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Guide

The car practical driving test

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Rules for cars used for driving tests

You can use your own car for the driving test if it meets certain rules.

Your test will be cancelled and you could lose your fee if your car doesn't meet the rules.



Your vehicle must:

- be properly insured and

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- have a valid tax disc
- be roadworthy and have a current MOT if it needs one
- have a seatbelt for the examiner
- have an interior rear-view mirror for the examiner (these are available from most motor stores)
- have a proper passenger head restraint (not a slip-on type)
- be a smoke-free environment
- have 4 wheels
- be able to reach at least 62mph
- have a speedometer measuring speed in mph
- have no warning lights showing - for example, the airbag warning light
- have L-plates ('L' or 'D' plates in Wales) on the front and rear
- have a maximum authorised mass (MAM) of no more than 3,500 kilograms

MAM is the maximum weight of the vehicle including the maximum load that can be carried safely while used



on the road. This is also known as 'gross vehicle weight'.

Using a hire car

Hire cars can only be used in tests if they're fitted with dual controls and meet all the other driving test vehicle rules.

Space-saver tyres

In some cars the spare tyre is a space-saver and only supposed to be for temporary use. Vehicles with space-saver tyres in use can't be used for a test.

Electronic parking brakes

Vehicles fitted with an electronic parking brake can be used for a test.

Vehicles with 'hill-start assist'

Vehicles with hill-start assist can be used for a test. Hill-start assist is a feature that stops vehicles rolling back when they start on steep slopes.

Vehicles you can't use

Some models of vehicle can't be used for the test. This is because they don't give the examiner all-round vision. They are generally convertible cars and panel vans.

You can't use these cars for a driving test:

- BMW Mini convertible
- Ford KA convertible
- Toyota iQ
- VW Beetle convertible

Other types of convertible car or panel van may also be unsuitable. Check with the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) before booking your test.

DSA practical test enquiries

Telephone: 0300 200 1122
(English), 0300 200 1133
(Welsh)

Textphone: 0300 200 1144
Monday to Friday, 8am to
midday

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