

**MCLEOD** SCHOOL OF MOTORING

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WHO WILL  
PASS?

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## WHO WILL PASS THE DRIVING TEST?

This is an information filled story and quiz designed to give you an insight into the driving test from both the examiner's and pupils point of view. It follows two candidates through their practical driving tests.

To get the most from this exercise follow these steps;

- 01 First read it as a story.
- 02 On the second reading answer the questions.
- 03 Link the headings with Examiners tips

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# 01 WHO WILL PASS THE DRIVING TEST?

This is an information filled story and quiz designed to give you an insight into the driving test from both the examiner's and pupils point of view.

It follows two candidates through their practical driving tests. As you follow each candidate you will find out the positives and the negatives of their approach and handling of the test.

You will also get an understanding of what is and what is not acceptable by examiners.

## BEFORE YOU ATTEND THE TEST

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Your vehicle must be properly insured. If a car is over three years old it must have a valid mot certificate. A current road tax disc must be displayed and 'L' plates must be clearly visible to the front and rear of the vehicle.

A rear view mirror must be supplied for the examiner and all seats must have head restraints.

The law requires your vehicle to have seatbelts, they must be clean and in good working order. If the examiner cannot fasten a seatbelt the test will be terminated.

You must wear a seatbelt unless you hold an exemption certificate. Seatbelts may be removed to complete reverse manoeuvres but must be fastened directly after each exercise.

If you have any disability that affects your driving you must declare it on the driving test application.

If you are deaf or cannot speak English an interpreter may accompany you.

## ON THE DAY OF THE TEST

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On the day of the test you must produce a photo licence with paper counterpart. If you have an older style paper licence you must produce photographic evidence of your identity. A passport for example.

You should also take your theory test certificate.

You will be asked to sign the examiners driving test form as a declaration that your vehicle is properly insured for the test.

## 02 MEET THE CANDIDATES

### RICHARD

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Richard is working as an apprentice electrician. He is about to become fully qualified and needs a driving licence as soon as possible in order to drive to and from work.

Richard has been taking four lessons per week for six weeks to prepare for the driving test date.

His driving instructor has had to work very hard over the short period of time they have had together, sometimes pushing him slightly harder than he would others because of the short time available.

### JULIE

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Julie works in a car showroom in the administration department. She has a great respect for cars and in her initial stages of learning to drive she had a slight fear of them.

Julie has been learning to drive for just over a year and having passed the theory test her instructor felt that she was competent enough in her driving ability to sit a test.

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**Both candidates are booked for a test at a busy test centre.**

**They both have the same test date and time and unknown to them they will be following exactly the same test route.**

## 03 ARRIVING AT THE TEST CENTRE

Julie arrived at the test centre a good ten minutes before test time. She did feel nervous but at the same time quietly confident. On the drive up to the test centre Julie managed to do all of the manoeuvres pretty well but she was making a few errors in her general driving.

She had a little time now to reflect on what she had done and gather her thoughts in preparation for the test.

With five minutes to go until the appointment time Julie and her instructor were about to cross the road to enter the test centre when Richard drove past them looking for a parking space.

Richard always had slight problems reversing into an opening and on the way to the test centre he had to practice three of these manoeuvres as well as all the others. As a result of this he was running a little late.

As Julie waited in the test centre an examiner entered exactly on time," Richard Peters?" he asked politely. There was no reply. Julie's instructor mentioned that he had seen the other instructor parking close by and that they were probably making their way to the test centre.

As Julie made her way out to the car she was sharing a conversation with her examiner as Richard brushed past. When Julie reached the road the examiner asked her which vehicle was she driving. Julie was then asked to read the registration number of another vehicle that had been pointed out to her.

### QUESTIONS

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1. At what distance should you be able to read a number plate?
2. If you wear glasses or contact lenses to read a number plate must you always wear them when driving?

## 04 PRECAUTIONS

When she reached her own vehicle the examiner asked a few questions on vehicle knowledge and maintenance. The next thing she knew she was seated in her vehicle with the seatbelt fastened.

The examiner climbed into the car beside her and in a pleasant tone asked Julie to follow the road ahead unless she was told otherwise, and when ready, to move away in her own time.

Before starting the engine Julie remembered to check the handbrake was on and the gear lever was in neutral.

"Funny", she thought, " I sometimes forget to check that".

Julie made sure the heater controls were on and set correctly. She knew that rain was expected that day but as it was dry at that moment in time she did not consider the windscreen wipers.

### QUESTIONS

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1. What is the importance of ensuring there is sufficient oil in the engine?
2. What would happen if you tried to start the engine with the vehicle in gear?

EXAMINER TIP

## 05 MOVE OFF

Julie set the gas and brought the clutch up the correct amount to the biting point.

She then made checks ahead and in both the interior and right mirrors.

"Always check the blind spots", her instructors words were ringing in her ears. As she checked fully round over her right shoulder she saw two pedestrians emerge from a gate and stop at the kerb.

Julie then signalled to indicate that she was moving out from the kerb. She then released the hand brake and controlled the vehicle gently out past the other parked cars.

As the car straightened up Julie checked the mirrors and saw the two pedestrians crossing the road behind her.

"Just as well I signalled", she thought.

Richard saw the car moving away from the kerb as he crossed the road. His mind was full of thoughts on reversing into an opening, he felt a slight shiver run through him.

"I'll be OK once I am in the car", he reassured himself.

Richard answered all his vehicle check questions correctly and was now seated in the car and ready to go.

