



Working To Save Lives

Údarás Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre
Road Safety Authority

RSA DRIVER TESTER MARKING GUIDELINES

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Notes on the Driving Fault Marking Guidelines

The Marking Guidelines are designed to assist testers in deciding when and where a particular driving fault should be recorded on the Report Sheet. They should be read in conjunction with the Driving Fault Assessment guidelines relating to the severity of driving faults (attached for easy reference on pages 20, 21, 22, 23 and guidance/advice from the Regional Supervisor. The Guidelines do not purport to cover every possible situation which can arise, and they may be added to, or amended from time to time. Testers will be apprised of this when it arises.

- With certain exceptions, driving faults are not ‘double marked’, and where 2 (or more) faults suggest themselves, it is usually the fault which conveys the most pertinent information to the applicant which is recorded.
 - An example of the above would be where an applicant e.g. hits a kerb while making a left turn. A fault may be recorded here for ‘Position turning Left’, and not for ‘Steering’ in this case.
 - Another example would be where an applicant attempts to move away at a junction in 3rd gear and the vehicle stalls in the middle of the junction, causing other vehicles to slow or stop. A fault may be recorded for ‘Gears’ in this case, and not for ‘Right of way’.

- Where an applicant inadvertently goes off the route, or misses a turn, a fault should not be recorded when it is done safely. However, any fault which occurs subsequently should be recorded. The location of where faults are recorded on the Report Sheet is generally governed by the most recent direction which the tester has issued to the applicant exceptions apply where early directions have been given to the applicant, e.g. where a lane change is required prior to making a right turn, or on the approach to a roundabout.

The necessity for testers to give clear and unambiguous directions to applicants in good time on all occasions is emphasised.

- Where a local unusual road or traffic situation exists, the regional Supervisor will advise testers (and driving instructors) on the procedure to be followed.
- Where a fault is inadvertently recorded in the wrong location on the Report Sheet, it should be cancelled neatly, leaving space for later use, if necessary. Where 2 or more such incidents occur, a fresh Report Sheet should be completed. The original spoiled Report Sheets should be cancelled, and attached to the file.

- Testers should refer the applicant to the faults which have been recorded on the Report Sheet, and which contributed to the test result. However, testers should not discuss the details of the test.

Introduction

As with all driving, a test applicant should demonstrate that they have the requisite knowledge, skills and appropriate behavior to use the public roads in a safe and courteous manner by:

- Maintaining proper control over the vehicle at all times.
- Showing anticipation and awareness.
- Demonstrating care, consideration, concentration and courtesy.
- Taking proper precautions when moving off, stopping, overtaking, changing direction and meeting other traffic.
- Maintaining safe and reasonable progress when driving and when meeting and crossing the path of other vehicles.

In demonstrating the above skills a test applicant should use 'best practice' and ensure compliance with all relevant Regulations, as not doing so may indicate a driving fault which will be assessed by the tester, and which may be recorded on the Driving Test Report Sheet.

Testers will use guidance from their Supervisor, along with their training and experience to assist them in deciding firstly what importance to attach to an individual fault, and thereafter whether or not it should be recorded under one of the following headings:

- **Grade 1 fault:** Minor fault.
- **Grade 2 fault:** More serious fault.
- **Grade 3 fault:** Dangerous/Potentially Dangerous fault or total disregard of traffic controls.

Of course, it may be that a tester will assess an individual fault to be of such a slight nature that a fault will not be recorded. Failure of the test arises when an applicant incurs any of the following:

- 1 or more grade 3 faults.
- 4 of the same grade 2 faults for a single aspect.
- 6 or more grade 2 faults under the same heading.
- 9 or more grade 2 faults overall.

Grade 1 faults do not affect the test result.

Rules / Checks

Where 3 or more questions are not answered, or are incorrectly answered, a grade 2 fault should be recorded. Where a "Checks" fault is incurred in relation to the Doors, Mirrors, Seat, Seatbelt, or Head- Restraint adjustment as per the preamble requirement, it should be recorded opposite Rules / Checks and is inclusive of any oral test Faults.

Rules/Checks	
Technical Checks	
Hand Signals	

Position on the Straight/on Bends

Having regard to the width of the road, an applicant should normally drive reasonably close to the left hand side of the road, i.e. approximately midway between the central dividing line and the left hand kerb, or a fault may be recorded for 'Position on the Straight', or on a 'Bend', as the case may be.

Examples of 'Position' faults include:

- (a) Where an applicant drives for a distance in an incorrect position on the straight or on a bend, a fault may be recorded for 'Position on the Straight' or on the 'Bend' as the case may be.
- (b) Where an applicant unnecessarily crosses a central continuous white line which is clearly visible, a fault may be recorded for 'Road Markings' only. A 'Position' fault should not be recorded in this case
- (c) Where a driver weaves in and out unnecessarily around intermittently parked vehicles, a fault may be recorded for 'Position on the Straight'. (See also 'React').
- (d) Where there are wide traffic lanes, and an applicant drives too close to either side a fault may be recorded for position on the straight.
- (e) Where an applicant drives for a distance in an incorrect lane for the direction which is to be followed, a fault may be recorded for 'Position on the Straight'.

NOTE

Where an applicant drives for a distance on, or straddles a hard shoulder in order to allow faster traffic to overtake a fault should not be recorded.

Position in Traffic Lanes

Where traffic lanes are provided and an applicant straddles the lanes unnecessarily for a distance, a fault may be recorded for 'Position in Traffic Lanes' (not for 'Position on the Straight', or for 'Road Markings', in this case).

