



# TABC Seller-Server Certification

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## Practice Questions

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### 1. What is the minimum legal age to purchase or consume alcohol in Texas?

- A. 21 years old
- B. 18 years old
- C. 19 years old
- D. 20 years old

### 2. Which of the following is a visible physical sign that a customer may be intoxicated?

- A. Speaking in a language other than English
- B. Bloodshot or glassy eyes and flushed face
- C. Wearing sunglasses indoors
- D. Ordering multiple different types of drinks

### 3. Under Texas law, which of the following people **MUST** be refused alcoholic beverage service?

- A. A visibly intoxicated person
- B. A person who has a foreign accent
- C. A person who orders an unusual drink combination
- D. A person who pays with cash

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### 4. Under the Texas Dram Shop Act, an alcohol provider may be held liable for damages caused by an intoxicated patron when:

- A. The patron caused any property damage after leaving
- B. The patron was served any amount of alcohol
- C. It was apparent the patron was dangerously intoxicated at the time of service
- D. The patron had a prior DWI conviction



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**5. In most Texas jurisdictions, what is the general legal cutoff time for alcohol sales at a bar?**

- A. 11:00 PM
- B. 2:00 AM
- C. 12:00 AM (midnight)
- D. 1:00 AM

**6. If a TABC agent arrives to inspect your establishment, what should you do?**

- A. Cooperate fully and provide access to all areas covered by the permit
- B. Ask them to schedule the inspection for another day
- C. Insist they present a court-issued warrant before entering
- D. Contact your lawyer before allowing any inspection

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**7. Proof that an alcoholic beverage is alcohol, spirits of wine, whiskey, wine, rum, or gin is \_\_\_\_\_ evidence that it is liquor.**

- A. not
- B. prima facie
- C. incontrovertible
- D. provable

**8. Which of the following is an acceptable primary ID for purchasing alcohol in Texas?**

- A. A library card with a photo
- B. An expired driver's license
- C. A Texas Department of Public Safety driver's license
- D. A school ID card

**9. A customer is slurring their words and having difficulty maintaining balance. This is most likely a sign of:**

- A. A medical condition that requires immediate first aid
- B. Fatigue from a long work shift
- C. Intoxication that warrants refusing further service
- D. Low blood sugar that will improve after eating

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**10. When refusing service to a customer, what is the MOST effective approach?**

- A. Point out their intoxicated behavior to other customers
- B. Be calm, private, and offer non-alcoholic alternatives or water
- C. Tell them they will be arrested if they do not leave
- D. Ignore them until they leave on their own

**11. What is the primary purpose of the Texas Dram Shop Act?**

- A. To create civil liability for providers who over-serve alcohol that leads to third-party harm
- B. To regulate the price of alcoholic beverages in Texas
- C. To require all bars to serve food with every alcoholic drink
- D. To prohibit bars from operating past midnight

**12. When may alcohol sales resume in the morning under standard Texas law?**

- A. At noon (12:00 PM)
- B. At 6:00 AM
- C. At 8:00 AM
- D. At 10:00 AM

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**13. What is public intoxication under Texas law?**

- A. Having a BAC of 0.08 or higher in any setting
- B. Appearing in a public place while intoxicated to a degree that the person may endanger themselves or others
- C. Drinking alcohol in any area visible from a public street
- D. Consuming alcohol within 500 feet of a school

**14. Which of the following is not considered a permittee or licensee?**

- A. The holder of the permit or license
- B. An agent of the holder of the permit or license
- C. An employee of the holder of the permit or license
- D. All of these are considered a permittee or licensee

**15. When checking a customer's ID, what is the BEST approach regarding age?**

- A. Only check IDs for customers who appear to be under 25
- B. Card anyone who appears to be under 30 years old
- C. Only check IDs if you personally suspect the customer is underage
- D. Never check IDs for customers who come in with older adults



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**16. Under Texas law, a person is considered intoxicated when they:**

- A. Have lost the normal use of mental or physical faculties due to alcohol, a drug, or a combination
- B. Have consumed more than two standard drinks in one hour
- C. Have a blood alcohol concentration of 0.10 or higher
- D. Appear sleepy or tired in a licensed establishment

**17. You refuse service to a visibly intoxicated customer and they ask to speak to your manager. What should happen next?**

- A. The manager should override your decision if the customer is polite
- B. You should serve one more drink while waiting for the manager
- C. The manager should support the refusal; it is a legal requirement
- D. The manager should offer a complimentary non-alcoholic drink and then serve alcohol

