

THE GUERNSEY THEORY DRIVING TEST

What is the driving theory test?

The theory test is a computer based multiple choice exam intended to test the driver's road sense and awareness, including the rules of the road, respect for other road users, vehicle maintenance, safety and security. *(It does not currently include Hazard Perception testing as in the UK, but is likely to in the future)*

What test will I need to take?

There are four classes of theory test – the one that you will need to take will depend on the category of provisional licence you hold. See table below:

Table 1

Category of Test	Theory Test	Number of questions	Pass mark required
P, A1 or A	A	50	43 or more
B1,B,BE,F, L or G	B	50	43 or more
C1,C1E, C or CE	C	100	85 or more
D,D1E,D or DE	D	100	85 or more

A= Motorcycles, B= Motor Cars, C= Goods Vehicles, D=Passenger Vehicles

Each theory test asks some specific questions relating to the category of vehicle for which you are being examined, as well as questions that apply to all road users.

Does everybody have to take the theory test?

Most candidates who are learning to drive or ride will have to sit a theory test for that category before taking their practical test and obtaining a full licence. The exceptions are:

- Candidates who are upgrading their licence within the same category group e.g. P to A1 or B to BE (see category group table above) and have previously passed a theory test in that category group. For example, if you hold a **full** category P moped driving licence, having passed a motorcycle theory test and then a practical moped test, you would not have to take the motorcycle theory test again before taking a practical test for category A1 or A motorcycle.
- Foreign exchangeable licences. If you hold a full driving licence issued from a different authority outside of Guernsey then it may be valid for exchange for an equivalent Guernsey licence without the need for a theory or practical test to be taken. However, if you cannot exchange your licence then you will need to take and pass a theory test before you can book for a practical driving test. You can

find more information on whether or not your licence would be exchangeable from our leaflet “Advice and information for new Guernsey Residents”, from our website www.gov.gg/traffic

How does the test work?

The test is in a multiple choice format and is run on a touch screen computer. The system is easy to use and no prior knowledge of computers is required. The questions are shown, in turn, on the computer screen, along with a selection of possible answers. All you need to do is touch the screen to indicate the answer(s) that you think are correct.

At the beginning of each test, there is an option to undertake a short “practice” session. During this period you can learn how to use the system and get used to the sort of questions that are asked. During the test, it is possible to go back and change an answer to an earlier question or complete any that you might have wanted to skip and come back to later.

Motorcycle or Motor Car Test Your theory test will take approximately 1 hour and you will be required to answer 43 out of 50 questions correctly in order to pass.

Goods Vehicles and Passenger vehicles Your theory test will take approximately 2 hours and you will be required to answer 85 out of 100 questions correctly in order to pass

How can I book my theory test?

Theory tests (to be taken in both Guernsey and Alderney) can be booked online at www.traffic.gov.gg

Your provisional driving licence must be valid on the date of your theory test.

Where will I take the test?

All theory tests in Guernsey are run at the Traffic and Transport Services Office, Bulwer Avenue, St Sampsons. Alderney tests are held at the Alderney States Office. You must arrive 15 minutes early for your test.

How much will the theory test cost?

Car and motorcycle tests carry a fee of £35. HGV and PCV tests carry a fee of £50. Payment must be made at the time of booking.

When will I know the result?

You will be notified of your result on completion of the test. If you have been successful, a pass confirmation letter will be printed and issued to you before you leave the test centre. If you fail, you will also be issued with a letter which will advise you of the topic areas that you answered incorrectly.

Are special needs catered for?

If you have special needs that you believe may affect your test, ie you are a wheelchair user or you have significant learning difficulties please make this known at the time of booking via the special needs request section in the online booking system.

The Department will then endeavour to make special arrangements for these needs to be accommodated for your test session.

You will have the option of an English voice-over if you consider it easier to understand the spoken word. However, this facility does not constitute special assistance and you will not need to contact the Department in advance in this regard. This facility will be offered as an option at the test centre, just make the invigilator aware of this requirement before the test commences.

Can I bring a translator with me?

The Department used to allow approved translators to provide assistance for candidates where English was not their first language, but regrettably it no longer permits this practice. However, candidates will have the option of an English voice-over if they consider it easier to understand the spoken word. This facility does not constitute special assistance and you will not need to contact the Department in advance in this regard. This facility will be offered as an option at the test centre, just make the invigilator aware of this requirement before the test commences.

How can I prepare for the theory test?

It is important that you study for your theory test. Not only will this help you to pass your test, but it will also help you to become a safe driver.

You must learn your Highway Code in order to pass the theory test. This should be read in conjunction with the local supplement to the Highway Code which is available free from local bookshops when you purchase a copy of the Highway Code or can be downloaded at (www.gov.gg/drivingtests).

The following books are also available to help you prepare from local bookshops or can be purchased online:

- Know your Traffic Signs
- Driving/Motorcycle riding - the essential skills
- The Official Theory Test for Car Drivers/Motorcyclists/Drivers of large vehicles
- Official motorcycling CBT, Theory and Practical Test
- Driving Goods vehicles/Driving buses and coaches - the official DSA syllabus

There are also CD-Roms and DVD's that are available from local bookshops or can be purchased online which help with theory preparation. In addition, the College of Further Education run a night class to help drivers prepare for their theory test.

Do I need to retain my Pass Confirmation Letter and how long is it valid for?

You are advised to keep your pass confirmation letter in a safe place as you will be required to produce it at the time of a practical driving test.

A theory test pass covers more than one category of driving licence and enables the holder to take a practical test in any of the related categories (as shown in table 1 above) within the two-year validity period. However, a theory test pass can be used to sit a practical test, albeit that the two-year validity may have expired, *if* the candidate has already successfully passed a practical test and taken out a full licence in any of the related categories covered by the theory test pass.

This means that a full licence holder will not have to re-take the same theory test to upgrade within the same group of driving licence categories. A full licence holder wishing to upgrade within the same licence category group, but who has not previously taken a theory test in the correct category, will be required to successfully pass the relevant driving theory test before taking the practical test.

What happens if I fail my theory test?

You will be notified of your result on completion of the test. If you fail, you will be issued with a letter advising you of the topic areas that you answered incorrectly, to enable you to study these areas further.

You can take your theory test as many times as you need to, but you will have to wait 7 clear days before you can retake a theory test. Your test can be booked online at www.traffic.gov.gg

Remember that your provisional driving licence must be valid on the date of your theory test.

Further queries:

Should you have any further questions concerning the theory test please feel free to contact the Environment Department by email (drivingtests@gov.gg) or by telephone (243400).