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DRIVING EXAMINER RECRUITMENT ASSESSMENT DRIVE

The Assessment

DVSA will provide a suitable vehicle for your assessment drive. We will give you a brief explanation of the controls and give you some time to familiarise yourself with the layout and controls within the vehicle.

The drive will last for approximately 45 minutes and will include a section of independent driving. The drive will take in various types of roads and traffic conditions. You’ll be asked to carry out one reversing manoeuvre, and you will also be asked to give a talk through for approximately 5 minutes, verbalising your observations, how you are prioritising risk and planning your responses.

The assessor will look for a safe, competent drive over a route that encompasses hazards, typical of everyday driving. Safety along with technique will be assessed, mindful of environmental driving techniques.

There are 12competencies you’ll be assessed on:

1. **Knowledge and effective use of all controls**

This section covers the use of the accelerator, clutch, gears, footbrake, hand brake, steering and ancillary controls. You should be able to demonstrate smooth and effective use of the controls. Select the correct gear to match the road and traffic conditions and change in good time but not too soon before a hazard. Always brake in good time for any hazard, operating the brakes smoothly and progressively. Avoid late or harsh braking. Steer the car smoothly, not too early or too late. Ancillary controls should be operated correctly and when necessary.

**2. Move off and stop procedure**

Whether on the level, a gradient or at an angle you should move off safely and under control, with consideration for the safety of other road users. Identify a safe, legal & convenient place to stop.

**3. Effective use of all mirrors**

The driver should always be aware of what is happening around them, particularly in their blind areas. Effective use of mirrors should be taken before signalling, changing direction and changing speed.

**4. Correct and effective use of signals**

Signal where necessary and in good time, to inform other road users of your intentions. Consideration should be given as to whether a signal is actually necessary, demonstrating good levels of planning.

**5. Response to traffic signals/signs/road markings**

Understand and react to all traffic signals, signs and road markings in good time. This includes all types of pedestrian crossings.

**6. Road positioning/normal driving/lane discipline**

You should position the vehicle sensibly on your side of the road. Clear of parked vehicles and position correctly for the direction that you intend to take. Where lanes are marked, avoid straddling and changing lanes unnecessarily.

**7. Negotiating bends**

Bends should be negotiated with safety allowing, if necessary to stop well within the distance that can be seen to be clear. A good understanding of the vanishing point and the ability to negotiate the bend accurately and safely should be demonstrated.

**8. Negotiating junctions/slip roads**

Judge the correct speed of approach to enter safely or stop if necessary. Make sure that it is safe before proceeding. If a change of direction is required, position the vehicle correctly and in good time for the direction of travel.

**9. Separation distance**

Always keep a safe distance behind other vehicles. Remember, on wet or slippery roads it takes much longer to stop. When stopping in traffic queues leave sufficient space to move out if the vehicle in front has problems.

**10. Appropriate speed**

You should make safe, reasonable progress along the road bearing in mind the road, traffic and weather conditionsand the road signs and speed limits. Make sure you can stop safely, well within the distance you can see to be clear. Do not speed. You should approach hazards at a safe, controlled speed, without being over cautious or interfering with the progress of other traffic. Adopt a safe, realistic speed for the road and traffic conditions.

**11. Awareness/anticipation and planning skills**

Plan ahead and judge what other road users are going to do, reacting in good time. Take particular care to consider the actions of the more vulnerable groups of road users such as pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists and horse riders. Be alert for the very young or less mobile pedestrian. Anticipate road and traffic conditions, and act in good time, rather than reacting to them at the last moment.

**12. Manoeuvring exercise**

You should take effective observations whilst manoeuvring the car & respond promptly to other road users. Control the vehicle smoothly and accurately whilst slow moving and turning.

ECO safe driving will be highlighted but will not form part of the assessment criteria.

Each of 12 elements will be assessed & rated:

**PASS:** A driving assessment results in a pass when the candidate demonstrates a consistently high standard of driving that ensures safety, efficiency, and a positive driving experience for the driver and other road users at all times, including good knowledge and application of advance driving techniques. This includes maintaining control of the vehicle, adhering to traffic laws, executing manoeuvres smoothly and under control, and showing good observation and decision-making skills.

**FAIL:** A driving assessment will result in a failure if the candidate consistently demonstrates unsafe driving practices, and when modern driving techniques are ineffectively applied, such as serious or dangerous faults that pose risks to themselves or other road users. This can include not adhering to traffic laws, making poor decisions, showing inadequate observation, not controlling the vehicle effectively, failure to plan effectively or to deploy systematic planning drills consistently.