

Driving skills syllabus



Contents

| | |
|--|----------|
| About the driving skills syllabus | 4 |
| Using the syllabus | 4 |
| Using the driving log | 4 |
| Tips for driving coaches | 5 |
| Set a good example | 5 |
| Don't set your sights too high | 5 |
| Be prepared for different rates of learning | 5 |
| Be realistic about what you can cover in each session | 5 |
| Demonstrate first | 5 |
| Encourage independence | 5 |
| Listen | 6 |
| Keep the vehicle a stress-free zone | 6 |
| Managing mistakes: the WASP technique | 6 |
| What driving coaches must do | 6 |
| Pre-drive vehicle check | 7 |
| 1 Vehicle controls | 8 |
| 2 Starting and stopping the engine | 10 |
| 3 Moving off and stopping | 11 |
| 4 Steering control - driving forward through 90-degree turns | 13 |
| 5 Changing gears | 15 |
| 6 Reversing in a straight line | 16 |
| 7 Moving off from the kerb | 17 |
| 8 Driving straight | 18 |
| 9 Stopping at the kerb | 19 |
| 10 Turning left off a road | 20 |

| | | |
|----|---|-----------|
| 11 | Driving straight ahead at a roundabout | 21 |
| 12 | Turning left at a Give Way sign | 22 |
| 13 | Turning left at a Stop sign | 23 |
| 14 | Turning left at traffic signals | 24 |
| 15 | Turning right off a road | 25 |
| 16 | Turning right at a Give Way sign | 26 |
| 17 | Turning right at traffic signals | 27 |
| 18 | Three-point turn | 28 |
| 19 | Reversing into a driveway | 29 |
| 20 | Reverse parallel park | 30 |
| 21 | Higher-speed areas - single lane each way | 31 |
| 22 | Higher-speed areas - multi-lane | 32 |
| 23 | Higher-speed areas - driving a curve | 33 |
| 24 | Higher-speed areas - merge onto a motorway or highway | 34 |
| 25 | Incline start | 35 |
| 26 | Angle parking | 36 |
| 27 | Driving across a pedestrian crossing | 37 |
| 28 | Driving across railway level crossings | 38 |
| 29 | Driving in poor visibility | 39 |
| 30 | scanning and hazard recognition | 41 |
| | Driving log | 43 |

Driving skills syllabus

About the driving skills syllabus

Once you've learnt the basic skills of driving a car you need to practise. We've designed this syllabus to help you and your driving coach (your supervisor) while you're learning to drive. You can use it in conjunction with lessons from an approved driving instructor.

The syllabus isn't a guide to the content of the practical driving tests. For more information about the tests go to:

www.nzta.govt.nz/practical-tests

Using the syllabus

The series of 30 lessons is designed to help your driving coach teach you the skills you need to drive safely.

As well as being taught by a coach, you may also want to have some lessons with a driving instructor. Because these lessons cover the same material as the lessons used by approved driving instructors, you could choose to have some of the lessons with the driving instructor and work with your coach on the others.

You may find this approach useful in the early stages of learning to drive, as many driving instructors use vehicles with dual controls that allow the instructor to take control of the vehicle if necessary. And if you're ever in doubt about any aspect of your driving, it's a good idea to discuss it with an approved driving instructor.

Each lesson in this syllabus breaks down a driving task into smaller parts, and includes a checklist that your coach can tick when they've seen you performing each specific skill.

The lessons start with easier driving skills and move on to more complex situations. Because each section builds on skills covered in the previous sections, it's best to do them in order. You can repeat each section until you feel you've mastered all the skills in it.

It's a good idea to begin driving on roads without much traffic. Once you're used to driving and how the vehicle works, you can move to roads with more traffic.

Using the driving log

The best way to get lots of driving practice is to drive your coach around as often as you can - not just when you have 'lessons', but whenever you're driving

somewhere, like the supermarket.

Research shows that the more practice a new driver has, the less likely they are to crash once they start driving alone. You should aim for 120 hours of supervised driving before you get your restricted licence.