### QUESTIONS

1. What is a blind spot?
2. Why is it important to check ahead before moving out from behind parked vehicles?

EXAMINER TIP



## 06 CONTROL

Richard had been asked to move away when ready. He had checked the hand brake was on and made sure the gear lever was in neutral. It would not have been the first time he had attempted to start the engine with a gear already engaged. Once the engine was started Richard set the gas, eased the clutch up to the biting point. Instead of holding the clutch steady at the biting point he brought the clutch up a little further to make sure he had the bite. He made proper checks and saw an oncoming vehicle. So he signalled to move out. "Plenty of room to pull out", he thought, " It is a wide road". He released the hand brake. The car jumped forward slightly as the hand brake was released, not violently by any means but enough to get closer to the parked car in front than he had anticipated. "Steer harder", he thought. Richards car emerged from the parking space and the front of his car encroached slightly over the centre lines and onto the other side of the road causing the oncoming vehicle to change direction. After some brisk steering Richard finally straightened the vehicle up and was now setting off to complete his driving test.

Julie was a good five minutes into the test and she was settling in nicely. She had encountered light traffic and was making good progress without breaking any speed limits. She was particularly pleased with her gear changes as they were smooth and well timed. Julie found herself looking well ahead, a job she had often left to her instructor. Julie felt in control as she was searching for potential hazards and as a result was braking in plenty of time. Richard was now a few minutes into the test and was approaching a give way junction just around the corner from the test centre. He had just been asked by the examiner to turn left onto a major road, a manoeuvre he had completed on numerous occasions. As Richard approached the junction he noticed it was downhill and as he neared it he checked the mirrors. He had left his mirror checks just a little late. This meant his signal was late and his foot brake was applied late. This eventually required firm pressure being applied to the foot brake to stop the front of the vehicle at the double white lines. The firm pressure on the brake resulted in the front of the vehicle dipping, the two bodies bumped back into the seat fabric as the car settled at the road junction. After doing proper checks, right, left and right again Richard pulled away with a slight lurch as his clutch was brought up a little too firmly and just slightly above the biting point.

### QUESTIONS

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1. Give two examples of how an engine might stall?
2. How can late braking affect your driving?

EXAMINER TIP

## 07 CONTROLLED STOP

It had just started to rain slightly. The weather forecast had said there was the probability of light showers. Julie had the wipers on intermittent. There was no need for her to switch on the lights as she could see the shower was going to pass quickly.

The examiner had earlier asked Julie to park somewhere safe and convenient. She had now just moved off from the side of the road, she had not signalled because she knew there was no one to benefit from the signal, a point her instructor had asked her to make a conscious decision on. When she had been parked at the side of the road her examiner had informed her that she would be asked to stop the car as if it was in an emergency. The car was now in third gear and through the corner of her eye Julie saw the examiner check behind, he then gave the pre-arranged signal to stop.

Julie wanted to panic but instead she applied the foot brake straight away, lightly to begin with then increased the pressure on the pedal. She felt the front of the vehicle dip as it slowed down in rapid control. At that point Julie heard a scrapping noise she then heard her instructor's voice as if he had been sitting next to her. "If the road is greasy or wet there is the possibility that the wheels may lock up if too much pressure is applied to the brakes". Julie eased off the brake pedal and immediately felt the vehicle come under control, re-application of the brake then brought the car to a secure stop.

It felt like an eternity from applying the handbrake and selecting neutral position for the gear lever until the examiner said, "Thank you, I will not ask you to complete that manoeuvre again, please drive on when you are ready".

Julie checked all three mirrors and over both shoulders. After moving off smoothly she checked the interior mirror again to see a car coming up behind her. After the next gear change she checked the mirror again. The car behind was now pulling into the side of the road to park. "That driver could have signalled to let me know he was parking", she thought.

Richard pulled up and stopped at the side of the road. "I did not signal", he thought. He had a quick look round.

"That's OK, no one there to see the signal anyway".

Richard moved away after completing the emergency stop. As he straightened the vehicle up he thought, "The car has never done that before and I have had plenty of practice at emergency stops".

### QUESTIONS

1. When doing an emergency stop should the clutch go down before or after you brake?
2. After completing the emergency stop why should you check over both shoulders before you get ready to move off?

EXAMINER TIP

## 08 REVERSE INTO AN OPENING ON THE LEFT

"Park on the left please, just before the next opening", Richard heard the examiner say.

"OH NO!", these were the words Richard was dreading to hear.

After checking the mirrors Richard signalled that he was stopping before the opening. He stopped the car close to the kerb, applied the hand brake and selected neutral.

Richard had signalled for the vehicle waiting at the junction. After applying the hand brake he looked up and saw the learner driver emerge from the opening.

"She looks as if she is enjoying herself", he thought.

As Julie drove out of the opening she was feeling pleased with herself. She had just completed the reverse manoeuvre and had remembered to make all observations at the correct times. She had remembered to make the checks before releasing the hand brake and before turning the wheel to steer into the opening.

On reflection Julie felt her control could have been smoother but she had not allowed the vehicle to roll forward. Thinking back to the practice sessions she always seemed to end up too far from the kerb, but on the test she felt that the car was at least reasonably close to the kerb by the time she was asked to stop.

"Thank you, if you would like to move away now and take the next road to the right please", the examiner told Richard.

"Perfect reverse", Richard applauded himself silently. He gave a slight sideways glance at the examiner as if he had expected the examiner to have heard him. Richard prepared the car to go. "Good control", he said to himself.

"Never rolled forward", he checked the mirrors.

"Did my checks, I even stopped for the car coming up behind me", he made the signal to move away from the kerb.

