

PART 1 – Theory Test and Hazard Perception

This test is taken in two parts. Firstly the PDI needs a sound knowledge of:

- The Highway Code
- The rules of the road
- Your knowledge of instructional techniques

Attached at the end of this document you will find a list of suitable study material recommended by the Driving Standards Agency to help you prepare for the test and the current costs of these books. If you cannot obtain the books required please give me a list of the books you want. I will check the current costs along with postage and packaging and let you know the total cost. If you decide you want me to arrange the order then please pay me the agreed costs and I will arrange this.

I would recommend that all PDI's study for Part 1 themselves. I will show you the best way to study for the theory and hazard perception tests. I will help and guide with any section that you do struggle with. I can provide mock test papers if the PDI should require them.

The test is conducted on a computer and is carried out in two parts. Firstly a multiple choice section which lasts 90 minutes with 100 questions. This phase is split into four bands which are

- Road procedure
- Traffic signs and signals, car control, pedestrians, mechanical knowledge
- Driving test, disabilities, law
- Publications, instructional techniques

The Part 1 test – Theory and Hazard Perception test currently costs £90.00 and can be taken at the same centres as the ordinary learner theory test. There are no limits to amount of times you may take this test.

The overall pass mark for the multiple choice part of the test is 85%, which are 85 questions answered correctly. However, you must reach a minimum of 80 % in any one or more of the four bands.

It is therefore possible to score an overall mark above 85 % and still fail the examination because you have scored lower than the 20 correct answers in one of the bands of questions.

At the start of each the theory and hazard perception tests there are short practise sessions before starting the actual tests.

You can then have a short break of up to three minutes before starting the hazard perception test.

The hazard perception part of the examination consist of 14 video clips each lasting around one minute. These take in various types of hazards in the form of pedestrians, road conditions and vehicles. You respond by pressing the mouse as soon as you see the hazard developing that may result in you, the driver, having to take some action, such as changing speed or direction

Here you need to score an overall pass mark of 57 out of a possible 75.

Both tests have to be passed on the same attempt. You will be informed before you leave the theory test centre of your result and if successful details on booking the test of driving ability.

Special needs provisions

If you have special needs, it is important that you state them when booking so that the necessary arrangements can be made. There is an English language voiceover on a headset to support candidates. You can also ask for additional time to take the multiple choice part of the test.

As evidence of this requirement, you will be asked to provide a letter from a teacher or educationalist, a psychologist or a doctor. If it isn't possible to get this information from a relevant professional, then DSA will consider a letter from an independent person who knows about your reading ability, such as an employer.