

THE GUERNSEY PRACTICAL DRIVING TEST

Introduction

Having been issued with a provisional licence and then undertaken a theory test (and CBT training if a motorcyclist), you will then need to prepare for your practical test.

This document will provide you with some useful advice and information that will help you to prepare.

You will find information about the following:

- Provisional Driving Licences
- “L” Plates
- Booking your Practical Test
- Speed limits
- Driving and the Disabled
- Minimum Test vehicle Standards (MTV“s)
- Other useful information

About your Provisional Driving Licence

Please remember that you may only drive a motor vehicle with a provisional driving licence when you are being supervised by a person who has held a full driving licence in the relevant category for at least one year.

However, if you are driving a moped, a light motorcycle, a motorcycle, an agricultural tractor, a road repairing machine or a motorised tricycle or a quadricycle (categories P, A1, A, F, G or B1) under the terms of your provisional licence, then you do not need to be supervised. The same is true if you are driving an electrically propelled vehicle within category L, if it is only designed to be occupied solely by the driver.

The validity of your provisional driving licence will vary, depending on your age and the category of vehicle which it authorises you to drive. Please check your licence carefully to make sure you are aware when your licence will commence and expire.

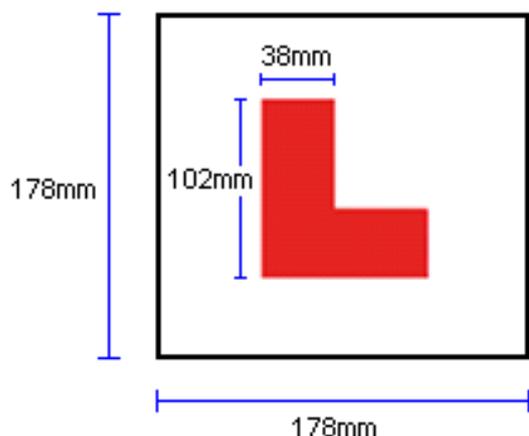
Drivers of mopeds, light motorcycles, motorcycles, agricultural tractors, road repairing machines, motorised tricycles or quadricycles or electrically propelled vehicles within category L are asked to pay particular attention to the validity of their provisional driving licences as they are valid for a maximum of two years.

Information about L plates

When driving under a provisional driving licence “L” plates must be displayed on the front and rear of your vehicle in a vertical or near vertical position and on a flat surface so that they are clearly visible to other road users from the front and back of the vehicle. “L” plates that are wrapped around the forks or over the front mudguard of a motorcycle, or mounted on the flat bonnet of a car are not acceptable.

It is important that you are aware of the need to display legally sized “L” plates. It is an offence to reduce the size of a standard plate in any way and then display it on your motor vehicle or motorcycle. Candidates for driving tests must ensure that they are displaying legally sized “L” plates or they will not be permitted to proceed with the test.

The figure “L” must be red on a white background and the size should be as in the diagram below. They can be obtained from most Garage Forecourts and motor accessory shops.



Are you aware of the maximum speed limits for certain types of vehicles?

Drivers are reminded of the legislation governing the maximum speed limits for vehicles of the following type:

Steam boilers, tar boilers, concrete mixers, Material spreaders and other trailers of any kind whatsoever with metal wheels	8mph
Four-wheeled heavy trailers of the low loader type	12mph
Caravan homes, horse & cattle boxes & two-wheeled trailer of any kind whatsoever	20mph
An omnibus	25mph
A motor vehicle exceeding two tons unladen	25mph
An articulated vehicle	25mph

How can I prepare for the practical test?

It is important that you study for your practical 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 the Highway Code and this should be read in conjunction with the local supplement to the Highway Code. This is available free from local bookshops when you purchase a copy of the Highway Code or can be downloaded from the theory test section at (www.gov.gg/drivingtests).

