

Q&A

500 Questions
for driving
instructors



Welcome to our Q&A booklet.

Since 2020 our driving lesson planners have included some questions for each topic for instructors to use or adapt on their driving lessons. It was clear however, that there was a demand from PDIs in particular for a more extensive set of questions as well as some suggested answers.

The questions in this book are intended as suggestions that you can use or adapt. They may hopefully inspire you with thoughts of some other questions of your own that you can use. Some of the questions included are closed questions with limited answers, some are more open ended. I have included some suggested answers to most questions but by no means have I given all possible answers to every question. There is also a section of “deeper” questions designed to provoke more in depth thought and discussion.

Please remember that Q&A can be used for different purposes at different times: sometimes to find out what the client knows, sometimes to promote thinking. Often the aim is to be a starting point for discussion. Often it's also helpful if you are prepared with supplementary questions eg to the question and answer:

“How much clearance should you give to horse riders?”

“At least 2 metres”. You might then ask

*“How much clearance would you want if **you** were riding the horse”,*

I hope you find this book helpful and please make sure to check out other resources at adininja.com such as driving lesson planners, pupil handout templates and reflective logs

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Cockpit Checks

- **Whose responsibility is it for a passenger's door to be closed properly?**

The driver

- **How can you check that all the doors are properly closed?**

Use door mirrors to see if door is lined up, listen to door closing

- **How can you judge that the seat is in the correct position?**

Depress clutch, leg should be slightly bent, not a stretch

- **Why would you not want to be positioned too far from the steering wheel?**

Harder to control the steering wheel

- **Why should you adjust your mirrors before moving off?**

Need to be able to see in mirrors correctly before moving. Potential for loss of control of vehicle if adjusting mirrors on the move

- **How do you judge your mirrors to be in the correct position?**

Interior - see whole of back window, see edge of headrest/your eyes and ears. Exterior - side of car/end of road

- **Why should you familiarise yourself with the controls of a car you have never driven before prior to moving off?**

Not safe to find out while on the move/distraction

Cockpit Checks

- **What might happen if you try to adjust the mirrors while the car is moving?**

May lose control of steering, loss of focus on what's ahead

- **Who is legally responsible for passengers wearing seat belts?**

Over 14 the passenger, under 14 the driver

- **What might happen if a rear passenger is not wearing a seat belt?**

Injury to them, injury to front seat passengers

- **Who is responsible for children wearing the appropriate restraint?**

Under 14 = the driver

- **How can you ensure the wind does not catch your door when opening it?**

Dutch reach, keeping hold of handle as you open it

- **Why is it important that your head restraint is correctly adjusted?**

To avoid neck and back injury if in a collision

- **Which road users may be particularly at risk if you open your door without looking?**

Cyclists, motorcyclists, pedestrians

- **How often do you think you should check your mirrors?**

As part of MSPSL, frequently so that you always know what is behind you and to the sides

Mirrors

- **What do you think “effective use” of mirrors mean?**
Not just looking but seeing and acting on it; Look - Assess - Decide - Act
- **How often do you think you should check the mirrors?**
Enough to be continually aware of what is behind, before changing speed, direction, hazards, MSPSL
- **When must you use the interior mirror?**
As above
- **When must you use the exterior mirrors?**
As above especially if moving to left or right use that door mirror
- **Why does using the mirrors come first in the MSPSL routine?**
To assess whether it is safe to do what you intend to do and then when you know it's safe then signalling your intention
- **What are you looking for in the mirrors?**
Anything that may be affected by what you intend to do or may need to do; cars, vans, cyclists, motorcyclists etc
- **Why do vehicles look further away in the door mirror?**
It is shaped to give you a wider angle view. Wider angle makes things look further away
- **Does looking in the mirrors automatically mean you know what is there?**
No. You can look without seeing.
- **Why is it not enough that you look in your mirrors to see what is there?**
You need to assess the situation and decide what action, if any, is required

Mirrors

- **Give an example when what you see in your mirrors may change what you plan to do**

Motorcyclist overtaking, cyclist going past on your left in traffic at a junction etc etc

- **Why would you check mirrors after you have turned a corner?**

To see what the situation is in the new road eg vehicles that have turned in after you

- **What do you understand by the term “blind spot”?**

Any area that you cannot normally see eg over your shoulder or the A pillar, B pillar

- **If you are turning right into a side road why should you particularly check your right hand door mirror?**

Cyclists, motorcyclists, other vehicles

- **Why might the drivers of lorries find it harder to see what is behind them?**

Because they have no interior mirror. Traffic behind is further away due to the size of their vehicle

- **Why should you check your left door mirror when pulling away at traffic lights?**

Cyclists, motorcyclists

- **What dangers could be caused by the fact that things look further away in the door mirrors?**

Misjudge distance, misjudge if safe to pull out to overtake etc

- **Why might use of mirrors be especially important if you are driving a lorry or van?**

Usually they have no interior mirror

Pedals

BRAKE & GAS

- **What would be the effect of pushing firmly on the accelerator when no gear is engaged?**
Engine revs up
- **What are the reasons for progressive braking?**
Smooth steady controlled stop
- **Why must you check the mirrors before you accelerate or brake?**
In case what is behind affects whether it is safe to change speed eg someone about to overtake or following too close
- **Why could driving in bare feet be less safe?**
May mean less control of pedals especially in emergency
- **What effect could your choice of footwear have on your control of the pedals?**
Heavy thick soles etc can make it harder to feel pedals
- **What could happen if you brake harshly?**
Danger of skidding
- **What could happen if you accelerate very quickly?**
Wheel spin, lack of control
- **In what ways may trainers be good or bad for driving in?**
Good = comfortable, bad = thick cushion sole means harder to judge pressure on pedals
- **Why should you not have your foot on the gas when starting the engine?**
Engine will rev excessively

CLUTCH

- **How do you know when you are at the biting point?**
Sound of engine, feel of car wanting to go, front of car rises
- **What does “riding the clutch” mean?**
Driving with foot resting on the clutch
- **What is “coasting” and why can it be unsafe?**
Driving for unnecessary period with clutch down or in neutral
- **What will happen if you release the clutch too quickly?**
Car stalls, jolts or jumps
- **What is “stalling” and why does it happen?**
Bringing clutch up too far or too quickly, being in wrong gear
- **What dangers can be caused by stalling?**
Vehicles behind having to stop, blocking a junction
- **What should you do if you stall?**
Depends on vehicle - auto restart / clutch down turn key
- **Why is it bad for the clutch to rest your foot on the clutch pedal?**
Causes wear to clutch
- **Why should your left foot only be used for the clutch and not the brake?**
Because you need to be able to depress the brake and clutch at the same time

Gears

- **What is the difference between a manual and automatic car?**

Manual you have to change gears, automatic does it itself and so doesn't need a clutch

- **What will happen if you are in too high a gear for your speed?**

Car will struggle, lack of acceleration, lack of power

- **How do you know when you need to change gear?**

Sound of engine, rev counter

- **If you accidentally select the wrong gear what should you normally do?**

Calmly select correct gear when safe

- **How would you know that you have selected the wrong gear?**

Sound of engine, lack of acceleration

- **If your car is struggling to have enough acceleration for a hill what should you do?**

Select a lower gear

- **What are the dangers of coasting in neutral?**

Unable to respond quickly to need for speed change

- **Why do cars only have one gear for reverse?**

You only need to be able to go at slow speeds when reversing, so only one gear needed

Gears

- **Why is using the correct gear more eco friendly?**
Correct gear means less work for the engine and so it uses less fuel
- **What will happen if you try to change gear without putting the clutch down?**
Grinding sound from gears and potential damage to the gear box
- **Why might it be appropriate to leave the car in gear when parking?**
If parking brake fails on a hill, being in gear will stop the car from rolling
- **What might happen if you look down at the gear stick when changing gears?**
Lose steering control, lose focus on what's ahead
- **Why should you not keep your hand on the gear stick between gear changes?**
Potential loss of steering control in emergency
- **How can listening to the engine help you with gear changes?**
The engine note changes. If the sound is very low or very high it means you are in the wrong gear
- **Why should you familiarise yourself with the gears before driving a different car?**
5th gear and reverse gear can be in different positions in different cars. The feel of gearbox may be different. Some cars have 6 gears.

Automatics & EVs

- **What is the difference between a manual and automatic car?**

Manual you have to change gears, automatic does it itself and so doesn't need a clutch

- **What are the dangers associated with automatic car "creep" at junctions?**

Danger of car creeping out without you intending

- **Why are automatic cars considered easier to drive?**

No clutch, no need to think about gear changes, no stalling, no need to find the biting point, hill starts are easier

- **What should you do if you want the car to go very slow but it is going too fast even though you are not using gas?**

Use the brake to slow down

- **What would be advantages or disadvantages of taking the car out of drive when stopped at traffic lights.?**

Advantage - car doesn't want to creep forward.

Disadvantage - not so ready to start moving forward when the lights change

- **What disadvantages are you aware of with electric vehicles?**

They can be silent, so people don't hear them approach.

Limited range on one full charge. Charging is slower than refilling with fuel.

