

Risk Management: Introduction

Before I go on to talk about each of the competences under Risk Management in more detail. I thought I take a couple of minutes to give you an overview of Risk Management, what it is, what your responsibilities are as the trainer and what is being assessed by the examiner.

So, you need to know that there are two separate aspects to Risk Management. The first is from a safety-critical point of view. So, as the trainer you have responsibility for the safety and well-being of the learner and other road users. The second aspect is that you have the responsibility to train and develop the learner's level of self-awareness, and their awareness and understanding of risk.

So, dealing with the first one. There will be situations when you might need to take physical control of the vehicle by using the dual controls, or steering, to manage a safety-critical incident.

In these situations, if you fail at any point during your Part 3 or Standards Check to deal with a safety issue, then you will instantly fail the assessment. This is marked in the Review Section on the Part 3 and Standards Check marking sheets. You can also watch my training video on the review section of the marking sheet which covers this and the other areas in more detail.

So, make sure you stay alert no matter where the pupil is in their training. At all times during the lesson if you need to take physical action to substantially avoid risk or even a crash, then you must be prepared to take action as and when necessary.

The second aspect is from a training point of view. You have a responsibility to train and develop the learner's level of self-awareness of their performance, their surroundings, and also their awareness and understanding of risk around the actions they take.

When learning to drive the pupil is not immune to responsibility just because they have you next to them. As the driver, they still have responsibilities. This can often be misunderstood or misinterpreted by both the learner, and in some cases, the trainer.

So, at all times, as the trainer you must know what is happening outside of the car, be aware of the surroundings and the way the car is interacting with other road users.

As well as that, you must also be fully aware of what is happening inside the car. What the learner is doing and you need to be managing the level of risk appropriately, alongside developing the learner's own ability to manage driving risk themselves.

Risk is everywhere. We can't eliminate it but we can manage it appropriately. And your role is to help your pupil to take responsibility for their actions and learn to manage the risk so they stay safe after the driving test when you are no longer with them.

Ok, in my next video, I am going to talk about Competence No.1 Under Risk Management which is; Did the trainer ensure the pupil fully understood how the responsibility for risk would be shared? Click on that video and I'll see you soon.