

Practical Driving Test

The Practical Driving Test lasts approximately 35 to 40 minutes

At the start of the test you will be asked to read a car number plate from a distance of 20 metres (20.5 metres for old style number plates)

You will then be asked 2 questions about basic car maintenance

The test consists of various exercises, and may include some of the following:-

Hill Start

Angle Start (moving off from behind a parked car)

Turn in the Road (3 point turn)

Reversing around a corner

Reverse Parking (on the road)

Reverse Parking (in a car park)

Emergency Stop

The test also includes driving on a variety of roads in various traffic conditions which may include:-

Speed Limits from 20 mph to 70 mph

Dual Carriageways

Country Lanes

Shopping Areas

You could meet any traffic situation apart from motorways

The test is marked by the Examiner recording any faults that you make, and categorising how serious they are:-

Dangerous Faults

(actual danger)

1 fault = Fail

Serious Faults

(potential danger)

1 fault = Fail

Driving Faults

(any other errors)

16 faults = Fail

15 or less faults = Pass

(though 4 or more for the same fault can result in a fail)

Preparing for the Practical Driving Test

Department for Transport (DfT) research indicates that the average number of Driving Lessons required to pass a Driving Test is 45 Hours.

Everybody is different and how many lessons you will need will depend on:-

Your previous experience

How recent that experience is

The rate at which you learn

The length and frequency of your lessons
Any practice you get apart from lessons
(quantity and quality)

Your driving lessons can be; 1 hour; 1½ hours; 2 hours

I do recommend starting with 2 hour lessons for the first few weeks as it is possible to achieve a lot more than in 1 hour lessons, with the progress of learning much quicker. Though it will cost you more at the start it will work out more cost effective in the long run.

Your lesson frequency can vary depending on how fast or slow you want your course to progress

I usually recommend 2 lessons per week to avoid ‘feeling out of practice’ and spending the first part of your lesson trying to get back to the standard you reached at the end of your previous lesson.

If you need to pass your test quickly I will firstly assess your driving and then plan a Semi Intensive or Intensive Course to fit in with when you would like to take your test.