Drivers of heavy vehicles in particular may have to adjust their position on the road to suit the circumstances, and this is acceptable provided it is done safely and in full knowledge of the position of the vehicle.

Position at Cross Junctions

An applicant who intends to go straight ahead at a cross junction should normally be as close as is feasible to the left hand side, or a fault may be recorded for 'Position at Cross Junctions'.

However, where lanes are provided and road markings permit a centre, or outside, lane to be used, this is acceptable.

The situation on the far side of the junction should be taken into account.

Only one 'Position' fault may be recorded for each complete manoeuvre, i.e., faults should not be double marked for 'Road Markings' in this case.

Position at Roundabouts

Where an applicant intends to take any exit in the 6 o'clock to 12 o'clock position, subject to road markings, the approach should normally be in the left hand lane.

The approach should normally be in the right hand lane for any exit after the 12 o'clock position, or a fault may be recorded for 'Position at Roundabouts'.

However, where road markings are provided and they require an applicant to use a different approach lane from the above, the applicant should use that 'marked' approach lane, or a fault may be recorded for 'Position at Roundabouts' (not for 'Road Markings' in this case.)

An applicant should have reasonable time and opportunity to see any road markings.

A fault may also be recorded where an applicant hits or mounts a kerb unnecessarily.

Where there is only one approach lane and having regard to the width of the road a fault should generally not be recorded regardless of the intended direction, except for motorcycles. Heavy vehicles may require additional road space where necessary.

Applicants should normally follow their entry lane around the roundabout until they pass the exit before the one which they intend to take, where they should switch to the left hand lane and proceed to their intended exit.

Applicants should normally exit in the left hand lane if it is clear.

Only one 'Position' fault should be recorded for each complete manoeuvre.

Position Turning Right

Where an applicant intends to turn right at a junction, the approach should normally be just to the left of the central dividing line of the road, (or where the line should be). The turn should be made around the centre point of the road which is being entered, or a fault may be recorded for 'Position turning Right'. The correct approach position should be adopted in good time. Where a specific right turn lane is provided, it should be used. Heavy vehicles may require additional space to manoeuvre.

Examples of incorrect 'Position Turning Right' faults include:

- a) 'Cutting' the turn, i.e., turning too soon before the normal turning point.
- b) 'Swan-necking', i.e., going too far past the normal turning point.
- c) Turning from the left hand side of the road/lane.
- d) Turning from an incorrect lane.
- e) Trying to make a 'square' right turn at a 'T' -junction.
- f) Hitting or mounting a kerb unnecessarily

An applicant may turn nearside to nearside, or offside to offside of oncoming traffic which is also turning right (as appropriate to the layout of the junction).

Where 2 right turn lanes are provided, either may be used depending on the direction to be followed subsequently. Early directions are normally required.

Where an applicant intends to turn right from a one way street, the approach should be as close to the right hand side as is feasible.

Where an applicant, for example 'cuts' a right turn, a fault should not be recorded for 'Road Markings'.

Where chevron markings are provided and an applicant encroaches on them, a fault is generally not recorded for 'Position turning Right', provided it is done safely. Where an applicant avoids the chevrons, (or where there are no chevrons), and therefore must make a distinct lane change before the right turn, a fault may be recorded for 'Observation Changing Lane' or 'Mirrors Changing Lane' as appropriate, and not for 'Observation Turning Right' in this case.

Where double ended chevrons are provided and an applicant encroaches on the oncoming lane, a fault may be recorded for 'Road Markings', and not for 'Position Turning Right' in this case.

Where an applicant turns right into a 2 lane road, they should aim to get into the left hand lane. However, if they turn into the right hand lane initially and then move into the left lane, it is acceptable and no fault is recorded for 'Position Turning Right'. (See 'Position on the Straight' point 'e')

Where an applicant follows an incorrect course at a right hand turn, and breaches the road markings in the process, a fault should not be recorded for 'Road Markings'.

Only one 'Position' fault should be recorded for each complete manoeuvre.

Position Turning Left

The normal approach to a left turn should be as close as is feasible to the left hand side. This position should be maintained on the turn and on the exit from the turn, or a fault may be recorded for 'Position turning Left'.

Examples of incorrect 'Position Turning Left' faults include: (a)

- Hitting or mounting a kerb unnecessarily,
- (b)** Not using a 'filter' lane where one is provided. (this does not include the non-use of a slip road)
- (c)** Where an applicant follows an incorrect course at a left hand turn, and breaches the road markings in the process, a fault should not be recorded for 'Road Markings'.

Where 2 left turn traffic lanes are provided, either lane may be used, depending on the direction to be followed subsequently. Heavy vehicles should normally take whatever space is needed on the approach, to enable them to complete the turn on the left hand side. Only one 'Position' fault may be recorded for each complete manoeuvre.

Position Stopping

An applicant should normally stop in a safe position, which does not inconvenience or delay other road users, or a fault may be recorded for 'Position Stopping'.

Examples of incorrect 'Position stopping' faults include:

- a) Stopping on, and blocking, a junction.
- b) Stopping too far out from a kerb.
- c) Stopping too close to the vehicle in front.
- d) Hitting or mounting a kerb while pulling in to stop.

Where an applicant stops close to a junction just before the reverse manoeuvre, a fault should not be recorded.

Position Following

An applicant should normally leave a 'safe' distance between the vehicle being driven and the vehicle in front, or a fault may be recorded for 'Position Following'. The 'safe' distance is usually related to the speed of the vehicles at the time.