"Stopped nice and close to the kerb", he released the handbrake.

As the car moved away Richard looked over his right shoulder in time to see the pedestrian stepping backwards onto the kerb.

### QUESTIONS

1. Why should you make an all round check before steering into an opening?
2. How do you hold the car steady to do this check?

EXAMINER TIP

## 09 TURNING IN THE ROAD

It was the first real error that Julie could remember making.

She had almost completed the first manoeuvre of the turning in the road but she had forgotten to steer left. Instead of almost having full lock she had only managed to steer slightly to the left.

Julie felt so alone at this point. She wanted to go home or have the reassuring voice of her instructor to ease her out of this predicament.

"The examiner must think I am a real idiot, why does he not say something".

"Snap out of it", She chastised herself.

What was it her instructor used to say, "Mistakes will happen, you are not an expert driver, just try to think of the best way to correct the situation".

Julie applied the hand brake, selected reverse, set the gas and got the biting point. An all round observation assured her that it was safe to proceed with the reverse manoeuvre.

As Julie reversed back under full control she looked and steered briskly to the left. The wheels turned and the rear of the vehicle started to swing around. She watched the rear of the vehicle swing and then looked over her right shoulder. Watching the kerb Julie steered briskly to the right and then stopped the rear of the vehicle just short of the kerb preventing it from overhanging it.

Julie applied the hand brake and then set about preparing for the third part of the manoeuvre.

On doing the all round checks Julie saw a vehicle approaching from the right. As it was quite close she decided to let it pass before completing the manoeuvre.

As Richard passed the vehicle doing the turning in the road he recognised the girl driving. He thought she looked more determined this time.

### QUESTIONS

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1. What is a camber?
2. Should you apply the handbrake when you stop at the kerbs?

EXAMINER TIP

# 10 REVERSE PARK BETWEEN OTHER VEHICLES

The turning in the road manoeuvre was never any real problem for Richard and as he drove away from the manoeuvre he checked the mirrors and saw a vehicle coming up behind him. It was a good distance away but it was moving quite fast.

Richard looked further on and he saw a car double parked. It's reverse lights were on.

"Must be reverse parking ", he thought. "I'll signal to tell them I am overtaking". Richard signalled and was going to move over in good time to overtake and pass safely. He did not know why, but something told him to double check. Out of the corner of his eye he saw movement. "The car behind", he thought. Luckily he was able to brake in time and then steer around the vehicle that was reverse parking just after the other vehicle had overtaken. His heart was pounding by this time.

Julie waited until the two vehicles had passed. She checked all round and into the blind spot over her right shoulder. Then looking the way that she intended to go released the handbrake and reversed back slowly.

"I never thought that I would have to do three manoeuvres", she thought. It was then she remembered her instructor telling her that she must be able to complete all four manoeuvres and that it is possible to be asked to do two or three of them on the test. Julie reached the point where it was almost time to steer. She held the car steady and made another all round observation. The road was clear. Julie then proceeded to steer into the parking space.

As Julie manoeuvred into the parking space she kept checking forward and back frequently to find out when the car would become parallel with the kerb. Just before the car became parallel with the kerb she started to steer to straighten the wheels.

After applying the handbrake and selecting neutral Julie checked the distance from the kerb. She discovered she was not as close to the kerb as she would have liked but at the same time she was not far enough out as to cause an obstruction.

Julie checked the distance from the vehicle in front and she could see the other vehicles tyres and a bit of road surface beneath them so she knew there was ample space to manoeuvre out of the space. She remembered her instructor telling her that she had a distance of two car lengths in which to complete the manoeuvre and that to move the vehicle forward to straighten up would be acceptable. "Thank you", the examiner said, "please drive on when you are ready."

## QUESTIONS

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1. Why should you check all round before steering into the parking space?
2. While waiting beside a vehicle to reverse park in a narrow street a vehicle comes up behind you. What should you do?

EXAMINER TIP

# 11 USE OF MIRRORS

Richard was now approaching a roundabout. He had managed to calm down after his close encounter with the overtaking vehicle. Richard had checked the mirrors, early this time, and could see other vehicles behind him in the distance also approaching the roundabout. Looking ahead at the roundabout he saw there was an opening to the right just before it. "Better not signal too early", he thought., "people might think I am turning into the opening before the roundabout. He checked the mirrors again, and could now see that the vehicles behind him were a lot closer already. "What will I do now", he thought. He did not want to leave the manoeuvre too late as he could see the situation developing just like the previous one. He started to go into a cold sweat. He checked the mirrors again, signalled for the benefit of the other road users and then steered over to the right lane. Richard then cancelled the signal in case the other road users thought he was turning into the opening before the roundabout. As he passed the opening on the right he signalled to the right again. "I like turning right", he thought. Richard completed the right turn on the roundabout and was now on a dual-carriageway. He enjoyed driving at speed. This stretch of road was particularly busy and as he looked ahead he could see quite a few large goods vehicles dotted up the length of the carriageway. After driving a few minutes along the dual-carriageway he saw a green direction sign in the distance. "Take the next exit to the left please", he heard the examiner say. "Half a mile to go", he thought, "will I slow down to follow the slow moving vehicle or will I have enough time to overtake and pull back in before reaching the slip road?". In a split second he decided to stay at seventy miles per hour and overtake. As he passed the slower moving vehicle he saw the exit looming closer. Richard checked the mirrors and when he saw the front of the vehicle being overtaken in the mirror he signalled to move back into the left lane. Richard then steered off the dual-carriageway onto the deceleration lane. Julie was closely following Richard and was now on the dual-carriageway. She had just overtaken a slow moving vehicle and was going to take her speed up to seventy miles per hour. Julie would never have dreamt that she would have the confidence to do this, but she felt so in control, as if she was alone in the car making all the decisions. Julie looked ahead and saw there was congestion with a lot of overtaking going on. She decided against seventy miles per hour and brought the speed down to sixty. She was happy to wait on the congestion clearing before she attempted another overtake. "Take the next exit to the left please", the examiner broke Julie's concentration.

