

All about Interstates (55 pts)

Directions: Read the information about Interstate Highways at the following website: <http://www.interstate-guide.com/interstate.html> . Then complete the questions below about the reading.

1. Highways are numbered according to the general direction that they follow and their significance. In which direction do even-number interstates travel? (3 pts) _____

East - West _____

2. In which direction do odd-number interstates travel? (3 pts) _____

North - South _____

3. How are Major East-West Interstates numbered? (3 pts) _____

2 digit ending in 0 _____

4. How are Major North-South Interstates numbered? (3 pts) _____

2 digit ending in 5 _____

5. In what locations do you generally find interstates with low numbers? (3 pts) _____

South and West _____

6. In what locations do you generally find interstates with high numbers? (3 pts) _____

North and South _____

7. Sometimes, when interstates have been built to wrap around, or loop, cities. They usually join with an existing interstate on each side. These loops are called Beltways . (1 pt)

8. How are looping interstates named when they connect to interstates on each end? (3 pts)

they add a 3rd even-numbered digit to their highway name _____

Name Key

Date _____

(i.e. 465 loops around 65 in Indianapolis, Indiana) _____

9. How are looping interstates named when they do not connect to an Interstate at one end? (3 pts) they add a 3rd odd-numbered digit to their highway name _____

(i.e. 585 breaks off of 85 in South Carolina but does not connect back to it) _____

10. Who designed the sign now as the Interstate Highway shield? (2 pts) _____

Richard Oliver of Texas _____

11. When was the shield in the colors of red, white, and blue approved by the American Association of State Highway Officials? (1 pt) 1957 _____

12. Only 5 state capitals do not have access to an Interstate Highway. Name the cities and their states. (10 pts)

Juneau, Alaska; Dover, Delaware; Jefferson City, Missouri; _____

Carson City, Nevada; and Pierre, South Dakota _____

13. It was once said that "One miles of every five miles of Interstate highway must be straight enough to allow planes to land on it." Is this true, or is it just a myth? (3 pts) _____

This is a myth, or an urban legend. _____

14. When a bridge, or overpass, is created to allow one highway to pass across another, how much vertical room must be allowed for vehicles to pass under the bridge? (2 pts)

16.5 feet (14 feet allowable in urban areas) _____

15. Signs are often built above interstates to cross over the road and allow easy readability by all travelers. How far above the interstate to the signs have to be posted? (2 pts) _____

17 feet _____

16. How wide is each lane of an Interstate highway? (3 pts) _____

Name Key

Date _____

12 feet (2 lanes per direction) _____

17. Interstates are designed to allow its travelers to drive 70 miles per hour. (1 pt)

18. Traffic speed on Interstate highways must decrease to ensure safety of its travelers. Name 3 reasons why traffic might slow down in certain areas. (6 pts) _____

Mountains, urban areas, hilly terrain _____

19. BONUS: Which U.S. President is the Interstate Highway System named after? (6 pts) _____

Dwight D. Eisenhower _____

More Information: Most highways are marked with Mile Markers to help you pinpoint your location.

- In most states, Mile markers are used to name exit ramps that connect the interstate with nearby road systems. WARNING: Some states (California, Massachusetts, New York) do not follow this pattern.
- Mile markers start over at each state border.
 - East – West: Mile marker 1 is located at the western state border on an East-West route. The numbers increase as you travel east.
 - North – South: Mile marker 1 is located at the southern state border on a North-South route. The numbers increase as you travel north
- Along most major highways and interstates, you will find rest areas. These provide local information, restroom facilities, vending machines, picnic areas, etc. for weary travelers.

For more information, check out:

- The Trucker's Report Map Facts: http://www.thetruckersreport.com/map_facts.shtml
- Newbie Driver: http://www.newbiedriver.com/articles/Interstate_system.htm
- Interstate Rest Area Guide: <http://www.interstaterestareas.com/>