Automatics & EVs

- **Why are hill starts easier in an automatic car than in a car with a manual gear box?**

No need to find the biting point, less danger of rolling back

- **Why are electric vehicles considered more environmentally friendly?**

They do not use petrol or diesel and do not produce emissions during journeys

- **What disadvantages are there with electric vehicles?**

Lack of charging points, limited range

- **If you were going on a long journey, beyond the range of your electric vehicle what would you do?**

Plan stopping points on the route where you can rest and recharge the battery.

- **Regenerative braking means that electric vehicles charge the battery in the process of slowing down - what are the pros and cons of this?**

Saves electricity, increases range, changes the handling of the car when slowing down

- **How can you ensure that you have enough charge for a long journey in an EV?**

Plan your journey, be aware of the location of charging points along your route, charge the car fully before setting off

Steering

- **Why might looking down when changing gear cause problems?**
Less steering control, not seeing potential dangers
- **Where should you be looking when steering?**
Medium distance ahead, but constantly scanning further ahead and to the sides
- **What are the potential problems with crossing your hands over when steering?**
Less steering control.
- **When might steering one handed cause a problem?**
At any time less steering control, when needing to take quick action to deal with an unexpected situation
- **What does “power steering” do?**
It makes it easier to steer with less effort
- **Why should you not steer while the car is stationary?**
Damage to steering mechanism, wear to tyres
- **What is the optimum position to hold the steering wheel and why do you think this?**
Advantages of ten and two position - good control, easy to respond and turn either way
- **What does “full lock” mean?**
To turn the steering wheel as far as it will go in any one direction
- **Why would it be unhelpful to grip the steering wheel very hard?**
Less control and ability to adjust steering.

Parking Brake

- **What are the potential dangers of using the parking brake to stop the car?**

It's harder to control the amount of braking

- **Why would you use the parking brake when stopped temporarily on a hill?**

To avoid rolling back

- **How could you tell if you have not fully released the parking brake?**

Audible warning, car stalls, car moves slowly

- **If you are only stopped momentarily at a junction why might it be better not to use the parking brake?**

It takes longer to pull away

- **If you are on a flat road and waiting in a queue of vehicles what might happen if you don't use the handbrake or the foot brake?**

Car might start to roll without you realising, danger of being pushed forwards if another car comes into you from behind

- **What happens if you do not release the handbrake fully when pulling away?**

Car may stall or struggle to pull away. Audible warning will sound

- **What benefits or disadvantages may there be with cars with an electronic handbrake compared to a traditional one?**

Easier/harder to apply, easier/harder to tell if it has been applied

Giving Signals

- **What is the purpose of giving signals?**
To warn others of your intentions
- **What should we do before we signal?**
Check mirrors
- **Describe some different ways that we can give signals**
Indicators, arm signals, hazards, flashing lights, horn, brake lights, reversing light
- **Give an example of what a misleading signal might be**
Signalling before the 1st turning when you intend to take the 2nd
- **Why should we not wave for pedestrians to cross the road?**
They may think it's safe to cross when it isn't
- **When should we use hazard lights?**
Unavoidably causing obstruction, slowing because of hazard ahead
- **What problems would be caused if our brake lights were not working?**
People behind don't know we are slowing down
- **Why should we usually put ourselves straight into reverse gear when we intend to reverse**
So that people see our reversing lights and so will know our intention
- **Why might giving an arm signal to say that you intend to slow down or stop help pedestrians at a crossing?**
They cannot see your brake lights, so this would be the only way that they could be made aware of your intention

Giving Signals

- **How can someone's road position act as a kind of signal?**
eg at T junction if positioned to the right then probably turning right
- **How might checking your mirrors affect your giving a signal?**
If turning right and vehicle about to overtake may be best to wait
- **Why do the indicators not always cancel themselves?**
If the steering wheel does not turn fully back
- **Why do indicators sometimes cancel themselves when we don't want them to?**
Steering the wheel to the position where they cancel
- **How do we know that our indicators are operating?**
Sound, dashboard light
- **What does it mean if someone flashes their headlights?**
Highway code - warning of their presence although they may be intending to say that you can go first, pedestrian can cross, greet their friend etc
- **What arm signal can we give to tell people we intend to slow down or stop?**
Right arm out of window waved steadily up and down
- **What might make giving arm signals difficult?**
You would need to wind down your window. Removing one hand from the steering wheel may affect steering control or use of other hand controls

Moving Off

- **Which gear is usually most appropriate for moving off?**
First
- **What might happen if you try to move off in the wrong gear?**
Stall or lack of acceleration
- **What should you do if you start to roll backwards when pulling away?**
Ease clutch up, or apply brake depending on circumstances
- **Why must you check your mirrors before moving off?**
To see if it is safe to pull away
- **What are you looking for in your mirrors?**
Other road users, vehicles overtaking, speed of approach of traffic from behind
- **What might happen if you don't check the blind spots?**
Could be a road user eg overtaking that you could not see in mirrors
- **At what stage should you release the parking brake?**
Normally after you have the clutch at the biting point and have checked that it is clear
- **What are your blind spots in a car?**
Anywhere that your view is obstructed, for instance by door or windscreen pillars. Particularly we have to be aware of the blind spot over our right shoulder which may not be covered adequately by our mirrors

Moving Off

- **What is your normal road position after moving off?**
A half to two thirds of a metre from the edge of the carriageway
- **Why is it important to check the mirrors again after moving off?**
In case the situation behind has changed
- **How will you decide whether to signal?**
Whether it helps other road users
- **What would you do differently for moving off uphill or at an angle?**
Uphill = clutch up more, angle = keep car slow and plenty of steering
- **If you are moving off in a busy shopping area what should you particularly look out for?**
Pedestrians, buses, mobility scooters
- **Why is a signal not always necessary when moving off?**
If there is no one there to see it or no one likely to see it then it is not necessary
- **What should you do if you can't see out of your back window because it is misted up?**
Use demister and wait till it's cleared
- **If you started to move off but then realised it was not safe, what would you do?**
Assess the safest option. It may well be best to stop. However, stopping suddenly could cause a dangerous situation. So - assess, decide on the best course of action and then act on it

Pulling Up On The Left

- **Why is it usually better to pull up on the left than the right?**
Potential problem of oncoming traffic when pulling up on the right and pulling away, blinding people at night, seeing if it is clear to pull away
- **Why is it important to check the mirrors before pulling up?**
In case there is someone close behind
- **When will it be necessary to give a signal?**
If someone will benefit from it
- **If there is a vehicle behind you is it normally still ok to pull up?**
Yes as long as it is safe (discuss)
- **Describe some situations where it would not be safe to pull up on the left**
Too near junction, near a very sharp bend etc
- **Describe some situations where it would not be lawful to pull up on the left**
Zig zags at pedestrian crossing, yellow lines, on a clearway, in a bus stop etc
- **Describe some situations where it might not be convenient to pull up on the left**
Blocking road eg traffic island/parked cars on right.
Obstructing others
- **What would you do if you wanted to pull up at the side of the road but cannot find a safe, convenient, lawful place?**
Continue until you can find somewhere suitable

Pulling Up On The Left

- **When might a signal be confusing and what could be the result?**

eg intending to pull up on left after a side road and signalling before the side road

- **When might it be necessary to change gear before stopping?**

When stopping on a hill and needing to creep forward to a better position

- **What do we mean by 'progressive braking'?**

Gradually increasing pressure on brake to steadily slow down

- **What could be the result of putting the clutch down too soon or too late?**

Too soon = coasting - so less control, too late = stall or almost stall

- **How can you secure the car safely on a hill?**

Parking brake, turn wheels towards kerb, leave the car in gear

- **Where would you be allowed to pull up on a red route?**

In a marked bay

- **Why should you not park in a bus stop, even for a few minutes?**

Because you may cause delay to buses wanting to pull in to the bus stop

- **Why shouldn't you park on the pavement?**

It may make it unsafe for pedestrians especially children and the partially sighted

Angled & Hill Starts

- **What are the particular difficulties you may face when pulling out at an angle - for instance from behind a parked car?**

Being able to see ahead, pulling on to the wrong side of the road, steering and speed control

- **How can you maintain a slow speed while pulling out?**

Clutch control (manual). Using the brake (auto)

- **What should you do if you start going too fast when pulling out?**

Squeeze clutch down (manual), brake more firmly (auto)

- **What should you do when pulling out if your view is obstructed by a parked vehicle?**

Pull out slowly, keep looking as you move (look, assess decide, act), give a signal

- **How will your steering compare when pulling out from behind a parked car compared to normal moving off?**

Will need faster steering, more steering, more steering back

- **How much space will you need in front of you to be able to pull out without reversing first**

Depending on your vehicle, normally just less than ½ car length

- **How might lack of confidence affect you when doing a hill start?**

Fear of rolling back, fear of making a mistake, fear of stalling and holding people back etc may make you doubt yourself and your ability

Angled & Hill Starts

- **Why could giving a signal be especially helpful when pulling out at an angle?**

Signalling to people who you can't see

- **What are the challenges with a hill start?**

Avoiding rolling back, feeling the pressure to not roll back, having the clutch up enough but not stalling. Doing everything that is needed with the pedals as well as observations at the same time

- **Why might you roll backwards on a hill?**

Clutch not up high enough (biting point)

- **How will you know when the clutch is sufficiently high on the biting point on a hill?**

Feel the car wanting to pull

- **What will happen if you bring the clutch up too much or too quickly?**

The car may jolt, jerk or stall

- **What will happen if your clutch is not up enough?**

The car will roll back

- **What should you do if you start rolling backwards on a hill?**

Slightly rolling = ease clutch up, badly rolling = apply brake

- **What will you need to do with the gas when doing a hill start?**

Use more gas

- **Why may people worry about stalling?**

Worry about holding up people behind, fear of what other people may think of you

Emerging at T Junctions

- **Why are some junctions “stop” junctions and some “give way”?**

Give way junctions where it may be safe to keep moving.
Stop junctions where view is obstructed eg on a bend and it is going to be necessary to stop to assess if it's safe to go.

