

Click to prove
you're human



Preliminary driving test

We use some essential cookies to make this website work. To better understand how you use GOV.UK, we want to set additional cookies to remember your settings and improve government services. We also use cookies from other sites to deliver content from their services. You have already accepted these extra cookies, but can change your mind at any time. We need some essential cookies to run the website properly. We also want to use more cookies to understand how you use GOV.UK, keep track of your preferences, and improve our services. These cookies come from other websites too, so we can deliver their content on our site. You have already agreed to these extra cookies, but if you change your mind, you can do so anytime. The police can stop vehicles at random, but they don't always get to perform completely random breath tests. If someone is driving a car or riding a bike on the road and gets stopped by the police, they must follow the rules. If they don't comply, they could be in trouble. Once a vehicle has been pulled over, the police have more powers to use depending on the situation. Some key points about alcohol-related road traffic offences and breath tests include: A preliminary breath test is when you give the police your breath to see if you've had too much drink. If the police think you might be driving or in charge of a vehicle while drunk, they can ask you to take this test. Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs remains a serious offence, with penalties for those caught behind the wheel. If a police officer suspects that someone has driven or was in charge of a vehicle while impaired, they can administer a preliminary breath test to check for intoxication levels. This power also applies if an accident occurs and the officer believes the person was driving at the time. A driver who refuses to cooperate with a breath test without a valid reason can face additional charges. The police have wide discretion to determine whether a driver's behaviour justifies a breath test, considering various factors such as their reaction times, manner of driving, or physical appearance that may indicate intoxication. **Breath Tests: What You Need to Know** If a police officer suspects that you are driving under the influence of alcohol, they can require you to take a roadside breath test. This test is mandatory if the police have reasonable grounds for suspicion. Failure to comply with a preliminary breath test without a good reason can lead to fines and penalty points. If you refuse to cooperate, you will be arrested and required to provide a sample of your breath, blood, or urine for analysis. The device used for the preliminary breath test must be approved by the Secretary of State. A police officer can arrest someone without a warrant if they suspect that: * The person's breath contains more than 35 micrograms of alcohol per 100 milliliters * You refuse to take the preliminary breath test * They reasonably believe you have been driving under the influence Note that hospital patients are exempt from this power. A preliminary breath test can only be conducted at a place where the requirement to comply with the test is imposed, which includes near the scene of an accident or at a police station specified by the constable. However, if it's believed that an accident occurred due to a motor vehicle on a road or public place and the driver was involved, the test can be conducted at either location. The purpose of this test is to determine whether a driver was driving under the influence of drink or drugs. If the preliminary test is positive, a more accurate "evidential" test will be carried out at a police station. A constable has the power to undertake a preliminary test if they reasonably suspect that a person has committed one of the following: - The person was driving or in charge of a vehicle on a road and has alcohol or drugs in their body. - The person was driving or attempting to drive with alcohol in their system. - The person was unfit to drive due to a drug while driving or attempting to drive. - An accident occurred due to a motor vehicle on a road, and the driver was involved. It's essential to note that a constable must reasonably suspect these conditions to conduct a preliminary test. Additionally, hospital patients are protected against preliminary testing if their doctor objects due to potential harm to their care and treatment. There are three types of preliminary tests under RTA 1988: - Preliminary breath test: where the driver provides a specimen of breath for an indicative reading from a breathalyser. The final version does not include any additional content The implementation of preliminary tests by constables is subject to strict guidelines and regulations. These tests, which include impairment tests and preliminary drug tests, must be conducted in accordance with the Secretary of State's Code of Practice. The type of test used will depend on the circumstances of the individual case. Constables are required to ensure that they have been properly trained and that the device used is approved by the Secretary of State. You can still be arrested and taken for an evidential test even if you refuse to do a preliminary test, as long as the police suspect alcohol or drugs are in your system. The fact that you refused may also be used against you in court. The police have wide powers to require drivers to undergo tests for alcohol or drugs, making it rare for someone to not comply. However, failing to follow procedure during an evidential test can harm your case more than refusing a preliminary test. A recent case (R v S) showed that if the police don't follow correct procedures when operating breathalyzers, they may lose the right to prosecute. If you're arrested or have concerns about a road law case, consider reaching out to Road Law Barristers for free consultation. To apply for a provisional driving licence in the UK, provide required biometric details such as your national ID card and address history. This will speed up the process and avoid identity verification by post. You'll also need to add a valid photo and signature to your application. If you have a passport, we might use its information instead of requiring additional documentation. To get started, meet the eligibility criteria of being at least 15 years and 9 months old and able to read number plates from 20 metres away. You'll need identification documents, address history, and pay the required fee. Additionally, you can take an online application course which might simplify the process further. Learning to drive can be a daunting experience, but with the right preparation and mindset, you'll be ready to hit the road in no