

A GUIDE TO
PASSING
YOUR

DRIVING TEST



**Isle of Man
Government**
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February 2017



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Introduction

The Isle of Man Department of Infrastructure aims to promote road safety by establishing and developing high standards and the best practice in driving on the road, before people start to drive, as they learn and after they pass their test.

Driving a motorcar is a complex business that takes much longer to master than most people appreciate. Rushing to take the driving test before enough experience has been gained is a mistake. About half of the people who present themselves for their practical test haven't mastered basic driving skills. However, those who have had plenty of practice on a variety of roads, and at different times of the day and night, are more likely to pass their driving test at the first attempt. Getting enough practice of the right type before passing the driving test is a big step towards achieving "**Safe Driving for Life**".

The purpose of the tests is to prove that you can drive your vehicle safely on the road therefore it is vitally important to develop the correct attitude towards driving, showing responsibility and consideration to other road users. Only those who can do this will earn the right to drive without L-plates.

By passing your tests you will have proved that you have learned the theory, but it is important that you understand the principles of what you have learned and put them into practice. The instruction you receive before the tests is the foundation for gaining further skills and experience. The tests are just one stage in your driving career. You shouldn't assume that if you pass your tests you are a good driver with nothing more to learn.

About this book

This book will help you learn to drive competently and prepare and help you pass your theory and practical driving tests.

Part One – the driver and Isle of Man law

Part Two – the theory test

Part Three – the driving test

Part Four – restrictions on newly qualified drivers

Other important factors in your training are:

- a good instructor
- plenty of practice
- your attitude

You must manage your own learning. Aim to be safe and confident driver for life, and not just to pass your test.

Driving is a life skill. Your driving tests are just the beginning.

To help you study

It is strongly recommended that you study a copy of **The Highway Code** and the UK Driving Standards Agency (DSA) publishes a series of books which will provide you with sound knowledge of driving skills. They include:

- **The Official Theory Test for Car Drivers**
- **The Official Driving Test**
- **Driving – the Essential Skills**
- **The Official Guide to Accompanying 'L' Drivers**
- **'The Driving Test – Inside View 2'** is a video which explains what Examiners expect to see and gives some practical preparation methods
- **The Theory Test Companion (includes the Highway Code)**
- **The Official Theory Test for Car Drivers and Motorcyclists** (CD ROM) provides an interactive way of learning. You can also practice taking a mock theory test.
- **Road Sense** the official guide to hazard perception for all drivers and riders.
- **The Official Guide to Accompanying Learner Drivers**
- **Owning a Car**

Web sites

You may also find the following websites helpful.

www.dsa.gov.uk

www.2pass.co.uk

Part One – The driver and the Isle of Man law

Driving any vehicle carries with it legal requirements and you must satisfy some of these before you begin to drive on the public road. Others apply after you start to drive. Most of these requirements are for your safety and for the safety of other road users.

Your provisional driving licence

You must be at least 16 years of age before you can obtain a provisional car (category B, cars and light vans) licence. **It is an offence to drive a motor vehicle on a road under the age of 16.**

You must hold a valid, signed provisional driving licence before you attempt to drive on the road.

Driving Licences are issued by the **Post Office Licensing Office**, who process all applications for driving licences and provisional licences on behalf of the Department of Infrastructure.

The Isle of Man Driving License now consists of 1 Part. The new style Licence is a photocard licence which does not show your address.

Learner drivers from outside the Isle of Man

You cannot drive in the Isle of Man if your driving licence or driving entitlement issued outside the Island is only a "provisional" licence or entitlement held by a learner driver.

Vehicle Insurance

The vehicle you practice in must be properly insured for you to drive. You will be asked to produce a valid insurance certificate before the test begins. If you drive uninsured you will be committing a serious offence.

Theoretical driving tests

Before taking a practical test either on a motorbike or in a vehicle with three or more wheels, you must pass a theory test whilst you are learning to drive and you must have the pass certificate and your provisional driving licence with you when you take your practical driving test. The theory test pass certificate must not be more than 2 years old when you take a practical driving test.

There is a separate theory test for driving a motorcycle or moped. If you wish to take practical tests to drive a motorcycle (or a moped) and a car (or light van) you must pass two separate theory tests. The theory test includes a hazard perception test.

