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Passing your driving test gives you independence and freedom. But many learner drivers take their test before they're ready. It leads to a failed test, disappointment, extra costs and delays them getting on the road. Get ready to pass with our advice and tips. Find out about the 27 skills you need to learn to pass your driving test and be a safe driver. Get advice about how to manage your driving test nerves so you can focus on passing your test. Find out why people who take mock driving tests are more likely to pass the real thing. Find out how the driving test works, what you need to take on the day, and how you can avoid common mistakes people make. Learn about the risks of using driving test cancellation finders, and how to complain if your data is misused. Check the rules about supervising a learner driver, and get advice about how to make the most from practice sessions. 50 out of every 100 driving tests were failed in Great Britain during April 2023. You'll usually be ready to take your driving test when: 1. You do not need permission from your driving instructor. 2. You do not make serious or dangerous mistakes when you're driving. 3. You can pass mock driving tests. 4. You have practised ways of managing your nerves. 5. Your driving instructor agrees you are ready. You're more likely to pass your driving test if you move it back so you have more time to: brush up on your skills, take a few more mock tests, practise managing your nerves. It's free to change your appointment time, as long as you do it at least 10 full working days (Mondays to Saturdays) before your test. And by moving your test, you'll free up an appointment for someone who is ready to pass. Change your driving test appointment. Share copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation. No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Only pay for the cover you need until you've passed your test. Get learner driver insurance so you can practice outside of your lessons. When you learn to drive, you'll be learning and practising 27 important driving skills that you'll need for a lifetime of safe driving. It's unlikely that anyone except an approved driving instructor (ADI) will have the experience, knowledge and training to teach you properly. They're specially trained to help you learn the 27 skills. Find out about taking driving lessons. When you're at the right level, it's a good idea to start practising with family or friends between your driving lessons. People who combine extra practice with driving lessons do better when they take their driving test. Find out about practising with family or friends. The 27 skills you need to learn to become a safe driver are split into 8 groups. Includes legal responsibilities, safety checks, cockpit checks and security. Includes controls and instruments, moving away and stopping, and safe positioning. Includes mirrors, signals, anticipation and planning. Use of speed, other traffic and fuel-efficient driving. Includes junctions, roundabouts and pedestrian crossings. Includes reversing, turning the car around, parking and emergency stops. Includes country roads, dual carriageways and motorways. Includes driving in the dark, driving in different weather conditions, and driving with passengers and loads. Includes independent driving following directions from a sat nav and a series of traffic signs. Next page: Basics (skills 1 to 4) Only take your driving test if you're feeling completely prepared. You can move your driving test back if you're not feeling quite ready yet. It's free to change your appointment time, as long as you do it at least 10 full working days (Mondays to Saturdays) before your test. We use some essential cookies to make this service work. Wed also like to use analytics cookies so we can understand how you use the service and make improvements. If you want to see the very best driving test preparation techniques in one place, then you've come to the right place! We help over 30,000 pupils every year pass their driving test first time. Here, we'll cover absolutely everything that you can think of to help you prepare for your test, ensuring you are ready for the big day. Suggestions for driving test preparation from ADIs. Below, we discuss all of the modern driving test preparation suggestions experienced ADIs (Approved Driving Instructors) and answer the burning questions we receive when preparing for your driving test. Skip to Before booking your test. Good preparation starts early. So before you even book your test, it pays to think through your options. Agree with your instructor when to book your test. Remember your instructor is the expert so consult them first. Choose a test centre that is local to you, where you have been practising. Many learners each year opt to book intensive driving courses online with a company that simply only cares about the booking fee. Many terms and conditions stipulate you will have a driving test at a certain time, but there is no guarantee you'll get the test centre of your choice. In theory, if you are a good driver, you should be able to drive anywhere; however, everyone knows there are massive advantages of taking a test in an area you know well and have taken driving lessons in. One pupil we heard about, Joan Simpson, came to us after failing an intensive course with a company where she took her driving lessons in Oxford, while her test was booked for Aylesbury. She came to us and passed in 10 hours by taking her lessons in an area she knew well. Preparing during your driving lessons. To stand you in good stead for your driving test, pay attention to the following in your lessons: Understand your actions. Try to understand what you are doing rather than learning by rote/memory. Under pressure, something may happen, for example a car starts reversing off a driveway as you try to remove off from the side of the road. If you understand why you look over your right shoulder and that other road users may not give you priority, you will wait for that car. If you are looking over