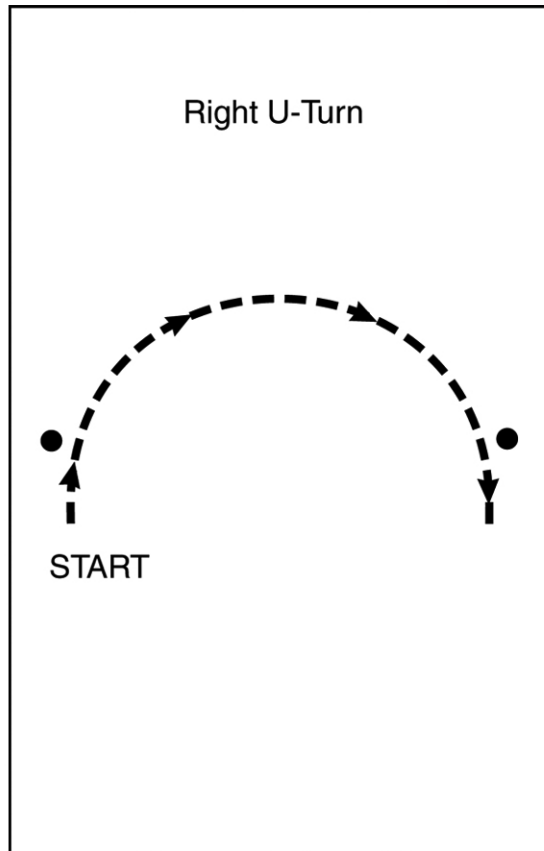
Test Exercises and Scoring Criteria

Exercise three tests your ability to stop on command. You will be evaluated on your ability to come to a controlled quick stop on command. Approximately 70 percent of all motorcycle crashes involved riders who failed to use or incorrectly used their brakes in an emergency.

STOP
ON
COMMAND

START

Exercise four tests your ability to complete a right U-turn without losing control of the motorcycle. You will be evaluated on your ability to coordinate your head, eyes, throttle and clutch to complete a right U-turn without putting your foot down for balance.

Right U-Turn

START

Virginia's Two-Wheel
Motorcycle
Skills Test

Enroll in a Training Course

If you don't think you have the skills to pass this test or if you have failed the DMV motorcycle skills test twice since July 1, 2007, consider enrolling in a motorcycle rider training course offered at licensed training sites across the state.

Classes are designed for either beginning or experienced riders, and will provide you with the skills and knowledge required to be a safe motorcyclist.

For more information about enrolling in a rider training course, call 804-367-1813 or visit our website at:

ƉmvNow.com
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