

Make sure you are ready for your test. You can do this by getting advice from an approved driving instructor (ADI) or an approved training body (ATB). You can get details of our publications from [www.direct.gov.uk/motoring](http://www.direct.gov.uk/motoring).

## How to book a test

### Internet bookings

You can book or change a test on-line at [www.direct.gov.uk/motoring](http://www.direct.gov.uk/motoring).

### Phone bookings

You can book a test using a credit or debit card (as long as you are the cardholder) by phoning **0870 01 01 372**. You can also use this number for rebooking and other enquiries. Minicom users should phone **0870 01 07 372** and Welsh speakers should phone **0870 01 00 372**.

When phoning to make a booking, please have your credit or debit card, theory test certificate number and driving licence number ready. We may monitor or record your call for training purposes so that we can continually improve the high quality of our customer service.

### Fax bookings

You can book a test using a credit card or debit card by fax on **0870 01 02 372**.

### Postal bookings

Fill in a DL26 application form (or a DLV26 for lorry, bus or car with large trailer tests) and send it, with the appropriate fee, to:

**The Driving Standards Agency**  
**PO Box 280**  
**Newcastle upon Tyne**  
**NE99 1FP.**

You can get application forms from driving test centres, your ADI or your ATB.

### Some important advice when booking a test

If the date of your test is within three clear working days of your request, this is a 'short-notice' booking. **If you accept a 'short-notice' date, you cannot change it without losing your fee.** Please make sure you can go for your test on that day and make sure your instructor is available before you accept the booking.

### Theory test

You can book a practical test only if you have passed the relevant theory test or are 'exempt' (that is, you don't have to take a theory test).

For information about whether you need to take a theory test, please phone us on **0870 01 01 372** or fax us on **0870 01 04 372**. Minicom users should phone **0870 01 06 372** and Welsh speakers should phone **0870 01 00 372**.

### Special needs

To make sure there is enough time for your test, we need to know if you have any hearing difficulties, any special circumstances, any movement restriction or any disability. If you have a hearing difficulty or cannot speak English, you may bring an interpreter who is not an ADI and who is at least 16 years old. Please tell us when you book your test if you are going to bring an interpreter.

### Weekday evening tests (summer only) or weekend tests

You have to pay more for these tests and they are not carried out at all test centres. There is a list of the centres that offer this service in test centre waiting rooms, or you can get the information by phoning **0870 01 01 372**.

### Extended tests

You should ask for an extended test only **if a court has ordered you to take this test after being disqualified from driving.**

### Where you must live

You cannot take a test or get a full licence unless you are normally resident (live) in this country. This means you must work here (and pay tax) or have close family here. However, if you have moved to the UK from another European Union (EU) or European Economic Area (EEA) country, you should not take a driving test or get a first full licence unless you have lived here for 185 days in the last 12 months and are still living here at the time you apply for your licence. The test centre may ask you to provide evidence of this.

### Minimum wait between tests

If you fail your test, you must wait for at least 10 clear working days between appointments for the same category of test. Working days are every day except Sundays and bank holidays.

### Important information for LGV, PCV or car and large trailer practical driving tests

You must have an appropriate full 'rigid vehicle' licence before booking and taking a test with a trailer for LGV, PCV or car and large trailer practical driving tests. (A rigid vehicle is one which does not bend.)

For information on all licence categories, see the D100 factsheet issued by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA), which you can get from post offices.

### Appointment changes

You can change your test appointment on-line at [www.direct.gov.uk/motoring](http://www.direct.gov.uk/motoring) or by phoning **0870 01 01 372**. If you are ill and cannot give the necessary notice to cancel your test appointment, please phone **0870 01 01 372** for more advice.

We will contact you by phone or by letter if we need to change your appointment for any reason.

If you change your name or address, please tell us immediately on-line or by phoning **0870 01 01 372**. You should also tell the DVLA separately about your driving licence.

We will always try to make sure that your test appointment goes ahead. If we cancel your test at short notice, we will provide a copy of our 'Refunding out-of-pocket expenses' form either at the test centre or by post. We will not pay compensation when a test is cancelled due to bad weather, but we will automatically arrange another appointment. You can find details of our service standards and complaints procedures in our 'Customer Service: A guide to our service standards' leaflet, which is available from all our offices and test centres.

If after two weeks you have not received written confirmation of your appointment, please phone **0870 01 01 372** immediately. If you miss your appointment, you may lose your fee.

## Taking your driving test

### Vehicle

You must provide an appropriately licensed vehicle, displaying 'L' plates (except taxi and ADI part-2 tests) and suitable for the purposes of the test. The vehicle should be fully covered by insurance for the purposes of the practical test. A hired car is unlikely to be insured for the driving test.

- **For car and ADI tests** – seat belts and head restraints must be fitted to the front passenger seat and there must be an adjustable mirror inside for the examiner to use (this doesn't apply to taxi tests). The front passenger seat must provide all-round vision for the examiner.
- **For ADI tests only** – the vehicle must be a saloon or a hatchback or estate car with manual gears and right-hand steering. L plates (D plates in Wales) and roof signs should be removed (part-2 tests only). The front driver's seat should have a seat belt and a head restraint, and there must be an adjustable mirror inside for the examiner to use (part-3 tests only).
- **For lorry, bus, tractor or car and trailer tests** – a suitable 'unladen' vehicle (that is, one that carries no goods or stillage). The tractive unit of an articulated vehicle is not a suitable vehicle for a category-C driving test.
- **For lorry (and lorry with trailer), bus (and bus with trailer) or car and trailer tests** – from 1 April 2006 vehicles will need to be fitted with outside nearside and offside mirrors for use by the driving examiner during the test. This includes practical tests to join the register of large goods vehicle (LGV) driving instructors. From the same date, seatbelts for the examiner and any supervising officer will also need to be fitted to lorries used for test, including with-trailer and LGV register tests. Similar seatbelts will need to be fitted to all buses used for test from 1 July 2007 to tie in with other Europe-wide changes to test vehicles.
- For more information on vehicle requirements, including 'recalls' (vehicles that cannot be used in a test until they have been checked by a garage), please visit [www.dsa.gov.uk](http://www.dsa.gov.uk) or call 0870 01 01 372.