POSITION	
On the Straight	
On Bends	
In Traffic Lanes	

At Cross Junctions	
At Roundabouts	
Turning Right	
Turning Left	
Stopping	
Following Traffic	

Observations

An applicant should take proper observations as required before moving off, overtaking, changing lane, cross junctions, roundabouts, turning right, and turning left, or a fault may be recorded for 'Observations' as appropriate..

Examples of 'Observation' faults include:

- a) Not looking around when moving off (Cat. A, A2, A1, M, B, BE, and W)
- b) Where an applicant avoids the chevrons (or where there are no chevrons) and therefore must make a distinct lane change before a right turn, a fault may be recorded for "observation Changing lane" or Mirrors Changing Lane as appropriate, and not observation Turning Right in this case.
- c) Not taking adequate observations before and while overtaking.
- d) Not taking adequate observations before and while changing lane to the left or right, or where lanes merge into one another.
- e) Not taking adequate observations when crossing junctions.
- f) Not taking adequate observations before and at roundabouts.
- g) Not taking adequate observations before and while turning right.
- h) Not taking adequate observations before and while turning left.
- i) Where an applicant turns right, (or is beckoned to turn right) in front of an oncoming vehicle, a check should be made of the 'inside' of the oncoming vehicle before completing the turn.
- j) Where an applicant turns right in front of an oncoming vehicle without checking the road directly ahead and does not see the vehicle. E.g. when forward vision is obscured.
- k) Where an applicant makes a severe 'swan-neck' while turning right, and does not take observations to the side before completing the turn.
- l) Not taking adequate observations when being the first vehicle to move off from traffic lights at a blind junction.
- m) Not taking adequate observations to the left when turning right, and in possession of a junction.
- n) Not taking adequate observations when driving out from a parking space.

Observation faults changing lane on a roundabout are recorded opposite 'Observations at Roundabouts' on the Report Sheet.

In some situations such as overtaking, changing lane or moving off in HGV or PCV vehicles observations may be taken by use of the mirrors, and this is acceptable where it is done competently and effectively.

In a case where an applicant does see another road user but deliberately impedes or restricts passage, a fault should be recorded for 'Right of Way' as appropriate and not for 'Observation' in this case.

Where visibility is severely restricted due to condensation, a fault may be recorded for Secondary Controls

OBSERVATION	
M/cycle: Safety Glance	
Moving Off	
Overtaking	
Changing Lane	
At Cross Junctions	
At Roundabouts	
Turning Right	
Turning Left	

React Promptly and Properly to Hazards

By identifying hazards, applicants will have time to take any necessary action. they should ensure that they read the road ahead to observe any situation that will involve adjusting their speed or altering their course. There will be times when applicants will have to deal with more than one hazard within a short space of time. This may require using both initiative and common sense to deal with a particular set of circumstances.

An applicant should show awareness by reading the road and traffic situation ahead and reacting in an appropriate manner, or a fault may be recorded for not 'Reacting Promptly and Properly to Hazards'.

Examples of 'React' faults include:

- a) Where an applicant is driving towards parked vehicles on the left, and does not move out in good time to pass them.
- b) Where an applicant's vision is diverted down to the controls for an extended period.
- c) Where an applicant brakes hard on an amber light when the vehicle should properly have carried on.
- d) Where an applicant drives into, or causes, or contributes unnecessarily to a 'bottleneck'.
- e) Where an applicant intends to turn from a major road into a minor or narrow road, and obliges a vehicle which intends to emerge from that road to reverse out of the way.
- f) Where an applicant makes exaggerated use of the mirror(s) which distracts from forward observation.
- g) Where an applicant makes exaggerated/unnecessary observations to the side or rear, which distracts from forward observation.

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- h) Where an applicant is on a slip road, and intends to join a dual carriageway, and stops unnecessarily.
- i) Where an applicant splashes pedestrians with surface water.
- j) Where an applicant stops suddenly when e.g. turning left on a slip lane by misreading the main lights.
- k) Where an applicant has commenced to turn at traffic lights and stops unnecessarily when part way through, on seeing the red light for the other road.
- l) Where an applicant does not react correctly to speed ramps.

Anticipate Others

To anticipate is to take action when a driver expects something may happen. Applicants should anticipate what others may do by making early use of the available information on the road. An applicant should ask themselves.

“What are other road users/pedestrians likely to do?”

So therefore during the course of the driving test an applicant should show awareness by reading the road and traffic situation ahead. Anticipating what others may do, in an appropriate manner, or a fault may be recorded for ‘Anticipation’.

Examples of ‘Anticipation’ faults include

- a) Where an applicant meets an oncoming vehicle which is in the process of overtaking, and the applicant does not slow or stop as necessary, to allow the oncoming vehicle to pass by.
- b) Where an applicant is in a line of overtaking vehicles, and follows through blindly.
- c) Where an applicant is approaching children who may be playing, or pedestrians, and does not show anticipation.
- d) Where an applicant is approaching animals and does not show anticipation.
- e) Where an applicant is turning right and misreads the intention of another oncoming road user who is also turning right, and causes unnecessary obstruction.
- f) Where an applicant should clearly see that a pedestrian is attempting to cross a pedestrian crossing and does not show anticipation.
- g) Where an applicant fails to anticipate a cyclist ahead approaching a parked vehicle where the cyclist will clearly have to change position to pass.
- h) Where an applicant fails to show anticipation to a vehicle reversing out of a driveway into the road.
- i) Where an applicant sees a Horse and Rider ahead and fails to anticipate that the animal may react adversely to the presence of the vehicle.

