

**DVLA Driver Medical Unit Appraisal Drives.  
Performance levels for DVLA Driver Medical Unit Appraisal Drives.**

**A. Consistently safe and responsible driving**

No faults at all, or:

Fault identified – **not worthy** (not worthy of recording).

- Any **insignificant** deviation from the defined outcome that does not compromise safety or can be a matter of finesse. For example – Dry steering, sequential gear changes, not pressing the button on top of the handbrake when applying it.

Fault identified – **Driving Fault**

- Low Risk - Any **sufficient** deviation from the defined outcome that does **not** compromise safety, or can be a matter of control - to justify a fault being recorded. However, minor lapse(s) in isolated instance(s) allows the overall (or holistic) view of performance to still be assessed at level A.

**B. Safe and responsible driving but with minor lapses – driver development beneficial**

Fault identified – **Driving Fault**

- Low Risk - Any **sufficient** deviation from the defined outcome that does **not** compromise safety, or can be a matter of control - to justify a fault being recorded. A single significant road safety lapse and/or a number of minor lapses occurring within driving will result in level B rating.

It should be noted that for an overall result at level **B** driver development would be beneficial.

**Sixteen or more driving faults (minor lapses)** would result in failure of the Category B official driving test. Within the appraisal drive should a significantly large number minor lapses be committed, the overall assessment would be marked at performance level **C** and the reason explained in the comments box.

**C. Important lapse(s) indicating driver development required to reach the minimum driving standard**

Fault identified – **Serious fault (or lapse)** - entails immediate failure of the Category B official driving test

There can however be occasions when a **specific** driving fault could by constant repetition, be regarded as a serious driving lapse and therefore a significant risk. For example, when a candidate **habitually** fails to take mirror observation when appropriate, or **habitually** displays lack of steering control, or is **habitually** unable to move away without stalling the engine.

A considerable number (minor lapses) committed, within any or all of the areas is sufficient to be considered a **significant** risk and will be regarded as a serious lapse.

- **Road Safety Risk - Significant deviation from the defined outcome with safety, control and/or legal requirement breached.**

**Sixteen or more driving faults (minor lapses)** would result in failure of the Category B official driving test. Within the appraisal drive should a significantly large number minor lapses be committed, the overall assessment would be marked at performance level **C** and the reason explained in the comments box.

NB: DVLA Medical Appraisal drives are not standard licence acquisition novice 'L' tests. During the appraisal drive an important lapse may occur but the **overall** (or holistic) view of the drive may still be assessed at

performance level **B**. However, the candidate should be aware that if the overall result is marked at performance level **C** driver development is recommended.

#### **D. Dangerous action(s) indicating driving is not safe**

**Fault identified – Dangerous fault – (entails immediate failure of the Category B official driving test)**

- **High Road Safety Risk – Extreme deviation from the defined outcome with safety, control and/or legal requirement breached.**
- **Actual Danger - Safety, control and/or legal requirement breached that would have caused actual danger.** For example – the candidate did not take effective observation before emerging at the junction completely misjudged both speed and distance of an approaching vehicle. The examiner had to take appropriate action to avoid a collision.

Examiners, may have to take 'action' when it becomes necessary to do so in the interest of public safety, including their own and that of the candidate. Such intervention may be either verbal\* or physical. An event may be marked **D** without the examiner taking action i.e. if another driver/road user has been forced to take evasive action.

Should any area be marked at performance level **D** the **overall** (holistic) view of the drive will be viewed as compromising road safety to an unacceptable degree and will, therefore, be rated accordingly at level **D** indicating driving is not safe.

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#### **\*Verbal Guidance/Action**

Verbal guidance may be offered during a DVLA Medical Appraisal Drive and will not be considered as verbal 'action', given that the guidance offered was acted upon and remedied within the drive.

However, should the examiner state (comments box) that guidance had been offered but not acted upon, the specific area - and the **overall** result – would only achieve a maximum of level **C** performance. For example: 'Despite guidance candidate continued to drive too close to parked cars', or 'Despite guidance candidate continued throughout the drive to position vehicle too close to centre of road'

Verbal 'action' taken by the examiner in the interest of public safety will result in the specific area being annotated at performance level **D** - and for the **overall** assessment.  
(See **Actual Danger** above)