- **What tells you that a junction is a “stop” junction?**

Stop sign, stop line

- **What does a “give way” line at a junction mean?**

Give way to traffic on the major road, you do not have to stop if you can see it is clear both ways to emerge

- **Why do some junctions have a “stop” line?**

Where visibility is difficult and it will be necessary to stop to see if it is clear

- **What tells you that a junction is a “stop” or “give way” junction?**

Road signs and road markings

- **What might you see in your left door mirror that may affect you at a T junction?**

Cyclists or motorcyclists coming up on the left

- **When should you emerge if a vehicle on your right is signalling to turn left into your road?**

When you can see it is turning. Beware of traffic that may be behind the vehicle

- **If you are stopping at a T Junction why is it normally important to get right up to the line?**

Gives you better visibility, if you start short of the line it will take you longer to emerge

Emerging at T Junctions

- **What should you do if pedestrians are waiting to cross the road?**
Highway code rules - be willing to allow them to cross
- **Why must you look left as well as right before emerging when turning left?**
Traffic on wrong side of road - passing parked vehicles/overtaking, other obstructions
- **Which road users might be particularly vulnerable at T-junctions?**
Pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists
- **Where might cyclists stop at a T Junction?**
On left or right
- **What could you do if you are stopped at a stop or give way junction and cannot see due to obstructions?**
Creep forward - peep and creep
- **What are the particular dangers with emerging from a T-Junction on a bend?**
Difficulty in seeing approaching traffic
- **When emerging right, what may happen if you steer too early or too quick?**
May find yourself positioned too close to the middle of the road
- **When waiting to emerge, and a vehicle on your right is signalling to turn left into your road, why might it not be safe to emerge?**
Could be an incorrect signal, may be other vehicles behind it that you cannot see

Turning Left & Right

- **Why is it important to check your mirrors first?**
What you see may affect whether it is safe to do what you want to do
- **What are you looking for in your left mirror when turning left?**
Cyclists and motorcyclists
- **What problems could be caused by signalling too soon or too late?**
Too soon - may be confusing. Too late other road users may need to react suddenly
- **What problems may be caused by approaching too quickly or too slowly?**
Too quick - may surprise others, less control of car, less time to observe, rushed gear change. Too slow - annoying others, confusing others - maybe you're intending to pull up before the junction?
- **How do you decide the correct gear to use?**
Depending on your vehicle, generally: 10mph+ 2nd gear, less than 10mph 1st gear, normal corner 2nd gear, sharp corner/hill/narrow road - 1st gear
- **What must you look out for before you turn into the new road?**
Pedestrians, obstructions
- **What should you do after you have turned in to the new road?**
Check your mirrors

Turning Left & Right

- **If it is hard to see the entrance to the road you wish to turn into what clues can help you to judge where it is?**
Gap in houses, lamp post opposite, hazard lines
- **What should you do if pedestrians are waiting to cross the road you are turning into?**
Allow them to cross
- **What dangers are there in overtaking a cyclist before turning left?**
You will be going too slow down to turn
- **Why should you not coast around a corner?**
Less control of the speed of the car
- **Why should you position yourself in the middle of a filter lane?**
To give enough room for traffic passing
- **When might it be appropriate to use 3rd gear when turning left from a major road to a minor road?**
When it is a gradual corner that you can take at a faster speed
- **What might you consider about the position of larger vehicles**
They may need to swing wide to get a better angle for the corner
- **What may happen if you take the corner too fast?**
May swing out too wide into oncoming traffic, may clip kerb in attempting to compensate, less time to observe pedestrians

Crossroads

- **What might you see as you approach that tells you there is a crossroads?**
Road sign, road markings, hazard markings
- **How do you deal with a situation where both you and the oncoming traffic are turning right?**
Where possible turn offside to offside, but you may need to do nearside to nearside if the junction is narrow, or let the other vehicle go first
- **Why might it be appropriate to slow down even if you are on the major road going straight ahead?**
Possibility of someone pulling out
- **What might suggest that someone is giving an incorrect signal?**
If their speed or road positioning doesn't match their signal
- **What would you do if you are waiting at the give way line and another vehicle flashes their headlights?**
If you are sure they are waiting for you, proceed carefully, but don't assume someone flashing their lights means that you can go
- **Why might it be unsafe to emerge even if another driver beckons you to go first?**
They may not be waving to you, they may not be able to see that it's not safe
- **If there are two lanes which lane will you normally use for ahead?**
Left lane

Crossroads

- **What should you do if pedestrians are waiting to cross?**

Allow them to cross

- **Why should you not wave or beckon pedestrians to cross?**

You may be beckoning them into danger, there may be a danger you cannot see

- **What is the purpose of a box junction?**

To stop junctions getting blocked by stationary traffic

- **When may you stop in a box junction?**

When turning right and your exit is blocked by oncoming traffic

- **If you are intending to turn left and approaching traffic is signalling to their right, who would you expect to go first?**

You, but be aware of what the other driver may do

- **Why can making eye contact with the other driver be helpful?**

Helps you to judge their intentions, and they know that you've seen them

- **When facing oncoming traffic and you both have a give way line, what clues may help you predict what the other driver intends to do?**

Edging forward, looking rapidly left and right to judge traffic, looking at you

- **If there are stop lines at a crossroads junctions, but you are able to see that it is clear before you stop, is it okay to carry on without stopping?**

No, you must stop at a stop line even if it is clear

Traffic Lights

- **What are the benefits of having traffic lights at junctions?**
Safety, improved traffic flow
- **What is the sequence of lights?**
Red, red/amber, green, amber, red
- **If the lights are red what comes next and what does it mean?**
Red/amber. Prepare to go but wait till green
- **Why should you use your parking brake at traffic lights?**
If stopped for more than a few seconds. What might happen if a vehicle collides with you, foot slipping off brake, brake lights
- **If you have crossed the stop line and the lights change from green what should you do?**
Keep going if safe
- **When waiting at a red light how can you anticipate when your lights may be about to change?**
Watch the other traffic, watch the other lights
- **What is a traffic light filter arrow and what does it mean?**
You can go in that direction as long as it is safe
- **What should you do when approaching green traffic lights?**
Keep reassessing as to whether you would have time to stop if the lights change, check your mirrors
- **If, when turning left at traffic lights, there is a give way line after the stop line, what does this mean?**
Even though you have a green light, you must still look and give way to other traffic

Traffic Lights

- **Why is turning right offside to offside the safer option?**
It is easier to see oncoming traffic
- **When may you need to turn nearside to nearside?**
When road markings tell you to, in response to the position of other vehicles, the width of the road/junction
- **If you are turning right at traffic lights and your way is blocked by oncoming traffic where should you stop?**
Usually offside to offside, not blocking others
- **If at a junction with traffic lights, the lights are not working what should you do?**
Proceed with caution, don't assume priority
- **If at a traffic light junction you are in a lane that is only for turning left, why might a left signal still be helpful?**
Other road users may not know that lane is for left turning only
- **If you find yourself in the wrong lane at traffic lights what should you do?**
Go the way that your lane is for
- **Where might cyclists stop at traffic lights?**
Advanced stop line, on left, middle or right of the lane
- **If you are turning right at traffic lights and your light is green, but your way is blocked by oncoming vehicles, where should you normally wait? What are the advantages/disadvantages of this position?**
Normally move up to an appropriate position in the middle of the junction. Advantage - when there is a space or the lights change you are in a better position to proceed. Disadvantage - you may be worried (wrongly) that you will block the junction when the lights change

Roundabouts

- **Why do you think we have roundabouts?**
Improve traffic flow, safety
- **What would your normal signalling be approaching roundabouts?**
For left signal left, for ahead don't signal, for right signal right
- **At a normal roundabout with three exits which lane would you normally use on approach for going straight ahead?**
Left
- **What types of vehicles might be slower at roundabouts?**
Lorries, buses, vans, tractors, cyclists etc
- **What vehicles may be harder to see at roundabouts?**
Cyclists, motorcyclists
- **What should you do if you miss your exit at a roundabout?**
Assess whether it is safest to stay on the roundabout and go all the way round or take the next exit and find another route
- **What should you do if you are in the wrong lane approaching the roundabout?**
Take the exit which you are in the correct lane for
- **Why might cyclists keep in the left lane when turning right at roundabouts?**
It's safer for them not to cross lanes
- **Why might cyclists give correct signals at roundabouts?**
They may need to prioritise control of their steering