- j) Where the applicant sees a ball emerging onto the roadway and fails to show any anticipation of the fact that a child or children may follow the ball, unaware of any dangers.

Mirrors

An applicant should make proper use of mirror(s) before moving off, overtaking, changing lanes, roundabouts, turning right, turning left, slowing and stopping, or a fault may be recorded for 'Mirror(s)' as appropriate.

On Category 'B' car tests, faults which are incurred for not making proper use of the *external* mirror(s) are recorded as 'Observation' faults and not as 'Mirror' faults in this case. On van, BE, or H.G.V. tests, the faults are recorded as 'Mirror' faults.

An applicant should make proper use of the Cyclops mirror on HGV's before moving away from the kerb, moving off in traffic, moving away from traffic lights or any other occasion where a tester deems it necessary

The mirror(s) to be used should be clean, serviceable, and correctly adjusted. The use of the mirror(s) should be correctly timed not too early or too late.

As mirror use is related to 'Observations', some driving situations can be covered by either option, and in these situations this is acceptable provided it is done correctly.

On long straight stretches of road, the mirror(s) should be used from time to time to provide a picture of following or overtaking traffic.

Additional use of mirror(s) is required on vehicles such as vans, trucks, buses, Cat. BE when e.g. about to move off from the kerb, or changing lane.

In all cases, a tester must be certain that an applicant did not make proper use of the mirrors, before recording a mirror fault.

MIRRORS	
Moving Off	
Moving off in Traffic	
On the Straight	
Overtaking	
Changing Lanes	
At Roundabouts	
Turning Right	
Turning Left	

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Slowing/Stopping	
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Clearance/Overtake Safely

An applicant should allow sufficient clearance to pedestrians, cyclists, stationery vehicles, other traffic and other objects, or a fault may be recorded for 'Clearance' as appropriate. In a congested situation, where it is necessary to pass quite closely, mirrors on vehicles may almost touch. Where vehicles are parked or stopped on a narrow road, a fault should not be recorded for 'Clearance', provided the applicant passes by slowly, safely, and in full knowledge of the position of the vehicle.

Examples of 'Clearance' faults include:

- a) Driving unnecessarily too close.
- b) Not allowing extra clearance to a cyclist or a pedestrian on a wet/windy day.

Examples of 'Overtake safely' faults include:

- a) Where an applicant cuts in too soon after overtaking.
- b) Where an applicant is approaching a junction and intends to turn left, and where another road user, e.g. a jogger or a cyclist up ahead is also approaching the junction.
- c) Where an applicant overtakes on the approach to a bend, or a hill, or on a ~~narrow road~~.
- d) Where an applicant allows excessive clearance.
- e) Overtaking on the left hand side when traffic is moving freely on a two or more lane carriageway for no apparent reason.
- f) Where applicant allows excessive clearance to a vehicle/object on left. However if applicant maintains this position a fault should be recorded for 'Position on the Straight' regardless of whether there are further vehicles/objects on the left

Clearance/Overtake	
Pedestrians	
Cyclists	
Stationary Vehicles	
Other Traffic	
Other Objects	
Overtake Safely	

Signals

An applicant should give a correct signal in good time before moving off, overtaking, changing lane, roundabouts, turning right, turning left, and stopping, or a fault may be recorded for 'Signals' as appropriate.

A 'Signal' fault may also be recorded where an applicant does not cancel a signal after use, or gives a misleading signal, or beckons to other road users.

A **misleading signal** to other road users is defined as **(a)** having a left hand signal on when turning right **(b)** having a right hand signal on when turning left, or **(c)** having a left hand signal on too soon when taking the second or subsequent exit at a roundabout. (Only when there is someone to mislead)

SIGNALS	
Moving Off	
Overtaking	
Changing Lane	
At Roundabouts	
Turning Right	
Turning Left	
Stopping	
Cancel Promptly	
Do not Beckon	
Others	

Hand Signals

If 3 or more hand signals are not demonstrated or are incorrectly demonstrated a grade 2 fault should be recorded. (5 hand signals to be asked). Hand signals should be requested after turnabout.

Motorcycles

A motorcycle applicant, in addition to complying with all the aforementioned requirements, should perform a 'U turn' showing good control and taking good observations, and should perform a slow drive for at least 50 metres, showing good balance. In addition, an emergency braking manoeuvre and avoid an obstacle exercise must be performed. The applicant should remove the machine from its stand, and should park the machine on its stand, or a fault may be recorded for 'Motorcycle' as appropriate. Use of a side-stand is acceptable. All protective equipment and helmet strap attachment should be secured.

Normal 'Observation' faults including 'Safety Glance' are recorded under Section 3 on the Report Sheet. .

'Safety Glance' faults are defined as not looking around to check blind spots as necessary 'before moving off', 'before changing lane' and 'before turning right' or in similar circumstances where it is deemed necessary by the tester. Where a machine is incapable of completing the U-turn due to a fairing, or on a narrow road, discretion should be allowed, including the use of a reverse gear, if fitted.

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Courtesy

An applicant should allow an oncoming vehicle to turn right e.g. in slow moving traffic, or allow a vehicle to emerge e.g. from private property, when in very slow moving traffic.

Alighting

Before alighting from the vehicle, the applicant should ensure that; **(a)**

the ignition is switched off.

(b) necessary observations are taken before opening the door. It is also in order if the applicant engages a low gear.

