

CLASS: SS2
SUBJECT: GOVIC
TOPIC: Traffic Regulations
WEEK: 5
TERM: THIRD TERM

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The Meaning of Traffic Regulations

Accidents on our highways have become a common occurrence. These are caused by ignorance and lack of education on the part of most road users. It is as a result of this that the traffic regulations are designed to guide and educate every road user on the road to prevent or minimize accident on the highways.

Traffic regulations are the official traffic rules made by the government and enforced by the road safety agency of Nigeria called the Federal Road Safety Commission of Nigeria (FRSC).

Traffic on roads may consist of pedestrians, ridden or herded animals, motor-cycles, vehicles, streetcars and other conveyances which use the road for travelling. Traffic regulations are laws and rules which govern traffic, regulate vehicles, and facilitate the orderly and timely flow of traffic.

Some Traffic Regulations

1. **Registration of vehicles:** It is mandatory that every vehicle that plies the road must be registered or else such a vehicle would be impounded by the traffic officials. Drivers and vehicle owners are expected to register and renew the particulars or documents of their vehicles.
2. **Obeying traffic officials:** Traffic officials are traffic law enforcement agents who prosecute people that violate traffic rules as contained in the Highway Code. Some of these traffic officials include officers the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Vehicles Inspection Officers (VIO). At times, the police offer assistance when the need arises to assist traffic officials to control vehicles, especially during festive periods, public events and social gatherings or religious activities.

3. **Obeying speed limits:** There is a speed limit at which vehicles can move either on the highway or within the towns. Any driver who exceeds the speed limit and is caught by the traffic officials will be booked or fined.
4. **Avoiding drinking and driving:** It is an offence for someone to drink especially alcoholic drinks or take drug substances which can influence them and make them drive recklessly. Anyone caught by road/traffic officials violating this rule will be made to face the punishment of the law.
5. **No driving by minors (underaged persons):** A minor is anyone who is below the age required by the law of the land to engage in certain activities. For instance, in Nigeria, the age of accountability is eighteen years. Hence, anybody who is below the age of eighteen is regarded as a minor.
6. **Traffic signs and traffic lights must be obeyed,** e.g. ZEBRA CROSSING, ONE WAY, NO PARKING, GIVE WAY, NO U-TURN, etc., must be obeyed by road users.
7. **All drivers must possess a valid driver's license:** Driver's license is an identification document issued by the traffic regulatory agency as a permit or authority to drive a car. It can also be described as a document that certifies one to drive some or all types of vehicles. Before anybody could be issued with a driver's license, such must pass through some tests and procedures. A learner's permit would be issued for a learner to drive with an experienced driver beside such as individual, and after six months of mastering the art and skill of driving, the person would be entitled to collect the original driver's license. It is an offence for someone to forge the document.
8. Drivers are expected to stop for pedestrians to cross when they approach a **zebra crossing sign**.
9. **Obstruction of driver:** No person driving a vehicle shall allow any person to stand, sit or anything to be placed in such a manner as to hamper the driver or his control of the vehicle.
10. **Mentally or physically unfit** people are not allowed to drive.
11. **Overtaking:** Drivers must take the following precautions before overtaking.
12. **Overtaking is prohibited at blind turns** when indicated not to overtake by road markings or traffic signs.
13. **Overtaking only from the left hand side** (except when the vehicle ahead is turning right.)
14. **Before starting to overtake,** look in your rear view mirror and confirm that nobody else is overtaking you. If in doubt, do not overtake.
15. **Fire service vehicles and ambulances should be given free passage:** Every driver shall on the approach of fire service vehicles or an ambulance give a free passage by driving the vehicle to the left side of the road.

16. **Distance from vehicle in front:** The driver of the vehicle moving behind another shall keep sufficient distance from the vehicle in front (one vehicle length distance for every 15km/hr).
17. Using a road under construction is prohibited.
18. Loading a vehicle above the weight or number of passengers required by law is prohibited.
19. Obstructing a road Marshal or traffic Warden in the performance of duty is an offense.
20. Using a GSM phone while driving is prohibited.
21. Smoking or eating while driving is prohibited.
22. Failure of the driver or the front-seat passenger to wear safety belts while driving is prohibited.
23. Medical personnel or hospitals rejecting accident victims are wrong.
24. Driving with one hand, etc. is wrong.

Roles of Government and Individuals in Maintaining Traffic Regulations

Roles of individual in maintaining Traffic regulations

1. Engage in defensive driving, that is, driving to save lives, money and time in spite of the conditions around the individual and provocative actions of other road users.
2. Study all the traffic offences and signs, have them at your finger-tips and try your best to obey all the traffic regulations.
3. Do the work of driver in the event of road traffic crash. Such responsibilities of the driver are:
 4. Stop at the scene of the crash.
 5. Check if the driver is hurt.
 6. Check if anybody else is hurt.
 7. If not hurt, leave the scene of the crash to a safe location, summon courage and assist others.
 8. State the fact of the case if asked by law enforcement agents.
 9. Get skid marks, others' identifications and photographs.
 10. Report the crash at the nearest FRSC office or call the emergency number of the FRSC.
 11. Vehicle occupants should do their responsibilities such as:
 12. If not hurt, vacate the hazardous location on the highway.
 13. Give all necessary information.
 14. If hurt but can talk, explain where it hurt to First Aider.
 15. Cooperate with First Aider.

16. Volunteers as individuals should do the following responsibilities in the event of road traffic crash: Stop to help in every traffic crash cases; as by-standers, cooperate with First Aider; do not compound the pain of the victim with expressed emotions; Help to clear obstruction; do not constitute obstruction.
17. Individuals should not claim right of way, as claiming such right may claim lives.
18. Every driver as an individual should rest for 15 minutes after every 4 hours of driving, and avoid driving more than 10 hours in 24hours (or a day).
19. Doctors, nurses and health workers should attend to accident victims promptly.

Roles of Government in Maintaining Traffic Regulations

1. Setting up agencies that would implement traffic regulations, like the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA), Ogun State Traffic Compliance and Enforcement Corps (TRACE), Osun Youth Empowerment Scheme (O-YES), Youth Empowerment Scheme Oyo State (YES-O).
2. Enactment of laws to regulate traffic.
3. Organizing of public lectures/workshops by special and regular marshals or officers and men of the road safety corps, and transporters.
4. Television and radio announcement warning road users on roads ethics, over speeding and non-usage of worn-out tyres.
5. Road signs to help drivers and motorists. These signs should be educative and precise
6. Installing traffic lights at appropriate strategic locations.
7. Making sure that the salaries, wages and other entitlements of safety agents and officials are paid as and when due so that they will be motivated to make our roads safe by doing their work.
8. Providing equipped vehicles and other gadgets needed to do road safety work.
9. Providing a mechanism to remove any form of obstruction on the road. For instance, providing towing vans that would evacuate a bad vehicle.
10. Providing ambulances to road safety agents and hospitals for easy evacuation of road traffic crash victims.

ASSIGNMENT

Draw an informative road sign and a warming road sign.