

# About the driving test

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## Booking the test

Once you have passed your theory test you will be ready to book your practical driving test. The DSA conduct the test, and charge a fee of £62 pounds for a weekday daytime. If you choose to take a test on a weekday evening or weekend then the fee is £75.

If you choose to use your own car it must, of course, be insured, roadworthy and have head restraints fitted. Most people choose to use the car belonging to their driver trainer. There is usually a fee for this. I charge £65 for use of the car during the test. This includes an hour beforehand plus the journey home afterwards.

When booking a driving test you must enter your driving instructors ADI number, this prevents double booking. My ADI number is 285639.

You can reschedule your driving test up to three working days beforehand. So if you decide that you're not quite ready, it's not a problem. You can change the date easily.

The waiting list for driving tests can range from between 5-12 weeks in South East London. If you are planning ahead then please leave enough room to improve and practice. It is also a good idea to leave time for a couple of mock tests, as these can be very useful indeed.

## The day of the test

On the day of the test you can expect to be collected one hour before the test is due to start. Test times are often strange, for example, 10.14, or 14.32. This is to allow the examiners exactly the right amount of time to conduct the test according to legal requirements, and to conduct seven tests per day.

The 'warm up' drive is not really a driving lesson as such. It is a chance to get used to the car again, practice a few exercises, and freshen up ready for the driving test.

Drivers are not permitted to enter the test centre more than 5 minutes before the test start time. If you smoke, make sure you leave time before entering the test centre as no smoking is permitted. There is a toilet in the building.

I usually offer to drive the candidate into the test centre myself, as this provides a short period of rest before the examiner appears.

## The test itself

The driving test will begin when you meet the examiner. You will not need to knock on their door, or present yourself to a receptionist (there isn't one). The examiner will enter the waiting room and call your name. Upon their request you will need to show both parts of your provisional licence and your theory test certificate. You will then be asked to sign a form declaring that your car (or instructors car) is insured and that you meet certain residency requirements.

You will be asked if you would like your instructor to sit in the car during the test.

The examiner will then ask you to read a number plate from 21.5 metres, which fulfils the eyesight requirements for DVLA.

You will then be escorted to your car, and asked to perform the 'show me/ tell me' test, which is a short exercise where you can demonstrate your ability to conduct certain car maintenance checks, such as checking the light bulbs.

The examiner will check that the car is taxed, and that the tyres are legal, and then take a seat next to you.

During the test you will need to perform to a decent standard throughout. You will be asked to complete one reversing manoeuvre and drive for around ten minutes independently. Driving independently may mean following road signs to a destination, or recalling some verbal instructions.

One third of driving tests include an emergency stop exercise.

You can expect to travel approximately between 3 and 5 miles during the test.

At the end of the test the examiner will complete their form, and inform you of the result. You can ask for your instructor to listen to the debriefing.

If you pass the test then the examiner is able to organise your new licence to be sent to you.

Generally your instructor will offer to drive you home afterwards.