You take your theory test at the University College Isle of Man, Homefield Road, Douglas.

Approved Driving Instructor (ADI)

An ADI is approved by the Department of Infrastructure to teach learner drivers for payment. The Department is responsible for maintaining and checking the standards of all ADI's who must:

- have held a full driving licence for at least four years
- pass a written exam lasting 90 minutes
- pass a strict driving test
- reach and keep up a high standard of instruction

- be registered
- display and ADI identification certificate on the windscreen of the tuition vehicle

You must use an ADI or a trainee-licence holder if you want to pay someone to teach you the practical skills of driving. It is unlikely that anyone except an ADI would have the experience, knowledge and training to teach you properly.

Some trainee driving instructors are granted a trainee licence so that they can gain teaching experience before their qualifying examination. This licence is a pink identification certificate, which must be displayed on the windscreen of the tuition vehicle.

Preparing for your driving test

If you are taking lessons with an ADI it is a good idea to take extra practice lessons with a friend or relative. Ask your ADI for advice on this.

You must have with you a qualified driver who is at least 21 years of age and who has held a Manx, UK, EC or EEA driving licence for at least three years and still holds one for the category of vehicle being driven.

You must display “L” plates on the vehicle, and you may not drive the vehicle at more than 50mph.

Where to practice

Practice on as many different types of roads as you can, in all sorts of traffic conditions – even in the dark. On dual carriageways where the upper speed limit applies. You may be asked to drive on such roads during the test. Don’t just concentrate on exercises included in the test.

When you practice try not to obstruct other traffic. Most drivers are tolerant of learners, but don’t try their patience too much. Try not to annoy local residents. For example, don’t repeatedly practice emergency stops in the same quiet streets or practice on test routes.

Am I ready for the test?

You will be ready for the test when you show that you have reached the standards set in this book and other DSA handbooks and when your driving instructor thinks you are ready – not before. You should ensure that all of the aspects of the official syllabus have been covered. The learners who pass first time do so because they are well instructed and get plenty of practice. You must be able to drive consistently well and with confidence, without assistance and guidance from your instructor.

They pass because they wait until they are ready.

Application forms to take a practical driving test may be obtained from:

- some Post Offices
- the Vehicle and Driving Test Centre
- www.gov.im/highways

When applying for your practical driving test, please apply at least 8 weeks before you wish to sit the test.

Don’t forget to bring in your signed driving licence, your theory pass certificate and your valid insurance certificate if you are taking your test in your own vehicle.

The vehicle in which you take your test

You must supply a suitable vehicle.

- Any vehicle which is not Manx registered will not be acceptable.
- A Manx resident must have a Manx registered vehicle.
- A left hand drive vehicle is not considered a suitable vehicle in which a driving test can be conducted.

The vehicle must be

- legally roadworthy
- display L-plates to the front and rear of the vehicle (not on windows)
- be insured for you to drive
- display a valid tax disc

You must wear a seatbelt, unless granted an exemption and see that all the seatbelts in the vehicle and their anchorages and fitting are free from obvious defects.

You must ensure that children under 14 years are suitably restrained by the appropriate restraint or an adult seatbelt.

You must be aware of the legal requirements to notify medical conditions which could affect safe driving. If a vehicle has been adapted for a disability, ensure that all the adaptations are suitable to control the vehicle safely.

Know the rules on the issue, presentation or display of

- driving licences
- insurance certificates
- tax disc

Restrictions on newly qualified drivers

Once you have passed your driving test (theory and practical) for –

- cars and light vans up to 3500kgs (i.e. a vehicle in category B)
- tricycles, quads very light cars (in category B1)

You should exchange your test pass certificate for a full licence for the appropriate category of vehicle as soon as possible.

These requirements also apply if you are a newly-qualified driver of larger goods or passenger vehicles if you are not already fully qualified and experienced in driving a car or light van in category B. There are exemptions in certain circumstances for professional drivers.

You must display red 'R' plates up until the end of the period of one year from the date of issue of your full driving licence. The plates must conform to legal specifications and **must** be clearly visible to others from in front of the vehicle and from behind. Plates should be removed or covered when not being driven by a restricted driver (otherwise the full experienced driver will be limited to a maximum speed of 50mph!) That is the maximum permitted speed for any vehicle displaying 'R' plates, irrespective of whether or not the vehicle is being driven by a new or restricted driver.