To help you make sure you get enough practice driving, we've included a driving log so you can log all the hours you have spent driving.

[Driving log](#)

Tips for driving coaches

Set a good example

Your new driver will pick up a lot more than you realise from the way you drive. Try to set the best example you can when you drive, because you'll be their model.

Don't set your sights too high

Remember, your new driver is learning, so expect lots of mistakes and try to use them as learning opportunities. Take things slowly, but be prepared to challenge your new driver as they develop confidence.

Be prepared for different rates of learning

There'll be times when your driver will take longer to pick up a new skill than you might expect, or they might pick it up quicker than you thought they would. Try to be patient and be prepared to take a break from lessons for a while if necessary.

Be realistic about what you can cover in each session

Your new driver will be concentrating hard and will probably get tired quite quickly at first. To start with, 45–60-minute sessions will probably be long enough. You can build up to longer sessions as you progress.

Demonstrate first

One of the best ways to teach a new skill is to demonstrate it first, explaining what you're doing at the same time. If it's a more involved skill, you may need to demonstrate it a few times. Give your new driver lots of encouragement when they try a new skill for the first time.

Encourage independence

As your new driver progresses, you should have less and less involvement. Your early coaching will be focused on teaching new skills, so naturally you'll be demonstrating and talking the new driver through these. However, as your driver

progresses, encourage them to apply their skills in new situations without your help. At this stage, all you need to do is ask: 'How do you think that went?' or 'Could you have done that better?'.

Listen

If your new driver says they're not comfortable in a new situation, ask them why and allow them more time. New situations, such as heavy traffic, higher speed and wet weather, can be very challenging for new drivers.

Keep the vehicle a stress-free zone

Things go wrong sometimes – and not always on the road. Before you start a lesson, make sure you're both calm and relaxed.

Managing mistakes: the WASP technique

Wait – see if your new driver notices they've made a mistake.

Ask – if they haven't said anything, ask if they've noticed the mistake.

Show – if your driver can't work it out, show them.

Practise – repeat the skill a few times the right way.

You should also be aware of what's going on both inside and outside the vehicle, and be prepared to intervene or warn your new driver if they're in, or likely to be in, an unsafe situation.

What driving coaches must do

Coaches should:

- » be prepared to commit to the time needed for the new driver to practise
- » be a responsible, skilled and confident driver
- » be an effective communicator, able to explain information and ideas clearly
- » have the patience to instruct the new driver effectively
- » be able to teach and build on previous lessons
- » review, evaluate and assess the new driver's progress
- » make sure the new driver carries their learner licence at all times while driving
- » make sure L plates are displayed on the front and back of the vehicle the new driver will be driving.

Pre-drive vehicle check

Before you start learning to drive you should have a basic knowledge of what you need to check to make sure your vehicle is safe and legal to drive.

You should know how to locate and check everything in the table below.

| Check | What To Look For |
|--|---|
| Vehicle posture | Make sure the vehicle is sitting square to the road, which shows that all tyres have equal pressure. If it isn't, you will need to check the pressure in your tyres. |
| Vehicle body | There should be no obvious damage to the vehicle body that could be considered dangerous. Small dents are acceptable. |
| Tyres and wheels | The tyre tread depth must be at least 1.5 millimetres. Wheels should be undamaged. |
| Indicators and brake lights | Should work. If your vehicle has a high-mounted stop light, then that must also work. |
| Headlights | Should work on both high and low beams. |
| Windscreen wipers | Should work effectively. |
| Mirrors | Should be in the correct position for you to see behind you when sitting in the driver's seat. |
| Horn | Should work. |
| Safety belts | Should work and shouldn't be frayed or damaged. |
| Licence label | Must be current and displayed on the lower left-hand corner of the windscreen. |
| Warrant of fitness (WoF) or certificate of fitness (CoF) label | Must be current and displayed on the top right-hand corner of the windscreen. |
| Road user charges (RUC) licence | If the vehicle requires a RUC licence, it must be current. |

1 Vehicle controls

Aim

- » To identify and use the vehicle's controls.