your right shoulder because your instructor tells you to, then in the moment you might not make the correct decision. Make sure you understand the Marking Sheet. During your driving test preparation, it is a good idea to look at a copy of the examiner's marking sheet. This will help you understand how your driving test is going to be scored and tested. You can see what an examiner's marking sheet looks like here. There are a few areas of the marking sheet you need to understand that are not actively shown on the form: If you receive more than 4 minor faults in one of the sections, it will result in a failed examination. You may notice an S and a D section. A fault in this section will also result in an overall fail. We always actively encourage our learners to read through the marking form so they have a better understanding of the test. Start preparing for your driving test a few weeks in advance. There are some checks that you can do a few weeks before you take your test. Plan your driving lessons. Try to fit your driving lessons leading up to your driving test at a similar time to when you are taking your test. For example, if you have an 8.10am test, then it's vital you take some lessons between 7-9am. This way, you will understand the traffic and decision-making of other road users during rush hour. Many learners are put off by taking a test around 8am in the morning. However, if you are learning with a drive Johnson's instructor they will know the test routes for this time. In most towns/cities, the test routes are reduced during rush hour so the examiner doesn't get caught in traffic. This means your instructor will be able to focus on certain routes more for you. Also, ask for a driving lesson the day before your test to ease any nerves. Make sure you have had a detailed discussion with your driving instructor, highlighting any areas that you are stumbling on. Many learners book a test in advance and then ask their instructor for a lesson and cover for the test. Always ask your instructor first to ensure they are free. Practice test routes. Practising test routes is condemned by some non-drive Johnson's instructors. However, it's not cheating, and if it makes you feel more confident then ask your instructor about practising some test routes. All instructors should be following the DVSA code of conduct, and teaching learners in a client-centred manner is one of them. Do mock tests. Try to pass a mock test with your instructor before you take your actual driving test. If you can pass a mock test with your instructor then that's a sign you are ready to pass. At drive Johnson's, we regularly do mock tests at different stages of your learning. Don't get too frustrated if you don't pass your first few mock tests. One lady called Prema who was taking her driving lessons in Oxford failed her driving test 6 times with a national driving school. She came to us, failed 5 mock tests in her lessons, and then passed first time with us. Which one is cheaper? Failing 6 driving tests or failing 5 mock tests of which some were mini mock tests (just 20 minutes long). Please bear in mind you need to be up to a standard where your instructor believes you have a good chance of passing to take the actual driving test. To help you gauge if you are ready, see the examples below. If you are failing your mock tests with 3+ serious faults during a 40-minute mock test, then this should be enough evidence you are not ready to take your test yet. If you have failed your recent mock tests with 1 serious fault for doing 35 on a 30mph road, then this is a short lapse in concentration. In many cases, instructors would be willing to take you for your driving test. If your driving instructor is pointing out 1-2 serious driving faults over the course of an hour, it may be worth postponing your driving test by a couple of weeks. This gives you the time to get in some additional practice before your driving test. Alternatively, your instructor may even be able to increase the number of lessons to help you improve quicker. Plan which car to use on your test. Use a vehicle you are used to for your driving test. This is normally your driving instructor's car. If you intend to use your own car for your test, make sure that it is safe to use on a driving test. Also, make sure that you have the correct insurance. Your examiner will ask you to sign a declaration confirming that it is correctly insured. Check your eyesight. Something worth remembering is that eyesight is important. Eyesight test. You will be asked to read a number plate from 20.5 metres so check you can do this in advance. Avoid the main reasons for failing your driving test. Look at each point and anything that confuses you or you don't understand, ask your instructor. Practice show me, tell me questions. Don't forget to learn the show me, tell me questions thoroughly. Apart of your driving test, your examiner will ask you two of these questions. Make sure that you revise them the weeks/days leading up to your driving test. The night before your test. Plan what to take with you on test day. Anything you may need with you on test day, have it ready the night before. This might include glasses, correct/comfortable footwear, rescueremedy, inhaler etc. Make sure that you include your driving licence within your essentials. If you don't have your provisional licence with you, there is no chance of you taking your driving test that day. Plan an appropriate outfit. We are often asked, 'What do I wear on my driving test?' There are a few things you should remember as part of your driving test preparation. Only wear shoes that are safe to wear on a driving test. You can take your own car as long as its insured for the purpose of the test. When arriving at the test centre, ensure you get there approximately 5-10 minutes before your test starts. If you go into most test centre car parks too early (20-30 minutes beforehand), you may be asked to leave and come back nearer to the time. Be polite. Remember to always treat the examiner appropriately and be polite. You want to get off to a good