

## **On the day of your test**

### **Documents you must take for the Practical Driving Test.**

You must bring the following documents with you for the driving test. If you do not bring the right documents, the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) may refuse to carry out the test and you may lose your fee.

For all types of tests You must bring:

1. Your theory test pass certificate (or confirmation) if you are not exempt
2. Your photo card licence

### **If you have an old-style paper licence**

You must take your signed driving licence and you must also bring one of these with you:

1. A valid passport
2. An identity card for European Economic Area and Swiss nationals who live in the UK

No other form of photographic identification will be accepted.

### **Lost driving licence**

If you misplace your driving licence, you must apply for a replacement from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA), which could take up to 15 days. If this happens, you may have to rearrange your test.

### **Arrive at the Test Centre in good time.**

Each examiner works to a tight schedule, with up to seven tests to conduct each day. Lateness can mean that the test cannot be carried out and you will lose your fee.

On the time of your test, the Examiner will call your name and ask you to sign an

### **Insurance declaration.**

This gives the Examiner a chance to check your signature against your provisional driving licence. The Examiner will then ask you for your Photo identity. If you are excused from wearing a seat belt on medical grounds, you should show your exemption certificate.

**Since April 2010** driving examiners have asked you, if they would like your instructor (or another observer - preferably the person who taught you to drive) to sit in on your test and listen to the feedback at the end.

When the formalities are over, the Examiner will ask you to lead the way to your car, and identify it to the Examiner. On the way to the parking area the Examiner should introduce himself and ask you what name he should refer to you as – e.g. Joe, Fred, Di,

### **What happens during the test**

There are 5 parts to the driving test:

- an eyesight check
- ‘show me, tell me’ vehicle safety questions
- general driving ability
- reversing your vehicle
- independent driving

The test is the same for both manual and automatic cars.

You’ll drive for around 40 minutes.

You’ll drive for around 70 minutes if you’re taking an extended driving test because you’ve been banned from driving.

### **Eyesight check**

You’ll have to read a number plate from a distance of:

- 20 metres for vehicles with a new-style number plate
- 20.5 metres for vehicles with an old-style number plate

New-style number plates start with 2 letters followed by 2 numbers, such as AB51 ABC.

You’ll fail your driving test if you fail the eyesight check. The test will end.

### **‘Show me, tell me’ questions**

You’ll be asked 2 vehicle safety questions known as the ‘show me, tell me’ questions.

You’ll be asked the:

- ‘tell me’ question at the start of your test, before you start driving
- ‘show me’ question while you’re driving

### **Your general driving ability**

You’ll drive in various road and traffic conditions, but not on motorways.

The examiner will give you directions that you should follow. Driving test routes aren’t published, so you can’t check them before your test.

### **Pulling over at the side of the road**

You’ll be asked to pull over and pull away during your test, including:

- normal stops at the side of the road
- pulling out from behind a parked vehicle
- a hill start

You might also be asked to carry out an emergency stop

### **Reversing your vehicle**

The examiner will ask you to do one of the following exercises:

- parallel park at the side of the road
- park in a parking bay - either by driving in and reversing out, or reversing in and driving out (the examiner will tell you which you have to do)
- pull up on the right-hand side of the road, reverse for around 2 car lengths, and rejoin the traffic

### **Independent driving**

You'll have to drive for about 20 minutes by following either:

- directions from a sat nav
- traffic signs

The examiner will tell you which you have to follow.

They'll set the sat nav up for you. You can't use your own sat nav.

If you can't see traffic signs

If you can't see a traffic sign (for example, because it's covered by trees), the examiner will give you directions until you can see the next one.

### **Going off the route**

The examiner won't give you a fault for taking a wrong turning.

They'll help you get back on the route if you do.

If you make mistakes during your test

You can carry on if you make a mistake. It might not affect your test result if it's not serious.

The examiner will only stop your test if they think your driving is a danger to other road users.

### **More than a total of 15 driving faults and you fail.**

Back at the test Centre. The Examiner faces you and tells you that the test is over. Then, "I'm pleased to tell you that you have passed" or "I'm sorry you haven't passed". Either way, you will receive a certificate.

**The PASS certificate (DSA10)** has to be signed and sent to the DVLA in

Swansea, together with your provisional licence which is surrendered when a "Full" licence is issued. If they have an ADLI licence (issued after 1st March 2004), they just need to keep the certificate, and the examiner will keep both parts of your licence and it will be sent off to the DVLA for you.

Less welcome is the alternative '**Statement of Failure**' form, (DL25C) on which the Examiner will have marked with a 'V' in the columns. You will also be given another application form to apply for your next test!

Data Protection Act. At this point the Examiner will ask you if you would like an explanation of any faults that you have occurred. If you say. "Yes". A debriefing will follow when the Examiner has asked you if you want your Instructor to hear the debriefing with you.