- **You are required to display red 'R' plates on your vehicle until the end of 12 months following the issue of your full licence.**
- **Any vehicle displaying 'R' plates must not be driven at more than 50 mph.**

Part Two – The theory test

The theory test will gauge your knowledge and understanding of driving theory and hazard perception. A sound knowledge of the theory is essential to a better understanding of practical driving skills.

If you are well prepared you won't find the questions difficult. **The Official Theory Test** (Published by the TSO) will give you more information and all the multiple-choice questions are correct. Take this knowledge and put it into practice on the road. Your examiner will expect you to demonstrate what you have learned through your driving.

Road sense, a video and workbook based programme, will help you prepare for the hazard perception element of the theory test.

Where can I take a theory test?

Theory tests are held at the University College Isle of Man, Homefield Road, Douglas.

Booking a theory test

Application forms for booking a theory test are available from the University College Isle of Man, some Post Offices, The Vehicle and Driving Test Centre at Tromode and on the Department of Infrastructure's website www.gov.im/highways

When you attend your theory test you will have to show your driving licence or other identification that shows your date of birth e.g. passport or birth certificate. Arrive in plenty of time so that you aren't rushed. The college staff will check your documents and ensure that you receive the right category test. If you arrive after the session has started you may not be allowed to sit the test.

How many topics are there in the test?

There are 14 topics covering a wide range of subjects from "Signs" to "Road Procedure". Lists of all questions can be found in the book, "The Official Theory Test for Car Drivers and Motorcyclists".

How many questions are there?

There should be 50 questions you should try to answer them all.

For each question a number of answers will be given and you have to choose the correct answer.

How long do I have to complete the test?

The test lasts for a maximum of 57 minutes for theory and 14 minutes for hazard perception. The invigilator will tell you when there is 5 minutes left before the end of the test.

How many questions do I have to get right?

If you get 43 or more theory test questions correct you will pass the test.

The pass mark for hazard perception is 44 or more.

Will I know the result straight away?

Yes.

If I don't pass, when can I retake the test?

Once you've received your result, you will have to wait 7 days before you can re-sit the test.

What do I do if I pass?

You must keep your pass certificate and take it with you when you sit your practical driving test, as the examiner will want to see it and you must quote the serial number of the certificate on the application form when booking a practical driving test.

You must pass your theory test before you can book a practical test.

Part Three – The driving test

This part looks at what the test requires. The topics covered are:

- the eyesight test
- theory into practice
- before you start the engine
- the car controls
- other controls
- moving off
- using the mirrors
- giving signals
- acting in signs and signals
- controlling your speed
- making progress
- the emergency stop
- reversing around a corner
- reverse parking
- turning in the road
- hazards
- selecting a safe place to stop
- awareness and anticipation

The eyesight test – what the test requires

You must satisfy your examiner that, in good daylight, you can read a vehicle number plate at the prescribed distance of 20.5 metres (67 feet).

If you need glasses or contact lenses to read the number plate, that is fine. However, you must wear them during the test and whenever you drive. If you have had sight correction surgery you should declare this when you apply for your provisional licence. If you can't speak English or have difficulty reading, you may copy down what you see.

If you can't show your examiner that your eyesight is up to the required standard, you will have failed your driving test and your test will go no further.

Theory into practice – what the test requires

You must satisfy your examiner that you have **fully understood** everything which you learned for the theory test. The aspects are:

- alertness and concentration
- courtesy and consideration
- care in the use of the controls to reduce mechanical wear and tear
- awareness of stopping distances and safety margins in all conditions
- hazard awareness
- correct action concerning pedestrians and other vulnerable road users
- dealing with other types of vehicle in the correct manner
- rules regarding speed limits and stopping restrictions
- road and traffic signs

You will also be expected to know

- the law regarding you and your vehicle
- what to do in the event of an accident
- the effect extra loads have on your vehicle
- the effect motoring has on the environment

Throughout the test your examiner will expect you to demonstrate the knowledge you have gained by studying for your theory test.