There are a range of publications from the Driving Standards Agency which are useful aids to learn to drive. These publications, which are detailed below, are available from local book shops or can be purchased online:

“The Driving Test”, “The Motor Cycling Manual”, “The Goods Vehicle Driving Manual”, “The Bus and Coach Driving Manual”, “The Driving Manual” and “The Highway Code”

There are also CD-Roms and DVD"s that are available from bookshops which help with practical driving test preparation.

You should remember, of course, that some aspects of these training aids do not apply in Guernsey, but your driving instructor will be able to advise you about these.

Booking your practical driving test

In most circumstances candidates wishing to take a practical driving test in any category have to pass a separate theory test before booking and taking a practical test. For detailed information on theory test requirements read the document entitled "The Guernsey Driving Theory Test" which you will find in the theory test section downloads at www.gov.gg/theorydrivingtests

Driving tests can normally only be taken after you have held your provisional driving licence for at least one month, unless it is being booked to obtain a full licence after a period of disqualification for a Schedule 1 offence when the one month waiting period does not apply.

Tests can be booked on line at: www.traffic.gov.gg

If you plan to use a Driving School car, you will need to liaise with your Driving Instructor to ensure availability for both the test and a pre-test lesson which is recommended.

If you need to cancel/rebook your driving test, then this can be done online. However, if the change or cancellation is made with less than seven days notice (excluding the date the candidate cancels on and the date of the test), the test fee will be forfeited unless you were unable to attend on medical grounds and a doctor"s certificate is provided.

Motorcyclists should note that if they have taken a CBT course on an automatic scooter/motorcycle then they will only be permitted to take a practical driving test on an automatic scooter/motorcycle.

Where will my practical test take place?

Driving tests being undertaken in Guernsey begin and end at the Department"s offices at Bulwer Avenue. You should park your vehicle on one of the driving test bays at the rear of the building and then report to the Department"s Reception Desk. Driving tests being undertaken in Alderney begin and end at Alderney Airport. You should park your vehicle in one of the parking spaces near the entrance and report to the examiner who will be waiting in the terminal by the kiosk.

You must arrive 15 minutes early for your test. Please remember that the Examiners have a tight timetable of test each day and you may miss your test if you are late arriving and forfeit your fee.

What should I bring for my practical test?

You must remember to bring your provisional driving licence (including your paper counterpart) and a valid Theory Test pass certificate with you when you come for your test. If you are already a full licence holder in any of the related categories covered by the theory certificate then you are able to present an expired theory test certificate.

Motorcyclists will also need to produce a valid Compulsory Basic Training pass certificate when they come for their test. The only exemption is for applicants that are taking a category „A“ test who have held a full „A1“ licence for at least 12 months, as these applicants are not required to undertake any such additional CBT training. However, these applicants are required to bring with them their full „A1“ licence to prove to the examiner that they have held this category for a minimum of 12 months.

Motorcyclists should also wear appropriate clothing. As a general guide the following is an indication of the minimum level of clothing that is acceptable:-

- Motorcycle boots or sturdy footwear, that provide support and ankle protection
- Leather motorcycle trousers or heavy denim trousers
- Leather motorcycle jacket or heavy denim jacket with several layers underneath
- Motorcycle gloves

The following are examples of clothing that is not acceptable:-

- Lightweight training shoes or canvas basket ball trainers
- Any form of clothing with areas of exposed skin
- A shell suit or lightweight tracksuit
- Ripped jeans
- Lightweight fleece or hoody
- No gloves or skiing gloves

An examiner may advise those candidates who arrive inappropriately dressed that their test will not go ahead and the fee will be forfeited.

Please check beforehand that the vehicle you are bringing for your driving test complies with the Minimum Test Vehicle requirements. These are set out later in this document.

What will happen at the start of the practical test?

The Driving Examiner will ask you to sign his Driving Test report form before the test begins to confirm that the vehicle is covered by the relevant vehicle insurance and that you normally live/have lived in the Bailiwick of Guernsey for at least 185 days in the last 12 months. This signature should match that on your driving licence. Varying your signature can result in delays and the possible cancellation of your test.

