

Alan Pontet ADI

Driving for Life

Responsibility for Learning

Since you want to learn to drive, your driving is your responsibility. You are responsible, therefore, for your learning and for your preparation to take both your driving theory test and your qualifying practical driving test. I am a facilitator to your learning - it is not my job to make you learn; nor is it my job to tell you whether or not you should book and take any tests. Driving tests are not part of my job.

Influences upon Learning

Among other ways, we learn by repetition, and each of us learns differently. You are unique, not least because you learn at your own rate and are not comparable with others. The progress of your development is influenced by several factors, including yourself and your lifestyle, your health, your personality, your attitudes to life, frequency of driving practice, your relationship with me, and your involvement in and commitment to your learning and development,

Homework

Your commitment to your learning and development includes study and revision. Whilst the in-car theory tuition covers knowledge and skills for car drivers, including routines for safe driving, you need to study in your own time especially those topics being practised in the car and, if you have not already done so, prepare to take the Driving Theory Test. During your driving appointments I can give you further help with your study of the theory of driving.

Attendance at Driving Appointments

Fitness to drive

You are required by law to be fit to drive the vehicle types shown on your driving licence. You could be unfit through the effects of illnesses fatigue depression injury and drugs including alcohol and tobacco. If in my opinion you are not fit to drive, I may discontinue or cancel your appointment – if this happens you would not be entitled to a refund of your appointment fee.

Personal hygiene

Since you are going to sit next to me in my car, and others use the car, please check that you and your clothes are clean – body odours can be unpleasant and can linger in the car

I advise you to clean your hands before and after using my car.

Please also check that you do not have articles such as keys or pens on or in your clothing in a way which could damage the fabric of my car.

Please do not eat in my car (except drinking water – see *Sustenance*) or smoke either in or near the car or in my presence.

Dress code

Please do not wear building decorating engineering cleaning and other manual labour work-wear including heavy shoes or boots and which are likely to be dirty. Wear clothing and shoes (see *Foot-wear*) which do not restrict your movements.

At times during your appointments you can be outside of the car, so, consider bringing a jacket or fleece or an overcoat of some sort - especially during winter but do not wear it whilst driving since it could restrict your movement and make you uncomfortably warm.

Foot-wear

These should be closed at both ends, and with flat, non-grip soles. If you have smaller feet you might benefit from longer heels, which should be stout. It is advisable not to use that footwear which you do not want scuffed. Boots and heavy shoes are not appropriate.

Hair pieces

To minimise the risk of injury where the back of the head meets the head restraint do not wear clips or combs at the back of your head whilst driving. Hair pieces should be of soft materials.

Eye-sight law and eye pieces

Driving road vehicles involves visual scanning of the near middle and far distances. You must be able to read a vehicle registration plate from 20.5 metres – for compliance, I shall check this when we meet. If you are unsure about the condition of your eyesight, or about whether you should use eye-pieces for driving, you can seek the advice of an optician. You may also use sunglasses whilst driving.

Head-wear

Hats are unnecessary and inappropriate whilst driving, especially since they could restrict movement and vision, although you might want to bring one with you in case you need it whilst you are outside of the car, especially during winter or when it is very sunny.

Sustenance

Driving can be a stressful activity, and learning to drive more so. Periods of concentration can lead to dehydration. I advise you to bring water or other suitable liquid, and to drink small amounts regularly.

Driving licence

At your first appointment, I shall check that you are legally entitled to drive my car – please bring your driving licence, and bring it to all of your driving appointments.

Insurance

Your use of my car is covered by insurance, although I am not liable for damage to or loss of your possessions. If you use my car for your practical driving test, you continue to be covered by the insurance, which also covers the Driving Examiner.