

Driving Assessment.

Candidates would need to present themselves with a road worthy vehicle suitable for the test.

The session would start with a licence and eyesight check to the current standard of reading in good daylight (with the aid of glasses or contact lenses if worn) of a registration mark fixed to a motor vehicle and containing letters and figures 79.4 millimetres high at a distance of 20.5 metres (or 20 metres for new style number plates).

Cabology questions will be asked to ascertain the candidate's knowledge for maintaining a safe vehicle for the road and sustaining a safe environment for fare-paying passengers. (Please see below for example questions). Drivers will also be questioned on the Highway Code. Failure to answer all questions correctly will count as one driving fault.

The driving element of the session would last approximately 50 minutes with drivers assessed on their ability to demonstrate a level of skill associated with a professional driver who is accepting payment from fare-paying passengers. The purpose of the session is to ensure that the driver is able to demonstrate a competent and considerate drive and is not a source of danger to themselves, members of the public or their passengers.

Sympathetic use of the controls would be expected, with correct gear selection, braking and use of steering all taken into consideration.

The test will include one manoeuvre where the candidate will be asked to turn the car around as if passengers have been dropped off and the vehicle needs to return in the opposite direction, to ensure this is carried out safely. Candidates must show they can control the car in a confined space with an adequate level of observation.

The candidate can also expect to carry out an emergency stop, following an agreed command that would be given by the assessor.

During the assessment the candidate would be asked to pull up at the side of the road, at intervals determined by the assessor. This would take into consideration safety for passengers exiting the vehicle and any nearby street furniture that may compromise their safety.

A ten-minute section of the test will be used for an independent drive where the candidate would need to show their ability to follow road signs and markings safely

The candidate would also be asked some sample questions by use of a flip chart regarding the Highway Code.

A pass result would be achieved if a candidate is marked with no more than 9 driving faults and no serious or dangerous faults.

Wheelchair Exercise

If candidates require an assessment for carrying wheelchair passengers this would include safe loading and loading with the chair securely fastened in the vehicle. An extra ten minutes would be needed to incorporate this element.

Pass certificate

Successful candidates would have a e-certificate e-mailed directly to the licencing authority.

All candidates, whether successful or not, would be offered a debrief and a copy of the marking sheet issued at the conclusion of the test.

Example of Cabology questions:

Q: As a licensed taxi driver, what must you carry with you at all times?

A: Cab driver's licence and badge both displayed in a conspicuous place

Q: If you found an item of property left in your cab what would you do with it?

A: Hand it in to a police station within 24 hours.

Q: What is the minimum legal requirement for tyre tread depth?

A: 1.6mm.

Q: If the If the tyre pressures of the vehicle you are driving are 35psi at the front and 40psi at the rear, what would you consider the correct pressure for the spare to be and why?

A: 40psi because it is easier to deflate rather than to inflate a tyre at the roadside.

Q: As a private hire driver what is your main responsibility?

A: The safety and comfort of passengers.

Q: How would you show consideration for passengers alighting from your vehicle?

A: Stop close to the kerb and avoid proximity to obstructions such as trees, street furniture etc. All candidates whether successful or not would be offered a debrief and a copy of the marking sheet issued at the conclusion of the test.