The Driving Examiner will ask you if you wish your driving instructor or your co-driver to sit in the back of the vehicle during the test. This is encouraged so that they have firsthand experience of what takes place on the test and, should you fail, this makes it easier for them address the errors in further training sessions.

Where a vehicle used for driving instruction is fitted with dual control accelerator pedal, it must be disconnected for the test. The engine must not be altered to run especially fast.

Motorcyclists, Quad and Trike candidates, drivers of tractors and certain other vehicles, where the Driving Examiner follows in another vehicle, will be provided with an easy fitting one-way radio receiver so that the Examiner can give instruction to you by radio during the test.

A brief of the test will be offered on the way to your vehicle and you will be required to read a vehicle registration number plate from a distance of at least 22.5 metres. This is the minimum distance you are required to be able to read a number plate in order to drive.

If you need glasses or contact lenses to read the number plate, that is fine. However, you must wear them during the test and whenever you drive. If you have had sight correction surgery you should declare this when you apply for your provisional licence.

If you cannot show your examiner that your eyesight is up to the required standard, you will have failed your driving test, and the test will go no further.

At the start of the practical test, you will be required to undertake basic vehicle safety checks to ensure knowledge of safety related issues. You will not be asked to undertake tasks such as physically checking tyre pressures or engine oil etc but a list of standard question of the “tell me” and “show me” format will be used. For example, “tell me how you would check the oil level” and “show me how you would check the car lights are working properly”. A list of the questions for your relevant category can be accessed in the practical test section at (www.gov.gg/practicaldrivingtest).

The more modern cars generally have replaced the analogue speedometer for digital versions which tend to be mounted much deeper in the console and not easily readable by the examiner without encroaching into the candidate’s space. The Department has therefore purchased a small hand held GPS device, which resembles a mobile phone, which the examiner may have with them on test to determine the speed at which the vehicle is travelling.

What will happen during the driving part of the practical test?

Category P, A1 and A

The driving part of the test will last for approximately 30 minutes, take in various road and traffic conditions and candidates will be asked at some point to carry out at least 2 normal stops, 1 angle start and 1 hill start. At a convenient location candidates will be required to push and ride the machine in a u-turn, carry out an emergency stop and complete a slow balanced ride.

Category B1 and B

The on road driving part of the test will last for approximately 30 minutes, take in various road and traffic conditions and candidates will be asked at some point to carry out at least 2 normal stops, 1 angle start and 1 hill start. Candidates will also be required to carry out an emergency stop exercise and 2 random manoeuvres from a reverse park, left reverse exercise or a turn in the road. In the case of a panel van without side windows the candidate may be asked to carry out a right reverse manoeuvre.

Category B+E, C1, C1+E, C, C+E, D1, D1+E, D and D+E

The on road part of the test will last for approximately 1 hour*, take in various road and traffic conditions and candidates will at some point be asked to carry out a braking exercise and a reversing exercise into a restricted space at the Department’s allocated off road manoeuvring area.

Candidates will also be required to carry out at least 2 normal stops, 1 angle start, 1 uphill start and 1 downhill start.

All Candidates (except those for category B+E) in manual transmission vehicles will also be required to carry out a gear changing exercise.

Candidates requiring the trailer entitlement (B+E, C1+E, C+E, D1+E and D+E) will be required to uncouple and recouple their trailer safely at some point during the test. (* The driving time for candidates in these categories will be slightly less, as this exercise will be undertaken with the 1 hour.)

D1 PSV and D PSV

In addition to the above, candidates requiring the PSV element for both D1 and D categories will also be required at some point during the natural drive to stop on 2 occasions at designated bus stops in order to simulate loading and offloading of passengers.

Category B PSV - Taxi

The driving part of the test will last for approximately 1 hour and will be divided into two approximately 30 minute periods. The first period will be as per the category B test as outlined above.

The second period will be a route-to-route test where the candidate will be asked by the examiner to go to 4 different random locations selected from within the Department's taxi test syllabus. (This is available on the Department's website) The Candidate will need to find a minimum of three locations with no assistance from the examiner.