Before you start the engine – what your examiner wants to see

Before you start the engine you must always check that

- all doors are properly closed
- the head restraints are fitted and properly adjusted
- your seatbelt is fastened, correctly adjusted and comfortable, with both the lap and the diagonal belt protecting your body
- your seat is properly adjusted
- your driving mirrors are properly adjusted
- the hand break is on
- the gear lever is in neutral or, if you are driving an automatic vehicle, the gear lever is in P (park) or N (neutral)

Develop this routine while you are learning.

Faults to avoid

You shouldn't leave these checks until after you have started the engine or attempt to adjust the mirrors or the seat position while the car is moving. This could be dangerous.

The car controls – what the test requires

You should show your examiner that you understand the functions of all the controls. You should use them smoothly, correctly, safely and at the right time.

The main controls:

- accelerator
- clutch
- footbrake
- handbrake (this may sometimes be referred to as the parking brake)
- steering
- gears

You should understand what these controls do and be able to use them competently.

If you are driving an automatic vehicle, make sure that you fully understand the procedure required before you attempt to drive a vehicle with automatic transmission.

Accelerator and clutch – skills you should show

- you should be able to balance the accelerator and clutch to pull away smoothly
- accelerate gradually to gain speed
- press the clutch in just before the car stops

If you are driving an automatic vehicle, you should ensure that your foot is on the footbrake when you engage 'drive' (D) and use the accelerator gradually to avoid the vehicle surging forward (or backward) out of control and control the upward gear changes.

Faults to avoid

You shouldn't

- accelerate fiercely, especially making the tyres screech. This can lead to a loss of control and may distract or alarm other road users
- use the clutch in a jerky and uncontrolled manner when moving off or changing gear

If you are driving an automatic vehicle, you shouldn't cause the vehicle to surge by harsh use of the accelerator.

Footbrake, handbrake and gears – skills you should know

- footbrake you should brake smoothly and in good time and lightly in most situations
- handbrake you should know how and when to apply the handbrake
- gears you should choose the right gear for your speed and the road conditions and change gear in good time so that you are ready for a hazard or junction.

If you are driving an automatic vehicle, select a lower gear if you are going down a steep hill.

Faults to avoid

- footbrake you shouldn't brake harshly, except in an emergency
- handbrake you shouldn't apply the handbrake before the car has stopped or move off with the handbrake on
- gears you shouldn't take your eyes off the road to look at the gear lever or coast with the clutch pedal depressed or the gear lever in neutral.

Steering – skills you should show

You should

- place your hands on the steering wheel in either the 'ten-to-two' or 'quarter-to-three' position, whichever is more comfortable
- keep your steering movements steady and smooth
- begin turning the wheel at the correct time when turning a corner.

Faults to avoid

Don't turn too early when steering around a corner. If you do, you risk

- cutting the corner when turning right and putting other drivers at risk
- striking the kerb when turning left

Don't turn too late. You could put other road users at risk by

- swinging wide on left turns
- overshooting right turns

You shouldn't

- cross your hands on the steering wheel
- allow the wheel to spin back after turning
- rest your arm on the door

Other controls – what the test requires

You should understand

The functions of all controls and switches which have a bearing on safety

- indicators
- lights
- windscreen wipers
- de-misters
- heater

You should know where to find these controls on the vehicle you are driving.

The meaning of gauges or other displays on the instrument panel

- speedometer
- various warning lights

Safety checks

- steering
- brakes
- tyres
- seat belts
- lights
- reflectors
- horn
- rear view mirrors
- speedometer
- exhaust system
- direction indicators
- windscreen wipers and washers

You should understand the effects which extra loads have on your vehicle, loads such as a roof rack, luggage and extra passengers.

Moving off – what the test requires

You should be able to move off

- safely
- under control
- on the flat
- from behind a parked car
- on a hill, where appropriate

Skills you should show

Use your mirror and signal if necessary.

Before you move off, look around over your shoulder and check any blind spots that can't be seen in your mirror. Check for traffic and pedestrians. Move off under control making balanced use of the accelerator, clutch, brakes and steering. You should also ensure that you move off in the correct gear.