Roundabouts

- **When might a lorry need to take up a different position to normal at a roundabout?**

To give more room to steer

- **What factors can help you to predict which exit a vehicle will be taking at a roundabout?**

Signal, road position, speed, where it has come from, direction of travel, angle of wheels

- **When should you signal to leave a roundabout?**

As you pass the previous exit

- **Where should you look before signalling to leave a roundabout and why?**

Left door mirror. Possibility of motorcyclists and other vehicles

- **Which road users may use a different lane at roundabouts than car drivers?**

Cyclists, horse riders

- **When might you use 3rd gear on a roundabout?**

Larger roundabouts when you can go at faster speeds

- **What should you be aware of regarding motorbikes and roundabouts?**

They can accelerate more quickly, can go faster, may be hidden from view, are harder to see, more likely to pass other vehicles

- **When moving into the left lane on a roundabout, why might it be better to look out of the left passenger window rather than fully over your left shoulder?**

Potential for less control of the steering, potential for not giving enough attention ahead if looking over shoulder when moving

Mini Roundabouts

- **How do you identify a mini roundabout ahead?**
Blue circular sign with three white arrows, road markings
- **What does the road sign look like at a mini roundabout?**
Blue circular sign with three white arrows
- **What are the rules as to who has priority at mini roundabouts?**
Give way to the right
- **In what circumstances might it be appropriate to drive over the central white marking?**
When it is difficult to get round, for example a larger vehicle
- **What might you need to be aware of when large vehicles are turning at a mini roundabout?**
They may take a different road position to normal. They may need to go slower to get round.
- **Why might drivers get confused about priorities at mini roundabouts?**
It's not so obvious sometimes as to who is on the right. When different vehicles are all waiting for someone on their right.
- **If the mini roundabout road markings are worn out, how will you know it is a mini roundabout?**
Blue circular sign with three white arrows in a circle at the mini roundabout
- **If it's clear to the right is it definitely safe to go?**
No. There could be a vehicle on your left who pulls out even though you have priority.

Mini Roundabouts

- **Why would it be acceptable not to signal your intention to leave a mini roundabout?**

Insufficient time, need to control steering, obvious where you are going

- **What are the dangers of doing a U-turn at a mini roundabout?**

People may not expect it. Difficult to get round fully in one.

- **What will you do if someone is waiting for the vehicle on their right at each entry to the roundabout?**

If it's safe you can go but keep checking the vehicle to your right. Make eye contact

- **If someone flashes their lights while you are waiting at a mini roundabout what would you do?**

Make sure that it is safe and that they are definitely waiting for you before deciding to proceed

- **Why might a vehicle swing to the left on approach to a mini roundabout when using it to make a U Turn?**

To make it a bigger circle to enable them to get round in one

- **What colour and shape is a mini roundabout road sign?**

Blue, circular

- **What type of vehicle might swing to the left when turning right at a mini roundabout?**

Any larger vehicle such as a lorry or a bus

One Way Streets

- **How will you know that the road you are in is one way?**
Road signs, road markings. Also a clue is that it is likely that all parked vehicles will be pointing the same way
- **Why is it important to get into the correct lane in good time in a one way street?**
Other traffic won't expect you to change lane at the last moment and it may not be safe to do so
- **What should you be aware of when moving to a lane on your left or right in a one way street?**
Traffic overtaking on either side
- **What should you do if you find yourself in the wrong lane on a one way street or one way system?**
Assess whether it is safe to change lane or if it is best to continue in the direction for the lane you are in
- **In addition to using mirrors, where can you look to make sure it's safe to change lanes?**
Side window but not a full blind spot check
- **Why might another road user be in the wrong lane for where they are going on a one way street?**
Don't realise it's one way, don't realise which lane they should be in, unfamiliar with the area
- **If you are in a one way system and find you are in the wrong lane, how would you decide what to do?**
Assess the situation. If it's clearly safe to change into the correct lane using MSPSL then do so. But if it's not safe then continue in your lane and find an alternative route

One Way Streets

- **What should you be aware of at a junction at the end of a one way street?**

Need to be in the correct position in the road eg on the right for turning right. Other people may not take up the correct position

- **When turning out of a road that is one way, how can you tell if the road you are turning in to is also one way?**

Look for road signs, road markings, other traffic

- **How should you select your road position on a one way street?**

Correct lane for where you are ultimately going eg if turning right then position yourself on the right side of the road

- **If you are driving on the right hand side of the road in a one way street what might you be especially aware of?**

Traffic passing on your left

- **What does the road sign look like that tells you a two way road is crossing a one way street?**

Triangle containing two horizontal arrows

- **Why might someone drive the wrong way in a one way street?**

They didn't realise it's one way because they didn't see road signs, turned out of a driveway, road ahead blocked and decided to do a u-turn

- **When might you have traffic coming towards you in a one way street?**

Where there is a contraflow bus, cycle, taxi lane

Anticipation & Awareness

- **Where should you normally be looking when you are driving?**
Scanning near mid and far distance and to the sides as well as mirror checks
- **What could go wrong if you are just focused on one hazard?**
May fail to see another hazard. Loss of steering control if you are not looking adequately at where you are going
- **What examples can you think of where using what you can see can help you to predict what you can't yet see?**
Road signs and markings, dustbins out - bin day, ball in the road - children etc
- **How do road signs help you with anticipation?**
Triangle - warning. Direction signs - there is a junction
- **Who do you think are the most vulnerable road users?**
Hierarchy of road users - pedestrians, horse riders, cyclists, motorcyclists. Motability scooters. Children. Elderly.
- **What should you do when approaching a junction and a pedestrian is waiting to cross?**
Allow them to cross
- **If someone is standing at a pelican crossing but the lights are green, what should you do?**
Anticipate that the lights may change - continually reassess the situation, check mirrors, ease off gas, but continue if your lights stay green

Anticipation & Awareness

- **If you see dustbins out at the side of the road what might you need to anticipate?**
Dustbin lorry, dustbins/rubbish in the road further on
- **If you are following a bus what should you be anticipating?**
It may shortly stop at a bus stop
- **How can you anticipate that a bus may be pulling up at a bus stop?**
Signalling, people standing up on the bus, people waiting at bus stop ahead
- **How will you know that a bus is about to pull away at a bus stop?**
Brake lights go off. Signal
- **What extra hazards could there be when a bus is at a bus stop?**
Pedestrians stepping out. Impatient drivers overtaking
- **To what extent do you think that dealing with hazards is about quick reactions and to what extent is it about anticipation?**
Anticipation is most important
- **What do you think the phrase “scanning and planning” means?**
Looking everywhere and planning your actions
- **What potential hazards could you anticipate on a country lane?**
Pedestrians in the road, cyclists, animals in the road, farm vehicles, oncoming traffic near bends etc

Meeting Traffic

- **What situations may result in the need to hold back for oncoming traffic?**

Narrow road, parked cars, flooding, road works, broken down vehicle

- **How can planning ahead help you to deal with meeting traffic?**

Enables you to slow down steadily, more time to assess

- **Why is MSPSL important when meeting oncoming traffic?**

What is behind may affect how you deal with what is ahead

- **How can slowing down early help?**

More time to assess the situation, more time to react to others

- **What hazards should you be aware of when passing parked vehicles?**

Doors opening, pedestrians hidden from view

- **If you cannot give the normal amount of clearance what would you do?**

Go slower

- **How much clearance would you normally give when passing parked vehicles?**

Width of a door - approx 1 metre

- **If you need to pull in between parked cars to let another vehicle through, why would you not want to stop too close to the kerb?**

Other road users may think you are parked? harder to see passed the parked vehicle in front of you

Meeting Traffic

- **If you see approaching traffic and a vehicle is parked on the other side of the road, why is it important that you don't assume priority?**

The other vehicle may not slow down/stop

- **If you have to stop for approaching traffic, what are the advantages of slowing early and holding well back?**
- **If you stop for oncoming vehicles due to a parked car on your side, why is it important not to stop too close behind the car?**

It will be difficult to get out past the car

- **If you are face to face with another vehicle and one of you needs to reverse, what factors might make it easier for one of the vehicles to reverse?**

Size and type of vehicle, traffic behind, proximity to hazards, hill, how far they may need to reverse

- **What types of vehicle might find it more difficult to reverse?**

Bus, lorry, van, hgv, tractor motor home, vehicle towing

- **If you stop right next to the kerb to let oncoming traffic come through, what might other road users think?**

They may think you have parked

- **If you have held back to let oncoming traffic through, why should you not flash your headlights?**

Other road users may misunderstand your intention - for instance a pedestrian may think you are letting them cross the road

Road Positioning

- **What are the dangers of an incorrect driving position?**
Getting too close to other traffic, confusing other people as to where you are going
- **Why might drivers fail to maintain normal driving position on bends?**
Cutting corners, going too fast
- **Why is it important to maintain correct position on bends?**
To avoid the kerb, to avoid going on to the wrong side of the road, oncoming traffic may also be in the wrong position
- **What factors affect your choice of lane on a dual carriageway?**
Normal driving left hand. Middle lane for overtaking. Right lane for overtaking and turning right.
- **How might puddles in the road affect your positioning?**
It may be appropriate, if safe, to move out to avoid them
- **When may you drive in a bus lane?**
When it is not in operation (not to allow emergency vehicles through)
- **What might happen if you drive too close to parked cars?**
A person in the vehicle may open a door, lack of space to react to unexpected situations
- **Are you allowed to drive in an area with hatched markings and a broken line along the edge?**
Yes as long as it is safe

