

DSA ezine for road safety professionals

Theory test questions no longer published

Move to ensure candidates are better prepared for safe driving

As of 23 January, the questions used in real theory tests are no longer exactly the same as the questions published in revision materials such as the Official DSA Theory Test book. The change is designed to ensure learner drivers and riders gain a better understanding of driving theory rather than just learning by rote which options are correct for individual questions.

Announcing the change, Road Safety Minister Mike Penning said:

“By bringing a stop to publication of theory test questions we aim to encourage candidates to prepare by learning each topic area thoroughly rather than just memorising the questions and answers.

“The intention is to improve candidates’ knowledge and understanding of driving theory, so that they are



Testing history

Driving theory tests were first introduced in 1996 as pen and paper exams, replacing the Highway Code questions asked by examiners in the practical test. The results had to be sent out by post.

more able to retain and apply it when they are on the road.”

The format of the test is not changing and the familiar theory test books and software still offer revision questions for candidates to test themselves and assess their progress.

DSA has also launched its first iPhone apps for theory test revision which are available from the iTunes Store.

DSA books, electronic books and software are available from bookshops or can be ordered or downloaded directly from the publishers TSO at www.tsoshop.co.uk/dsa.

Changes to motorcycle licence rules

EU-wide licence rules to improve safety for motorcyclists

Motorcycle licence rules will be changing next year under European legislation governing driving and riding licences.

The EU-wide rules aim to make motorcycling safer by ensuring that riders get experience of riding before they ride more powerful machines.

The new rules, which come into force on 19 January 2013, will mean:

- riders aged 17-19 will be limited to 125cc bikes (category A1)
- riders aged 19-21 will be limited to bikes with a power of up to 46.6bhp - typically around 500cc (category A2)
- from the age of 21 riders can have access to bigger bikes (category A), but only if they have held a category A2 licence for two years
- from the age of 24 riders will be able to opt for direct access to category A (up from the current direct access age of 21)

For full details about which bikes can be used on test and the access requirements for different categories of licence, follow this link: http://assets.dft.gov.uk/dsa/advisor/EU_third_directive_rules_for_moped_and_motorcycles_to_be_used_from_19_Jan_2013.pdf



Compulsory periodic training for examiners

The new European legislation also requires anyone conducting driving and riding tests across the European Union to undertake regular training.

From January 2013, DSA will introduce an updated programme of periodic training for all examiners. Most examiners already undertake regular training, but from next year it will be a strict requirement.

Red tape to be cut for drivers

Department for Transport to amend or scrap 142 regulations

Last April the Government launched **The Red Tape Challenge**, inviting individuals to come forward with suggestions for reducing unnecessary and complicated regulation. As a result of the road transport part of the Red Tape Challenge, the Department for Transport is to scrap or improve 142 road transport regulations.

These include:

- scrapping the regulation requiring motorists to hold a paper counterpart to their driving licence by 2015
- improving the regulation surrounding the notification process for vehicles that are not in use on the road
- only issuing hard-copies of V5C vehicle registration certificates for fleet operators when needed - with the potential for this to be rolled out to private motorists
- introducing a limited exemption from drivers' hours rules so that people who

“Motorists shouldn't have to keep numerous bits of paper just to prove they can drive and have bought insurance – we live in a digital age and we need to embrace that.”

**Justine Greening,
Secretary of State
for Transport**

drive for the Territorial Army in their own time can continue to do so



The Department for Transport is also exploring other proposed changes including:

- removing the need for an insurance certificate
- abolishing the need for drivers to prove they have insurance when applying for tax enabling 600,000 more people to tax their car online
- looking at experience in other countries on driver certificates of professional competence (CPC) - to see if the need for some sectors to have a CPC could be removed

For further information, read the press release: www.dft.gov.uk/news/press-releases/dft-press-20111215.

DVLA calls for vigilance over stolen vehicles

Buyer Beware campaign offers guidance for buyers of second-hand vehicles

DVLA is calling on motorists to be vigilant when buying a used car or bike to avoid being caught out by criminals selling stolen vehicles.

DVLA's Buyer Beware campaign provides advice on which questions to ask about the seller, the

Beware, some dishonest dealers pose as private sellers to offload unsafe and 'clocked' cars. Vehicles can be clocked to reduce their mileage and get a better price

registration certificate (V5C) and the identity of the vehicle.

