

CPSTs, take this self-test to assess your technical knowledge.

If you can't answer these correctly, consider attending an update/CEU course, participating in community events, or, if your certification is expired, retaking the full CPST certification course.

Instructors and technician proxies: This is a great discussion starter before working with any technician on their seat checks for recertification or the Renewal Testing Course.

Top 20 Technical Questions

- 1.** How should the harness fit when using a rear-facing car seat (harness height, harness snugness, retainer clip location)?
- 2.** How should the harness fit when using a forward-facing car seat (harness height, harness snugness, retainer clip location)?
- 3.** What is a tether and when do you use it?
- 4.** What is the difference between a convertible and a combination car seat?
- 5.** Why are weight limits on car seats important when choosing whether to use lower anchors or a seat belt to install the car seat?
- 6.** Why aren't convertible car seats generally tethered in the rear-facing mode?
- 7.** Where do you find the weight limits to discontinue use of lower anchor connectors?
- 8.** When can you use a forward-facing only car seat or forward-facing convertible car seat reclined?
- 9.** On an all-in-one car seat, do you use the lower anchor connectors in the booster mode?
- 10.** When should a child be transitioned into a booster seat and then into a seat belt?
- 11.** Can a rear-facing car seat touch the front vehicle seat?
- 12.** Are pool noodles acceptable to be used in addition to the recline adjustment?
- 13.** What is a lock-off and how it is used?
- 14.** When using lower anchor connectors, can you install a car seat in the center, borrowing anchors from the outboard positions?
- 15.** How much of the car seat must be in contact with the vehicle seat?
- 16.** When do you need to use a locking clip and on what side of the car seat relative to the seat belt would you place a regular locking clip?
- 17.** What is the purpose of an anti-rebound bar or a load leg?
- 18.** How is a dynamic latch plate different than a sliding or locking latch plate?

19. What are the current NHTSA recommendations on car seat and booster seat use for children?
20. Explain what we mean by “good, better, best” when caregivers make choices about how their children ride.
 - *Example: FF at 14 months and 25 pounds, provided there is no minimum FF weight or age on CR is good (acceptable).