Road Positioning

- **How much clearance should you give to horse riders**
2 metres minimum
- **At what speed should you pass horse riders?**
10 mph or less
- **How much clearance should you give to cyclists?**
1.5 metres minimum
- **How would you deal with a cyclist who is riding in the middle of your lane?**
Hold back
- **How would you deal with cyclists who are riding two abreast?**
Be patient and hold back
- **When may you cross a double white line in the middle of the road?**
To pass an obstruction, cyclist/horse rider/maintenance vehicle going less than 10mph, when turning right
- **How far back do you think you should stop from the vehicle in front in a queue of traffic?**
So you can see tyres and tarmac
- **Can you drive in a cycle lane?**
You may not drive in a cycle lane marked with a solid white line
- **Can you drive through a bus stop marked in the road?**
Yes although you may not park there
- **Should you stop on a zebra crossing to allow an emergency vehicle through?**
You should always obey the normal rules of the road even when emergency vehicles are there

Speed

- **Why do we need speed limits?**
People don't necessarily make good decisions as to the appropriate speed for a situation
- **What factors determine a safe speed for a given situation?**
Road width, weather, visibility, location (town/school etc), traffic
- **What are the dangers of driving too fast?**
Less time to anticipate, being able to stop in time, more difficult to steer
- **What are the dangers of driving slower than is necessary?**
Other people's impatience may cause them to drive unsafely
- **Do you think it is ever justifiable to exceed the speed limit?**
No, but people may think so if for example to overtake, get out of difficulty
- **How effective do you think speed cameras are in improving road safety?**
Statistically they do help
- **What are repeater signs?**
Smaller speed limit signs to remind you of the speed limit
- **What does the national speed limit sign look like?**
White circle with a black diagonal stripe

Speed

- **How far behind the vehicle in front should you normally be?**
Two second rule - in good conditions
- **Why should you drive more slowly in a shopping area?**
Pedestrians may step out, children
- **How do you decide the speed to drive at night?**
Distance you can see clearly ahead
- **What would happen if you drive too fast around a bend?**
May cut the corner or clip the kerb, lack of steering control
- **How could weather conditions affect what is an appropriate speed?**
Visibility. Stopping distance
- **What is the speed limit if there are street lights and no other signs?**
30mph
- **What is the national speed limit for cars on a dual carriageway?**
70mph
- **What is the national speed limit for cars on a single carriageway road?**
60mph
- **What is the difference between signs telling you a new speed limit and signs to remind you of the speed limit?**
The repeater or reminder signs are smaller

Overtaking

- **What are the dangers associated with overtaking?**
Oncoming traffic, other hazards
- **Why should you not overtake on a bend?**
Difficult to see far enough ahead
- **Why is it unsafe to overtake when there is a side road ahead?**
People emerging without looking
- **List some hazards ahead that may mean it is unsafe to overtake**
School, pedestrian crossing, side road, parked cars, traffic island, bend, brow of hill
- **What will you do if you are behind a slower vehicle and cannot see past it?**
Check its safe then if so move out to get a better view
- **Are you allowed to exceed the speed limit to overtake?**
No
- **Why might selecting a lower gear when overtaking be helpful?**
Lower gear = more power and more acceleration
- **Why should you be aware of vehicles behind you when preparing to overtake?**
They may be about to overtake you
- **Why do you think people overtake when it's not safe?**
Impatience, late for an appointment, showing off to friends

Overtaking

- **Why is a signal essential when overtaking?**
To tell everyone what you are doing including the driver of the vehicle you are about to overtake
- **When may you overtake on the left?**
One way street, slow moving lanes of traffic, vehicle ahead turning right
- **How much clearance should you give when overtaking a cyclist?**
At least 1.5 metres
- **How would you deal with overtaking a group of cyclists?**
Only do so when it is absolutely safe
- **How should you deal with overtaking a horse and rider?**
Less than 10mph and give 2 metres clearance
- **At what speed should you overtake a horse and rider?**
10mph or less
- **When might it be safe to overtake even if there is oncoming traffic?**
When it's far enough away that you can get back onto your own side safely
- **What are some places that are not safe to overtake?**
Approaching a bend, approaching brow of a hill, narrow road, approaching a hazard
- **Why might overtaking a lorry be harder than overtaking a car?**
The length of a lorry means you have to be on the wrong side of the road for longer. May be harder to see passed the lorry to see if it is safe to overtake

Pedestrian Crossings

- **Where are you most likely to encounter pedestrian crossings?**
Busy pedestrian areas like shopping centres, near schools
- **What advance warning might you get of a zebra crossing ahead?**
Pedestrian crossing sign
- **What should be your first priorities when you see a pedestrian crossing ahead?**
Check mirrors and see if there are pedestrians wanting to cross
- **Why should you not wave for pedestrians to cross?**
You might wave them into danger
- **What signal could you give?**
Wave right arm up and down - 'I intend to slow down or stop'
- **What should you do if a pedestrian is hesitant to cross?**
Wait patiently
- **What is the meaning of the zig zag lines?**
No stopping (except in traffic), no overtaking the leading vehicle
- **Why would you be less likely to see an equine or pegasus crossing in a city centre?**
You are more likely to see them in country areas where there are more horse riders
- **Where would you be more likely to see toucan crossings?**
Where there is more likelihood of cyclists, for instance when there is a cycle lane or route nearby

Pedestrian Crossings

- **What is a parallel crossing?**
Area for cyclists to cross as part of zebra crossing
- **What are the differences between a straight crossing with an island and a staggered crossing?**
Zebra crossing - each side is a separate crossing. Light controlled crossing - straight = one crossing, staggered = two separate crossings
- **How can you predict that the lights may change soon at a light controlled crossing?**
End of beeping sound
- **Why do you think it is not safe to park on the zig zag lines approaching a zebra crossing?**
Makes it difficult for others to see pedestrians
- **Why might the lights change at a light controlled crossing even if no one is waiting?**
Someone has pushed the button and then crossed or walked off
- **What does the flashing amber light mean at a pelican crossing?**
You can go as long as no one is crossing
- **Who may cross at a toucan crossing?**
Pedestrians and cyclists
- **Why should you take particular care at zebra crossings at night?**
It's harder to see the pedestrians, particularly if they are wearing dark clothing

Dual Carriageways

- **Why do we have dual carriageways?**
Improve traffic flow, enable safer overtaking, enable faster speed limits
- **What is it that makes a road a dual carriageway?**
A barrier physically separating the two directions of traffic
- **In what ways can dual carriageways be safer than single carriageway roads?**
Can overtake without oncoming traffic
- **What extra dangers are there on a dual carriageway?**
Faster traffic, need to think and plan earlier, traffic overtaking
- **Why do you need to plan further ahead?**
Faster speeds mean longer overall stopping distances
- **What might make you decide it is unsafe to overtake a slower vehicle ahead?**
Getting close to the end of dual carriageway. The vehicle ahead about to overtake someone slower. The slower vehicle signalling right to turn into a side road on the right
- **What is the national speed limit for cars on dual carriageways?**
70 mph
- **How many lanes does a dual carriageway have?**
There is no fixed number it may be just one lane in each direction

Dual Carriageways

- **What factors make it difficult when joining a dual carriageway from a side road?**
Often two lanes of traffic, fast moving traffic
- **How would you deal with turning right onto a dual carriageway?**
When clear to the right move to the gap in the central reservation and then check traffic from the left
- **What should you be aware of as you approach the end of a dual carriageway where it becomes a single carriageway?**
If you're in the right lane, need to move left. Possibility of people overtaking and cutting in. Possible change of speed limit
- **If you are driving at the speed limit and the road ahead is clear which lane should you choose?**
Left unless you are about to turn right
- **What should you do before changing lanes on a dual carriageway?**
Mirrors, check to your right or left (but not full blind spot check)
- **Where would you find amber reflective studs on a dual carriageway?**
Next to the central barrier
- **Is the speed limit always 70mph on dual carriageways?**
No. You always need to look for the speed limit signs. If it is national speed limit, then it is 70mph

Motorways

- **What are the benefits of motorways?**
Faster travel, easier overtaking, no oncoming traffic
- **What are the particular dangers with motorway driving?**
Faster speeds means collisions are likely to be more serious. More anticipation and planning ahead needed
- **Why is it important to plan your journey?**
So you are not distracted. Enables you to make earlier decisions
- **When might you use your hazard lights when travelling on a motorway?**
When you are slowing down suddenly due to a hazard ahead
- **If your car breaks down what should you do?**
Stop on hard shoulder, move away from vehicle, call breakdown services
- **Why do you need to be particularly aware of your speed when leaving a motorway?**
You may be going faster than you realise
- **What colour are motorway signs?**
Blue
- **Why should you not wait in the vehicle if you have broken down?**
Because it is safer to be right away from the carriageway behind a barrier
- **Do you think motorways should be unrestricted like in some other countries and what are your reasons?**
Yes - people can get places quicker, less congestion, 80 is a safe speed. People break the speed limit anyway
No - more likelihood of accidents, accidents will be worse