**18. Which of the following best describes the 'safe harbor' provision under the Texas Dram Shop Act?**

- A. A permit holder is completely immune from all alcohol-related claims
- B. Servers who attended training cannot be personally sued
- C. Establishments are protected if they charge higher prices for alcohol
- D. Permit holders who provide TABC-approved training may reduce or eliminate civil liability

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**19. Which state agency issues and regulates alcohol permits and licenses in Texas?**

- A. Texas Department of Public Safety
- B. Texas Health and Human Services Commission
- C. Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC)
- D. Texas Department of State Health Services

**20. If an intoxicated customer wants to drive home, what is the most responsible action for a seller or server?**

- A. Remind them to drive carefully and let them leave
- B. Offer to call them a taxi but do nothing else
- C. Arrange or suggest a safe ride option and, if necessary, contact authorities
- D. Only intervene if they are in your parking lot



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**21. As a seller/server, if you sell alcohol to a minor, your employer could face which consequence?**

- A. Have its license or permit suspended
- B. Have its license or permit cancelled
- C. Be fined
- D. All of the above

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**22. Which of the following is NOT an acceptable form of ID for alcohol purchases in Texas?**

- A. A U.S. military ID card
- B. A U.S. passport
- C. A Texas handgun license
- D. A foreign consular ID card

**23. A customer who arrived sober becomes increasingly loud and is bumping into furniture. What is your BEST course of action?**

- A. Continue serving them as long as they are being friendly
- B. Serve them one final drink and then stop
- C. Ask a coworker to monitor them while you keep serving
- D. Stop service immediately and offer water or food

**24. A customer who was refused service threatens to report you to TABC. What is your best response?**

- A. Change your decision to avoid a complaint
- B. Offer them a free drink to prevent the complaint
- C. Argue with the customer to prove you are right
- D. Maintain your refusal; you are acting in compliance with the law

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**25. A server over-serves a customer who later causes a drunk-driving accident. Which party could potentially face civil liability?**

- A. Only the intoxicated driver
- B. The establishment and potentially the individual server
- C. Only the establishment's owner
- D. Only the local municipality that issued the permit

**26. Texas alcohol permits must be renewed:**

- A. Every five years
- B. Every six months
- C. Every year
- D. Every two years

**27. Texas law prohibits consuming alcohol in open containers in which of the following locations?**

- A. A licensed patio area attached to a bar
- B. A designated entertainment district that allows open containers
- C. A private vehicle parked on private property
- D. A public street outside of a licensed entertainment district

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**28. In Texas, a minor's driver's license has which of the following?**

- A. A vertical orientation
- B. The words 'Under 21'
- C. A different color/format than an adult license
- D. All of the above

**29. A customer presents an ID that feels unusually thick and has uneven lamination. What should you do?**

- A. Refuse service and keep the ID if possible, or notify management
- B. Accept it as long as the birth date makes the person 21 or older
- C. Ask the customer to provide a second form of ID and accept both together
- D. Serve the customer since you cannot be certain the ID is fake



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**30. Which behavioral sign most strongly indicates that a customer may be intoxicated?**

- A. Laughing loudly at a joke
- B. Difficulty understanding simple questions or responding coherently
- C. Ordering a drink they have not tried before
- D. Tipping generously



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## Answer Key & Explanations

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**1. A — 21 years old**

Texas law requires a person to be at least 21 years old to purchase or consume alcoholic beverages, in line with the National Minimum Drinking Age Act.

**2. B — Bloodshot or glassy eyes and flushed face**

Bloodshot or glassy eyes and a flushed complexion are classic physical indicators of alcohol intoxication. These result from alcohol's effect on blood vessels.

**3. A — A visibly intoxicated person**

Texas law prohibits selling or serving alcohol to a visibly intoxicated person. This is one of the clearest legal obligations of any seller or server under the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code.

**4. C — It was apparent the patron was dangerously intoxicated at the time of service**

The Texas Dram Shop Act (Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code § 2.02) creates civil liability when a provider sold alcohol to a person it was apparent the person was already dangerously intoxicated and that the intoxication caused harm.

**5. B — 2:00 AM**

Under the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code, bars and nightclubs may generally sell alcohol until 2:00 AM. Sales between 2:00 AM and noon are prohibited unless a specific extended-hours permit is held.