Courtesy	
Alighting	

Progress

An applicant should make reasonable progress moving off, on the straight, overtaking, at cross junctions, at roundabouts, turning right, turning left, changing lanes, and at traffic lights, or a fault may be recorded for 'Progress' as appropriate.

Examples of 'Progress' faults include:

- a) When an applicant intends to turn right and waits at a stop line when traffic lights are on green, and it is feasible to go forward towards the centre of the junction.
- b) Where an applicant waits at a stop line for a green arrow to come on when a full green light is showing.
- c) Where an applicant waits at a stop line for a full green light to come on when a green Arrow or flashing amber arrow is showing for the direction to be taken.
- d) Where an applicant does not avail of an acceptable gap in traffic to proceed.
- e) Where an applicant stays too far back from the vehicle in front while driving along.
- f) Where an applicant stops too far back from the vehicle in front. (Not Position Stopping fault.)
- g) Where an applicant makes slow progress on the approach to a left or right turn, having been given a direction by the tester to make the turn.

- h) Where an applicant intends to go directly ahead at a Cross Junction which is controlled by traffic lights, a fault may be recorded for 'Progress at Traffic Lights' where the applicant does not proceed on a green light.
- i) Where an applicant waits unnecessarily when e.g. turning left from a slip lane after misreading the main lights. (Also see React point 'f')
- j) Stopping 'short' at a junction for no good reason.

PROGRESS AT TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Examples of Progress at Traffic Lights Faults:

1. Where an applicant stops behind line. The Full green light comes on and no acceptable gap appears. The Traffic Lights then go Red. The Green Arrow comes on -Applicant then makes the turn on the Green Arrow. **G3**
2. Applicant is the 1st car at the traffic lights and they stop behind line- Full Green Light comes on and no acceptable gap appears. The Traffic Lights then go Red and no Traffic Light arrows come on. **G3**
3. Applicant is the 1st car- They go out on junction while the full Green Traffic Light is on They miss (e.g.) 3 full opportunities to Turn Right. Traffic Lights go Red and the Green Arrow comes on –Applicant completes the turn on the Green Arrow. **3 x G2**
4. Applicant is the 1st Car at the Lights which are on full Green and they wait behind line. Traffic Lights remain Green, eventually moves into junction and when a gap occurs the turn is completed. **G2**
5. Applicant stops behind the S/line when the Full Green light is on. Applicant stays behind line, no available gaps in traffic .The Green Arrow for right turn comes on with Full Green Light and applicant makes the turn. **G2**
6. The first car at the Traffic Lights move into junction to turn right. Applicant car stays behind line. (Sufficient room for him to move up). No available gaps in traffic. Traffic Lights to amber/red...Green Arrow comes on. Applicant follows 1st car on green arrow and completes turn. **G2**
7. Full Green Traffic Light and Green Arrow are on at traffic lights. 1st (e.g.) five cars at traffic lights complete turn on Green Arrow. Applicant stops behind line on full Green Light when Green Arrow goes out. Lights then change to red and applicant misses turn. **G3**
8. Applicant is the 1st car that arrives at junction with full Green Light and stops behind the line and waits for a gap in traffic and then completes the turn. **G2**

9. Applicant is the 1st Car that arrives at junction with full Red Traffic Lights on and stops behind the line. Lights go Green and car stays behind line. Waits for a gap and completes his/her turn right, **G2**

PROGRESS	
Moving off	
On the Straight	
Overtaking	
At Cross Junctions	
At Roundabouts	
Turning Right	
Turning Left	
Changing Lanes	
At Traffic Lights	

Vehicle Controls

An applicant should make proper use of the: accelerator, clutch, gears, footbrake, handbrake, steering, and secondary controls or a fault may be recorded for 'Vehicle Controls' as appropriate. The 'Technical Checks' should be demonstrated correctly, as should the coupling/uncoupling exercise, as required, or the appropriate fault should be recorded. Some controls require a degree of coordination and should be demonstrated smoothly by the applicant.

Examples of 'Vehicle Control' faults include:

- a) Accelerator: not applied properly or at the correct time, or excessive use for the conditions.
- b) Clutch: coasting, i.e. driving for a prolonged distance with the pedal pressed in or sharp engagements causing the vehicle to jerk unnecessarily or resting the foot on the clutch pedal for prolonged periods causing it to slip or attempting to change gears without using the clutch.
- c) Gears: selecting an incorrect gear, or coasting, i.e. driving for some distance in neutral, or driving for a prolonged distance in an incorrect gear.
- d) Footbrake: non application of the footbrake, unnecessarily sharp application or late application for the circumstances.
- e) Handbrake: not applied as appropriate on an incline, or during a prolonged stop in traffic, or being applied before the vehicle has come to a halt, or inadequate application, or attempting to drive while the handbrake is still engaged. Not applying the handbrake at the end of the test.
- f) Steering: having both hands off the steering at the same time, or steering unnecessarily with one hand for a prolonged distance or over steering \ under steering.

- g) Secondary controls: driving while condensation restricts visibility, or not using a secondary control as required.
- h) Technical Checks: lack of expertise, or inability to describe the various checks. (All categories). Inability to describe the D1, D or ED1 special vehicle safety checks.
- i) Inability to operate the retarder/exhaust brake as fitted to the vehicle.
- j) Coupling/uncoupling: lack of expertise or inability to uncouple/re couple the drawing vehicle to/from the trailer or semitrailer, or using an unsafe sequence.