Motorways

- **What should you do if there is a red X above your lane?**
Do not continue in that lane
- **If you have broken down on the motorway where should you wait?**
Away from vehicle behind barrier
- **If you are feeling tired on the motorway what should you do?**
Leave motorway at next exit or service station
- **If you have overtaken another vehicle how will you know when it is safe to move back to the left?**
When you can see the vehicle in interior mirror
- **When joining a motorway, why is important to use the slip road to build up your speed?**
To match speed of traffic on the motorway
- **What are some features of SMART motorways?**
Variable speed limits, use of hard shoulder as running lane
- **Where are the red studs on the motorway?**
On the left of the carriageway, between carriageway and hard shoulder
- **Why should you not normally slow down at the end of the acceleration lane/slip road?**
Because you need to build your speed up to match the speed of the traffic on the motorway
- **Why should you not get out of your car in a prolonged traffic jam on a motorway?**
Emergency vehicles may need to get through, motorbikes may weave there way through, traffic may start moving

Rural Roads

- **What factors should you be aware of associated with rural driving?**
Hills, changing speed limits, bends, visibility, vulnerable road users
- **Which road users should you particularly look out for on country lanes?**
Cyclists, horse riders, pedestrians, animals, farm vehicles
- **How much clearance should you give to horses and their riders?**
At least two metres
- **Why should you be careful when overtaking cyclists?**
They are less stable. May need to go round potholes
- **In a narrow country lane with no passing places, if you meet an oncoming vehicle what factors could you consider in deciding who will reverse?**
Distance to reverse, who would find it easier, type of vehicle
- **What would you do if your engine is struggling on a steep hill?**
Choose a lower gear
- **What factors might influence other drivers to do unsafe overtaking?**
Impatience, poor judgement, poor anticipation
- **Can you assume it's safe to overtake if a horse rider waves you through?**
No you need to assess for yourself whether it is safe

Rural Roads

- **How can you decide the appropriate speed when approaching a bend?**
Vanishing point, ability to stop within distance you can see
- **If a country lane has national speed limit signs, what factors may make it unsafe to drive at 60mph?**
Bends, hills, distance you can see ahead, width of road
- **When should you use main beam on country roads?**
At night when there are no street lights and no oncoming traffic
- **Why may you need to change gear more often on country roads?**
More variation in speeds due to width of road, bends, hills
- **If someone is herding sheep and they tell you to stop should you do what they say or make your own judgement?**
You should do what they say
- **Approaching a bend on a country road what should you be thinking about?**
Appropriate speed, hazards ahead - cyclists, horse riders, pedestrians, farm vehicles
- **If cyclists are riding two abreast on a narrow country lane what should you do?**
Hold back and wait patiently
- **On a one lane country road with the potential for meeting traffic what should you do?**
Look out in advance for passing places

Town & City Driving

- **What factors in town and city driving might affect your speed?**
Traffic, pedestrians, multi lane junctions, visibility, buses, speed limits
- **When would it be appropriate to drive in a bus lane?**
Only when it is not in operation
- **Why is checking your left mirror before turning left important?**
Possibility of road users such as cyclists on your inside
- **Why is checking your right mirror before turning right important?**
Possibility of vehicles overtaking eg motorcyclists
- **What factors in relation to trams should you be aware of?**
They are hard to hear, fixed position in the road
- **How would you deal with a bus that is stopped at a bus stop?**
See if it's safe to pass, beware of pedestrians crossing
- **Why is it helpful to make eye contact with other road users?**
To let them know that you have seen them, to see what they might be about to do
- **What would you do if you find yourself in the wrong lane of a busy inner city multi lane junction?**
Usually you should continue in the lane you are in and find an alternative route

Town & City Driving

- **How may your field of vision be affected in slow moving traffic?**
Difficult to see past larger vehicles, harder to see pedestrians
- **What should you especially look out for in busy shopping areas?**
Pedestrians, cars about to park, cars pulling out of parking spaces
- **How do you control the speed of the car when creeping forward slowly in a traffic queue?**
Manual car - clutch control, automatic car - brake
- **In slow moving traffic why might it be helpful to check your left door mirror?**
Cyclists passing on your inside
- **In what ways may lorries cause problems in town centre areas?**
Stopping to unload, harder to see past, adopting a different position to expected at narrow junctions, may need to reverse
- **What should you look out for in busy shopping areas?**
Pedestrians, cars parking, cars stopping to drop off passengers, people stepping into the road to pass other pedestrians, buses and pedestrians at bus stops
- **Why may the hazard lights of a parked lorry be misleading?**
If you can only see the right hand light it may look like they are waiting to pull out

Night Driving

- **Which road users may be particularly vulnerable at night?**
Pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists
- **Why should you not rely on running lights (DRL) at night?**
Not legal to only use them at night, not as effective, no rear lights
- **When should you not use main beam at night?**
Areas with street lighting, where there is oncoming traffic, when following other vehicles
- **What problems could be associated with dusk (when it is just starting to get dark)?**
Drivers may not be aware of reduced visibility, may not have put lights on
- **Where might you find red reflective studs at night?**
On the left of the carriageway
- **What problems might there be with cyclists using flashing lights at night?**
Can be harder to judge their speed/position and direction compared to steady lights
- **Why can it be particularly difficult to drive in rain at night?**
Glare from reflected lights, harder to see road markings, rain on windscreen, side windows and door mirrors
- **Where would you see the amber studs at night?**
On a dual carriageway or motorway next to the central reservation

All Weather Driving

What are the potential problems associated with the following weather conditions:

- **Rain**
Visibility, stopping distance, skidding, glare from road when combined with sun, rain on external mirrors
- **Snow, Sleet & Hail**
Visibility, stopping distances, slippery road, accumulations of snow on car - windscreen/lights
- **Ice & Frost**
Stopping distances, ice/frost on windscreen, skidding
- **Fog & Mist**
Visibility, other vehicles going too fast, judging the appropriate speed. Use of headlights/fog lights
- **Wind**
Vehicle handling, the types of other vehicles more likely to be affected by wind
- **Sun**
Glare especially off of wet roads, harder to see things in the shadow

Eco Driving

- **How can you minimise unnecessary car journeys?**
Only drive when necessary, combine journeys, car share
- **How can you drive in a way that will use less fuel?**
Avoid heavy use of gas and brake, slowing early, use correct gears
- **How does gear selection affect the amount of fuel your car is using?**
Driving in the correct gear for your speed will use less fuel
- **How can planning ahead help to make your driving more environmentally friendly?**
Less need for heavy braking as you can slow earlier
- **Why does a car with stop start technology help the environment?**
Because the engine is off while you are waiting in traffic, this means that it saves fuel
- **Does having air conditioning on increase fuel consumption?**
Yes, although having windows open at faster speeds increases drag and so also increases fuel consumption
- **In what ways does having a roof box increase fuel consumption?**
Car is less aerodynamic, greater drag, more weight

Emergency Vehicles

- **Name some different types of emergency vehicle?**
Police, fire, ambulance service, coastguard, mountain rescue
- **What factors may make you less aware of approaching emergency vehicles?**
Not paying attention, loud music, not checking mirrors frequently
- **In what ways could you over-react to an emergency vehicle**
Stopping suddenly in a non safe place or blocking the road
- **Should you go through red lights to let an emergency vehicle through?**
No, you should still obey the rules of the road
- **Should you drive into a bus lane during its hours of operation to let an ambulance through**
No, you should still obey the rules of the road
- **If you see blue flashing lights behind you, what should you do?**
Assess the situation - how far behind are they? how fast are they catching you up? where is a safe place to slow down/stop/pull in?
- **Why might stopping suddenly when you see blue flashing be the worst thing?**
May cause a collision. may result in you blocking the road.

Turn in the Road

- **What situations may occur that make this manoeuvre necessary?**

Taken the wrong turning, in a dead end, when the road ahead is blocked

- **What places would not be safe, convenient and lawful to do this manoeuvre?**

Near a bend, brow of hill, narrow road/parked cars, fast traffic, no U turns

- **When controlling the speed of the car with the clutch what is the first thing you should do if you find the car is going too fast?**

Squeeze the clutch down

- **Why should “dry steering” be avoided**

Bad for the steering mechanism, greater wear on the tyres

- **How will the camber of the road affect this manoeuvre?**

Usually the road slopes down towards the kerb resulting in the car wanting to increase speed as you get close to the kerb

- **Where should you look when you are reversing?**

Primarily out of the back window but also all around throughout in case another vehicle approaches or pedestrians step into the road

Turn in the Road

- **This manoeuvre is often carried out in 3 parts and is referred to as a “3 point turn” What may make it difficult to do it in 3?**

Large vehicle, narrow road, slow steering, going too fast

- **What will you do if you are half way across the road and a vehicle approaches?**

Assess if it is safe to continue and if so continue with the manoeuvre

- **Why is it important to look behind when reversing and not just to rely on mirrors?**

You can't see everything that is behind you in the mirrors

- **What alternatives are there to a turn in the road?**

Reverse around a corner or into another opening.
Taking an alternative route

- **What will you do if a vehicle approaches while you are carrying out this manoeuvre?**

If you are not yet moving wait for it to pass, but if they are waiting for you and it is safe, proceed

- **What is the camber of the road and how will it affect you?**

The slope from side to side - the road usually slopes down towards the kerbs

Left or Right Reverse

- **Why might this be more appropriate than a turn in the road?**

Might be safer, the road you are in might be narrow

- **Why would reversing to the left be potentially safer than reversing to the right?**

Reversing to the right involves pulling up on the right - oncoming traffic.