## QUESTIONS

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1. Should you exceed the speed limit to overtake?
2. After overtaking another vehicle, how do you know when it is safe to move back into the left lane?

EXAMINER TIP

# 12 SIGNALS

At the end of the deceleration lane there was a roundabout where Richard was turning left. As Richard turned off to the left the indicator cancelled itself. Further ahead he could see another roundabout, he was waiting for instructions but none were given. "If nothing is said follow the road ahead", the words his instructor had often said were ringing in his ears. Richard checked the mirrors and stayed in position in the left lane. He knew not to signal as he was following the road ahead. Richard checked the mirrors again and slowed down. As he slowed he started to look to the right and could see several vehicles approaching the roundabout. Richard decided to slow the vehicle to 20 miles per hour, select 2nd gear and observe the roundabout to find out what would develop. As it so happened all of the vehicles cleared the roundabout and Richard was left with a clear passage. As he passed the opening before the exit he wanted he checked the mirrors and signalled left. It was at that point Richard saw the vehicle approaching the roundabout from ahead. The other driver knew exactly what Richard's intentions were and carried on to complete his manoeuvre. After safely negotiating the roundabout Richard started to build up speed and he noted that the road was wide enough for safe overtaking if it was necessary. Further ahead Richard could see a bus signalling to pull into a bus stop. He could also see that there was a large queue of people waiting to join the bus. He checked the mirrors. "No one behind me, no need to signal", he thought. He then moved his vehicle into position to overtake the bus. At the point where he had just started to cross the centre line he saw the oncoming vehicle. "Plenty of room to pass", he decided. He also decided to signal to the oncoming vehicle as he was crossing slightly over the centre lines and onto the other side of the road. "Find somewhere safe and convenient to park please", the examiner spoke in a relaxed tone. Richard checked the mirrors and then ahead. He could see a number of openings and driveways on both sides of the road. He checked the mirrors again and saw the bus he had overtaken earlier coming up behind him. Richard made a decision to park between the two openings on the left. He checked the mirrors again. "Better not signal too early, others may think I am turning into the first opening. Just to confirm his correct appraisal of the situation a vehicle appeared at the first opening and waited to emerge onto the major road. As he passed the first opening Richard checked the mirrors, signalled to the left and made a smooth stop at the kerb.

## QUESTIONS

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1. Going straight ahead at a roundabout, do you have to signal?
2. Why should you always signal to leave a roundabout?

EXAMINER TIP

# 13 RESPONSE TO SIGNS AND SIGNALS

"Move away when you are ready please", said the examiner.

Richard checked the mirrors and looked around over his right shoulder to check the blind spots. Especially with all the road junctions and driveways present.

He saw the car approach from the rear and decided to wait until it had passed as he did not want to pull out in front of it and cause it to slow down for him.

Julie passed the parked car, she could see the driver checking the blind spots.

"He must be getting ready to move off", she thought.

It had just started to rain again, a little harder than the previous time. Julie had just switched on the lights and the wipers. As she looked ahead she saw the sign for a roundabout, the examiner had not given her any instructions so she knew to go ahead.

Julie looked for the roundabout, she knew it could not be too far ahead, it was then she saw the blue sign. No wonder she could not see the junction it was a mini roundabout. Julie quickly checked the mirrors then braked. As the brakes were applied she could see the front of the vehicle dip, the speed of the vehicle dropped and Julie selected a lower gear. She then looked to the right at the roundabout.

There was no traffic from the right so Julie eased off the brake and proceeded through the roundabout.

"That was fortunate, keep concentrating", she wanted to shout out.

Richard also had his lights on by now as it was raining quite hard by this time. He had seen the vehicle in front braking hard which had given him ample warning of the mini roundabout ahead.

Richard passed through the roundabout and then saw the sign for the bend ahead. As he rounded the bend he saw the vehicle stopped on the left about one metre from out from the kerb. Richard slowed his vehicle and saw no reason not to overtake so he moved towards the other vehicle.

He suddenly got a glimpse of the school patrol crossing. He stopped behind although slightly to the right of the vehicle in front.

"I hope the examiner never saw that", he thought.

Richard followed the other vehicle as it moved off in front of him.

## QUESTIONS

1. Should you always signal when moving out from the side of the road?
2. What do zigzag lines at a pedestrian crossing mean?

EXAMINER TIP



# 14 USE OF SPEED

It was still raining and as she looked ahead Julie could see a circular sign in the distance. She recognised the road and knew the sign indicated the start of the forty miles per hour zone. Julie sensed traffic movement behind her and as she checked the right mirror a flash of headlights confirmed that she was about to be overtaken.

Richard saw that the road ahead was clear and decided to make some progress. It was after he had overtaken the slower moving vehicle that he realised that he had gone over the speed limit.

"It was only five miles per hour extra", he thought, "not that much over the speed limit", he tried to reassure himself.

Once Julie reached the forty miles per hour sign she checked the mirrors and as the road was clear accelerated up to the limit. She was still searching ahead for hazards as she knew she may have to slow down again.