VEHICLE CONTROLS	
Secondary Controls	
Accelerator	
Clutch	
Gears	
Footbrake	
Hand/Parking Brake	
Steering	

Speed

An applicant should adjust speed to suit road conditions, traffic conditions, roundabouts, cross junctions, turning right, turning left, and on the approach to traffic controls, or a fault may be recorded for 'Speed' as appropriate. Applicants should comply with the speed limit.

SPEED	
Road Conditions	
Traffic Conditions	
Roundabouts	
Cross Junctions	
Turning Right	
Turning Left	
Traffic Controls	
Speed Limit	

Traffic Controls

An applicant should comply with: traffic lights, road signs, road markings, pedestrian crossings, School Wardens, Gardaí, bus lanes, tram lanes and cycle lanes or a fault may be recorded for 'Traffic Controls' as appropriate.

Examples of 'Traffic Control' faults include:

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- A. Traffic Lights:** Not stopping for a red light as required, including where a tester has to offer advice. (See also ‘Progress’, (a) (b) (c) and (h). This includes where an applicant drives past a red light onto an arrowed box, which is painted near the centre of the junction, and to be used by traffic which is turning right. However where traffic lights are out of action, or are stuck on ‘red’ at a junction, the tester, having given reasonable time to the applicant to assess the situation, should say to the applicant, “**These lights appear to be out of order, or faulty**”. In an extreme case it may be necessary to divert temporarily from the route by e.g. turning left.
- B. Traffic Signs:** In all cases, the applicant should have a reasonable opportunity to see the sign on the approach. Where a ‘STOP’ sign is set back a distance from a junction, an applicant should stop at the stop line, (or where the line should normally be), but if the applicant stops at the sign, a fault should not be recorded. Where an applicant drives through a ‘YIELD’ sign at a junction, a fault may be recorded for ‘Observation’ or for ‘Right of Way’ as appropriate (not for Traffic Controls in this case). Where an applicant does not comply with a Regulatory sign (which was clearly visible on the approach),
the applicant should be advised not to proceed e.g. through a ‘No Entry’ sign, or should be advised to proceed in the direction indicated by e.g. a compulsory ‘left turn’ sign. A fault should be recorded as appropriate. Where an applicant does not comply with a STOP/GO sign at road works, a fault may be recorded for ‘Traffic Signs’.
- C. Road Markings:** in all cases, the applicant should have a reasonable opportunity to see the road markings on the approach. Faded or worn markings mitigate any fault which may be incurred. Where confusing or inappropriate road markings are in situ, the tester should diplomatically advise the applicant on how to proceed. A fault should not be recorded in this case.

Examples of ‘Road Marking’ faults include:

- (a) Disregard for a Box Junction.
- (b) Disregard for a continuous white line, but where an applicant is following behind a slow moving vehicle e.g. a tractor, a cyclist, or a refuse collection truck, and overtakes on a continuous white line a fault should not be recorded for ‘Traffic Control’. Where the applicant does stay behind the slow vehicle because of the continuous white line, a fault should not be recorded for ‘Progress’.
- (c) Where traffic lanes are marked and an applicant straddles the lanes, a fault should not be recorded for ‘Road Markings’ (see position in traffic lanes (page 6). However where a continuous white line is marked on a bend and an applicant drives in an incorrect position, and also breaches the line unnecessarily, a fault may be recorded for ‘Road Markings’ only in this case.
- (d) Where an applicant drives for a distance on, or straddles a hard shoulder in order to allow faster traffic to overtake a fault should not be recorded for ‘Road Markings’. (See ‘Position on the Straight’. (page 6)
- (e) Where an applicant has a reasonable opportunity to comply with ‘chevron’ or

‘hatch’ markings but does not do so, a fault may be recorded for ‘Road Markings’. Where double ended chevrons are provided and an applicant encroaches on the oncoming lane, a fault may be recorded for ‘Road Markings’.

- (f) Where an applicant follows an incorrect course at a right or left hand turn, and breaches the road markings in the process, a fault should not be recorded for ‘Road Markings’.
- (g) Where an applicant breaches ‘No Entry’ road markings, a fault should not be recorded for ‘Road Markings’, provided that the Regulatory Sign was clearly visible on the approach.
- (h) Disregard for a stop line.

D. Pedestrian Crossings: All faults which are incurred at pedestrian crossings, or at Pelican crossings, including stopping on them, are recorded as ‘Pedestrian Crossing’ faults. However, faults which are incurred for not complying with Traffic Lights which control a junction, and which also incorporates a pedestrian crossing area, are recorded as ‘Traffic Light’ faults. Where an applicant does not proceed on a flashing amber light at a Pelican Crossing when the way is clear, a fault may be recorded for ‘Pedestrian Crossings’.

E. School Wardens: If the applicant has not had reasonable time and opportunity to see the Warden(s), then no faults should be recorded.

F. Gardaí: In all cases, the applicant should have a reasonable opportunity and time to see the Garda.

G. Bus Lanes: Faults should not be double marked to include e.g. ‘Position’, ‘Signs’, or ‘Road Markings’. Where an applicant encroaches unnecessarily for a distance on a bus lane, a fault may be recorded as appropriate, other than ‘D1’ and ‘D’ tests. A fault should not be recorded where a driver does not drive in a bus lane during the relevant hours, including bus applicants.