Faults to avoid

You shouldn't

- immediately signal without first taking effective observation around you
- pull out without looking
- cause other road users to stop or alter their course
- accelerate excessively
- move off in too high a gear
- fail to co-ordinate the controls correctly and stall the engine

Using the mirrors – what the test requires

Make sure that you use your mirrors effectively **before any manoeuvre** and **to keep aware of what is happening behind you**. Check carefully before

- moving off
- signalling
- changing direction
- turning to the left or right
- overtaking or changing lanes
- increasing speed
- slowing down or stopping
- opening your car door

Skills you should show

Use the **Mirrors – Signal – Manoeuvre (MSM)** routine. Always use this routine when approaching a hazard.

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| M- Mirrors | Check the position of traffic around and behind you. |
| S – Signal | Signal your intention to change courses or slow down, Signal in good time |
| M - Manoeuvre | A manoeuvre is any change of speed or position, from slowing or stopping the car to turning off a busy road. |

You should

- look before you signal
- look and signal before you act
- act sensibly and safely on what you see in the mirrors.

You should be aware that the mirrors will not show everything behind you.

Faults to avoid

- you shouldn't manoeuvre without looking in the mirrors.
- fail to act on what you see when you look in the mirrors.

Act on what you see. Just looking isn't enough

Giving signals – what the test requires

You should signal

- to let others know what you intend to do
- to help other road users, including pedestrians
- in plenty of time

You must only use the signals shown in *The Highway Code*.

Your signals should help other road users to understand what you intend to do and to reach safety. Always make sure that your signal is cancelled after use.

Skills you should show

Give signals clearly and in good time. You should also know how to give arm signals and when they are necessary.

Faults to avoid

You shouldn't

- give signals carelessly
- mislead other road users
- forget to cancel the signal
- wave at pedestrians to cross the road

Acting on signs and signals – what the test requires

You should be able to understand **all traffic signs** and **all road markings**. React to them in good time. At the beginning of the test your examiner will ask you to follow the road ahead. You will be **asked** to turn at junctions, but look out for lane markings and direction signs. You will be expected to act on these.

Traffic lights

You must act correctly at traffic lights. When the green light shows, check that the road is clear before proceeding.

Signals by authorised person

You must obey the signals given by **police officers, traffic wardens and school crossing patrols**.

Traffic calming measures

Take extra care on roads which have been altered by the addition of

- 20 mph speed limit zones
- speed restriction humps
- width restrictions marked by bollards, posts or paved areas.

Controlling your speed – what the test requires

You should make good progress along the road bearing in mind

- road conditions
- traffic
- weather
- road signs and speed limits

Skills you should show

You should

- take great care in the use of speed
- make sure that you can stop safely, well within the distance you can see to be clear
- leave a safe distance between yourself and other vehicles.
- leave extra distance on wet or slippery roads
- approach junctions and hazards at the correct speed.

Faults to avoid

You shouldn't drive too fast for the road and traffic conditions or change your speed unpredictably.

Making progress – what the test requires

You should

- make reasonable progress along the road
- drive at a speed appropriate to road and traffic conditions
- move off at junctions as soon as it is safe to do so
- keep up with traffic
- show confidence, together with sound judgement
- comply with speed limits.

Skills you should show

You should be able to choose the correct speed for the type of road; the type and density of traffic and wet weather and visibility. You should approach all hazards at a safe speed.

Faults to avoid

You shouldn't

- drive too slowly, holding up other traffic
- be over-cautious or stop and wait when it's safe to go
- prepare too early for junctions by approaching too slowly and holding up traffic

The emergency stop – what the test requires

In an emergency you should be able to stop the car as quickly as possible, safely and under control and without locking the wheels.

Your examiner may

- ask you to pull up on the side of the road
- ask you to make an emergency stop when you are given the signal
- demonstrate the signal to you

When your examiner gives the signal, try to stop the car as you would in a real emergency. You should react quickly. Try to stop in a straight line and take special care if the road is wet.

Your examiner will check that the road is clear behind you before the signal is given.

Skills you should show

You should stop the car

- in a short distance
- under full control
- without risk to other road users

Faults to avoid

You shouldn't

- anticipate the signal by stopping while your examiner is checking the road behind
- skid out of control
- allow the car to swing off course

Note: the normal routine is not necessarily correct if you have ABS brakes. Refer to your manufacturers' handbook.

Reversing around a corner – what the test requires

You should be able to reverse your car smoothly, correctly, safely and under full control.

