

# The Advanced Driving Test

The IAM Test is carried out by an Examiner chosen by the IAM and is a contract between you and the IAM. The Group is not involved in any way with the test and is not informed of the result. These notes are for general guidance only and not necessarily what you may get on your specific test as one Examiner may interpret the guidelines slightly differently from another. Exceptional driving skill is NOT required to pass the test, but safe, smooth, systematic and legal driving is.

As a Group Associate your Adviser will indicate when you are ready to take the IAM test and you then inform the IAM at Chiswick of this by sending in the form provided by them when ready. With about three weeks notice an Examiner will then contact you to agree a mutually convenient time and place to meet for the Test to be carried out.

The Advanced Driving Test consists of a drive of approximately one and a quarter hour's duration over all types of road from country lanes through town streets and residential areas to dual carriageways, including, possibly, a motorway. The Examiner, who will be the holder of a Police Advanced Driving Certificate, will do his/her best to set you at ease and will hope that you reach the required standard to become an IAM Full Member. Examiners expect the car used for the test to be fitted with seat belts and head restraints and to be able to maintain the national speed limit of 70mph without strain. The Examiner will ask to see your Driving Licence, Insurance and MOT certificate (if needed) which you **MUST PRODUCE**, and requires your vehicle to be roadworthy with windows clean and unobstructed by anything except a current Vehicle Excise disc.

The Examiner will not ask for a "cockpit drill" but it is essential that you know the function and position of all the controls, instruments and warning lights of the car, and be able to explain the particular features of it. You must know, for instance, whether your car has front, rear or four-wheel drive, as its behaviour in adverse conditions will vary between the three types. A car is, after all, a machine, and a driver is the operator and a machine-operator is expected to know how to use it properly, efficiently and safely.

The Examiner will explain that a brisk systematic and legal drive with the emphasis on progress with safety is required, reaching, but not exceeding, speed limits depending on the traffic and weather conditions. It is expected that you will observe the Highway Code and must not commit any breaches of the law. He or she may ask for a moving brake test shortly after starting, and may request a commentary to be given for a short period sometime during the Test. A commentary is not compulsory and you can decline to give one if you wish, the Institute stipulates that it will not affect the outcome of the test. A comprehensive commentary is not expected, but awareness of approaching hazards, whether they could affect you and what to do about them, needs to be mentioned. Your observation and knowledge of road signs may also be tested and common reversing manoeuvres may be requested to be made and should be carried out competently.

The Examiner will be looking for:-

- An awareness of, and systematic approach to, hazards at the right speed with the correct action taken.
- Correct vehicle positioning for safety and best visibility at all times, including when the vehicle is stationary.
- Obedience of all speed limits and all motoring laws.
- Good and smooth progress using appropriate speed consistent with road and weather conditions and speed limits.
- Good acceleration sense, varying the car's speed to meet changing conditions without braking unnecessarily.
- Correct use of properly-adjusted mirrors and over-the shoulder glances when needed for confirmation.
- Correct use of windscreen wipers and washers to maintain good visibility at all times.
- Good observation of and knowledge of road signs and road markings and appropriate action taken when required.
- The correct steering hold with pull-push control and no "crossing of hands" in normal driving.
- Smooth and progressive braking using the correct system at the approach to hazards.
- Correct sequence and use of the handbrake except for very short stops.
- Proper use of the clutch at all times.
- Correct and sympathetic use of the gearbox with the appropriate gear selected for optimum acceleration.
- Considered use of the horn and/or legal headlight flashes when appropriate; i.e. to be used only when it is necessary to warn of your vehicle's presence.
- Safe, considerate and competent reversing manoeuvres.

During the Test a few manoeuvres involving reversing may be carried out; a turn in the road (sometimes called a three-point-turn); a reverse round a corner or a reverse-park manoeuvre between two cars or behind one car. These must be done with appropriate safety, skill and consideration for other road users. At the end of the test the Examiner will be very pleased (so will you!) if you have reached the required standard for Membership of the Institute and will then explain any features of the drive which may be appropriate to assist you in the future. You will not give a perfect drive; the perfect driver has not yet been found, but minor errors will be noted but should, hopefully, not affect the outcome. If you do not reach the IAM standard a list of the improvements required will be given to you. Should you not pass there is no minimum time before a further test can be taken and this you will be encouraged to do.

Following the test please inform your Adviser of the result.

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