MODULE THIRTEEN BEHIND-THE-WHEEL AND IN-CAR OBSERVATION

Module thirteen contains sample in-car lessons that compliment classroom instruction. Suggested in-car lessons have been developed for a standard seven period driving, seven period observing program. Sample record sheets and evaluation tools are included. Driving routes should be carefully constructed to included appropriate, safe learning environments.

DAY ONE – At least 50-minutes of instruction is required for this lesson.

Lesson 1: This lesson introduces the checks made by the driver when approaching the vehicle; adjustments made prior to starting the vehicle; starting procedures; and how to move the vehicle away from and to the curb. The recommended instructional time is 25 minutes driving and 25 minutes observing.

Lesson 2: This vehicle control and basic procedures lesson reinforces procedures included in Lesson 1, and introduces targeting, sightlines, path of travel and reference points. The student performs basic vehicle control maneuvers in a controlled environment. The recommended instructional time is 25 minutes driving and 25 minutes observing.

DAY TWO – At least 50-minutes of instruction is required for this lesson.

Lesson 3: This lesson introduces basic maneuvers at low speed, and in a low risk environment. The student is introduced to intersections, right-of-way concepts, turns, and parking. The recommended instructional time is 25 minutes driving and 25 minutes observing.

Lesson 4: These basic maneuvers in low risk driving environments lesson reinforces tasks learned in previous lessons, and introduces 2-point turnabouts, 3-point turnabouts, U-turns, and parking procedures. The recommended instructional time is 25 minutes driving and 25 minutes observing.

DAY THREE – At least 50-minutes of instruction is required for this lesson.

Lesson 5: This basic maneuver in moderate risk environment lesson reinforces driving tasks learned in prior lessons, and introduces the student to moderate risk driving environments. The recommended instructional time is 25 minutes driving and 25 minutes observing.

Lesson 6: This lesson utilizes a space management system to identify risk using commentary driving. Driving tasks taught in prior lessons are reinforced, and space management concepts are emphasized. The recommended instructional time is 25 minutes driving and 25 minutes observing.

DAY FOUR – At least 50-minutes of instruction is required for this lesson.

Lesson 7: Continued emphasis is placed on using space management techniques while introducing the student to more demanding driving experiences. The recommended instructional time is 50 minutes driving and 50 minutes observing. To avoid fatigue and optimize learning, the driver/observer should switch positions every 25 minutes.

DAY FIVE – At least 50-minutes of instruction is required for this lesson.

Lesson 8: These basic maneuvers in complex traffic situations lesson reinforces driving tasks learned in prior lessons, and places the student in more complex traffic situations. A minimum of 50 minutes driving and 50 minutes observing is recommended. To avoid fatigue and optimize learning, the driver/observer should switch positions every 25 minutes.

DAY SIX – At least 50-minutes of instruction is required for this lesson.

Lesson 9: In this lesson, brake failure, engine failure, accelerator failure, traction loss and collision avoidance techniques are simulated using a driving range or parking lot. The recommended instructional time is 25 minutes driving and 25 minutes observing.

Lesson 10: In this lesson, off road recovery is practiced on a safe shoulder of the road or rumble strip, and backing maneuvers that allow students to demonstrate proficient parking, driving in a serpentine, etc., skills are practiced on the range or in a parking lot. The recommended instructional time is 25 minutes driving and 25 minutes observing.

DAY SEVEN – At least 50-minutes of instruction is required for this lesson.

Lesson 11 The final road skills assessment, conducted on a pre-determined driving route, measures the student’s level of proficiency for all skills included on Virginia’s standardized road test with no assistance from the instructor or observer. To reduce anxiety and optimize skills, the student should be given an opportunity to practice taking/observing the 25-minute road skills test, before actually taking the road test.