The candidate will be tested on their ability to select the most appropriate route taking into consideration road and traffic conditions at that particular time. The route chosen should normally be the shortest/quickest possible route enabling the lowest fare to the passenger.

Consideration should be given to the safety and comfort of the passenger and drop off and pick up points will need to be selected with an emphasis on places of safety.

The driving assessment will cover the entire two periods of the test.

Driving Test Conclusion

At the end of the test the examiner will advise you of the test result and will if appropriate and necessary offer you a de-brief if you have been unsuccessful.

Candidates may have their instructors present for the conclusion of the test and any de-brief if the candidate so wishes. However it should be noted that the instructor would need to be within the immediate area of the finishing position and be immediately available in order for this to take place.

A candidate will be successful if they have accumulated less than 16 driving faults and have no serious or dangerous marks recorded.

A candidate will be unsuccessful if they have committed more than 15 driving faults or have any one or more serious or dangerous faults recorded.

Successful candidates will be given a pass certificate and will be required to sign the pass certificate and the driving test report to say that they have received the certificate.

All candidates will be given a copy of the driving test report (DL 25).

What should I do if I pass my driving test?

Once you have passed your test, your Examiner will issue you with a pass certificate. This entitles you to drive without “L” plates and without being supervised for up to seven days. **Your pass certificate should be exchanged for a full driving licence within these seven days.**

Remember, if you pass your test in a motor vehicle which has automatic transmission, your full driving licence will be restricted to the use of such vehicles.

You will need to complete an application form for a full licence and surrender your provisional licence and test pass slip to the Department. If, after seven days, you have not exchanged your pass certificate for a full licence, you will need to put the “L” plates back on your vehicle and depending on the category of vehicle, drive only under the supervision of another driver. Your pass certificate can be exchanged for a full licence up to a year after your test.

What should I do if I fail my driving test?

Following further training, you can rebook your test online at www.traffic.gov.gg

However, you will have to wait 14 calendar days before you can retake a practical test.

Remember that your provisional driving licence must be valid on the date of your test and in most circumstances (see above) you will require a valid theory test certificate (and a valid CBT if undertaking a motorcycle test).

Minimum Test Vehicles

The Environment Department, in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 15B. (b) of the Motor Taxation and Licensing Law, 1987, as amended, resolves that when a motor vehicle is to be used for the purpose of undertaking a test of competence to drive as required under Section 4. (2) Of the Driving Licences (Guernsey) Ordinance, 1995, that motor vehicle will comply with the following minimum standards:

“MAM” refers to the Maximum Authorised Mass. i.e. the plated Gross Vehicle Weight as specified by the manufacturer (the permissible weight of the vehicle, trailer or vehicle/trailer combination). “RTM” refers to the Real Total Mass. i.e. the actual weight of the vehicle presented for test.

General guidelines

- All vehicles used for driving tests must be road legal, insured (displaying an insurance disc in the windscreen) and taxed (if applicable), roadworthy and have no warning lights showing.
- Vehicles that have the front side windows and/or the front windscreen significantly darkened will not be suitable for testing purposes.
- Vehicles must have a speedometer that measures speed in miles per hour and kilometres per hour.
- All vehicles presented must be fitted with seatbelts in good working order for use by the examiner and any person supervising the test. All vehicles must have seatbelts fitted where required by the Seat Belts Ordinance, 1988.

- Vehicles must be fitted with a passenger head restraint, this need not be adjustable but must be fitted as an integral part of the seat – “slip on” type head restraints are not permitted.
- Where a vehicle used for driving instruction is fitted with a dual control accelerator pedal, it must be disconnected for the test. The engine must not be altered to run especially fast.
- No items should be left unsecured in the vehicle when produced for a test, including on the rear seat, rear foot wells and rear parcel shelf and the interior of the vehicle should be in an appropriate state of cleanliness.
- Legally sized L Plates must be displayed on the front and rear of the vehicle in a vertical or near vertical position and on a flat surface. L Plates that are wrapped around the forks of a motorcycle or mounted on the flat bonnet of a car are not acceptable. They must not interfere with the driver's or examiner's view.
- Vehicles presented for the practical test must be representative of their type/class. The following vehicles (at the time of writing) are not permitted to be used for a test:- Piaggio MP3 125 and 250, BMW C1, Thumpster 125, Thump 50, Mini Cooper Convertible, Ford KA convertible, Volkswagon Beetle Convertible and Toyota I.Q.