As Julie looked ahead another roundabout came into sight. She spotted the vehicle ahead of her come to a stop in the left lane and as she was going ahead Julie brought her car to a stop behind the other vehicle.

Julie made sure her car was stopped a safe distance from the stationary vehicle and knew the distance was correct as she could see both rear tyres and a small section of road surface over the bonnet.

The roundabout had a stream of traffic on it and as she had to wait Julie applied the hand brake.

## QUESTIONS

1. What happens to a braking distance in wet conditions?
2. What is the safe distance to wait behind another vehicle in stationary traffic?

EXAMINER TIP

# 15 MAINTAIN PROGRESS

As Julie waited she looked to the right searching for the gap in the traffic that the vehicle in front would take.

"There is a gap", she thought.

Julie prepared her vehicle to move up to the roundabout as soon as the vehicle in front moved away. The vehicle in front never moved and Julie waited patiently.

Richard did not like this roundabout, he had always found this one busy.

"Look at all the cars", he thought.

He could see cars, buses and trucks going left, right and ahead. He was never really sure where they were all going.

He was now getting impatient.

"I've been here too long", he kept saying to himself.

He saw one vehicle approaching the roundabout from the right and it stopped before emerging onto the roundabout.

"That's my gap", he said to himself.

He set the gas. He looked at the other vehicle, it had just started to move onto the roundabout. He brought the clutch up to the biting point and released the hand brake. He looked at the vehicle again, it was now on the roundabout.

As Richard checked the mirrors and signalled to leave the roundabout the other vehicle was already slowing down as it's exit was now blocked by the learner driver.

Julie had moved her car up to the line at the roundabout. "It is busy", she thought, "remember what your instructor said, if you look for vehicles that is exactly what you will see, look for gaps in the traffic instead". That is exactly what Julie was looking for. She saw a van coming around the roundabout, there was the possibility of a gap behind that vehicle. Julie prepared her vehicle to go. She set the gas, clutch up to biting point, hand on the hand brake ready to release if the gap was where she thought it was. Another vehicle approached the roundabout from the right, but it stopped. As the van passed Julie released the hand brake and started to move off smoothly and followed the van around the roundabout.

## QUESTIONS

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1. What does hesitancy mean?
2. How do you know if you have taken a gap safely?

EXAMINER TIP

# 16 JUNCTIONS

As Richard drove along the main road he heard the examiner say, "Take the next road on the left please".

Richard checked the mirrors and made his signal. "Don't slow down too early", he said to himself.

He recalled some of his driving lessons where he used to slow down a bit early and then had to speed up again to negotiate the openings. This time his timing was good and he steered into the opening in full control and after checking the mirrors accelerated smoothly away. Julie, who had just been asked to do the same manoeuvre at the same junction, was not going to have it so easy.

The van that had been on the roundabout had just parked at the side of the road ahead of her and was obscuring her view of the opening. Julie could see the van door opening and the driver jump out. She concentrated on the driver in case he stepped out in front of her. As she drew level with the van she then saw the opening, it was not far off now. A quick check in the mirror told Julie there was nothing behind, she then quickly signalled to turn left, the brake was applied and Julie felt the front of the car dip.

"That's twice I've had to brake quite hard", she thought. As soon as the speed had dropped Julie selected 2nd gear and steered the vehicle into the opening under full control. "Don't leave things late again", she scolded herself. "At the end of the road turn to the right please", Richard heard the examiner say. Richard had already observed the give way junction before the examiner had mentioned it. Mirror. Signal. Manoeuvre. Perfect approach stopping the front of the vehicle smoothly at the double broken lines.

Richard knew he had to stop at the lines as he could not see onto the major road as he was approaching.

He checked, right, left and right again. He saw a car approaching from the right and it had a left indicator on. Richard could actually see it slowing down to park at the kerb so he proceeded onto the major road to complete the right turn.

"At the end of the road turn to the right please", Julie heard the examiner say. Julie checked the mirrors, signalled, manoeuvred into position and stopped at the double broken lines. After making the proper checks Julie realised she could not get a clear view onto the road because of the parked car on the right.

"Nothing from the left, just go", she heard herself say, "no! go forward, check the obstructed view to the right".

Julie edged out from the junction just enough to see past the parked car. Julie set the gas, clutch up to the biting point, she released the hand brake just after the moped passed her. "Lucky I decided to double check", she said to herself.

## QUESTIONS

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1. What checks must be made before emerging from a road junction?
2. If obstructions prevent you from seeing onto a road what should you do?

# 16 JUNCTIONS (CONTINUED)

Richards right signal was on. He had checked the mirrors and saw a car behind him. He was now manoeuvring over to the right lane just left of the centre line. Richard could also see an oncoming vehicle but he knew he could complete the turn without having to stop. The oncoming vehicle was a good distance off.

Julie was using her routines with ease by now, looking the part of an established driver. She had checked the mirrors, signalled and then positioned the vehicle correctly for the right turn.

She had seen the vehicle ahead of her turn right and the oncoming vehicle turn into the opening a few seconds later. There were no more vehicles from ahead but Julie realised she was going to have to stop.

As soon as the elderly lady finally crossed to the kerb at the road junction Julie deliberately cut the right hand corner slightly as she turned into the opening. She passed 1 metre from the car that had just parked too close to the junction.

"That is the car that just turned left into the opening", she thought.

She always had good observation and anticipation skills, her instructor had often told her.

"Not far to go now". Richard recognised the street he was in and knew the test centre was not far away. His attention was starting to wander.

"At the end of the road turn to the left please", Richard heard the examiner say.

"Seems a pleasant enough chap that examiner", Richard thought as he looked down at the clock.