### Documents

Please bring your theory test pass certificate or confirmation (unless you are exempt) and **your valid signed Great Britain or Northern Ireland driving licence**. We will not accept any other driving licence or licence pass certificate. If you have a new-style photocard licence, you must bring **both parts** of the licence (photocard and the paper counterpart) to the test. If your licence is not available, please phone **0870 01 01 372** for more information.

If you have a new-style photocard licence, you must bring **both parts** of the licence (photocard and the paper counterpart) to the test. If you have an old style paper licence, you will also need to bring a valid passport UNLESS you are taking an ADI part-3 test in which case your trainee licence is an acceptable alternative to a passport. If your licence is not available, please phone **0870 01 01 372** for more information.

When you come for a **motorcycle or moped** test, you must produce a valid compulsory basic training (CBT) certificate (unless the test is within the Accelerated Access scheme). You can get more information about Accelerated Access on our website at [www.dsa.gov.uk](http://www.dsa.gov.uk) or by phoning CBT on **0115 901 2595**.

**For advice about the following categories of vehicles, please ring 0115 901 2537 or 0115 901 2539.**

#### Minimum test vehicle information

- A – A machine over 120cc, but not more than 125cc, which can do 100 kilometres an hour (62.5 miles an hour).
- A1 – A machine above 75cc, but less than 125cc, which cannot reach 100 kilometres an hour (62.5 miles an hour).
- A – Direct Access or Accelerated Access – A machine that is at least 35 kilowatts (kW) (46.6 brake horsepower (bhp)).
- B+E – A vehicle that weighs less than 3.5 tonnes (up to eight passenger seats) that can do 100 kilometres an hour (62.5 miles an hour), and an unladen trailer with a maximum authorised mass (MAM) of at least one tonne. (The MAM is the most the vehicle and trailer combined are allowed to weigh.)
- C – Vehicles registered before 1 October 2003. A rigid large-goods vehicle of at least 10 tonnes' MAM and at least 7 metres long, and able to do 80 kilometres an hour (50 miles an hour).  
Vehicles registered on or after 1 October 2003. A rigid large-goods vehicle of at least 12 tonnes' MAM, at least 8 metres long and 2.4 metres wide, with at least eight 'forward ratios' (that is, the gear box must have eight speeds), fitted with ABS (anti-lock braking system), a tachograph (an instrument to measure engine speed, braking, rest time and so on) and a closed-box body (one which cannot be seen through), and able to do 80 kilometres an hour (50 miles an hour).
- C+E – Vehicles registered before 1 October 2003:
  - an articulated large-goods vehicle of at least 18 tonnes' MAM, at least 12 metres long and be able to do 80 kilometres an hour (50 miles an hour); or
  - a combination of a category-C vehicle with a trailer of at least 4 tonnes' MAM and 4 metres (platform length) long. The vehicle and trailer must be suitably braked and coupled, have a combined weight of at least 18 tonnes' MAM and a combined length of at least 12 metres, and be able to do 80 kilometres an hour (50 miles an hour).Vehicles registered on or after 1 October 2003:
  - an articulated large-goods vehicle of at least 20 tonnes' MAM, with at least eight 'forward ratios', at least 14 metres long and 2.4 metres wide, fitted with ABS, a tachograph and a closed-box body, and be able to do 80 kilometres an hour (50 miles an hour); or
  - a combination of a category-C vehicle with a trailer of at least 4 tonnes' MAM and at least 7.5 metres from the coupling eye to the very back. The vehicle and trailer must be suitably braked and coupled, have a combined weight of at least 20 tonnes' MAM, at least eight 'forward ratios', and a combined length of at least 14 metres, and be able to do 80 kilometres an hour (50 miles an hour).
- C1 – A vehicle of at least 4 tonnes' MAM that can do 80 kilometres an hour (50 miles an hour).
- C1+E – A category-C1 vehicle with a trailer of at least 2 tonnes' MAM and a combined length of at least 8 metres, and which can do 80 kilometres an hour (50 miles an hour).
- D – A passenger-carrying vehicle that has more than eight passenger seats, is at least 9 metres long and can do 80 kilometres an hour (50 miles an hour).
- D+E – A category-D vehicle with a trailer of at least 1.25 tonnes' MAM that can do 80 kilometres an hour (50 miles an hour).
- D1 – A passenger-carrying vehicle with between nine and 16 passenger seats, which can do 80 kilometres an hour (50 miles an hour). (From 1 February 2006 it must be at least 4 tonnes' MAM, have ABS and a tachograph.)
- D1+E – A category-D1 vehicle with a trailer of at least 1.25 tonnes' MAM that can do 80 kilometres an hour (50 miles an hour). (From 1 February 2006, see D1 (above).)

### Data Protection Act 1998

We use the personal information you provide to book and run the practical test. We also analyse the test details to assess how effective traffic patterns, safety initiatives and other transport issues are, to improve both customer service and road safety. We will not pass personal information to anyone else other than in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. This could include (but is not limited to) the police, HM Revenue and Customs, and local authorities. For more information, please see our privacy notice on our website ([www.dsa.gov.uk](http://www.dsa.gov.uk)) or look for our 'Notification Documentation' on the Information Commissioner's website ([www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)). Our registration number is Z7122992.