Situation

- » The vehicle should be parked somewhere safe and off the road, such as a driveway.
- » The vehicle should have the handbrake/park brake on and be in neutral (manual) or park (automatic).

The driver should

- » Identify the dashboard instrument lights and dials:
 - speedometer.
 - tachometer or rev counter.
 - fuel gauge.
 - temperature gauge.
 - warning lights.
- » Identify and operate the steering wheel controls:
 - steering wheel.
 - windscreen wipers.
 - indicators.
 - headlights on full beam.
 - headlights on dip.
 - horn.
 - cruise control.

» Identify and operate the floor controls:

- accelerator pedal.
- brake pedal.
- clutch pedal (manual).
- gear lever.
- handbrake/park brake.

» Identify and operate the console controls:

- ignition.
- hazard warning light switch.
- heating controls.
- air conditioning controls.
- rear demister.
- airbag deactivator.

» Identify and operate other controls:

- adjust the seat and headrests.
- adjust mirrors, both inside and outside the vehicle.
- identify blind spots.
- inspect safety belts for wear.
- adjust the safety belt (including height and tension, if appropriate).
- perform the tasks at least twice.

Other controls for identification could include the bonnet release, boot/tailgate release, fuel tank and fuel cover release.

2 Starting and stopping the engine

Aim

- » To start and stop the vehicle's engine.

Situation

- » The vehicle should be parked somewhere safe and off the road, such as a driveway.
- » The vehicle should have the handbrake/park brake on and be in neutral (manual) or park (automatic).

The driver should

- » When starting the engine:
 - Make sure the handbrake/park brake is on.
 - Make sure the gears are in neutral (manual) or park (automatic).
 - Press the clutch pedal with left foot (manual) and press the brake pedal with right foot.
 - Turn the ignition key on, then turn it further to start the engine.
 - Let the key go as soon as the engine starts.
 - Check all gauges and warning lights.
- » When stopping the engine:
 - Push the clutch in (manual) and press the brake pedal.
 - Put handbrake/park brake on.
 - Put gears in neutral (manual) or park (automatic).
 - Check gauges and warning lights (only handbrake/park brake or park light should be on).
 - Turn the ignition key off and remove it from the ignition.
 - Perform the tasks at least twice.

3 Moving off and stopping

Aim

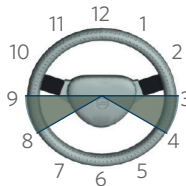
- » To move the vehicle off under full control at the first attempt.
- » To bring the vehicle to a controlled stop.

Situation

- » The vehicle should be parked on a safe, flat roadway with at least 50 metres of uninterrupted straight roadway ahead.
- » The engine should be running.

The driver should

- » When moving off:
 - Disengage the clutch by pressing down on the clutch pedal and selecting first gear (manual) or place foot on the brake and select drive (automatic).
Note: when driving automatic vehicles use the right foot for both the brake pedal and the accelerator.
 - Release the handbrake/park brake.
 - Slowly push down on the accelerator while slowly releasing the clutch pedal (manual) until the clutch reaches the friction point (the engine sound will change and drive is engaged) or remove foot from brake and slowly push down on the accelerator (automatic).
 - Hold the steering wheel with a light grip, with hands in the 'quarter to three' position or slightly lower, and keep the vehicle moving in a straight line without much steering input (see page 66).



Where to hold steering wheel

- Accelerate quickly but safely, without stalling or rolling back.

» When stopping:

- Slowly take right foot off the accelerator pedal.
- Smoothly push the brake pedal with right foot.
- Just before the vehicle stops, press the clutch pedal fully to the floor (manual).
- Bring the vehicle to a smooth stop.
- Put the vehicle into neutral (manual) or park (automatic).
- Put the handbrake/park brake on and switch the engine off.
- Perform the tasks at least twice.

