

C A R E 2 D R I V E

FREE DOWNLOAD

Your driving test, minute by minute

Exactly what happens on the day, from the waiting room to the debrief, and how the marking really works.



Minute by minute

How the marking works

The three weeks before



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TEST DAY

FREE

Your driving test, minute by minute

Most test-day nerves are not about driving. They are about not knowing what happens next. So here is exactly what happens, in order, from walking in to walking out.

Before you go: what to take.

Your provisional licence. A car that is taxed, insured for the test, roadworthy and displaying L plates. Your instructor, if they are coming. That is it, and if you forget the licence the test does not go ahead, so put it somewhere you cannot miss.

1 · The waiting room

Arrive no more than ten minutes before your slot, and check your confirmation, because some centres ask you not to arrive more than five minutes early. The examiner calls your name, checks your licence and asks you to sign the insurance declaration. They will ask whether you want your instructor to sit in and hear the debrief afterwards. Say yes if it helps you, and no if it does not: it is your test.

2 · The eyesight check

Outside, in the car park, you read a number plate at 20 metres. Get it wrong and the test stops there, so if you wear glasses for driving, wear them from the moment you leave the house.

3 · The "tell me" question

One vehicle safety question, before you drive. Answer in your own words, pointing at things. A wrong answer is one driving fault, nothing more.

4 · General driving

Around 35 minutes of ordinary roads chosen by the examiner. Normal driving, normal speeds, normal decisions. Somewhere in it you will be asked the "show me" question while you drive.



Ellie says: the examiner is quiet because they are writing, not because of anything you have done. Assume nothing from a quiet car.



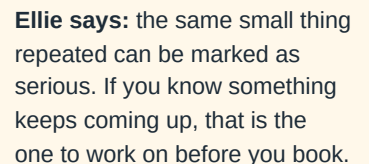
You will do one of three: parallel park at the side of the road, park in a bay (driving in and reversing out, or reversing in and driving out), or pull up on the right, reverse about two car lengths and rejoin the traffic. You do not get to pick, so practise all of them.

Roughly one test in three includes it. The examiner explains it fully before it happens, pulls up first, and raises a hand and says "stop". You will not be surprised by it.

About 20 minutes following either a sat nav that the examiner sets up, or traffic signs. This part is not a memory test. Taking a wrong turning is not a fault, so if you go the wrong way, carry on driving well and let them redirect you.

You park, and the examiner tells you straight away. Then they run through what came up on the drive, which takes a few minutes, and this is the part worth listening to whichever way it went.

So the pass line is: no more than 15 driving faults, and no serious or dangerous ones.



TEST DAY

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The three weeks before, and the night before

Three weeks out.

Book the test when your instructor says you are ready, not when a date appears. Ask them directly: "if I took it on Tuesday, what would stop me passing?" Then spend the three weeks on that answer.

The week before.

Drive the roads around the test centre at the same time of day as your slot. Not to learn a route, because there is no route to learn, but so that the roundabouts and lane markings are familiar rather than new.

The night before.

Nothing useful is learned the night before, so stop. Read the show me tell me answers once, put the licence by the door, and go to bed at a normal time. Sleep is worth more than another hour of practice.

My test is booked for

Date and time

Test centre

The one thing I want to work on first

Nervous rather than unprepared?

Calm & Confident is our workbook for exactly that, and there is a matching manual for instructors. If it is the theory rather than the drive, Spot the Hazard! and The Question Book are at care2drive.co.uk.

♥ EVERY COPY SOLD HELPS A NEIGHBOURHOOD HERO LEARN TO DRIVE

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