Any candidate who is unsure whether or not their vehicle will meet the MTV for it's class or type are advised to contact the driving test centre for advice prior to booking the practical test.

Categories P, A1 and A

- Any candidate, who is successful on a practical test on any motorcycle with automatic or semi-automatic transmission, will have this recorded on the pass certificate and the full licence entitlement will be restricted to motorcycles within this category.
- The minimum test vehicle requirements for a motorcycle and side-car combination are the same as for the solo machines, but categories A and A1 must not exceed a power to weight ratio of 0.16 kw/kg. Passengers are not allowed to ride in the sidecar during the test. The licence obtained as a result of this test will be restricted to this combination of vehicle.

P a 2-wheeled or 3-wheeled vehicle which is powered by:

- a) an internal combustion engine having a cylinder capacity not exceeding 50 cubic centimetres, or
- b) an electrical engine having a maximum continuous rated power not exceeding 4KW

A1 a 2-wheeled vehicle, with or without a sidecar, with a maximum design speed of over 50 kilometres per hour or, if it is powered by an internal combustion engine, with a cubic capacity exceeding 50cc but not exceeding 125cc, and of a power not exceeding 11 kilowatts

A a 2-wheeled vehicle, with or without a sidecar, with a cubic capacity exceeding 125 cc.

Categories B1, B and B+E

B1 A motor powered tricycle or quadricycle that must have an unladen weight of not more than 550 kg and be capable of at least 60 kph (37.25 mph). **B** Vehicles presented for test must be a four wheeled vehicle of no more than 3500 kilograms (kg) maximum

authorised mass (MAM) capable of a speed of at least 100 kilometers per hour (kph) (62.5 mph).

- The vehicle must be fitted with an interior mirror for the examiner's use
- There must be unobstructed vision through the rear window.

The minimum test vehicle standards for a car also apply to a car and trailer test, with additional requirements for the trailer.

B+E Vehicles presented for test must be a category B vehicle towing a suitably braked, unladen trailer of at least 750kg MAM but must not exceed the MAM of the towing vehicle. The examiner may ask for evidence of the trailer MAM, for example, the manufacturer's plate. All vehicle combinations must operate on appropriate brakes and utilise a coupling arrangement suitable for the weight.

Externally mounted, nearside and offside mirrors for use by the examiner or any person supervising the test must be fitted on the towing vehicle.

The cargo compartment of the trailer must consist of a closed box body which is at least as wide and as high as the towing vehicle; the closed box body may be slightly less wide than the towing vehicle provided that the view to the rear is only possible by use of the external rear-view mirrors of the towing vehicle.

Categories C1, C1+E, C and C+E

All goods vehicles presented for test must be unladen and have seatbelts and externally mounted nearside and offside mirrors fitted for use by the examiner and any person supervising the test. They must also be fitted with an anti-lock braking system (ABS) except C1 vehicles.

In all cases the view to the rear must be by use of external mirrors only.

All vehicle combinations must operate the appropriate service brakes and utilise a heavy duty coupling arrangement suitable for the weight.

C1 A vehicle with a maximum authorised mass (MAM) of at least 4 tonnes, at least 5 metres in length, capable of 80 km/h (50 mph) and with a closed box cargo compartment at least as wide and as high as the cab.

C1+E There are two types of test vehicle in the C1+E category:

A drawbar outfit made from a combination of a category C1 vehicle towing a trailer of at least 2 tonnes MAM with a combined length of at least 8 metres, capable of 80 km/h (50 mph) and with a closed box trailer at least as wide and as high as the towing vehicle. The examiner may ask for evidence of the trailer MAM, for example, the manufacturer's plate.

