

HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE DRIVER'S LICENCE KNOWLEDGE TEST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

▪ Why is a test necessary?

To obtain a combined hackney carriage / private hire driver's licence you must first pass a knowledge test. The purpose of this test is to show that you can find your way around the main towns in Derbyshire Dales and the surrounding areas; that you can demonstrate that you have an up-to-date awareness of the Highway Code, and that you fully understand the Council's Taxi Licensing Policy and any conditions that can be attached to the driver's licence.

▪ Who must take the test?

- * All applicants for a new driver's licence (ie not a renewal) must take the test.
- * Applications will not be accepted from anyone who has not held a FULL UK Driving licence for at least one year.

What should I bring to the test?

You will be required to arrive ½ an hour prior to the start of the test and must bring with you 3 forms of identification one of which must be your driving licence. UK passport, UK Birth Certificates and UK marriage certificates are all acceptable forms of identification. You will also be required to provide evidence of your right to reside and work as a Taxi Driver in the UK.

▪ What type of test is it?

Section 1 requires you to answer correctly 8 out of 10 multiple choice questions on the Highway Code.

Section 2 requires you to demonstrate a detailed knowledge of Ashbourne, Bakewell and Matlock – just 3 of the main towns in the District and the surrounding area.

In this section you will be required to enter the correct street/road names against a given list of buildings, points of interest, commonly visited premises etc. eg: a listed location could be **Matlock Police Station** and the answer you would be expected to write is **Bank Road**.

The test is not designed to be so difficult that it prevents applicants from becoming licensed drivers in the Derbyshire Dales but it is important that anyone licensed to drive in the area is well aware of his/her social and legal responsibilities in providing a safe; every opportunity is given to help you demonstrate that you are familiar with the geography of the district. If you are unable to remember the exact name of the road, you can describe the location eg: for Matlock Police Station, you could write "opposite the Town Hall near the Post Office"; or describe how to get to it as briefly as possible. eg: "travelling from Bakewell, past the Co-op supermarket and Wetherspoons Pub, left at the roundabout and up the hill past the Post Office. Police Station is on right opposite the Town Hall".

Section 3 requires you to answer correctly 8 out of 10 multiple choice questions on the Council's Taxi Licensing Policy.

▪ **What do I need to do to prepare for the test?**

To assist you in preparing you are advised to study the following documents thoroughly:

- * The Highway Code
- * Derbyshire Dales District Council's Taxi Licensing Policy. In particular you should familiarise yourself with the Driver and Vehicle Licence Conditions detailed in the Appendices. However do not limit your study to these as you are expected to have an understanding of all aspects of the Policy.

▪ **What do I do if I can't make my appointment time?**

Applicants who fail to keep a test appointment or who arrive late (without good reason) will not be permitted to sit the test. If you need to cancel or re-arrange your appointment you must give the Taxi Licensing Section at least 24 hours notice, otherwise the test fee will not be refunded, and it will be treated as a failed attempt.

▪ **When will I know the result?**

You will be notified of your result, in writing, within 3-5 working days.

▪ **What if I fail?**

If you fail a test and wish to re-sit, you may take another test on payment of the fee. The fee can be paid by telephone or cheque. Any cheques should be made payable to **Derbyshire Dales District Council** and must clear prior to your test date.

In either event, you will need to contact the Taxi Licensing Section to make an appointment – If you are paying by cheque your test date will not be confirmed in writing until your cheque has cleared. Please allow sufficient time for this.

Appointments can be booked with the Licensing Team on Matlock (01629) 761313.

If you do not succeed in passing the test on the third attempt you it may be possible for you to attend a Licensing hearing to determine whether or not you should be given an opportunity to take a fourth test. This is not an automatic entitlement, each case will be considered on an individual basis.

If you wish to make your application for a driver's badge at the same time as your appointment for a Knowledge Test please contact the Licensing Section, to request a pack and further information.

All of these documents will be available to download from the Council's website in due course.