

- Make critical decisions and carry them out.

Examiners may score on factors related to safety such as:

- Selecting safe speeds to perform maneuvers.
- Choosing the correct path and staying within boundaries.
- Completing normal and quick stops.
- Completing normal and quick turns or swerves.

PREPARING TO RIDE

What you do before you start a trip goes a long way toward determining whether you'll get where you want to go safely. Before starting any trip, a safe rider makes a point to:

- Wear the right gear.
- Become familiar with the motorcycle.
- Check the motorcycle equipment.
- Be a responsible rider.

WEARING THE RIGHT GEAR

When you ride, your gear is "right" if it protects you. In any crash, you have a far better chance of avoiding serious injury when you wear:

- An approved helmet.
- Face or eye protection.
- Protective clothing.

Helmet Use

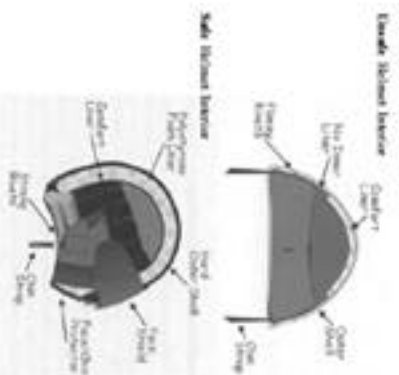
Crashes can occur—particularly among new riders. One out of

every five motorcycle crashes result in head or neck injuries with head injuries being far more common. All operators and passengers must wear an approved safety helmet when riding on a motorcycle, motor-driver cycle, or motorized bicycle. Research shows that head and neck injuries account for a majority of serious and fatal motorcyclist injuries and that with few exceptions, head and neck injuries are reduced by properly wearing an approved helmet. Here are some facts to consider.

- An approved helmet lets you see as far to the sides as necessary.
- Most crashes happen on short trips (less than five miles long) just a few minutes after starting out.
- Most riders are riding slower than 30 mph when a crash occurs. At these speeds, helmets can cut both the number and the severity of head injuries by half.
- No matter what your speed in a crash, if you are wearing a helmet you are three times more likely to survive a head injury than if you aren't wearing one.

Helmet Selection

There are two primary types of helmets which provide two different levels of coverage: three-quarter and full face.



Whichever style you choose, you get the most protection by making sure the helmet:

- Meets U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and state standards. Helmets with a label from the Snell Memorial Foundation give you an added assurance of quality.

- Fits snugly, all the way around.
- Has no obvious defects such as cracks, loose padding or frayed straps.

Keep your helmet securely fastened on your head when you ride. Otherwise, if you are involved in a crash, it's likely to fly off your head before it gets a chance to protect you.

Eye and Face Protection

A plastic shatter-resistant face shield can help protect your whole face in a crash. It also protects you from wind, dust, dirt, rain, insects, and pebbles thrown up from the vehicles

ahead. If you don't have to deal with these types of problems, you can devote your full attention to the road.

Goggles protect your eyes, but they don't protect the rest of your face like a face shield does. A windshield is not a substitute for a face shield or goggles. Most windshields will not protect your eyes from the wind. Neither will eyeglasses or sunglasses. Glasses won't keep your eyes from watering, and they might blow off when you turn your head.

To be effective, eye or face shield protection must:

- Be free of scratches.
- Be resistant to penetration.
- Give a clear view to either side.
- Fasten securely, so it does not blow off.

- Permit air to pass through, to reduce fogging.

- Permit enough room for eyeglasses or sunglasses, if needed.

Timed eye protection should not be worn at night or any other time when little light is available.

Clothing

The right clothing protects you in a collision. It also provides comfort, as well as protection from heat, cold, debris, and the hot and moving parts of the motorcycle.

- Jacket and pants should cover arms and legs completely. They