Test Overview
Michigan Department of State procedures require that I read these instructions to every applicant. The driving skills test is completed in two parts: evaluating your basic control skills ability and your on-road driving. You must pass the basic control skills before advancing to the driving portion of the test.

Basic Control Skills
The basic control skills consists of three exercises. If your vehicle crosses over a boundary line or is on a boundary line, you will be given a point. If you pull forward on a backing exercise, you will be given a point. You will also be scored on the position of your vehicle at the end of each exercise. If you see me raise my hand like this (examiner raises hand with palm out) - - stop your vehicle. Do you have any questions?

Forward Stop
Drive forward and stop with the front bumper of your vehicle close to, but not on or over the solid line. You may not lean out of the window to see better. When you are finished, put your vehicle in “park” and tap your horn. Do you have any questions? Wait for my signal. (Show diagram of exercise and paraphrase instructions to applicant.)

Sight-side Backing
Back your vehicle on a curved path into the sight-side parking space and stop when your back bumper is close to, but not on or over the solid line. You may look out your window while backing into the space. When you are finished, put your vehicle in “park” and tap your horn. Do you have any questions? Wait for my signal. (Show diagram of exercise and paraphrase instructions to applicant.)

Blind-side Backing
Drive forward and turn right out of this space. Set up your vehicle to back into the blind-side parking space. Once you are ready, put your vehicle in “park” and tap your horn. After you have finished the exercise, place your vehicle in “park” and tap the horn. Do you have any questions? (Show diagram of the exercise and paraphrase instructions to applicant).

When needed use the following continue statement, “Continue the exercise until the vehicle is completely inside the space.”
Driving Test

This is the on-road portion of the driving test. I will be marking the score sheet and giving you directions as we go along. On the route, I will ask you to tell me what you would do to avoid a head-on collision with an on-coming vehicle. I will also ask you to turn the fan or radio on and off. I will not ask you to do anything illegal or unsafe. You are to drive safely, obey all traffic laws and make your traffic checks obvious to me by moving your head. Do you have any questions?

Crash Avoidance

Explain what you would do to avoid a crash if an on-coming vehicle were heading at us in our lane.

To avoid hitting the vehicle, you may have to hit an object on the side of the road. What is the safest object to hit and what is the best way to hit it?

Lane Changes (Urban and Expressway [or Rural] Actual)

When safe to do so, change one lane to your left.

When safe to do so, change one lane to your right.

Simulated Lane Changes

Please explain what you would do to make a lane change to the left.

Please explain what you would do to make a lane change to the right.

Fan or Radio

Fan: At this time, turn your fan switch on. Radio: At this time, turn your radio on.

At this time, turn your fan switch off. At this time, turn your radio off.

Railroad Crossing (Simulation)

Imagine the (landmark) ahead is a railroad crossing. At this location, please explain what you would do to safely cross a railroad track.