

Notice Board Bulletin for Week ending Saturday 17th August 2019

Welcome back to Jude from his holidays and welcome to new customers, Jack, Brian and Stephen, it's great to have you aboard and I wish you a successful learning program.

There have been occasions in my experience where candidates feel under pressure for whatever reason to take and pass the practical test. Often, sadly, it appears they are not ready to take their test yet.

The standard expected by the DVSA in order to be successful in your practical driving test is to be fully prepared for the modern day driving conditions, be of a standard to complete all aspects of the test safely, including the manoeuvres and to be able to **drive independently** following road sign directions or on a sat nav. Follow link below for full details:

<https://www.gov.uk/driving-test/driving-test-faults-result>

All too often they see candidates arrive for their test not fully prepared, not having had enough lessons and sometimes are even a danger on the road.

The law doesn't distinguish between a learner driver or a fully qualified experienced driver; there is only one standard required by law and that is to drive safely, with reasonable care and consideration for others.

The meaning of driving without due care and attention is, 'a person is to be regarded as driving without due care and attention if (and only if) the way he drives falls below what would be expected of a competent and careful driver.'*

That's why we always talk about the dual controls in the car and shared risk and responsibilities at the beginning and during every lesson.

When candidates present themselves at the test centre in these circumstances and are hugely disappointed when they come away with a 'fail' they often blame the relevant driving instructor, sometimes quite fairly, sometimes not. The body who really and fairly blames the instructor is the DVSA, in particular the irritated and impugned examiner who rightly questions, even if silently to themselves, "what is that instructor playing at letting such a poorly prepared candidate take their test?"

The answer is with me, (sorry to disappoint some people) you aren't taking your test until you are fully and thoroughly prepared. I'm not letting you if you aren't as safe as safe can be before we ever arrive at the test centre. In the future, you'll thank me for it and so will your loved ones.

That's one reason I'll no longer accept candidates from other driving instructors who appear a week before their test, improperly prepared and tell me their previous instructor had to 'go away on holiday.'

That's all this week folks! Have a great weekend and see you next week.

*Sec 3ZA (ss2) Road Traffic Act 1988