Here are some things to consider before you see the vehicle:

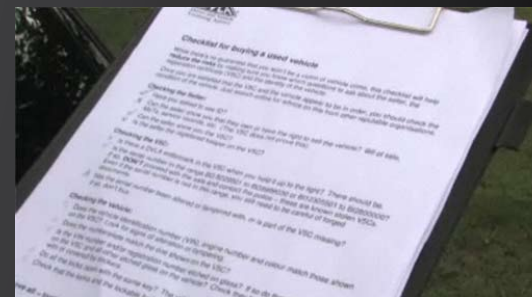
- be careful of mobile phone numbers - owners are hard to trace
- watch out for adverts giving a landline number and times to call - criminals often use phone boxes
- check the market value of the vehicle - if it's offered much cheaper, ask yourself why
- check the vehicle identification number (VIN) and engine number against the registration certificate (V5C) - your main dealer can help you locate them
- arrange to see the vehicle in daylight at the seller's home and not in a public car

park; always consider your personal safety

- ask if the seller is the registered keeper, so you can view at the registered keeper's address (shown on the V5C)
- ask the seller for the registration number, make and model of the vehicle
- ask the seller for the expiry date of the tax disc and the MOT test number
- check whether the vehicle has outstanding finance or has been stolen or written off

For further information on why these checks are important and to download a useful checklist, go to: www.direct.gov.uk/buyer beware.

The ultimate message is - **if in doubt, trust your instincts. If it seems too good to be true, it probably is.**



Government to establish expert panel on drug driving

Expert panel to tackle drug driving laws

The Department for Transport's response to the [North review into drink and drug driving laws](#) made it clear that driving while impaired by drugs is just as important an issue as drink driving.

The report recognised that drug driving can be more difficult to deal with effectively - and said it would examine the case for a new

“Britain has some of the safest roads in the world, but we know how important it is to tackle the menace of drug driving.”

Mike Penning,
Road Safety Minister

specific drug driving offence which would mean the police wouldn't have to prove impairment case by case.

As a result of this, the Department for Transport (DfT) is establishing an expert panel to consider the technical aspects of introducing a new offence of driving with an illegal drug in your body.

The panel will look at how such an offence could be defined and consider whether it's possible to set levels for the impairing effects of specific drugs. The panel will also examine whether impairment levels could be exceeded by use of prescribed or otherwise legally obtained drugs, as well as the effects of

different combinations of drugs or drugs and alcohol.

The expert panel will comprise academic and scientific experts in the field of alcohol and drug misuse and DfT is also working with the Home Office and Department of Health. The panel's terms of reference are under development and likely to be finalised when it has been fully assembled and starts work. This is expected to be in the Spring.

The group's remit will be to provide scientific, evidence-based technical advice, not policy or legal advice. Read the full press release at: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/news/stories/dft-news-20120104>



A round up of this month's news

Changes to criminal record checks

As of 1 February 2012, criminal record checks for both potential and approved driving instructors are being handled by a new contractor, TMG CRB. PDIs will need to contact TMG CRB to answer a number of eligibility questions before being provided with details of how to obtain their disclosure. The process will stay the same for ADIs. TMG CRB can be contacted on **0845 251 5000**.

The Official Highway Code joins Facebook and Twitter

You can now get Official Highway Code reminders via Facebook or Twitter. You can see the posts on Facebook at [facebook.com/HighwayCodeGB](https://www.facebook.com/HighwayCodeGB), or you can get tweets by going to follow [@HighwayCodeGB](https://twitter.com/HighwayCodeGB) on Twitter.

A fairer deal for UK hauliers

Plans have been announced for a lorry road user charging scheme to create a fairer deal for UK hauliers and help maintain the competitiveness of the UK logistics industry. Roads Minister Mike Penning wants UK hauliers to get involved and respond to the consultation which runs until 18 April 2012. You can find the consultation at: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/dft-2012-03/>

New powers for councils to control road works

New powers for councils to control road works have been proposed. Under 'lane rental' schemes, utility companies could be charged £2,500 per day to dig up the busiest roads at peak times. The Department for Transport is looking for three areas to trial the scheme - one metropolitan and two others. Read the full press release at: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/news/press-releases/dft-press-20120126/>

Get in touch

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Information and services for candidates: direct.gov.uk/drivingtest

Information and services for driver and rider trainers: businesslink.gov.uk/adi

Contact details for DSA: dft.gov.uk/dsa/about/contact

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