

DRIVING TEST FAQs

<i>How long is the test?</i>	Typically between 30 and 40 minutes
<i>Do I have to drive their car or can I use mine?</i>	Cars are not supplied. You must provide your own. It is best to use the car you are most familiar with.
<i>I think I am ready, I just need to learn to park.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Learning to park is important, not just for the test but so you can stop at the end of any drive once you've got your P's. 2. The test only requires you to park BEHIND a car, not between. You will need to pull up beside the car and reverse back and park behind it. The "A Guide To The Driving Test" booklet gives you all the requirements. 3. You will be asked to either do a park OR a three point turn. You are usually told which before you begin the test. You will ALSO have to do a "kerb-side-stop" which is driving forward and parking at the side of the road and then you will be asked to shutdown, shutting down is not simply switching the engine off, you must turn indicators off, secure the car with hand brake, etc before switching the engine off. 4. Parking (or three-point turn) is worth about 4% of your test results
<i>How many points can I lose and still pass?</i>	You must score 90% to pass. YOU will be assessed on over 100 things during the test, each thing is worth 1 point; you can (in theory) make 9 or 10 mistakes and still pass.
<i>A friend got over 90% but still failed, why?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 19 reasons why you might fail even if you score over 90, these are called "Fail Items". • Break a road rule....don't expect to pass. • Drive erratically....don't expect to pass. • Drive without both hands on the wheel....don't expect to pass. • Three indicating errors constitutes a fail • Three observation errors constitutes a fail.
<i>What are some common mistakes?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not checking blindspots • Not scanning intersections • Not reading road markings or signs early enough or properly • Not understanding or misreading traffic lights with arrows.
<i>What sort of tricks might the Testing Officer pull during the test?</i>	You wont be tricked. The Testing Officer will usually be friendly and calming. The main thing the Testing Officer wants to happen is to return to the Motor Registry unharmed! They will do all they can to ensure you understand the instructions clearly.
<i>But what if I get a grumpy tester?</i>	Everybody has good days and bad and you don't know if the tester has just "had a shocker" and they are a little apprehensive! Try to put their personality behind you. If they don't want to make conversation don't force the issue.
<i>What happens if I fail?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firstly, the test usually continues and you will receive feedback on your driving once back at the Motor Registry. • You wont be able to re-book another test within 7 days. • Remember the feedback you received, practice, keep your spirits up and try again.
<i>Got any last-minute tips?</i>	<p>When driving think about which of the 5 most common crashes could happen in your immediate driving environment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rear ender: think about your 3sec Crash Avoidance Space & 1-2 car spaces when stopped. 2. Opposite direction (inc. vehicle turning right across your path, eg at lights) 3. T-bone (side impact): eg red lights and stop signs, etc 4. Single vehicle crashes: esp. off path on bends and hit object on path 5. Pedestrian knock-down: remember to do head checks, esp when manoeuvring