



THE DRIVING TEST

1. Introduction.

The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) is responsible for conducting driving tests in Great Britain for cars, motorcycles, lorries, buses and other vehicles.

2. Booking for the tests.

The quickest way to make a test appointment is to ring the DSA between 8am and 6pm weekdays and pay by credit or debit card. Application forms can be posted with cheque or postal order payment. The Theory Test must be passed before the Practical Test can be taken.

(See below for [DSA contact details](#).)

3. The Driving Theory test.

Since January 2000, theory tests have been delivered using a touch screen computer. Candidates sit at individual booths. The 35 questions appear one at a time on a computer screen and candidates select their multiple choice answers by touching the screen.

Candidates can also work through a practice session for up to 15 minutes to get used to the system before starting their test. We recommend that you take full advantage of the practice session.

During the test, the screen shows which of the 35 questions you are doing, and how much time you have remaining. You can change your answers. A review screen tells you how many questions you have completed, any incomplete answers (i.e. not enough choices marked), and which questions you have 'flagged' to return to later.

Candidates receive their test results, and feedback information about errors within 30 minutes of finishing the test.

Hazard perception test

From 14 November 2002, the Theory test will also include a hazard test. Candidates will be shown a number of moving video clips filmed from a car. Each clip will contain one or more developing hazards. Candidates will be asked to indicate as soon as they see a hazard developing which may result in the driver taking some action, such as changing speed or direction. The sooner a response is made the higher the score.

4. Special arrangements.

The system has the option for dyslexic candidates to listen to the test being read in English through a headset. Voice-overs in 20 other languages are available.

Dyslexic candidates can apply to have up to double the standard 40 minutes. You need to ask when you apply for the test. A letter or report from a professional should explain your reading ability, i.e. a teacher, a psychologist, or Local Dyslexia Association officer. You will have to phone again for a test date after the report has been processed.

5. Dyslexic drivers.

Research and comments by Rod Nicholson were interpreted as suggesting that dyslexics were bad drivers. This is not correct as Prof Nicholson explained.

It takes some dyslexics longer to develop automaticity in tasks such as driving. They may have to concentrate harder. They may not be able to talk with a passenger at the same time as driving.

If dyslexic drivers have difficulty remembering left and right, they can ask the practical tester to point out the direction.

6. Resources and contacts.

- ***The Official Theory Test CD-ROM***
The CD-ROMs contains the official question bank and uses screen layouts which look similar to those used in the actual test.
- ***Driving Standards Agency (DSA) online Mock Theory Tests. The questions cover a variety of topics relating to road safety. As in the real test, these tests use a mix of 35 questions drawn from all sections of the question bank to test your knowledge.***
- ***The Official DSA Theory Test for Car Drivers. This is the only official theory test book for car drivers. It contains everything the learner driver needs to study.***
- ***Road code.***
A Highway Code for Younger Road Users has been written with the needs of young people in mind, and contains the latest and best guidance on cycling proficiency, the GREEN CROSS CODE and general "ROAD-CODE".
- ***Highway Code.***
The Highway Code is essential reading for everyone. Its rules apply to all road users: pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists, as well as motorcyclists and drivers.

Contact details.

All details: Web: www.dsa.gov.uk

Theory Test Booking Line and CD-ROM.

Books from The Stationery Offices, high street shops and online.

Web: www.dsa.gov.uk