- **Why might reversing to the right be easier?**

It is easier to see the kerb on the driver's side and judge your distance

- **Why should you look into the new road as you pass it before pulling up?**

In case there is an obstruction that makes it an unsuitable place

- **How does the sharpness of the corner affect your steering?**

A sharper corner needs requires faster and or more steering

- **What will you do if a vehicle approaches during the manoeuvre?**

Stop and wait for it to pass unless its safe to continue

- **Why is it important to observe all around before starting to steer?**

The path of the car changes - left hand side swings in, right side swings out

Left or Right Reverse

- **Why should you not just rely on mirrors when reversing?**

There may be things behind you that you can't see in your mirrors

- **What are the dangers of going too fast?**

It's harder to judge the amount of steering, danger of not having enough time to observe thoroughly

- **What should you do if you hit the kerb while reversing around the corner?**

Stop and move forward, steering to adjust your position and then start reversing again ensuring correct steering

- **If there is a pedestrian on the pavement close to where you are reversing what should you do?**

Wait till they have passed

- **Why is it important to look over your right shoulder before steering when reversing to the left?**

Your car will swing out towards the middle of the road, so it's important that you ensure there is no passing traffic

- **If you are reversing around a corner and you are swinging out too wide, what steering should you do?**

Steer more and steer faster

- **If a car comes right up behind you while you are reversing, what would you do?**

Move forward, if necessary back to your start position

- **Why should you look out the back window as well as using your mirrors**

To see any approaching traffic and/or pedestrians crossing behind you

Pull Up on the Right & Reverse

- **If you have parked your car on the right, why might it be necessary to reverse before pulling off again?**

If a car has pulled up right in front of you making it difficult to see oncoming traffic or leaving insufficient room for you to pull out forwards from where you are

- **Why is it usually safer to pull up on the left rather than the right?**

Dealing with oncoming traffic both when pulling up and pulling away

- **Why might you need to pull up on the right?**

If there is nowhere to park on left, yellow lines on left

- **When are you not allowed to park on the right?**

At night

- **Is it ok to pull up on the right if you have a car following behind you?**

Yes as long as it's safe

- **How should you pull up on the right when there is oncoming traffic?**

Assess if safe to move over before they arrive or whether to slow down/wait till they've passed. Signal as appropriate

- **Why should you look over your left shoulder pulling back over to the right?**

It's where the biggest/most immediate danger is

Pull Up on the Right & Reverse

- **Having reversed, what are the benefits of signalling before pulling out?**

There is more likelihood of traffic that you cannot see when there are parked cars in the way

- **Why should you look over your right shoulder before the reversing part of the manoeuvre?**

In case there are pedestrians close to where you are reversing

- **Do you always need to signal before pulling up on the right?**

Not necessarily. If there is no one to see your signal it isn't necessary

- **How can you tell that you are reversing in a straight line?**

Reference point out of back window for the kerb or the middle of the road, door mirror

- **What are the dangers in only looking in the door mirror when reversing?**

You may not see important things that are happening behind you eg traffic, pedestrians

- **Where should you look as the last thing before pulling back over to the left?**

Left blind spot/over left shoulder

- **Why might you decide to park on the right rather than the left?**

If there is nowhere suitable to park on the left

Bay Park - Forward & Reverse

- **What are the advantages of driving forward into a parking space?**

Easier to see where you are going, easier to judge your position, easier to see pedestrians, easier to access the boot

- **Are there any disadvantages in driving in forward?**

Harder to reverse out, harder to see pedestrians and other cars when reversing

- **What are the advantages of reversing into a parking space?**

It's easier to see where you are going when driving out and easier to see other vehicles and pedestrians

- **Are there any disadvantages in reversing into a parking space?**

It may be harder to judge your position, it may be harder to access the boot

- **Where should you position to start?**

Don't start steering too early or too late. Use a reference point on your car to judge when to start steering

- **Where should you position the vehicle within the bay?**

As centrally as possible between the lines, as far back as needed to be fully in the bay. Ensure that there is room for passengers to get out

- **Is it ok to drive across an empty parking bay when parking?**

As long as it is safe then yes it is

Bay Park - Forward & Reverse

- **Why is it important to keep looking all around?**

The situation in car parks is constantly changing - new cars pulling in to spaces, other vehicles pulling out, pedestrians approaching or leaving their cars

- **What should you do if you have chosen a bay to park in but there is traffic or pedestrians?**

Wait for them until it's safe to proceed

- **Do you think it is necessary to start at right angles to the space you want to go in to?**

No, but sometimes it can be helpful in making it easier to judge your position and when to steer

- **What factors could you be aware of in multi story car parks?**

Lower levels are more likely to be full, more tight steering is often needed, vulnerability at night, needing to stop on the up ramp while people park

- **What should you do with valuables when leaving your car in a car park?**

Ensure they are out of sight

- **How do you maintain a low speed?**

Use clutch control (manual car) or gentle braking (automatic)

- **Do you need to stop before driving forward into a bay?**

No but sometimes it can be helpful

- **Where would be easier to park in car parks?**

Often there is less traffic and fewer parked cars further away from the entrance or exits and on the upper floors of a multi story car park

Parallel Park

- **What kind of places might not be safe to do this manoeuvre?**
Near a bend, near the brow of a hill
- **Where would it not be lawful to do this manoeuvre?**
Anywhere you are not allowed to park eg zig zags at pedestrian crossing, school markings, yellow lines, motorway, within 10m of a junction
- **When parking between two cars how big a space would you need?**
Normally a space of 1½ car lengths or more
- **What would you do if someone pulled up right behind you whilst you are in the middle of this manoeuvre?**
Assess whether it would be best to continue along the road and find an alternative space
- **Why is it important to check over your right shoulder?**
Because your car will swing out into the path of any traffic
- **Why should you not just rely on using your mirrors?**
Because it does not give you a good enough view of everything behind you
- **Why could it be better to do this manoeuvre slowly?**
Makes it easier to judge how it's going/accuracy and to make adjustments. Gives you more time to do thorough observation

Parallel Park

- **If you hit the kerb while parking what would you do?**
Move forward slowly adjusting your position by steering quickly
- **Why is it normally best to straighten your wheels before finishing the manoeuvre?**
So you know your wheels are straight when you get into the car to pull away later
- **What could be the causes of not getting close enough to the kerb?**
Steering in too late initially, steering right too soon or too quickly
- **Why might doing this manoeuvre in a very narrow road be tricky?**
Because there may not be enough room to swing out at a sharp enough angle
- **If your car has a parking camera why should you not be looking only at the screen?**
Because there may be things behind you that are not visible on the screen
- **What may cause your car to speed up as you get closer to the kerb?**
The camber of the road sloping down towards the kerb as you steer in towards it

Emergency Stop

- **When might an emergency stop be necessary?**
If someone pulls out unexpectedly from a side road, children running into the road, car ahead stops suddenly, car pulls out of parking space
- **How can you minimise the need for emergency stops?**
Thinking and planning ahead. Anticipating possible dangers
- **Why isn't it necessary to check the mirrors before making an emergency stop?**
You need to stop as quick as you can
- **Why may you need to hold the steering wheel more firmly?**
To ensure you have full control of the steering
- **How would you know that your ABS is operating?**
Juddering pedal, juddering car, ABS light
- **What factors make skidding more likely?**
Snow, ice, rain, wet road, spillage on road, loose road surface, incorrect tyre pressures, worn tyres
- **Why might it be important to apply the parking brake after an emergency stop?**
To secure the car
- **In a real life emergency stop how do you think that you may feel and how would you deal with this?**
Adrenaline pumping, fearful of what could have happened, anxious. Take your time before pulling away.

Emergency Stop

- **Why is it important to look all round before moving off after an emergency stop?**

You will not be stopped next to the kerb, so there could be road users on either side

- **If you skid in an emergency and have no ABS what should you do?**

Ease off the brake and reapply it. If necessary steer into the skid

- **If you skid whilst doing an emergency stop and you don't have ABS, why should you ease off the brake before re-applying it?**

Because the wheels have locked - they are no longer turning. To enable them to grip the road again they need to be turning and then you can slow the wheels down by braking again thus slowing the car down.