If you decide to listen to the Examiner's debriefing without your Instructor present then you may run the risk of not fully understanding the Examiners wording.

Even if you haven't passed, you will have learnt a great deal. You can build on these skills in order to pass next time. Decide on what steps you can take to improve your technique and ask your instructor for advice.

**There is no magic formula for passing your driving test - but here's some advice that will certainly be helpful.**

1. Get a good night's sleep before the test.
2. Make sure you eat a good breakfast. Even though you may be nervous and have lost your appetite eating breakfast is very important. Research has shown that your brain needs food to concentrate.
3. Dress comfortably - make yourself feel good.
4. Have confidence in your ability. I have!
5. Arrive in plenty of time You should be present in the test centre at least ten minutes before the appointed time of your test. If you are late the test will be cancelled, and the fee will be forfeited.
6. Listen carefully to the examiner's instructions, act on them in good time, and ask for them to be repeated if necessary.
7. Give the examiner a beautifully 'smoooooth drive'. It will help you to anticipate, plan ahead and improve your awareness.
8. If you make a decision that you think could be misjudged by the examiner, explain your reasons while you drive.
9. If you come across a new situation, slow down and assess it carefully before you decide to proceed - and be prepared to change your decision if necessary.
10. Stop thinking of 'how important this is to you' and 'What if I make a mistake'.

Your focus is to concentrate on not making mistakes in the 1st place.

## **Concentrate On Your Driving!**

### **Top 10 Reasons People Fail The British Driving Test**

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#### **1. Observations at junctions**

You'll be marked with this fault for not taking effective observation before emerging at junctions, and emerging into the path of other vehicles. Always make sure it's safe before proceeding.

#### **2. Moving off safely**

When you're moving off from the side of the road, you need to make sure you look around, check your blind spots - and that you're indicating the right way!

#### **3. Use of mirrors**

You need to use your rear view mirror and door mirrors - and react to the information! People get caught out for pulling up with no mirror checks, increasing their speed with no mirror checks, or using their mirrors too late.

#### **4. Reverse parking**

In the driving test, you can be asked to either do a parallel park on the road, or reverse into a parking bay at the test centre.

You'll notch up a fault in this area if you need to reposition to correct a loss of control or accuracy. A complete misjudgement or significant loss of control will count as a serious fault.

#### **5. Response to traffic lights**

Some of the mistakes that people make include waiting at a green filter light when it's safe to proceed and staying at the stop line when it's safe to move. Other faults that count include not conforming to a red light, and stopping beyond an advanced stop line in the area designated for cyclists.

#### **6. Steering**

You need to be able to maintain a steady course in normal driving. Things like mounting and dismounting the kerb, and not following the contour of the kerb results in faults in this area.

#### **7. Positioning**

Your vehicle should be positioned correctly for the route you're taking. If lanes are marked, make sure you're in the middle of the lane. Avoid straddling lanes.

#### **8. Turning right at junctions**

When you're turning right, position your vehicle correctly - it shouldn't cut the corner when turning right. Also, watch out for cyclists and motorcyclists, and any pedestrians crossing the road.

### **9. Control when moving off**

Repeated stalling is one of the things that counts as control when moving off. Other things that are included in this reason are moving off (or trying to!) with the handbrake on, rolling backwards when trying to move off - and not putting the car in gear and attempting to move off.

### **10. Response to road markings**

And finally... look out for road markings.

You'll be marked with faults in this area for doing things like unnecessarily crossing the solid white centre lines on the road, and not following directional arrows. Stopping in a yellow box junction when the exit is not clear also counts for this reason. So make sure you know the rules about using them.

### **Nervous?**

Driving test nerves affect the majority of learner drivers, the overwhelming majority of whom will eventually go on to pass their driving test.

### **Only 43% of candidates pass 1st time.**

Why do you feel nervous? What consequences do you fear?

Is it for your safety on the road? If it is then don't worry. You're in a dual controlled car with a professional Driving Test Examiner. They will know how to deal with you and any mistakes you may make.

Maybe your nerves stem from the fear that if you fail your test, that you'll let your friends and family down. Or be the butt of their jokes. If so, Don't tell them!

That you're not good enough? You wouldn't be taking your driving test unless your Instructor thought you are capable of passing. An expert thinks you're ready. An expert thinks you're capable. Only you have the doubts.

Nerves can be positive. They tell the body to release adrenaline which helps keep you alert and focused. Use nerves to your advantage and they will increase your performance.

Remember, the main loss of a failed driving test is financial, just a few more lessons and the cost of a second test. They don't shoot you!

Think of this whole process as a marathon not a sprint. You will pass this time or the next!

Good Luck!