"Only ten minutes of the test to go".

Julie had seen the car in front bump down from the kerb as it turned left.

"Don't get too close, keep one metre from the kerb", she could hear the very words her instructor often used, "remember the rear wheels will get closer to the kerb than the front".

## QUESTIONS

1. When turning right there may be no oncoming vehicles but you may still have to stop, why?
2. If you stop to give way to oncoming vehicles, how should your car be facing?

EXAMINER TIP

# 17 JUDGEMENT & CLEARANCE TO OBSTRUCTIONS

As Julie steered left she noticed the road ahead was clear. There were no parked cars or obstructions on the major road so she steered one metre from the kerb. A little further ahead Julie observed a cyclist and immediately checked the mirrors. She decided to overtake the cyclist. There was no one to benefit from the signal so she then positioned her vehicle to move past making sure there was ample room for any wobbles or sudden changes of course by the cyclist. As she accelerated past the cyclist she was careful not to break the thirty miles per hour speed restriction.

Just at that moment Richard was stopped, he had seen the place where the road was narrowed by parked cars on both sides of the street and he had also observed the oncoming vehicles. This was something he was pleased about as his instructor was always trying to get him to plan ahead instead of rushing into developing hazards. What made him even happier was the acknowledgment the other drivers gave him for his courtesy.

"I'll do that again", he thought.

When there was a sufficient gap in the oncoming traffic Richard moved off making sure he gave good clearance to the parked cars on the left and the right. He could remember the times when car doors had opened and pedestrians had stepped out in front of him in similar situations. He had even experienced a vehicle pulling out in front of him.

The road was a little wider now but he was still staying out one metre from the parked vehicles. He was looking ahead in the event of oncoming vehicles narrowing the gap again where he may have to move slightly into the left to keep an equal distance between the oncoming vehicles and the parked cars.

## QUESTIONS

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1. In normal driving how far from the kerb should you be?
2. If parked cars or obstructions are on both sides of the road whose priority should it be?

EXAMINER TIP

# 18 POSITIONING

Once past the congestion Richard saw that the road was clear so he built up speed to thirty miles per hour to do the speed limit. The last situation made him realise he should always be looking well ahead for any situations where he could come into conflict with other vehicles.

The road was widening out further now with two lanes on each side of the carriageway. Richard was in position one metre from the kerb as he did not want to be too close to kerbs or drain covers and there was always the possibility of pedestrians stepping into the road. At the same time Richard knew he should try to keep the right lane clear in case other road users wished to overtake. As he looked ahead he saw parked cars in the distance. Richard checked the mirrors, there was no one to benefit, from the signal, so he moved into position without signalling. When he had moved over to the right lane Richard could see further ahead and noticed more parked cars ahead. Richard checked the mirrors and noticed a vehicle appear behind him, it was coming up fast. The gap between the parked cars was not sufficient enough for Richard to move into and allow the other vehicle to pass so he maintained position in the right lane. Richard saw even more parked cars further ahead. The following vehicle was very close now doing the thirty miles per hour speed limit.

This time the gap in between the rows of parked cars was sufficient for Richard to position into the left lane. The following vehicle overtook. Richard then checked the mirrors and seeing it was clear moved his vehicle out to the right lane in ample time to pass the next row of parked cars. Richard could now see the traffic lights ahead.

"At the end of the road turn to the left please", the examiner instructed him. Richard checked the mirrors and signalled to turn left. When he looked again at the junction he could see a car parked very close to the lights and it was sitting slightly up on the kerb. The parked car was not far enough into the road to merit approaching in the right lane. Richard checked the mirrors again and could see a few vehicles approaching from behind.

He started to slow his vehicle and took up position one metre from the parked car. As he came to a stop he noticed his wheels were slightly over the lane marking lines. A vehicle drew up beside him to turn right and another vehicle stopped behind him.

## QUESTIONS

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1. If a street is narrow and you cannot maintain a 1 metre distance from parked vehicles, what should you do with your speed?
2. In a narrow street with obstructions or parked vehicles are on your side of the road, whose priority should it be?

EXAMINER TIP

# 19 CLEARANCE TO OBSTRUCTIONS

Richard checked the mirrors and saw the learner driver's vehicle stopped behind him. He noticed it was also turning left at the lights.

Looking to the left Richard saw the line of parked cars that stretched along the full length of the road.

Julie had turned left at the lights following the learner driver. She saw the vehicle ahead of her position out from the line of parked cars. Julie checked the mirrors and did likewise. Further ahead she saw an indicator light come on. It was one of the parked cars. "Surely not", she thought, but her fears were realised.

The parked vehicle that had just indicated started to edge out. Julie checked the mirrors and then steered slightly out to pass one metre from the front of the vehicle that was attempting to move out.

The vehicle had stopped by the time Julie had reached it. Julie saw the driver check over their shoulder as she drove past.

"He should have checked earlier", she thought.

Richard was looking well ahead into the distance. He saw a vehicle ahead of him pulling into the side of the road to park. He does not know why, but he eased off the accelerator pedal.

"Just as well", Richard thought.

The door of the vehicle that had just parked had been opened but was now closing again just as Richards vehicle was passing.

" He tried to open that door without checking first", he thought.

Richard could now see a zebra crossing in the distance and there were parked cars down either side of the road. Richard was just starting to ease off the accelerator, always wary of keeping a safe distance from the parked cars. Looking ahead he then saw two children almost ready to step out from between the parked cars. He realised that he was far enough away from the children not to have to brake.

"If I had been going faster"? Richard quizzed himself.

Richard dreaded to think what might have happened.

