



Taxi Driving Assessments



Before applying for a 'Practical Taxi Driving Assessment' you must have passed the 'Taxi Driving Knowledge Assessment'. To book a knowledge assessment please call 01524858326 for next available date (commencing Sept 17').

Lancaster Training Services Ltd have been authorised to conduct Practical Taxi Driving Assessments on behalf of South Lakeland District Council

- The assessment will be conducted by a Lancaster Training Services Ltd approved Taxi Driving Assessors and is based on the DVSA driving test.
- The assessment will require you to show a level of driving skill and ability associated with that of an experienced driver.
- You will also need to demonstrate a sound knowledge of the Highway Code.
- The standard needed to pass the test will be higher than that of a learner driver taking the standard driving test and will take into account issues specifically related to taxi driving.
- The main focus of the test will be on road safety and the safe conveyance of passengers. Your passengers must feel safe at all times.
- The driving test will last for around 45 minutes. You will have to drive on a wide range of roads and in a variety of road traffic conditions and this may include motorways and dual carriageways.

There are 3 types of assessment you can take:-

- The standard driving assessment.
- The enhanced assessment – (includes a wheelchair exercise)
- The upgrade assessment – (you've passed the standard assessment and now want to upgrade to include the wheelchair exercise)

Vehicle Requirements

The Taxi Driving Assessment is carried out in your own vehicle and it is your responsibility to make sure it is road worthy and legal for the test.

Your vehicle must:

- be insured for the purposes of a driving assessment
- be taxed
- have a current, valid MOT (if over 3 years old)
- be roadworthy
- have no tyre damage and all tread depths must be above the legal limit (you cannot use a space saver tyre on the assessment)
- have no warning lights showing
- be smoke free – you cannot smoke on the assessment or have been smoking in the vehicle prior to the assessment
- be able to reach at least 62 mph and have a mph speedometer
- have 4 wheels and a maximum authorised mass of no more than 3,500kg
- a passenger seat belt and head restraint for the assessor

If your vehicle does not meet the above requirements, your assessment will not go ahead and you will lose your assessment fee.

What you MUST bring with you for the test:

- Your photocard driving licence.
- If you have an old-style paper licence instead of a photocard, you must also bring a valid passport.

Failure to bring these will result in the test being cancelled and you will lose your fee.

Meeting your assessor

Please be on time for your assessment as the Assessor will only allow 10 minutes after the start time of the test. After this time your test will be forfeited and refunds will not be given.

The Eyesight Test

At the start, you'll have to read a number plate from a distance of:

- 20 metres for vehicles with a new-style number plate
- 20.5 metres for vehicles with an old-style number plate

You can't take the driving part of the assessment if you fail the eyesight test. You can still do the wheelchair exercise if you're taking the enhanced assessment.

Manoeuvres

The assessment will require you to carry out 3 manoeuvres from the following chosen by the assessor;_

- A turn in the road.
- A left or right reverse from major to minor road.
- Reversing into a car parking space (Bay Parking).
- Reversing into a space at the side of the road (Parallel Parking).
- The taxi manoeuvre

Manoeuvres must be made safely, under control and in accordance with the Highway Code.

Stopping the vehicle

As this is common practice when driving a taxi the assessor will require you to perform two or three stops. You should:-

- Pull up at a reasonable distance from the kerb where it is safe, legal and convenient.
- Apply the handbrake.
- Select neutral gear.
- Ensure there are no obstructions, such as a street light, that would stop a passenger opening the door.

The Independent drive

Independent driving forms part of the practical driving test.

It requires the test candidate to drive without being given directions by the assessor by either following a series of street directions, following traffic signs, or a combination of both, for about ten minutes.

It doesn't matter if the candidate doesn't remember every direction, or if they go the wrong way - that can happen to the most experienced drivers. Independent driving is not a test of the candidates orientation and navigation skills, it is about being capable of making their own decisions whilst driving and how to safely navigate that route without prompts - this includes deciding when it's safe and appropriate to ask for confirmation about where they are going.

When taking the independent driving assessment:

- If you need to ask the assessor for a reminder of the directions then do so. Once asked the assessor will confirm the route.
- If you go off-route your overall driving assessment result will not be affected, unless you commit a driving fault. The assessor will also help you get back on the route so you can continue with independent driving.
- If there are poor or obscured traffic signs, the assessor will give directions until the next visible traffic sign.
- A detailed knowledge of the test route is not necessary.
- You cannot use a Sat-Nav.

Wheelchair exercise for the enhanced test

You'll have to do a wheelchair exercise if you're taking the enhanced assessment - you'll need to bring a wheelchair accessible vehicle.

You'll need to show your ability to:

- safely load and unload the wheelchair in your vehicle

- use the wheelchair brakes to secure and release it
- fasten the seat belts or safety harness
- secure any wheel belts or clamps fitted to your vehicle

Driving Assessment Marking

- Remember – this is an assessment and involves no element of training or guidance. The assessor is only there to observe your drive and mark accordingly.
- The assessor is independent, approved by the DVSA and will simply mark your driving against structured assessment criteria.
- The assessor will mark you as they would a learner driver taking the normal practical driving test. For more information check the DVSA website on driving tests.
- If you commit more than 9 minor driving faults you will fail, whereas a learner can score fifteen.
- You will also fail if you score one or more dangerous or serious faults.
- Driving Fault - a non-dangerous fault such as hesitating at a junction or not signalling or signalling too late.
- Serious Fault - a potentially dangerous incident has occurred or where a regular driving fault shows a serious or potentially dangerous weakness in the candidate's driving.
- Dangerous Fault - an incident that caused actual danger while driving.
- The Assessor can only mark what is seen. No matter how many years you have been driving or your previous driving experiences, the assessor will simply mark what you do on your assessment, so if you make mistakes these will be marked.

The Assessment Results

- Remember the standard of driving expected will be higher than that of a learner driver.
- If you commit offences such as driving in a bus lane contrary to a restriction, contravening a traffic light, overtaking contrary to the road marks and other similar actions you will automatically fail.
- If during your assessment you commit more than 9 minor faults, you will also fail.
- If you demonstrate a safe smooth drive without any serious or dangerous faults and 9 or less minor faults you will pass your test.
- In accordance with DVSA practice the assessor's decision is final.
- The assessor will give you your result at the end of the assessment. You will also be given a copy of your assessment sheet at this time.
- The assessor will also issue a certificate to successful candidates

To Cancel or Change a taxi Assessment: (working days are Monday to Friday)

To cancel or change your taxi test you will need to give 3 clear working days otherwise you will lose your fee.

This does not include the day of cancelling or the day of your test.

Our fees

Standard Assessment:	£80
Enhanced Assessment:	£92
Wheelchair Assessment:	£26
Replacement Certificate	£25