- **What does it mean to "pump the brakes"?**

This is when you are skidding, often at faster speeds, without ABS and you release and then reapply the brakes quickly several times in quick succession

- **Why should you not use the hand brake to stop in an emergency?**

Less control of the amount of braking. Need both hands on the steering wheel

- **If say a child runs out into the road in front of you, is it necessary to check your mirrors before an emergency stop?**

No. Your priority is to stop as soon as you can

The Vehicle etc

- **How often does a car need an MoT?**
When it is three years old and then every year after that
- **If a warning light comes on the dashboard what should you do?**
Investigate the fault straight away
- **Why do some cars not have a proper spare wheel?**
To save cost, to save weight in the car, to save space
- **If you break down on the motorway why should you not attempt your own repair?**
Danger of being struck by traffic, need to move away from vehicle
- **Why may smart motorways not be as safe as normal motorways?**
People can drive on the hard shoulder as a normal running lane
- **Why is there a limit on how dark tinted windows can be?**
Tinted windows affect your vision, particularly at night.
Others can't see you
- **If, when pulling away in snow, you get wheel spin, what should you do?**
Use a higher gear as higher gear gives more grip
- **What things are important to check before setting off on a journey?**
Water levels in radiator and screen wash reservoir, oil level, tyre pressures, lights and all other electrics are working

The Vehicle etc

- **It is illegal to drive without insurance, but why is it illegal?**

If you have a serious collision that is your fault you may not be able to compensate the other party for serious loss from your own finances

- **You should approach a deep puddle slower - why is that?**

The faster you go, the more suddenly the car will decelerate when you hit the puddle

- **Why is there a limit on the weight of trailer you may tow with a full car driving licence?**

Towing is a skill that has not been learned as part of the normal driving test. Reversing in particular while towing is a different skill

- **What do you think about the fact that when you have passed the test you can drive in France and other countries even though you don't know their rules?**

It is legal to drive in many countries with a full UK licence, but it is advisable to study the road traffic laws, road signs etc of the country that you are visiting before driving

- **Why do many car hire companies not allow under 25's to hire a vehicle?**

Under 25's in general have less experience and are more likely to be involved in a collision

Deeper Thinking Questions

These are general questions for use as discussion starters.
No answers are given to the questions in this section!

- If you were setting the speed limit on a particular road what factors would you consider?
- Do you think the national speed limit should be higher or lower and why?
- What do you think is more important: anticipation or quick reactions? Why do you think that?
- Why do you think it's important to make sure that your car is properly maintained?
- Do you think that in general attitudes towards other road users are good or bad? Do you have examples that you could cite?
- In what ways do you think driving should be seen as a right and in what ways as a privilege?
- At what age do you think people should be able to start to learn to drive?
- What do you think are the benefits of there being a theory test?
- To what extent do, you think, how learners drive is affected by how they see others drive?
- How do you feel if someone is following you closely behind?
- How do you feel when you make a mistake when driving?

Deeper Thinking Questions

- Do you think the driving test should be easier or harder than it is?
- The driving test pass rate in most areas is around 50% - why do you think it is not higher?
- What advantages or disadvantages could you see in a graduated licensing scheme where for the first 6 months people who have passed their test would have restrictions eg not driving at night
- Do you feel more inspired by the concept of being a safe driver or being a skilful driver?
- What do you think is good or bad about speed humps?
- What would you say to someone who says that the driving test focuses too much on manoeuvres?
- Do you think that it would be right to scrap all petrol and diesel cars?
- To what extent do you think that driving lessons prepare you for driving after you have passed your driving test?
- Do you think that driving lessons focus too much on passing the test?
- Why is driving at night more dangerous for new drivers?
- What do you think makes someone a “good driver”
- What could you do to not just be someone who has passed their test, but to be someone who is a safe and skilful driver?
- Why do you think new drivers have higher car insurance?

Questions on the Go

Many of us find it difficult to think of questions in the moment, while on the move in the course of a lesson. Having some potential questions in mind, before you start, can help. Here are some suggestions depending on your situation:

- Which lane would you normally expect to take for straight ahead at a roundabout? What are the road signs saying here, about which lane to take?
- How will you judge if a vehicle on this roundabout is exiting before it reaches you?
- What hazards are you aware of ahead?
- What do you think is the most important hazard ahead?
- Why might it be appropriate to slow down as you approach this side road, even though you are going straight on?
- What might others think if you slow down too much approaching this side road?
- What do you think is an appropriate speed on this road?
- How will you judge an appropriate speed on this road?
- If there were dustbins out by the kerb what would you be thinking?
- What would you do if the vehicle in front stopped suddenly?
- How do you feel about the vehicle behind?
- What are you anticipating as you approach these green traffic lights?

Questions on the Go

- If, in this narrow road, an oncoming vehicle flashed their lights what would you do?
- Why is it appropriate to drive slower in wet weather?
- If you are going to turn left and can't see where the road is, what clues could help you?
- Why is it appropriate to use the parking brake when stopped in a stationary queue of traffic?
- What should you do if you stall when pulling away?
- What do you think it means to signal by your position?
- If we were following a bus right now, how would we know that it might be going to stop soon?
- What caused us to stop quite suddenly at the junction?
- How can we avoid stalling on a hill start?
- Which lane should we take approaching this junction?
- What are the problems with slowing down late and suddenly at a junction?
- What should we be thinking about this cyclist ahead?
- What particular hazards could there be at this time of day?
- Why could this bus ahead cause us problems?
- What do you think the lorry ahead is going to do?
- How will you know the vehicle ahead is slowing down?
- If the lorry ahead turns right at the mini roundabout what do you think may happen in terms of his road positioning?
- What would you do if one of the approaching vehicles had their main beam on?

Tell Me Questions

- 1. Tell me how you'd check that the brakes are working before starting a journey.** Brakes should not feel spongy or slack. Brakes should be tested as you set off. Vehicle should not pull to one side.
- 2. Tell me where you'd find the information for the recommended tyre pressures for this car and how tyre pressures should be checked.** Manufacturer's guide, use a reliable pressure gauge, check and adjust pressures when tyres are cold, don't forget spare tyre, remember to refit valve caps.
- 3. Tell me how you make sure your head restraint is correctly adjusted so it provides the best protection in the event of a crash.** The head restraint should be adjusted so the rigid part of the head restraint is at least as high as the eye or top of the ears, and as close to the back of the head as is comfortable. Note: Some restraints might not be adjustable.
- 4. Tell me how you'd check the tyres to ensure that they have sufficient tread depth and that their general condition is safe to use on the road.** No cuts and bulges, 1.6mm of tread depth across the central three-quarters of the breadth of the tyre, and around the entire outer circumference of the tyre.
- 5. Tell me how you'd check that the headlights and tail lights are working. You don't need to exit the vehicle.** Explain you'd operate the switch (turn on ignition if necessary), then walk round vehicle (as this is a 'tell me' question, you don't need to physically check the lights).
- 6. Tell me how you'd know if there was a problem with your anti-lock braking system.** Warning light should illuminate if there is a fault with the anti-lock braking system.
- 7. Tell me how you'd check the direction indicators are working. You don't need to exit the vehicle.** Explain you'd operate the switch (turn on ignition if necessary), and then walk round vehicle (as this is a 'tell me' question, you don't need to physically check the lights).
- 8. Tell me how you'd check the brake lights are working on this car.** Explain you'd operate the brake pedal, make use of reflections in windows or doors, or ask someone to help.
- 9. Tell me how you'd check the power-assisted steering is working before starting a journey.** If the steering becomes heavy, the system may not be working properly. Before starting a journey, 2 simple checks can be made.
Gentle pressure on the steering wheel, maintained while the engine is started, should result in a slight but noticeable movement as the system begins to operate. Alternatively turning the steering wheel just after moving off will give an immediate indication that the power assistance is functioning.
- 10. Tell me how you'd switch on the rear fog light(s) and explain when you'd use it/them. You don't need to exit the vehicle.** Operate switch (turn on dipped headlights and ignition if necessary). Check warning light is on. Explain use.
- 11. Tell me how you switch your headlight from dipped to main beam and explain how you'd know the main beam is on.** Operate switch (with ignition or engine on if necessary), check with main beam warning light.

Tell Me Questions (under bonnet)

12. Open the bonnet and tell me how you'd check that the engine has sufficient oil.

Identify dipstick/oil level indicator, describe check of oil level against the minimum and maximum markers.

13. Open the bonnet and tell me how you'd check that the engine has sufficient engine coolant.

Identify high and low level markings on header tank where fitted or radiator filler cap, and describe how to top up to correct level.

14. Open the bonnet and tell me how you'd check that you have a safe level of hydraulic brake fluid.

Identify reservoir, check level against high and low markings.

Show Me Questions

When it's safe to do so, can you show me how you wash and clean the rear windscreen?

When it's safe to do so, can you show me how you wash and clean the front windscreen?

When it's safe to do so, can you show me how you'd switch on your dipped headlights?

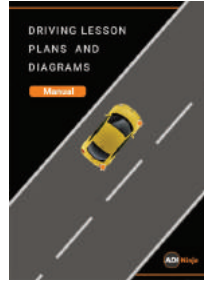
When it's safe to do so, can you show me how you'd set the rear demister?

When it's safe to do so, can you show me how you'd operate the horn?

When it's safe to do so, can you show me how you'd demist the front windscreen?

When it's safe to do so, can you show me how you'd open and close the side window?

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Pupil handout templates

REFLECTIVE LOG		
Name	Date	
My Goals for this session	What went well?	What could I improve?
What should I do different?	My Goals for next time	Before next time I will...

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Reflective log tear off pads

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