**6. A — Cooperate fully and provide access to all areas covered by the permit**

TABC agents have the authority to inspect licensed premises at any time. Cooperation is required by law. Obstruction of a TABC inspection is itself a violation and can result in permit action.

**7. B — prima facie**

**8. C — A Texas Department of Public Safety driver's license**

A current, valid Texas DPS driver's license is an acceptable government-issued photo ID. Expired IDs and non-government IDs are not acceptable.

**9. C — Intoxication that warrants refusing further service**

Slurred speech combined with loss of balance are strong indicators of intoxication under TABC definitions. You should stop service and not assume a medical or other cause without evidence.

**10. B — Be calm, private, and offer non-alcoholic alternatives or water**

A calm, respectful, and private refusal preserves the customer's dignity and reduces the chance of escalation. Offering non-alcoholic alternatives keeps the interaction constructive.

**11. A — To create civil liability for providers who over-serve alcohol that leads to third-party harm**

The Dram Shop Act is a civil liability statute enabling injured third parties (and their families) to sue alcohol providers whose over-service contributed to the harm they suffered.



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**12. A — At noon (12:00 PM)**

Standard Texas permits allow alcohol sales to resume at noon (12:00 PM) after the 2:00 AM closing. Certain beer licenses have different rules; always confirm your specific permit type.

**13. B — Appearing in a public place while intoxicated to a degree that the person may endanger themselves or others**

Texas Penal Code § 49.02 defines public intoxication as appearing in a public place in a state of intoxication to the degree that one may endanger themselves or another person.

**14. D — All of these are considered a permittee or licensee**

**15. B — Card anyone who appears to be under 30 years old**

TABC recommends carding anyone who appears to be under 30. This practice protects the seller from liability and ensures compliance with Texas law.

**16. A — Have lost the normal use of mental or physical faculties due to alcohol, a drug, or a combination**

Texas law defines intoxication as not having the normal use of mental or physical faculties due to alcohol, a controlled substance, or any other substance—or having a BAC of 0.08 or above.

**17. C — The manager should support the refusal; it is a legal requirement**

Refusing service to a visibly intoxicated person is a legal requirement. A manager cannot lawfully override this decision, and doing so would expose the establishment to greater liability.

**18. D — Permit holders who provide TABC-approved training may reduce or eliminate civil liability**

The safe-harbor provision (§ 106.14) allows permit holders to avoid liability if they required employees to attend TABC-approved seller-server training and the employee still violated the law without the employer's knowledge.

**19. C — Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC)**

The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) is the sole state agency responsible for issuing, renewing, and revoking all alcohol-related permits and licenses in Texas.

**20. C — Arrange or suggest a safe ride option and, if necessary, contact authorities**

Active intervention—arranging transportation, calling a rideshare, or contacting law enforcement—is the responsible course. Merely suggesting an alternative and letting them drive anyway is insufficient.

**21. D — All of the above**

**22. D — A foreign consular ID card**

Foreign consular IDs are generally not recognized by TABC as acceptable primary identification. Military IDs, passports, and Texas handgun licenses are all acceptable.

**23. D — Stop service immediately and offer water or food**

Increasing volume and loss of coordination are signs of growing intoxication. You must stop alcohol service immediately; offering water or food can help without causing confrontation.

**24. D — Maintain your refusal; you are acting in compliance with the law**

Refusing service to an intoxicated or underage person is the legally correct action. A TABC investigation would support your refusal. Reversing a justified decision out of fear creates greater legal risk.



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**25. B — The establishment and potentially the individual server**

Under the Dram Shop Act, both the permit holder (establishment) and potentially the individual server can face civil liability for over-serving an obviously intoxicated person who then causes harm.

**26. D — Every two years**

Most TABC permits are issued for two-year terms and must be renewed prior to expiration to avoid lapsing. Operating on an expired permit is a violation.

**27. D — A public street outside of a licensed entertainment district**

Texas law generally prohibits open containers of alcohol in public places and public motor vehicles. Some cities have entertainment districts where open containers are permitted on the street.

**28. D — All of the above**

**29. A — Refuse service and keep the ID if possible, or notify management**

Unusual thickness, uneven lamination, and other physical irregularities are signs of a possible fake ID. You should refuse service and alert management. Retaining the ID is permissible if the customer consents.

**30. B — Difficulty understanding simple questions or responding coherently**

Difficulty understanding or responding coherently to simple questions indicates impaired cognitive function, a primary sign of intoxication under TABC standards.



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