start and avoid any unnecessary alterations. Any examiner you meet at any test centre will expect to be talked to with respect. Don't feel you need to engage them with an in-depth analysis of the current political situation on your test, but do answer any of their questions politely and be friendly. You want to make a good impression on the day. Even if they fail you at the end of the test, there is no need to be rude. Remember, they may be the examiner on your next test. Try to keep your driving on point. Set your own high standards. Keep good lane discipline and be aware of your surroundings. As you approach junctions, try to time it and take it in one continuous motion. If your examiner can see that you are aiming for perfection then they are going to appreciate your attention to detail. Remember the basics. On test day, it's important to remember the very basics of a successful driving test: to safely judge traffic, maintain good lane discipline and keep a good (safe) distance from the traffic in front. This can be easily forgotten, especially if you are driving in London or another busy city where traffic is heavy and a lot is going on. If you can keep reminding yourself of the basics throughout the test, this can help you not to feel overwhelmed or make mistakes. Don't go too slow. Make progress where it's safe to do so. Many learners make sudden changes on their test day, drive slowly or check the mirrors a million times every minute. Try to get up to speed limits and weather-dependent. Its quite common for learners out on their driving tests to think, 'I best do 25mph on a 30mph road to be safe and please the examiner. However, if it's safe to do 30mph, then do 30mph. You must demonstrate to the examiner the correct speeds at the right times. If you do 25mph when its safe to do 30mph, you may frustrate road users behind you and sometimes they will sound their horn or overtake, which can create more danger. Another example is driving at 60mph on a 70mph road. If it is safe to do 70mph, then do 70mph that is what the examiner wants to see. If you do 60mph, the examiner will think you either lack the confidence to do the correct speed limit or that you think its a 60mph speed limit. They can only mark you on what they see. Don't be afraid to ask questions! If you are unsure of any directions when the examiner gives you them, ask them to repeat themselves. Alternatively, you can say things like 'Do you mean where the red bus is going?' You are being tested on your ability to drive, not follow verbal directions. The same goes for the satnav part of the test if you are unsure then ask the examiner to repeat their directions. Don't dwell on mistakes. Finally, if you do make an error, don't panic. Continue driving and assessing the road ahead. Making mistakes during your driving tests is normal. During your test, you may think you've made a mistake when in fact the examiner doesn't. You can only really tell if you have failed if/when the examiner intervenes physically by stopping the car for you or going for the steering wheel. Even if they intervene verbally, its not a 100% guarantee you have failed. So keep working hard throughout and don't dwell on mistakes that are behind you focus on the road ahead! How to pass your driving test. Driving test preparation was last modified: November 15th, 2024 by drive Johnson's. The easiest place to pass your practical driving test is in Newtown in Wales, with more built-up areas in London, Liverpool and the Midlands among the hardest. That's according to our latest analysis of the DVSA (Driving and Vehicle Standards Agency) data on pass rates at driving centres across the UK. Advertisement - Article continues below. We looked at the data covering the 12 months from April 2023 until March 2024 to generate the lists of the easiest and hardest driving test centres in the UK to take your practical driving test. In the interests of fairness, we've excluded any test centre that conducted fewer than 1,000 tests over the period mentioned above because the test centres with the highest pass rates tended to be in remote locations in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, where only a few tests were taken. The difference between the easiest and hardest locations is still startling when you consider that everyone is taking the same test. Wolverhampton is the hardest place to take your driving test in the country. Over 15,000 tests were taken in the 2023/24 financial year and only around one in three learner drivers passed. In Newtown, Wales the easiest place to pass your driving test there was a pass rate of over 67 per cent from more than 1,800 tests. Skip advert. Advertisement - Article continues below. Built-up urban areas and city centres are definitely some of the hardest places to take your driving test in, with the top 15 locations including test centres in Leicester, Liverpool, London, Manchester and towns in the Midlands. In these kinds of driving environments, high levels of traffic, complicated junctions, multi-lane roads and an abundance of signage can provide an extra challenge for learner drivers. Advertisement - Article continues below. By contrast, the list of the easiest places to pass your driving test include test centres in towns in more rural areas around the country, including locations in England, Scotland and Wales. Quieter roads with fewer complicated roundabouts and one-way systems would seem to boost the chances of learners passing their test. According to the DVSA, the number one reason for someone failing a driving test is lack of observation at junctions. This is followed by failing to judge the speed of an approaching vehicle, entering a roundabout with a vehicle approaching from the right and making no effective observations at all. The average pass rate for UK driving test centres as a whole over the period analysed was 47.9 per cent, with Newtown up at 67.7 per cent and Wolverhampton down at 32.4 per cent. Below are the top 15 toughest driving test centres by pass rate in 2023/2024. 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