



Part of

**Become a car driving instructor: step by step**  
(<https://www.gov.uk/become-car-driving-instructor>)

## Approved driving instructor (ADI) part 1 test

### 1. Booking your test

You can book your approved driving instructor ([ADI](https://www.gov.uk/adi)) part 1 test (<https://www.gov.uk/book-your-instructor-theory-test>) when your application to start the [ADI](https://www.gov.uk/apply-to-become-a-driving-instructor) qualifying process (<https://www.gov.uk/apply-to-become-a-driving-instructor>) has been accepted.

It's the first of 3 tests you have to pass to qualify as an [ADI](https://www.gov.uk/adi). It's a theory test.

There are 2 parts to the test:

- multiple-choice questions (<https://www.gov.uk/adi-part-1-test/multiple-choice-questions>)
- hazard perception (<https://www.gov.uk/adi-part-1-test/hazard-perception-test>) - a video test about spotting hazards on the road

You book and take them as a single test. You must pass both parts to pass the test.

The [ADI](https://www.gov.uk/adi) part 1 test works differently in Northern Ireland (<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/how-become-approved-driving-instructor-adi>).

### Change or check your test details

You can change the date of your test (<https://www.gov.uk/check-change-cancel-your-instructor-theory-test>) after you've booked it.

You can check your appointment details (<https://www.gov.uk/check-change-cancel-your-instructor-theory-test>) if you've lost your booking confirmation.

### Rebook your test

Rebook your [ADI](https://www.gov.uk/adi) part 1 test (<https://www.gov.uk/book-your-instructor-theory-test>) if you failed your test and want to resit it. You have to choose a date at least 3 working days after your last test.

## 2. Revision and practice

You can use books and software to revise for the theory test.

### Multiple-choice questions

The questions in the theory test are based on:

- The Highway Code (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code>)

- Know your traffic signs (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/know-your-traffic-signs>)
- Driving - the essential skills (<https://www.safedrivingforlife.info/shop/product/official-dvsa-guide-driving-essential-skills-book>)
- the official theory test for approved driving instructors pack (<https://www.safedrivingforlife.info/shop/product/official-dvsa-theory-test-approved-driving-instructors-pack-dvd-rom>)
- the Driving Instructor's Handbook (<https://www.safedrivingforlife.info/shop/product/driving-instructors-handbook-book>)

Study these to learn the rules and skills you'll be tested on.

You can buy them online or from most high street bookshops.

## Hazard perception test

Buy the official guide to hazard perception (<http://www.safedrivingforlife.info/shop/product/official-dvsa-guide-hazard-perception-dvd-rom-software>) for your PC or Mac to learn hazard perception skills and then test them.

You can buy it online or from most high street bookshops.

## 3. What to take to your test

You must take your UK photocard driving licence to your test.

If you have a licence from Northern Ireland, bring the photocard and paper counterpart licence.

**Your test will be cancelled and you won't get your money back if you don't take the right things with you.**

## Lost your licence

You need to apply for a replacement driving licence (<https://www.gov.uk/apply-online-to-replace-a-driving-licence>) if you lose yours. This could take up to 15 days to arrive.

Rearrange your test (<https://www.gov.uk/check-change-cancel-your-instructor-theory-test>) if you don't get it in time.

## If you have a paper licence

Bring a valid passport as well as your paper licence.

If you don't have a passport, you need to get a photocard licence (<https://www.gov.uk/exchange-paper-driving-licence>).

## Personal belongings

You can't take personal items into the test room with you. This includes things like:

- bags
- earphones
- mobile phones
- watches

You have to store any personal items in a locker.

The test centre staff will check if you have anything with you that could be used to cheat. Your test won't go ahead if you don't let them check.

**It's illegal to cheat at the theory test. You can be sent to prison and banned from driving.**

## 4. Multiple-choice questions

You have 1 hour and 30 minutes to answer 100 multiple-choice questions.

Before the test starts you'll get:

- instructions on how the test works
- the chance to do some practice questions to get used to the screens

### How the test works

There are 25 questions in each of these 4 categories:

- road procedure
- traffic signs and signals, car control, pedestrians and mechanical knowledge
- driving test, disabilities, and the law
- publications and instructional techniques

A question and several possible answers appear on a screen. You have to select the right answer.

### Leaving a question

You can 'flag' questions that you want to come back to later.

### Changing your answers

You can go back to any question to review and change your answer at any point.

### When you've finished

You can finish the multiple-choice questions part when you've answered all of the questions. You don't have to use the full 1 hour and 30 minutes.

You can have a break of up to 3 minutes before the hazard perception test starts.

## 5. Hazard perception test

Before you start the hazard perception test, you'll be shown a video about how it works (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SdQRkmdhwJs>).

You'll then watch 14 video clips. The clips:

- feature everyday road scenes
- contain at least one 'developing hazard' - but one of the clips features 2 developing hazards

You get points for spotting the developing hazards as soon as they start to happen.

## What a 'developing hazard' is

A developing hazard is something that would cause you to take action, like changing speed or direction.

**Example** A car is parked at the side of the road and isn't doing anything. It wouldn't cause you to take action, so it's not a developing hazard.

When you get closer, the car's right-hand indicator starts to flash and it starts to move away. You'd need to slow down, so it's now a developing hazard.

## How the scoring works

You can score up to 5 points for each developing hazard.

To get a high score, click the mouse as soon as you see the hazard starting to develop.

You don't lose points if you click and get it wrong. However, you won't score anything if you click continuously or in a pattern.

You only get one attempt at each clip. You can't review or change your responses.

## 6. Pass mark and test result

You'll get the result at the test centre after taking the test. You must pass both parts to pass the test.

To pass the multiple-choice part, you must get both:

- an overall score of at least 85 out of 100
- at least 20 out of 25 in each of the 4 categories of questions (<https://www.gov.uk/adi-part-1-test/multiple-choice-questions>)

You'll fail if you get an overall score of 85 or higher, but don't score high enough in each of the 4 categories.

To pass the hazard perception part, you need to score at least 57 points out of 75.

## If you pass

You'll get a pass certificate letter if you pass the test. You'll need this when you book and take your approved driving instructor (ADI) part 2 test (<https://www.gov.uk/adi-part-2-test>).

Your pass certificate number lasts for 2 years. You must qualify as an ADI in that time, otherwise you'll have to start the application process again.

## If you fail

You'll get a letter at the test centre. It'll tell you which parts you didn't score enough points on so you know what to practise.

You must book and take the full test (<https://www.gov.uk/book-your-instructor-theory-test>) again.

You have to wait at least 3 working days before taking your test again.

## 7. If you have reading difficulties

When you book your test (<https://www.gov.uk/book-your-instructor-theory-test>) you should say if you have a reading difficulty.

You can then ask for an English voiceover. This lets you hear the test instructions and questions through headphones.

You can hear the questions and possible answers as many times as you like.

### Extra time to take the test

You can ask for more time to do the multiple-choice questions part of the test.

To do this, you must send proof to the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency ([DVSA](#)) that you have a reading difficulty. The proof could be an email or letter from a:

- teacher or other educational professional
- doctor or medical professional

#### **DVSA theory test enquiries**

[customercare@pearson.com](mailto:customercare@pearson.com)

DVSA Theory Test Enquiries

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