H. Cycle Lanes Faults should not be double marked to include e.g. ‘Position’, ‘Signs’, or ‘Road Markings’.

TRAFFIC CONTROLS	
Traffic Lights	
Traffic Signs	
Road Markings	
Pedestrian Crossing	
Garda/School Wardens	
Bus Lanes	
Cycle Lanes	

Right of Way

An applicant should yield the Right of Way as required while moving off, overtaking, changing lane, at junctions, at roundabouts, turning right and turning left, or a fault may be recorded for 'Right of Way' as appropriate.

In any situation where an apparent 'Yield Right of Way' fault is the result of inadequate or lack of appropriate Observations, a fault should be recorded for 'Observations', and not for 'Right of Way' in this case.

RIGHT OF WAY	
Moving off	
Overtaking	
Changing Lanes	
At Junctions	
At Roundabouts	
Turning Right	
Turning Left	

Reverse

An applicant should reverse the vehicle in a competent manner, taking direct observations where possible and allowing the right of way as required, or a fault may be recorded for 'Reverse' as appropriate. Having reversed around the corner, the applicant should continue reversing in a straight line for approximately 3 Car Lengths (for Cat B). All faults which occur during the reverse manoeuvre should be recorded opposite 'Reverse' on the Report Sheet.

Direct observations at the reverse manoeuvre are defined as constant scanning of the road to the rear whilst moving in the rearward direction.

All Category 'B' reverses, including vans, should be along the left hand kerb.

On the larger Category B vehicles, the Tester should be outside the vehicle.

The manoeuvre should be completed before any fault is recorded; regardless of how many times a particular type of fault occurs on the reverse.

Examples of 'Reverse' faults include:

- a) Where an applicant obliges another road user to slow or stop, a fault may be recorded for 'Observation' or 'Right of Way', (not both). This includes any other occasion where an applicant needs to reverse except parking.
- b) Where a manoeuvre is aborted/suspended by the applicant, e.g., for traffic reasons or vehicle off course, another attempt should be permitted. However, where the vehicle is seriously out of position and the applicant requests another attempt the applicant should be told that "it won't be necessary"

- c) Where a category 'B' applicant reverses along the right hand kerb due to a misunderstanding a fault may not be recorded. A left hand reverse should then be completed.
- d) On Cat B (car tests only) direct observations are required. (see definition of direct observations above)
- e) In vans, HGVs etc where an applicant reverses using mirror(s) only, a fault may be recorded if e.g. effective use is not made of them, or if they are not angled correctly. The fault should be recorded opposite 'Observation' (Reverse).
- f) Where an applicant hits or mounts a kerb, or goes off course, or makes inadequate progress, or uses excessive speed, or does not make proper use of the controls during the reverse manoeuvre, a fault may be recorded opposite 'Competently'.

Notes

Where an applicant requests permission to clear the windows, it should be granted.

In addition to observing the applicant, the tester should also observe the road and traffic situations at appropriate points during the manoeuvre.

Use of video or audio devices whilst reversing is only acceptable, if used in *addition* to the required observation.

Turnabout

An applicant should turn the vehicle around on the road in a competent manner, taking the best possible observations, and allowing the right of way as required, or a fault may be recorded for 'Turnabout' as appropriate. All faults which occur during the manoeuvre should be recorded opposite 'Turnabout'. The turnabout should be a normal manoeuvre, i.e. not starting off in reverse. A fault should not generally be recorded where an applicant turns the steering wheel while the vehicle is stationary (i.e. 'dead' steering). The manoeuvre should be completed before any fault/s is/are recorded. Only one fault may be recorded where necessary, opposite each heading, regardless of how many times a particular type of fault occurs on the turnabout.

Examples of 'Turnabout' faults include:

- (a) Where an applicant hits or bumps a kerb, or makes inadequate progress, or uses excessive speed, or does not make proper use of the controls, a fault may be recorded opposite 'Competently'.
- (b) Where an applicant obliges another road user to slow or stop, a fault may be recorded for 'Observation' or 'Right of Way'. (not both).

Notes

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In addition to observing the applicant, the tester should also observe the road and traffic situation at appropriate points during the manoeuvre.

Use of Video or Audio devices whilst reversing is acceptable if used in addition to the required observation.

Parking

An applicant should park the vehicle competently, and legally, taking good observations, or a fault may be recorded for 'Parking' as appropriate. Where an applicant decides to park on single or double yellow lines, or block an entrance, or on a footpath etc, at the end of the test, the tester should ask if the applicant is "satisfied with the parking position". Where the applicant then moves the vehicle a fault other than a grade 3 may be recorded. No fault is recorded where a vehicle is incorrectly or illegally parked at the beginning of a test.

REVERSE	
TURNABOUT	
PARKING	

Automatic Transmission

In General use of the left foot is acceptable for braking whilst manoeuvring in confined areas, if done competently. A 'button' operated clutch is regarded as 'code 15', (disability related) when it is used by the applicant. **Request for Assistance**

Where an applicant's field of vision is seriously obscured through no fault of the applicant, it is in order for the tester to give assistance.

Danger or Potential Danger

Where a tester takes control of a vehicle either verbally or physically due to an emergency situation which is not the direct responsibility of the applicant, a fault may not be recorded in this case. Where the applicant is at fault and the tester takes control either verbally or physically, a fault may be recorded as appropriate.