Your examiner will normally ask you to pull up just before a side road and ask you to reverse into it.

You should

- make sure that you can carry out the exercise correctly and safely
- check traffic and road conditions in all directions
- reverse around the corner keeping a good lookout for traffic or pedestrians
- straighten up your car and continue to reverse for a reasonable distance
- pull up in a safe position and wait for your examiner's next instruction

Your car will swing out at the front as you reverse around the corner. Keep a good lookout for other road users.

Skills you should show

You should

- reverse under full control
- keep reasonably close to the kerb without striking or mounting it
- use good, effective all-round observation

Faults to avoid

You shouldn't

- mount the kerb
- swing out wide
- reverse too far from the kerb
- be inconsiderate to other road users
- take more than a reasonable time to complete the exercise
- creating a hazard for other road users
- steer harshly while the car is stationary (dry steering)

Reverse parking – what the test requires

You should be able to park your car safely in a limited space.

Parking into a limited space

After your examiner has explained what is required you should

- drive alongside the limited space and position your car so that you can carry out the exercise correctly and safely
- select reverse gear – your reversing lights might help others to understand your intentions
- use effective all-round observation
- reverse into the limited space
- stop reasonably close, and parallel, to the kerb

Keep a good look out for traffic and pedestrians all the time.

Reverse parking into a parking bay

You should

- look at the layout markings and the size of the space available
- use your mirrors and signal if necessary
- check your position and keep your speed down
- use effective all-round observation
- look out for pedestrians
- reverse and park as neatly as possible, with your wheels straight
- make sure that your vehicle is neatly parked between the layout markings in the bay.

Skills you should show

You should reverse under full control, safely and steadily. Use good, effective all round observation and show consideration to other road users.

Faults to avoid

You shouldn't

- get too close to a parked car or the layout markings
- mount the kerb
- swing your car from side to side
- park at an angle, too far from the kerb or layout markings
- place too much reliance on interior / exterior mirrors rather than taking good effective all round observation
- be inconsiderate or cause a danger to other road users
- take more than a reasonable time to complete the exercise. This may cause an obstruction for other road users
- steer harshly while the vehicle is stationary (dry steering)

Turning in the road – what the test requires

You should be able to turn your car around in the road so that it faces in the opposite direction using the forward and reverse gears. This will take at least three moves.

Your examiner will indicate a suitable place and ask you to pull and turn your car around in the road.

You should

- make sure that the road is clear in both directions
- drive forward in first gear, turning the steering wheel to the right as much as possible
- steer briskly to the left just before you pull up close to the opposite kerb
- check all around, especially your blind spots
- reverse, turning your steering wheel to the left as much as possible
- steer briskly to the right before you pull up close to the kerb behind you
- repeat as necessary until your car is facing the opposite direction

Skills you should show

You should control your car smoothly. Make proper use of the accelerator, clutch, brakes and steering. Show awareness of other road users. All round observation is essential throughout the manoeuvre.

Faults to avoid

You shouldn't

- mount the kerb (try not to touch it)
- be inconsiderate or cause danger to other road users
- take more than a reasonable time to complete the exercise, causing an obstruction for other road users
- steer harshly while the car is stationary (dry steering)

Hazards – the correct routine

What is a hazard?

A hazard is any situation which could involve adjusting speed or altering course.

Look well ahead where there are

- road junctions or roundabouts
- parked vehicles
- cyclists or horse riders
- pedestrian crossings

By identifying the hazard early you will have time to take the appropriate action. You may have to deal with several hazards at once or during a short space of time. This may mean using your initiative and common sense to deal with the particular circumstances.

What the test requires

Mirrors – Signal – Manoeuvre (MSM routine)

Always use this routine when approaching a hazard.

M – Mirrors

Check the position of traffic around and behind you

S - Signal

Signal your intention to change course or slow down

M - Manoeuvre

A manoeuvre is any change of speed or position, from slowing or stopping the car to turning off a busy road.

Hazards – Road junctions and roundabouts – what the test requires

You should

- Use the MSM routine when you approach a junction or a roundabout
- Position your car correctly. Adjust your speed and stop if necessary
- Use the correct lane if the road has lane markings. In a one-way street choose that lane as soon as you can do so safely.

