

## **The DSA driving assessment for taxis and private hire vehicle drivers**

### **What the taxi or private hire vehicle driving assessment involves**

The standard of the taxi or private hire vehicle driving assessment is set at a level suitable for a full driving licence holder. It is more demanding than the learner test.

Before the assessment, you are advised to:

- take lessons with a professional driving instructor
- read the Highway Code
- familiarise yourself with the content of the assessment

### **The eyesight test**

- At the start of your practical assessment, you will be asked to read in good daylight a vehicle registration number fixed to a motor vehicle with letters and figures 79.4 millimetres high at a distance of 20.5 metres (20 metres for a new-style number plate). You can use glasses or contact lenses if you wear them. If you fail the eyesight test, you will be unable to take the driving part of the assessment. However, you will still be able to continue with the wheelchair section if appropriate.

### **The practical assessment**

The practical assessment will last for about 35 to 40 minutes, depending on traffic. Some elements are specific to taxi driving, such as:

- a taxi manoeuvre
- the requirement to stop in a safe position as if picking up or dropping off passengers

The driving assessment will include approximately ten minutes of independent driving where you will be asked to drive without examiner guidance.

To pass the assessment, no more than nine errors are permitted. Serious or dangerous errors will result in failure of the assessment.

You will be assessed on:

- awareness and anticipation
- effective planning of prevailing road and traffic conditions
- correct use of speed
- observation and mirror use
- control of the vehicle
- passenger safety and comfort

The assessment will include:

- A taxi or private hire manoeuvre where you will be asked to turn your vehicle to face the opposite direction.
- Approximately ten minutes of independent driving.
- Stops at the side of the road if a passenger is getting in or out of the vehicle.
- Related 'cabology' questions. Examples may include the dimensions of your vehicle, tyre pressures and what to do if a passenger leaves property in your vehicle.

Questions from the Highway Code and identification of a number of traffic signs and road markings.

Your assessment may include:

- an emergency stop
- a wheelchair exercise (if you requested the enhanced assessment)

### **What happens at the end of the taxi or private hire vehicle assessment?**

When you pass your **taxi** assessment, you will receive:

- a pass certificate (form TPH10)
- a copy of your assessment
- offer of a debrief from the examiner

When you pass your **wheelchair** assessment, you will receive:

- a pass certificate (form WTA10)
- a copy of your assessment
- offer of a debrief from the examiner

You may wish to check for available discounts offered by insurance companies to drivers who have completed the DSA taxi assessment. The following insurers offer taxi insurance benefits to taxi drivers who have passed the assessment:

- Swintons
- Taxi Fleet Plus

If you fail any elements you will receive:

- the offer of a debrief
- a copy of your assessment

If you fail the assessment, you must, wait a minimum period of three clear working days before you retake. Saturday counts as a working day.

### Taxi assessment fees

	Weekday	Weekend and weekday evening
Hackney saloon vehicles, private hire saloon vehicles, Highway Code/traffic signs/cabology questions	£79.66	£96.00
Hackney wheelchair enhanced, wheelchair accessible vehicles and Highway code/traffic signs/cabology questions	£92.94	£112.34
Wheelchair exercise	£26.56	£32.68

## How to book your taxi or private hire vehicle assessment

### Booking your test

Driver assessments can be taken at your local Driving Standards Agency (DSA) test centre. You can [find your nearest test centre on the DSA website](#) - **Opens in a new window**

You can book your practical assessment:

- online
- by phone
- by post

To book the assessment you will need your driver number from one of the following licences:

- a full UK or Northern Ireland photocard licence
- a full British old style paper licence
- a recognisable full European Union (EU) licence and UK paper counterpart

You will also need a valid debit or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, Delta or Visa Electron) for online or phone booking or, a cheque or postal order for postal bookings.

You can [book your practical driving test for a taxi on the Directgov website](#) - **Opens in a new window.**

### Booking by phone

You can book over the phone by calling the following numbers:

- DSA Helpline on Tel 0300 200 1122

- DSA Helpline for Wales on Tel 0300 200 1133
- DSA Helpline (Textphone) on Tel 0300 200 1144

Once you have been connected to the DSA helpline, the telephone options to follow to book a taxi test are 0, 2, 1, 1, 4.

### **Booking by post**

Read information on [how to apply by post on the Directgov website](#) - Opens in a new window.

You can also request application forms by phone. You can call the DSA Helpline on Tel 0300 200 1122.

Once you have filled out the form, you should post it with a cheque or postal order to:

Driving Standards Agency  
PO Box 280  
Newcastle Upon Tyne  
NE99 1FP

Cash payments are not accepted for postal bookings.

### **Cancelling or rescheduling your test**

You can reschedule or cancel a test:

- online - this service is available from 06.00 to 24.00, seven days a week
- by phone

Providing you give the DSA three clear working days' notice - Saturdays count as working days - you can:

- move or change your test

- cancel your test
- get a full refund of your test fee

You can **cancel or reschedule your taxi practical driving test on the Directgov website - Opens in a new window.**

If you prefer to phone, you can call the DSA Helpline on Tel 0300 200 1122.

Driving taxi test centres can be found at the following locations together with approximate waiting times for tests appointments;

Basildon MPTC  
Paycocke Road  
Basildon  
Essex SS14 3JS  
Appointment waiting time: 3 Weeks

Chelmsford  
Synergy Centre  
4 Hoffmanns Way  
Chelmsford  
Essex  
CM1 1GU  
Appointment waiting time: 10 weeks

Brentwood  
89 Warley Hill  
Brentwood  
Essex  
CM14 5JN  
Appointment waiting time: 1 week

Above information and additional test locations can be found at the DSA business link web site;

<http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/layer?r.l1=1081597476&r.l2=1082103262&r.l3=1084756147&r.s=tl&topicId=1082155067>