A medium sized articulated lorry with a MAM of at least 6 tonnes with a combined length of at least 8 metres, capable of 80 km/h (50 mph) and with a closed box trailer at least as wide and as high as the towing vehicle.

C A rigid goods vehicle with a MAM of at least 10 tonnes, at least 7 metres in length, 2.31 metres maximum in width, capable of 80 km/h (50 mph). The vehicle must be fitted with a 6 speed gearbox (manual tests) as a minimum, a closed box cargo compartment at

least as wide and as high as the cab and a maximum length of 9.45 metres (Guernsey maximum).

C+E There are two types of test vehicle in the C+E category:

An articulated vehicle with a MAM of at least 18 tonnes, with a minimum length of 10.67 metres (Guernsey maximum) and 2.31 metres maximum in width. The vehicle should be capable of 80 km/h (50 mph), be fitted with a 6 speed gearbox (manual tests) as a minimum and have a closed box cargo trailer compartment at least as wide and as high as the cab.

A drawbar outfit made from a combination of a category C vehicle and trailer. For further details of dimensions please contact the Department.

Categories D1, D1+E, D and D+E

All Passenger carrying vehicles presented for test must be unladen and have seatbelts and externally mounted nearside and offside mirrors fitted for use by the examiner and any person supervising the test. They must also be fitted with an ABS braking system (except D1, D manual or DE vehicles).

All vehicle combinations must operate the appropriate service brakes and utilise a heavy duty coupling arrangement suitable for the weight.

- D1** A Passenger Carrying Vehicle (PCV) with 9 - 16 passenger seats with a Maximum Authorised Mass (MAM) of at least 3.5 tonnes, of at least five metres in length and capable of 80 km/h (50 mph).
- D1+E** A category D1 vehicle towing a trailer of at least 1.25 tonnes MAM, capable of 80 km/h (50 mph) and with a closed box trailer at least two metres high and two metres wide.
- D** A Passenger Carrying Vehicle with 17 or more passenger seats, at least 9 metres in length, 2.35 metres maximum in width and capable of 80 km/h (50 mph)
- D+E** A category D vehicle towing a trailer of at least 1.25 tonnes MAM. The vehicle combination should be capable of 80 km/h (50 mph) and have a closed box trailer at least two metres high and two metres wide.



Eco-safe driving/riding is a recognised and proven style of driving and riding that contributes to road safety whilst reducing fuel consumption and emissions.

On your driving test, an assessment is made of your ability to drive/ride in a way that demonstrates recognition of the principles of „eco safe driving/riding“.

Be an „eco-safe“ driver or rider and contribute to road safety as well as reducing your fuel consumption and vehicle emissions. Making changes to your driving or riding style will also save you money.

The driving examiner will assess control and planning and at the end of the test will give you feedback, as guidance, on how efficiently you“re driving.

Control

Always try and use the vehicle controls as smoothly as possible, with particular attention to:

Starting and moving away – Accelerating - Using gears - Driving/riding at an appropriate speed.

This will reduce wear and tear on your vehicle/motorcycle and will help in reducing CO2 emissions.

Planning

Reduce harmful emissions by anticipating road and traffic conditions. Act in good time, rather than reacting to them at the last moment, especially:

Showing hazard awareness and planning - Making use of engine braking - Stopping the engine when appropriate

Tips for ‘eco-safe’ driving and riding

- Check your tyres and keep them at recommended pressures.
- Don“t carry unnecessary weight.
- Remove roof-racks or luggage boxes when not needed to reduce air resistance.
- Don“t exceed speed limits and accelerate gently.
- Consider using cruise control where it would be appropriate.
- Turn off your engine if you“re likely to have a prolonged wait.
- Use air conditioning only when you need to.
- Plan your route to avoid known congestion points.
- Try to travel during off-peak times.

You will **not** fail the test because you do not demonstrate purely eco-safe driving/riding techniques and any purely eco-safe driving faults accrued during the natural drive at this time will **not** be included in the final total of driving faults. This may however be introduced fully into the body of the test at some point in the future.