If the road has no lane markings, when turning left, keep to the left.

Watch out for **motorcyclists, cyclists and pedestrians crossing.**

When turning right, you should keep as close to the centre of the road as is safe and use effective observation before you enter a junction.

Skills you should show

You should be able to

- observe road signs and markings and act correctly on what you see
- judge the correct speed on approach
- position and turn correctly
- slow down in good time, without harsh braking
- judge the speed of the other traffic, especially at roundabouts and when you are joining major roads

Faults to avoid

You shouldn't

- approach the junction at the wrong speed
- position and turn incorrectly
- enter a junction unsafely
- stop or wait unnecessarily

Hazards – overtaking – what the test requires

When overtaking you must

- observe any signs and road markings which prohibit overtaking
- allow enough room
- allow enough space after overtaking, don't cut in
- give motorcyclists, cyclists and horses at least as much room as a car, they might swerve or wobble suddenly

Skills you should show

You should be able to judge the speed and position of vehicles

- behind, which might be trying to overtake you
- in front, if you are planning to overtake
- coming towards you

Faults to avoid

You shouldn't overtake when

- your view of the road ahead isn't clear
- you would have to exceed the speed limit
- the road is narrow

Hazards – meeting and passing other vehicles – what the test requires

You should deal with oncoming traffic safely and confidently. This applies on narrow roads and where there are parked cars or other obstructions.

If there is an obstruction on your side of the road, or not enough space for two vehicles to pass safely, you should use the MSM routine and be prepared to give way to oncoming traffic.

If you need to stop, keep well back from the obstruction to give yourself a better view of the road ahead and room to move off easily when the road is clear.

When you are passing parked cars, allow at least the width of a car door, if possible.

Skills you should show

You should

- show judgement and control when meeting oncoming traffic
- be decisive when stopping and moving off
- allow enough room when passing parked cars

Watch out for

- doors opening
- children running out into the road
- pedestrians stepping out from the pavement
- vehicles pulling out without warning

Hazards – crossing the path of other vehicles – what the test requires

You should be able to cross the path of other vehicles safely and with confidence. You normally need to cross the path of other vehicles when you have to turn right into a side road or driveway.

You should

- use the MSM routine
- position your car correctly and adjust your speed
- keep as close to the centre of the road as is safe
- watch out for oncoming traffic and stop if necessary

Watch out for pedestrians

- crossing the side road
- on the pavement, if you are entering a driveway

If you stop behind another vehicle in a queue of traffic, leave enough room to pull out if the car in front breaks down.

Skills you should show

You should show that you can turn right into a junction or driveway safely, using the MSM routine.

Faults to avoid

You shouldn't cause other vehicles to slow down, swerve or stop.

You shouldn't cut the corner or go beyond the correct turning point before you begin to turn.

Hazards – following behind at a safe distance – what the test requires

You should always drive so that you can stop in the distance you can see to be clear.

Always keep a safe distance between yourself and the vehicle in front.

In good conditions, leave a gap of at least one metre (just over three feet) for every mile per hour you are travelling. Or leave a two second time gap.

In bad conditions, leave at least double the distance, or a four second time gap.

In slow-moving, congested traffic it may not be practical to leave so much space.

Skills you should show

You should

- be able to judge a safe separation distance between you and the vehicle in front
- show correct use of the MSM routine, especially before reducing speed
- avoid the need to brake harshly if the vehicle in front slows down or stops
- take extra care when your view ahead is limited by large vehicles such as lorries or buses.

Watch out for

- brake lights ahead
- direction indicators
- vehicles ahead braking without warning

Faults to avoid

- You shouldn't
- follow too closely
- brake suddenly
- stop too close to the vehicle in front in a traffic queue.

Hazards – positioning and lane discipline – what the test requires

You should

- normally keep well to the left
- keep clear of parked vehicles
- avoid weaving in and out between parked vehicles
- position your vehicle correctly for the direction you intend to take

You should obey all lane markings, especially

- bus and cycle lanes
- in one-way streets

And be particularly aware of left or right turn arrows at junctions.

