

All the competencies or topics broken down on these pages may require knowledge of particular legal responsibilities which need to be covered. For detailed information about this or any other area please refer to the source material listed below:

- Driving - the essential skills
- The Highway Code
- Know Your Traffic Signs
- Vehicle handbook
- [www.driving-tests.co.uk](http://www.driving-tests.co.uk)

## COCKPIT CHECKS

- DSSSM
- driving position
- head restraints
- seat belts
- doors
- gears and handbrake safety check
- mirrors

### Underpinning knowledge

- order of adjustment
- best driving position
- mirror adjustment, including anti-dazzle
- variety of seat adjustments

## SAFETY CHECKS

- POWER (petrol-oil-water-electrics-rubber)

### Underpinning knowledge

- daily and weekly vehicle checks
- service intervals
- planning for journeys
- clear windscreens

## CONTROLS & INSTRUMENTS

- accelerator, clutch and footbrake
- handbrake, steering, speedometer, horn, indicators and gears
- instrument panel warning lights
- wipers
- hazard, reversing, side, fog and headlights
- demister and heated windows
- manufacturer's options

### Underpinning knowledge

- the function of each
- the effects of incorrect use
- how to read and understand them

## MOVING AWAY & STOPPING

- MSM and PSL
- observation and blind spots
- control and co-ordination
- on level and on gradient
- at angle and straight ahead

### Underpinning knowledge

- co-ordination of accelerator, clutch and footbrake
- handbrake and steering
- where and when to look and what to look for
- suitable stopping places
- signals when necessary

## SAFE POSITIONING

- normal driving
- lane discipline
- passing stationary vehicles and obstructions
- bends

### Underpinning knowledge

- MSM and PSL
- other vehicle's positioning (LGV, cyclists etc)
- wide and narrow roads
- one-way streets

## MIRRORS - VISION & USE

- interior and exterior
- flat, concave and convex

### Underpinning knowledge

- MSM and PSL
- when to use them
- why they should be used
- how to act on what is seen
- blind spots
- frequency of checks and why

## SIGNALS

- by arm and by indicators
- brake, reversing and hazard lights
- by other road users and traffic controllers

### Underpinning knowledge

- why signals are necessary
- when and how to signal
- unnecessary signals

## ANTICIPATION & PLANNING

- risk awareness in connection with: drivers, cyclists, motorcyclists, pedestrians, animals, road works, emergency vehicles and any other road users

### Underpinning knowledge

- MSM and PSL
- hazard perception
- visual warnings
- times and places of high risk
- weather conditions
- scanning and priorities

## USE OF SPEED

- appropriate speed
- making progress
- hesitancy

### Underpinning knowledge

- national speed limits
- restricted speed limits
- road and weather conditions
- traffic conditions
- pedestrian activity
- stopping distances

## OTHER TRAFFIC

- meeting, crossing and overtaking
- one way and two way roads
- three-lane two-way roads
- major, minor and narrow roads
- dual carriageways

### Underpinning knowledge

- MSM and PSL
- when and why to give way
- passing places and warning signs
- obstructions, parked vehicles...
- planning and anticipation
- how to act on what is seen
- motorways

## JUNCTIONS

- T-junctions and Y-junctions
- crossroads and slip roads
- marked and unmarked junctions
- one-way streets
- urban, rural and dual carriageways

### Underpinning knowledge

- MSM and PSL
- turning, entering and emerging
- advance warning signs and road markings
- zones of vision
- priorities

## ROUNDBABOUTS

- mini and major
- multiple and satellite
- traffic light controlled
- approaching and entering
- leaving and turning
- straight ahead

### Underpinning knowledge

- MSM and PSL
- lane discipline
- correct position
- zones of vision
- observation
- priorities

## PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

- controlled eg. pelican
- uncontrolled eg. zebra
- school crossing patrols

### Underpinning knowledge

- MSM and PSL
- visual warnings
- speed of approach and overtaking
- times and places of high risk
- waiting pedestrians
- central refuges and split crossings
- weather conditions
- scanning

## DUAL CARRIAGEWAYS

- urban, rural and clearways

### Underpinning knowledge

- MSM and PSL
- speed limits
- lane discipline
- advance warning and information signs
- joining, leaving and turning
- breakdowns, hazard lights and triangles
- motorways
- road and weather conditions

## TURNING THE VEHICLE AROUND

- flat and cambered roads
- wide and narrow roads

### Underpinning knowledge

- safe, legal and convenient
- co-ordination of foot and hand controls
- steering (position and method)
- judgement and accuracy
- observation
- signal options

## REVERSING

- left, right and straight
- flat and cambered roads
- square and radius corners
- wide and narrow roads
- on level and on gradient

### Underpinning knowledge

- safe, convenient and legal
- co-ordination of foot and hand controls
- steering (position and method)
- judgement and accuracy
- observation
- signal options

## PARKING

- In a bay and parallel
- on level and on gradient

### Underpinning knowledge

- safe, legal and convenient
- co-ordination of foot and hand controls
- steering - position and method
- judgement and accuracy
- observation
- signal options

## EMERGENCY STOP

- quick reaction
- control and skidding

### Underpinning knowledge

- hazard perception
- clutch and brake co-ordination
- ABS
- front and rear wheel skid control
- defensive driving
- road and weather conditions
- moving away safely

## DARKNESS

- fog, ice, snow, wind and rain
- urban and rural areas
- single and dual carriageways

### Underpinning knowledge

- speed and stopping distances
- vehicle condition and characteristics
- visibility
- skidding and aquaplaning
- warning signs and signals
- use of lights, horn and hazard lights
- parking

## WEATHER CONDITIONS

- fog, ice, snow, sun, wind and rain
- urban and rural areas
- single and dual carriageways

### Underpinning knowledge

- speed and stopping distances
- vehicle condition and characteristics
- visibility
- skidding and aquaplaning
- warning signs and signals
- use of lights, horn and hazard lights
- parking

## LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- driver and vehicle requirements

### Underpinning knowledge

- drink and drugs
- mobile communications
- tiredness and rest periods
- dealing with accidents
- licence requirements and accompanying drivers
- health and eyesight
- vehicle condition and registration
- tax, MOT and insurance
- traffic rules and regulations

## ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- noise and pollution

### Underpinning knowledge

- driving styles and impact on environment
- green issues
- vehicle maintenance
- disposal of vehicle waste
- health and safety of drivers and others

## PASSENGERS & CARRYING LOADS

- drivers' responsibilities regarding adults, children, babies and animals
- carrying loads on and in the vehicle
- loading trailers and cycle racks

### Underpinning knowledge

- use of seatbelts
- doors, guards and restraints
- airbags and seating
- load and luggage stowage
- weight distribution

## SECURITY

- vehicle, contents and personal security
- when parking, driving at night and daytime
- in event of breakdown and accident

### Underpinning knowledge

- personal and vehicle security systems
- safe places for parking
- minimising opportunities for theft of and from vehicle, and attack