

Information regarding the Private Hire Driver Knowledge Test

Applicants for a driver's licence are required to have passed the Council's knowledge test. This test will ensure that the applicant has sufficient knowledge in relation to:

1. The Epsom & Ewell hackney carriage and private hire licensing policy particularly where it relates to ongoing requirements for licence holders (e.g. licence conditions, the Penalty Points Scheme, Requirements to update the Council of any changes, etc.)
2. The Highway Code, particularly changes to the code since the grant of their DVLA licence
3. Verbal and written English communication, including the ability to write a receipt, understand written information provided by the Council relating to their licences, understanding typical verbal passenger requests and being able to respond clearly to such requests.
4. Numeracy, particularly with reference to calculating the correct change
5. Local knowledge: The location of key landmarks, schools, stations, hospitals, health centres, public houses, leisure and sport facilities within the Borough, and the roads used to travel between them.

Section 1 Licence conditions and penalty points scheme;-

You will be verbally asked 5 questions from the following list;-

Q: What are the rules around carrying animals in a licensed vehicle?

Q: What should you do if you change address, and how quickly?

Q: What should you do if you change the operator you are working for, and how quickly?

Q: What should you do if you are arrested, and how quickly?

Q: What are the rules around vaping in a licensed vehicle?

Q: It is a condition of a private hire drivers licence the you should 'afford all reasonable assistance with passengers' luggage'. What do you understand this to mean?

Q: When working as a private hire driver how are you required to dress and behave?

Q: Can you eat and drink when carrying a passenger?

Q: What are the rules around playing music in a vehicle when carrying a passenger?

Q: Is it ok to give a colleague a lift whilst carrying a fee-paying passenger?

Q: When is it ok to charge more than the previously amount agreed before the start of the journey?

Q: When driving a licensed vehicle for hire, how should your licence badge be displayed?

Q: What should you do with your licence badge when it expires?

Q: What update service must you subscribe to during the course of your licence?

Q: If your medical condition changes it might effect your driving, what must you do and how quickly?

Q: The Council has a penalty point scheme for licensed drivers. How many points can a drive be awarded before they are referred to the Licensing Sub-Committee.

Pass criteria: you must get 4 of the 5 questions correct.

Section 2 The Highway Code;-

You will be given 3 written multiple choice questions on recent changes to the highway code, for example;-

According to the new hierarchy of road users, who can cause the greatest harm on the road?

- Motorcyclists
- Pedestrians
- Large goods/passenger vehicles
- Vans/minibuses

Who must give way to pedestrians waiting to cross when turning in or out of a junction

- Drivers
- Motorcyclists/cyclists
- Horse riders
- All of the above

The Highway Code updated advice on using the Dutch Reach, but what actually is it?

- Opening the vehicle with the hand closest to the door
- Opening the vehicle with the opposite hand
- Closing the vehicle with the hand closest to the door
- Closing the vehicle with the opposite hand

What distance should be given to cyclists when overtaking?

- 1.5 metres at speed under 30mph
- 3 metres over 30mph
- 2 metres under 15mph
- 1.5 metre over 30mph

When riding in large groups, what position should cyclists assume?

- Single file
- Two abreast
- Triple file
- They're not allowed to ride in big groups

Where should cyclists position themselves on quiet roads/streets, slow-moving traffic or approaching junctions?

- Left of the lane they are in
- Right of the lane they are in
- Centre of the lane they are in
- On the pavement

Who has higher priority at a roundabout and junction, according to the new code?

- Cars
- Buses
- Motorcyclists
- Cyclists

Pass criteria: All 3 questions must be answered correctly

Section 3 Verbal and written English communication

- A) You will be asked to read aloud a section of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy relevant to your application. Officers will need to be able to clearly understand what you have read out.
- B) You will then be asked to explain what that section means to you. Officer will need to know that you have comprehended what you have read.

For example, an applicant may be asked to read aloud the following section of policy relating to driver applications:-

‘3.6 Full disclosure of Criminal records, cautions, etc.

‘3.6.2 Where an applicant has made a false statement or a false declaration on their application for the grant or renewal of a licence, the licence will normally be refused. It is not necessary for the Council to determine whether false information was given knowingly or recklessly before refusing an application.’

When asked to explain what this means, a suitable reply might be:-

‘An applicant must always provide truthful information when applying for a licence, if incorrect information is given, whether by accident or intentionally, the application could be refused’.

Pass criteria: Officers must be certain you can understand the main points of the section of policy you are asked to read.

- C) You will be asked to write a receipt for a fictional journey where you are told all the details you need to include on the receipt.

Example of information you will need to write on a receipt:-

- The name of the passenger (e.g. Mr Smith)
- The cost of the journey (e.g. £2.50)
- The pickup location (e.g. Epsom train station)
- The drop off location (Stoneleigh)

Pass criteria: Correct spelling is not essential, but the receipt must be legible and clearly show the relevant information.

Section 4 Numeracy

You will be verbally asked one question on money handling typical of a private hire journey, that you must get right. You will not be permitted to use pen and paper or and digital device, and will have to give your answer verbally.

Example questions you may be asked:-

The fare for a journey is agreed at £17.60. At the end of the journey the passenger pays with a £20 note. How much change should they be given?

Pass criteria: you must answer this question correctly.

Section 5 Local knowledge

A) You will verbally be asked to give the location of 5 of the following addresses, without using map or digital device to help:-

- Epsom Playhouse
- Bourne Hall
- Epsom Racecourse
- Hobbledown Adventure Farm Park and Zoo
- NESLOT
- University for the Creative Arts
- Blenheim School
- Glyn School
- Rosebery School
- Epsom & Ewell High
- The Ashley Centre
- The Clocktower
- Epsom Station
- Ewell East Station
- Ewell West Station
- Tattenham Corner Station
- Epsom Downs Station
- Stoneleigh Station
- Nonsuch Park
- Rosebery Park
- Horton Country Park
- Hook Road Arena
- Epsom Hospital
- New Cottage Hospital

Pass criteria: The answer must be given verbally, giving the name of the road. You must get 4 of the 5 questions correct.

B) You will then verbally be asked to show you can plan a journey from an address below to one of the above locations. You may use map or a digital device (e.g. sat nav or mobile phone) to help you, but you must verbally describe the route you will take – e.g. you cannot just pass the phone or satnav over to the officer to show the journey, officers must instead be satisfied you can plan and understand the route you will be taking.

- High Street, Ewell Village
- Chessington Road, West Ewell
- Cheam Road, East Ewell
- Ruxley Lane, Ewell Court
- Tattenham Corner Road, Epsom Downs

- High Street, Epsom
- Wells Road, Epsom Common
- Horton Lane, Horton
- Stoneleigh Park Road, Stoneleigh
- Langley Vale Road, Langley Vale

Pass criteria: Officers will ask a maximum of three routes, comprehensive and clear answers must be given to at least 2 in order to pass.