## QUESTIONS

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1. What distance should you be from obstructions or parked vehicles?
2. Why is it important to check the mirrors before moving out to pass obstructions or parked vehicles?

EXAMINER TIP

## 20 PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

Julie had observed the two children cross over the road ahead of her. When she knew they were safely across the road she concentrated on the road ahead.

Julie saw the learner ahead of her slow down on the approach to the zebra crossing. Julie saw the reason why. Two pedestrians were waiting at the crossing but not using it.

The vehicle ahead of her proceeded through the crossing but Julie kept her eye on the pedestrians. She saw them edge forward. Julie checked the mirrors then braked lightly. As the pedestrians stepped onto the crossing Julie was just coming to a stop being careful not to stop on the crossing itself. She applied the hand brake. Once she was happy the pedestrians were well clear of her vehicle she moved off smoothly.

Richard was now further along the same road and ahead of him he could see the lights of another pedestrian crossing.

"Lots of pedestrians at the pelicon crossing", he thought, "button has probably been pressed".

Just as Richard eased off the accelerator pedal the lights changed from green to amber to red.

The lights were on flashing amber as Julie approached the pedestrian crossing. She could see the pedestrians had almost reached the far kerb so she followed the vehicle in front as it started to move off though the lights.

### QUESTIONS

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1. Why is a zebra crossing so named?
2. Why is a pelicon crossing so named?

EXAMINER TIP



# 21 JUDGEMENT

Richard had just been informed that he would be taking the next road on the right.

It was a busy street to turn right on so Richard had checked the mirrors early, he signalled in good time and moved into position. He was now checking into the opening looking for obstructions or pedestrians that might already be crossing. Richard then checked ahead and saw oncoming traffic.

He could remember his instructor telling him, "As long as you can complete your manoeuvre without causing other road users inconvenience by having to slow down or change direction for you, then go ahead and do it".

Julie saw the vehicle ahead of her complete the right turn but she realised there was not enough time for her to manage the turn safely. She then looked at the road junction as she approached so that her vehicle could be correctly positioned to make the right turn if she had to stop. Julie kept checking ahead as she slowed down, checking for gaps in the oncoming traffic. Just as she was stopping and selecting first gear the gap appeared.

Immediately she set the gas, clutch up to the biting point and just as the last oncoming vehicle passed Julie's vehicle started to move. As soon as her vehicle straightened up Julie checked the mirrors and accelerated away from the junction. The examiner then informed her to find somewhere safe and convenient to park. On checking the mirrors she found there was now a vehicle following her. Looking ahead for somewhere to park she saw a vehicle waiting to move out from the side of the road.

"There is a space", she thought, "just behind the vehicle that is about to move away.

She decided against that space as she could foresee complications arising. Instead her decision was to follow the road ahead until a suitable opportunity arose.

A little further on Julie saw a large gap on the left between some parked vehicles, there was also an opening on the right. On checking the mirrors again she saw the following vehicle. When she looked ahead she now saw two pedestrians waiting to cross the road from her left, presumably into the opening on the right.

"What shall I do?", she searched for a solution.

## QUESTIONS

1. What judgement do you make before crossing the path of another vehicle?
2. When turning right at a junction with a box junction, when should you not enter?

EXAMINER TIP

## 22 AWARENESS & PLANNING

Richard had allowed the two vehicles to pass, he then checked well ahead, he remembered back to the time when he had moved out at the test centre.

Richard moved away from the kerb under full control, all checks had been made, nothing had been left to chance. It was then he saw the pedestrians crossing the road ahead of him, presumably into the opening on the right.

The pedestrians were across the road and walking into the opening well before Richard passed and he was now concentrating on matters further ahead. He could see a learner driver's car parked on the left and he could see head movements inside the car.

"That driver must be getting ready to move away", he thought.

As soon as he passed the parked car he checked the mirrors and he could see the indicator of the car flashing as it pulled out into the road behind him.

Julie acknowledged the examiners instructions with a slight nod of her head as she pulled into the pre-planned parking position and smoothly brought the vehicle to a concluding stop.

Julie looked up and saw the parked car in front. It was then she realised she had been following another test candidate throughout the entire test.

As Julie looked into the car in front she saw the driver being handed a number of forms.

It was only when she had switched the engine off that the butterflies started.

The examiner looked at her and seemed to give a little smile.

### QUESTIONS

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1. Do you have the necessary knowledge to pass the test?
2. Did you know you can use this site get more information and test knowledge?

EXAMINER TIP

# EXAMINER TIP

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## PRECAUTIONS

'Before you start the engine make sure that you are comfortably seated and all controls can be safely operated.

Before starting the engine check the handbrake is on and the gear lever is in neutral.'

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# EXAMINER TIP

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## MOVE OFF

'You will need to demonstrate your ability to move off smoothly and safely on the level, on a gradient and at an angle from behind parked vehicles.'

You must also make precautionary observations.'

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# EXAMINER TIP

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## CONTROL

'Control is the safe and controlled use of accelerator, clutch, footbrake, parking brake and steering. Always try to the vehicle controls as smoothly as possible. This means less wear and tear on your vehicle and a smoother ride for your passengers.

Make proper use of your accelerator and clutch to make a smooth start and always depress the clutch just before you stop.

Select the correct gear to match the speed of traffic and road conditions. Change gear in good time but not too soon before a hazard.

Do not allow the vehicle to coast by running on in neutral or with the clutch depressed.

There should be no need to look down at the gear lever as you change gear.

Use the footbrake smoothly and progressively, brake in plenty of time for any hazard.