Skills you should show

You should

- plan ahead and choose the correct lane in good time
- use the MSM routine correctly
- position your vehicle sensibly, even if there are no road markings

Faults to avoid

You shouldn't

- drive too close to the kerb
- drive too close to the centre of the road
- change lanes at the last moment or without good reason
- hinder other road users by being badly positioned or being in the wrong lane
- straddle lanes or lane markings
- cut across the path of other traffic in another lane at roundabouts

Hazards – pedestrian crossings – what the test requires

You should

- recognise the different types of pedestrian crossing
- show courtesy and consideration towards pedestrians
- stop safely when necessary

At zebra crossings

You must slow down and stop if there is anyone on the crossing.

You should also

- slow down and be prepared to stop if there is anyone waiting to cross
- know how to give the correct arm signal, if necessary, before slowing down or stopping.

At pelican, puffin and toucan crossings

You must

- stop if the lights are red
- give way to any pedestrians on a pelican crossing when the amber lights are flashing
- give way to cyclists on a toucan crossing, as you would to pedestrians

Skills you should show

You should be able to approach a pedestrian crossing at a controlled speed. Stop safely when necessary and move off when it is safe, keeping a good lookout.

Faults to avoid

Don't

- approach a crossing too fast
- drive over a crossing without stopping or showing awareness of waiting pedestrians
- block a crossing by stopping directly on it.

Don't hurry pedestrians by

- sounding your horn
- revving your engine
- edging forward

Don't

- overtake within the zigzag white lines leading up to crossings
- wave pedestrians across
- take late or incorrect action on traffic light signals at controlled crossings

Selecting a safe place to stop – what the test requires

When you make a normal stop you should be able to select a place where you won't obstruct the road or create a hazard. You should stop close to the edge of the road.

Skills you should show

You should know how and where to stop without causing inconvenience or danger to other road users.

Faults to avoid

You shouldn't stop without sufficient warning to other road users, or cause danger or inconvenience to other road users when you stop.

Awareness and anticipation – what the test requires

You should be aware of other road users at all times. Also, always plan ahead.

You should judge what other road users are going to do; predict how their actions will affect you and react safely and in good time.

Skills you should show

You should show awareness of and consideration for all other road users. Anticipation of possible danger and concern for safety should also be shown.

Pedestrians

You should

- give way to pedestrians when turning from one road to another
- take particular care with the very young, the disabled and the elderly, they may not have seen you and could step out suddenly

Cyclists

Take special care

- when crossing bus or cycle lanes
- with cyclists passing on your left
- with child cyclists

Moped riders and motorcyclists

Look out for moped riders and motorcyclists

- in slow moving traffic
- coming up on your left
- at junctions

Animals

Take special care around animals. Give horse riders and other animal handlers as much room as you can. Watch young, possibly inexperienced riders closely for signs of any difficulty with their mounts, plan your approach carefully.

Emergency vehicles

Don't panic. You should

- check where they are coming from
- try to keep out of their way
- if necessary pull into the side of the road and stop, but don't endanger other road users.

Faults to avoid

You shouldn't

- react suddenly to road or traffic conditions
- show irritation with other road users
- sound the horn aggressively
- rev your engine or edge forward when waiting for pedestrians to cross a road

Part Four

Restrictions on newly qualified drivers

Once you have passed your driving test (theory and practical) for –

- cars and light vans up to 3500kgs (i.e. a vehicle in category B)
- tricycles, quads and very light cars (in category B1)

You should exchange your test pass certificate for a full licence for the appropriate category of vehicle **as soon as possible**.

These requirements also apply to you if you are a newly-qualified driver of larger goods or passenger vehicles if you are not already fully qualified and experienced in driving a car or light van in category B. There are exemptions in certain circumstances for professional drivers.

You must display red **'R'** plates up until the end of the period of one year from the date of issue of your full driving licence. The plates must conform to legal specifications and **must** be clearly visible to others from in front of the vehicle and from behind. Plates should be removed or covered when not being driven by a restricted driver (otherwise the fully experienced driver will be limited to a maximum speed of 50mph!). That is the maximum permitted speed for any vehicle displaying 'R' plates, irrespective of whether or not the vehicle is being driven by a new or restricted driver.

- **You are required to display red 'R' plates on your vehicle until the end of 12 months following the issue of your full driving licence.**
- **Any vehicle displaying 'R' plates must not be driven at more than 50 mph.**

