

How to Pass your Practical Driving Test



Introduction.

I have been a qualified DVSA driving instructor now for quite a number of years and I have seen and trained a wide range of pupils, from seventeen to a lady in her late fifties. Learning to drive is an investment and believe me, there are no shortcuts. The DVSA Examiner will judge your driving according to your abilities & the DL25 examining criteria. The DVSA Examiner is the only person legally entitled to issue you with a pass certificate. An average person spends between £800-£1,200. In this article, I am going to explain what it takes to succeed in passing your driving test.

Commitment and self – motivation.

Learning to drive requires you to be committed to your long term goal. In order to go for your practical test, you first need to pass the Theory test. Having passed your theory, you should not automatically apply for your practical test. You should not kid yourself that the driving test will be easy. The DVSA recommends 45-60 hours for an average person before they are test ready. However, during my years of teaching I have witnessed the following:

Some pupils have had off-road experience, especially the younger generation. So they tend to pick up the driving skills quite quickly and pass within 20 hours of lessons with my driving school, F1st time.

International licence holders - May already be in possession of a motor vehicle. They need to be familiar with UK roads. Having given lessons in their very own car, they then go and practice the safe driving standards expected from the DVSA syllabus.

Biker - A UK Biker is already familiar with roads and junctions. They need to work on their mirrors, space management and manoeuvres. Again, a biker needs fewer lessons than the average pupil.

Cancelling Lessons.

Learning to drive is a hands on skill or in psychological terms, Psychomotor and cognitive skills (doing and thinking skills) This could be down to a number of factors such as increased work load from school/college, lack of funds, doing more than one job, child care arrangements etc. Cancelling lessons will set you back and can take you longer in achieving your long term goal.

Home study

With my pupils I emphasise that the human mind forgets what's been learned within a space of 24 hours. That's why on my website(s) see below, I have plenty of resources and workbook to take you through the syllabus and keep you focused and motivated. My very own driving school App "F1arraah driver"* has progress charts and a Reflective log to monitor your very own progress. Plus useful videos on how to perform all the required manoeuvres and videos on advanced driving, motorway driving, and videos on how to combat fear and anxiety for your test. You will benefit from allocating an hour a week to revising the skills which you learnt with your driving instructor.

Adequate number of Lessons

I have had pupils who think they are test standard for the practical part. This could be due to financial pressures, family or peer pressure. If you can drive confidently, safely and defensively and can perform all the required manoeuvres independently, then you stand a very good chance of passing your test. The pass rate at Basildon MPTC at the time of writing, is 42%. If, the instructor has to use dual controls or give verbal warnings when you are driving, then clearly you are not ready for your practical test. So my advice is do not cut back on your lessons, listen to your instructor and go prepared having done the adequate number of lessons.

Private practice.

I am not condemning private practice in a pupils family car or their very own car. Practicing driving in your car will give you more confidence on the roads, especially around Basildon roundabouts. However, the person sat next to you, supervising your driving is not trained to spot your errors and faults, some of which could be serious or dangerous. The ratio of private practice should be 20% and 80% with an ADI or 80/20 Rule.

Nerves, Stress and Anxiety.

Some people are natural born winners and can cope with any challenges that life throws at them. Some people are very nervous and have negative thoughts and feelings. On my You tube channel, Farrah Driver training, I have uploaded several short videos which gives help and advice with coping mechanisms to beat anxiety, stress and nervousness. So if you have a test coming up, I strongly recommend that you watch the videos.



Resources:

www.drivingschoolbasildon.com

www.mydrivinglessonsbasildon.com

***Farrah driver APP is only for pupils of Farrah driver training. Free to install.**

Need professional lessons and quality teaching? You can text Tariq Master ADI on 07903 99 77 33

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