



## Self-evaluation: How high is YOUR Driving IQ? The Driving Mind's **Zone Control** Actions

**Introduction:** Every driving second we take actions without conscious thought by habits. Many habits are caught by chance repetitions of an action. Some are good and others are not. To develop the ability to find, solve, and control the critical seconds before a potential crash requires deliberate practice of one action at a time. Take the self-evaluation and see how many of these actions you have as your habits.

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### Directions:

Enter a number in the box before each statement.

4 = Habitually perform action

2 = Agree but not habitual

0 = Not aware of the action

-2 = Disagree with the action

Highest Driving IQ = 228

### 01. Establish Driver-Vehicle Readiness

1. Be mentally and physically fit to drive.
2. Know how to detect and correct drowsiness.
3. Evaluate vehicle's surroundings on approach.
4. Control door swing.
5. Butt-in seating position.
6. Safety belts on.
7. Head restraints up.
8. Doors locked.
9. Windows up, not half open.
10. Headlights on at all times.

**EXPERT Habits = 40 Driving IQ points**

### 02. See Clear Path Before Moving

1. Search to Target Area for clear Path-Of-Travel (POT).
2. Identify Line-Of-Sight, Path-Of-Travel blockages.
3. Turn head, evaluate POT before turning tires.
4. Use Central Vision to search Future A Zone.
5. Use Fringe Vision to monitor LOS-POT Blockage.

**EXPERT Habits = 20 Driving IQ points**

### 03. Keep the Car in Balance

1. Make smooth and effective starts, stops, and steering actions.
2. Use transition pegs for smooth steering recovery.
3. Identify and correct an off-target skid.

**EXPERT Habits = 12 Driving IQ points**

## 04. Use Reference Points

1. Know within 3–6 inches where the front, sides, and rear of the car are positioned to the roadway.
2. Know where the car's sides and front are in relation to intersection curb lines.
3. Know positions of LP1, LP2, LP3, LP4, and LP5.
4. Backing and parking with expert control.

**EXPERT Habits = 16 Driving IQ points**

## 05. Use MATRIX for Zone Control Search

1. Search the Matrix A Window to the Target Area for open or closed zones.
2. Evaluate whether it's a "go" or a "slow" condition.
3. FIND LOS-POT (Line-Of-Sight, Path-Of-Travel) blockage.
4. FIND critical seconds.
5. Search other zones for additional information.
6. Search other zones for escape path.

**EXPERT Habits = 24 Driving IQ points**

## 06. Take Zone Control Actions

1. SOLVE LOS-POT critical seconds.
2. Respond to a 'Go' or a 'Slow' condition.
3. Get the best: speed control, lane positioning, and communication.
4. CONTROL the 4-second danger zone.
5. Know and control your Point-Of-No-Return.
6. Read Traffic Sign Cues and Pavement Markings.

**EXPERT Habits = 24 Driving IQ points**

## 07. Control the Danger Square (Intersection)

1. FIND LOS-POT blockage; SOLVE and CONTROL it.
2. When moving, make 45° search at LOS-POT blockage.
3. When stopped, make 90° deep search to target area.
4. Use staggered, legal, safety stop positions as needed.
5. Search for open gap or hole in traffic flow.
6. Search left, front, right zones before entering intersection.
7. Time arrival into an open zone.
8. First at green light, look for pedestrians and red light runners.

**EXPERT Habits = 32 Driving IQ points**

## 08. Get Rear Zone Control

1. When your foot goes onto the brake check rearview.
2. Evaluate rear for open, closed, unstable condition.
3. Identify and control tailgater: charger, one pacer, habitual.
4. When stopped, monitor rear until there are 'sand barrels.'
5. Before moving to either side check side view mirror.
6. Move head forward, roll eyes rearward to check blind area.
7. When backing check all mirrors and camera continuously.

**EXPERT Habits = 28 Driving IQ points**

## 09. Get Control With Vehicle in Front

1. FIND stopped or slowing vehicle, close in gradually.
2. When traveling at same speed, keep 4-seconds of separation space.
3. When stopped behind a vehicle, see its rear tires touching the road.
4. When the car in front moves, see if it's a 'go' situation before moving.

**EXPERT Habits = 16 Driving IQ points**

## 10. Interact Courteously With Others

1. Send and receive communications in a timely manner.
2. Empower yourself, reduce stress by being courteous.
3. Set a daily goal to be courteous to at least one person.
4. Identify and avoid competitive, aggressive driving.

**EXPERT Habits = 16 Driving IQ points**

**Total Driving IQ Points:**

**TALLY SCORE**