TESTER AND TRAINER SIGN OFF CONFIRMING ALL ASPECTS COVERED

TESTER _____

TESTERS SIGNATURE _____

TRAINER _____

TRAINERS SIGNATURE _____

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DRIVING FAULT MARKING GUIDELINES REFERENCE CHART

Aspect	Grade 1 (Minor)	Grade 2 (More Serious)	Grade 3 (Dangerous or Potentially Dangerous)
1. Rules/Checks This includes the door, mirrors, seat, seatbelt, head restraint adjustments as per the Preamble, it also includes Technical Checks, Hand Signals, helmet and protective gear adjustment for motorcyclists.	A Question not answered or incorrectly answered/ or deficient check.	3 or more questions not answered or incorrectly answered or deficient checks. A maximum of 1 fault may be recorded.	Not applicable.
2. Position	Slight infringement of Position on the straight, on bends, in traffic lanes, at cross junctions, at roundabouts, turning right, turning left, stopping, following traffic, or weaving slightly.	Incorrect position on the straight, on bends, in traffic lanes, at cross junctions, at roundabouts, turning right, turning left, stopping, following traffic, more serious weaving.	Dangerous or potentially dangerous incorrect position on the straight, on bends, in traffic lanes, at cross junctions, at roundabouts, turning right, turning left, stopping, following traffic. Weaving dangerously.
3. Observations	Slight infringement when taking observation.	Not taking proper observation.	Dangerous/potentially dangerous lack of observation.
4. React to Hazards / Anticipate Others	Inadequate reaction to hazards. Inadequate anticipation.	Not reacting properly to hazards. Not anticipating correctly.	Failure to react to hazards. Failure to anticipate.
5. Mirrors	Slight misuse of mirrors.	Not using mirrors as and when required.	Not applicable when on the straight, or on 'B' car tests. Can apply to all HGV's and to category 'B' type vans and pickups, where direct observations could not be taken via the windows. Includes 'BE'.

6. Clearance	Slight infringement when passing by a pedestrian, cyclist, stationary vehicle, other traffic, or object.	Allowing insufficient clearance to a pedestrian, cyclist, stationary vehicle, other traffic, or object.	Driving dangerously close to a pedestrian, cyclist, stationary vehicle, other traffic, or object.
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	Grade 1 (Minor)	Grade 2 (More Serious)	Grade 3 (Dangerous or Potentially Dangerous)
6. Overtake Safely	Overtaking near a hill, bend, or a narrow road. Allowing too much clearance.	Overtaking close to a hill, bend, narrow road, or junction. Allowing excessive clearance. Moving in too soon.	Overtaking dangerously close to a hill, bend, or on a narrow road. Overtaking while being overtaken. Dangerously cutting in.
7. Signals	Slight misuse of signal.	Not giving correct signal in good time. Not cancelling a signal in good time. Beckoning to other road users.	Beckoning dangerously to other road users.
7. Misleading Signal (Only applies where other road users are involved)	Slight misuse.	Misleading signal.	Having a left signal on when turning right. Having a right signal on when turning left. Having a left signal on when approaching a roundabout and intending to take the 2nd or subsequent exit.
8. Courtesy	Slight infringement.	Serious infringement.	Not applicable.

9. Alighting	Slight infringement.	Serious infringement.	Dangerous infringement.
10. Motorcycles	Slight inability.	Serious inability	Dangerously incompetent.
11. Progress	Slight inability / unwillingness to make progress.	Inadequate progress including at traffic lights. Causing obstruction.	Unnecessary delay or causing severe obstruction at traffic lights.

	Grade 1 (Minor)	Grade 2 (More Serious)	Grade 3 (Dangerous or Potentially Dangerous)
12. Vehicle Controls	Slight misuse of primary control. Inability to demonstrate a secondary control. Misuse of a secondary control during the practical test Slight lack of expertise in coupling/uncoupling. Inability to describe a technical check. Slight misuse of retarder/exhaust brake. Motorcycles: slight loss of balance when at slow speed or when turning.	Serious misuse of primary control. Inability to demonstrate 3 secondary controls. Serious misuse of secondary controls during the practical test. Inability to describe 3 technical checks. Inability to operate the retarder/exhaust brake as fitted to the vehicle Inadequate expertise in coupling/uncoupling. . Motorcycles: Serious loss of balance when at slow speed or when turning.	Dangerously incompetent use of primary control. Completely unable to couple/uncouple units. Potentially dangerous lack of expertise when uncoupling or recoupling. Dangerous or potentially dangerous misuse of secondary controls during the practical test. Motorcycles: Dangerous or potentially loss of balance when at slow speed or when turning.
13. Speed	Slightly excessive speed	Excessive speed. Exceeding the speed. Limit.	Dangerously excessive speed. Willful disregard of speed limit.
14. Traffic Controls	Slight infringement.	Serious infringement.	Complete disregard, or where obstruction is caused in a bus, tram, or cycle lane.

15. Right of Way	Slight infringement of Right of Way	Not yielding Right of Way as required causing inconvenience.	Not yielding Right of Way causing danger. Overtaking in the face of oncoming traffic.
16. Reverse	Slight lack of: Competency (control, position, progress). Observation. Right of way.	Serious lack of: Competency (control, position, progress). Observation. Right of way,	Dangerous lack of: Competency (control, position). Observation. Right of way.

17. Turnabout	Slight lack of: Competency (control, position, progress). Observation. Right of way.	Serious lack of: Competency (control, position, progress). Observation. Right of way,.	Dangerous lack of: Competency (control, position). Observation. Right of way.
18. Parking	Slight lack of: Competency (control, position, progress). Observation. Right of way.	Serious lack of: Competency (control, position, progress). Observation.	Dangerous lack of: Competency (control, position). Observation. Illegal Position.



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