Make full use of the parking brake to prevent the vehicle rolling forwards or backwards, when waiting or parking.'

# EXAMINER TIP

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## CONTROLLED STOP

'You will need to be able to display a high level of skill in bringing your vehicle to a stop, safely, promptly and under full control. Avoid locking the wheels and remember, in wet weather it can take twice the distance to stop safely.'

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# EXAMINER TIP

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## REVERSE EXERCISES

'You will need to display the ability to control the vehicle safely reversing to the left, right, when parking on the road or into a parking bay.

You must make good effective all round observations throughout the manoeuvre and show consideration to other road users.'

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# EXAMINER TIP

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## TURN IN THE ROAD

'You will need to display low speed control and observation skills necessary to carry out the turning in the road exercise safely with due regard for other road users and pedestrians.'

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# EXAMINER TIP

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## USE OF MIRRORS

'Use all mirrors fitted to your vehicle safely and effectively.  
You must check mirrors before signalling, changing direction or  
changing speed.

Use the Mirror, Signal, Manoeuvre routine effectively.'

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# EXAMINER TIP

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## SIGNALS

'You must signal to let other road users know what you intend to do. Use the signals shown in the highway code if it would benefit other road users including pedestrians. Always signal in good time and ensure that the signal has been cancelled after the manoeuvre has been completed.

Do not beckon pedestrians to cross the road.'

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# EXAMINER TIP

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## RESPONSE TO SIGNS AND SIGNALS

'You should understand and be able to react to all traffic signs and road markings.

You must act correctly at traffic lights and check that the road is clear before proceeding when the green light shows.

Obey signals given by police officers, traffic wardens and school crossing patrols. Look out for signals given by other road users, pedestrians and people in charge of animals.'

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# EXAMINER TIP

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## USE OF SPEED

'You should make safe and reasonable progress along the road.

You should take into account road, traffic and weather conditions.

Make sure you can stop safely and within the distance you can see to be clear.

Do not speed.

As a new driver your full licence will be revoked if you accrue six or more penalty points during the first two years. You will have to retake and pass both theory and practical tests again.'

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# EXAMINER TIP

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## MAINTAIN PROGRESS

'You must show that you can drive at realistic speed appropriate to road and traffic conditions.'

You should approach hazards at a safe, controlled speed, without being over cautious or interfering with the progress of other traffic.

Always be ready to move away from junctions as soon as it is safe and correct to do so.

Driving excessively slowly can create dangers for yourself and other drivers.'

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# EXAMINER TIP

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## JUNCTIONS

'You should be able to judge the correct speed of approach so that you can enter a junction safely and stop if necessary.'

You should position your vehicle correctly, use the correct lane and if you are turning right keep as near to the centre of the road as is safe.

Avoid cutting corners when turning right.

When turning left keep to the left and do not swing out. Watch out for cyclists coming up on your left. Look out for obstructions and pedestrians.

You must make effective observation before emerging from a junction to make sure it is safe before proceeding.'

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# EXAMINER TIP

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## JUDGEMENT

'Only overtake when it is safe to do so. Allow enough room when you are overtaking another vehicle. Do not cut in too quickly after overtaking.

Cyclists and motorcyclists need as much space as other vehicles as they can wobble or swerve suddenly.

Take care when the width of the road is restricted or when the road narrows. If there is an obstruction on your side or not enough room for two vehicles to pass safely, be prepared to wait and let the approaching vehicles through.

When you turn right across the path of approaching vehicles make sure you can safely. Other vehicles should not have to stop, slow down or swerve to allow you to complete your turn.'

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BACK

# EXAMINER TIP

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## POSITIONING

'You should position your vehicle normally to the left. Keep clear of parked vehicles and position correctly for the direction you intend to take.'

Where lanes are marked keep to the middle of the lane and avoid straddling lane markings.

Do not change lanes unnecessarily.'

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## EXAMINER TIP

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### CLEARANCE TO OBSTRUCTIONS

'Allow plenty of room to pass stationary vehicles or obstructions.

Be prepared to slow down or stop as a door may open, a child may run out or a vehicle may pull out without warning.'

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# EXAMINER TIP

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## PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

'You should be able to recognise the different types of pedestrian crossings and show courtesy and consideration towards pedestrians.

At all crossings you should slow down and be prepared to stop if there is anyone on the crossing.

At zebra crossings you should slow down and be prepared to stop if there is anyone waiting to step onto the crossing.

Give way to any pedestrians on a pelican crossing when the amber lights are flashing.

You should give way to cyclists as well as pedestrians on a toucan crossing and act correctly at a puffin crossing.'

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# EXAMINER TIP

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## POSITION FOR NORMAL STOPS

'Choose a safe and convenient place to stop. Stop close to the kerb where you will not obstruct the road and create a hazard.'

You should know how and where to stop without causing danger to other road users.'

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# EXAMINER TIP

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## AWARENESS & PLANNING

You must be aware of other road users at all times. Always think and plan ahead so you can judge what other road users are going to do.

Try to predict how their actions will affect you and react in good time.

Take particular care to consider the actions of vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists and horse riders.

Anticipate road and traffic conditions and act in good time, rather than reacting at the last moment.

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# EXAMINER TIP

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## ANCILLARY CONTROLS

'You need to understand the function of all controls and switches, especially those that have a bearing on road safety.

These include indicators, lights, windscreen wipers, demisters and interior fans. You should be able to find these controls, operate them correctly when necessary and do so without having to look at them continuously.'

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**MCLEOD** SCHOOL OF MOTORING

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WHO WILL  
PASS?

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