time. After obtaining your provisional licence, it's essential to find a good driving school or instructor registered with the DVSA. Researching and familiarizing yourself with the Highway Code will help you understand the rules and regulations on UK roads, making you a safer driver. Before taking your practical driving test, pass the theory test, which consists of multiple-choice questions and a hazard perception test. Studying for the theory test is crucial, as it will enhance your knowledge and awareness of hazards, ultimately keeping you and other road users safe. The practical driving test assesses your ability to drive safely and competently, so make sure you're well-practised and ready to showcase your skills. Remember, obtaining a full licence is just the beginning – driving is a skill that requires continuous learning and development. Stay open to new experiences, always be aware of your surroundings, and never forget the lessons your instructor taught you. By following these steps and taking your time, you'll become a safe and confident driver. Enjoy the journey, as learning to drive is not just about reaching your destination but also about the process of growth and improvement. You're on track to become a UK driver, so go ahead and apply for that provisional licence. Book your lessons, and start this exciting new journey. Always check the latest guidelines from the DVLA and government for the most up-to-date information. If you're 17 or over and meet the eye sight requirements, you can apply online or by post using a D1 application form. Make sure to include identity documents and payment (£43.00). Once processed, you can start learning. When choosing a driving instructor, consider whether you want a manual or automatic car. Manual cars have a clutch and 5-6 gears, but offer more control and flexibility when buying your first car. Automatics are easier, but you'll still need to pass the DVSA's theory and practical tests. Book your theory test online (£23.00) using your provisional licence number and payment details. The test is in English/Welsh or British Sign Language, and you can reschedule if needed. You'll need to bring your photo-provisional license on test day, with no external items allowed (lockers are available). The theory test consists of two parts within 57 minutes, including multiple-choice questions based on three books: 'The Highway Code', 'Know Your Traffic Signs', and 'Driving - the Essential Skills'. Three questions will be related to a video clip that you must watch carefully. You need to answer 43 multiple-choice questions correctly to pass. Additionally, there are two hazard perception tests. # This test assesses your observation skills. You'll watch 14 one-minute video clips of everyday road scenes with at least one developing hazard (one clip has two). A developing hazard is a situation that requires you to adjust speed or direction. To revise, you can use the Official Guide to Hazard Perception app on your phone/tablet, PC/Mac computer, or interactive DVD. Practice online for a mock test. As you watch the clips, click the mouse when you see a hazard developing. Don't cheat by clicking non-stop or in a pattern. You won't be able to review or change your answers. To pass, you need 44 out of 75 points. There's a three-minute break between tests, allowing time to practice the system and read instructions before starting. You must pass both theory and hazard perception to pass the full test. Your theory test result will be available at reception when you leave the centre. When you pass, you'll receive a pass certificate and a number for your practical driving test. You have up to two years to pass your practical test; otherwise, retake the theory test. If you need to try again, wait at least three days and check your results breakdown to identify areas for study. Ensure all materials are up-to-date and DVSA-approved from the Safe Driving for Life website or book shops/online retailers. The Learner Driving Guide will support your learning journey, providing valuable driving knowledge and skills. You may practice with a friend or family member but consider professional instruction. When choosing an instructor, ensure they are qualified according to DVSA guidelines and display 'L' plates on the vehicle. The DVSA's performance evaluation criteria for driving instructors reveals that only about 31% of tested instructors achieved a Grade A, indicating sufficient competence. The remaining 69% received either a Grade B or lower. When inquiring about an instructor's credentials, it is essential to review their form from the senior examiner and look at the 'notes of improvement.' Word-of-mouth testimonials, such as those found on Google and Yell, can provide valuable insights into an instructor's reputation. Social media reviews, like those on Facebook and Instagram, may also offer helpful feedback from previous clients. A qualified instructor should not only possess a good understanding of The Highway Code but also extensive experience in teaching driving skills. Prior knowledge and familiarity with the Learner Driving Guide can accelerate learning and save time and money. Ultimately, the decision to hire a driving instructor depends on various factors. One must consider their schedule, local location, and individual needs, as well as finding an instructor who suits their learning style. To improve your driving skills, it's essential to invest time and money in regular lessons with a good instructor. Ideally, these sessions should be two hours long, providing continuity and allowing for varied experiences on different roads and weather conditions. As you progress, your instructor will take you to multiple locations, driving at various speeds and in different situations, such as nighttime or rain. This exposure is crucial for developing your skills. Before taking the practical test, book it well in advance and only attempt it when you feel truly ready. The cost of the test is currently £62.00. On the day of the test, consider having a driving lesson or practice beforehand to boost your confidence. Don't forget to bring your provisional license and theory test certificate. The practical test itself lasts about 40 minutes and consists of five parts: eyesight check, 'show me, tell me' questions, general driving ability, reversing, and independent driving. While mistakes can occur, it's essential to show the examiner how you would safely correct any errors. In some cases, a supervisor may join the examiners, but they are only monitoring their performance, not yours. After the test, the examiner will inform you of your result at the Test Centre and provide a certificate if you pass. You'll require surrendering your learner's permit in order to proceed.