4 Steering control – driving forward through 90-degree turns

Aim

» To consistently steer the vehicle through 90-degree turns at slow speed.

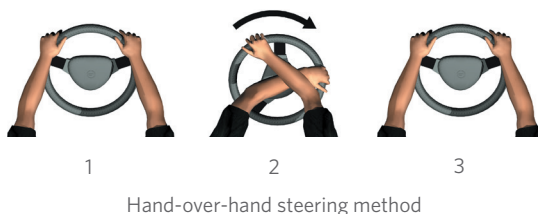
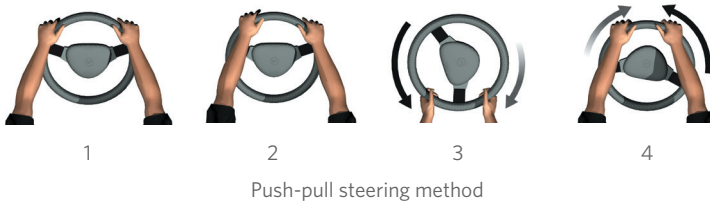
Situation

» The vehicle should be in a safe area, either on or off the road, with enough room to make 90-degree turns at low speed.

Note: if on the road, then the driver will need to use indicators.

The driver should

- Have both hands lightly gripping the steering wheel in the 'quarter to three' position or slightly lower. This is because of the possibility of injury if the airbag goes off.
- Steer the vehicle through at least five left and five right 90-degree turns, maintaining the correct lane position (if on a road).
- Turn the steering wheel back to the centre position after each turn (rather than just letting it turn back by itself).
- Use an appropriate steering method – either push-pull or hand-over-hand.



- Keep full control of the vehicle throughout the turns.
- Look ahead in the direction of the turn, not at the ground in front of the vehicle.
- Perform at least five consecutive left and five consecutive right 90-degree turns.

5 Changing gears

Aim

- » To select the appropriate gear and use the clutch and accelerator in a coordinated manner.
- » To change gears smoothly (manual) while maintaining steering control and without looking at the gear lever.
- » To use the automatic transmission to slow the vehicle down (automatic).

Situation

- » With the vehicle in a safe area with the engine off.
- » With the vehicle running, on a road.

The driver should

- » When stationary with engine off:
 - Accurately describe and explain the gear pattern.
 - Select appropriate gears when asked, with the clutch and accelerator used in a coordinated way, at least five times (manual).
- » With engine started:
 - Move off smoothly from a stationary position in the appropriate gear (first gear for manual and drive for automatic).
 - Change gears in sequence, from first gear up to the highest gear that is suitable for the situation, without clashing or missing the gear and without jerking the vehicle (manual).
 - Change down through all gears without jerking or choosing the wrong gear (manual only), or shift automatic gearbox to lower gear (automatic).
 - Select the appropriate gear for the situation or road speed without over-revving or labouring the engine (manual).
 - Keep eyes on the road ahead rather than looking at gear lever.
 - Perform the tasks at least five times.

6 Reversing in a straight line

Aim

» To legally and safely reverse the vehicle in a straight line for 20 metres.

Situation

» In a 50km/h zone, on a straight, flat road with light traffic flow.

The driver should

- Choose a safe and appropriate place to stop and carry out the manoeuvre.
- Check the mirrors (inside and outside).
- Indicate left for at least three seconds before starting to move left.
- Position the vehicle next to the kerb.
- Hold down the brake pedal while putting the handbrake/park brake on.
- Hold down the brake pedal while putting the vehicle in reverse gear.
- Check mirrors and blind spots for hazards.
- Turn to look over left shoulder through rear window in the direction the vehicle will travel in.
- Slowly release the handbrake/park brake.
- Press down on the accelerator slightly with right foot and slowly release the clutch pedal.
- Slowly reverse in a straight line for 20 metres, while continuing to look through the rear window.
- Smoothly bring the vehicle to a complete stop.
- Put the car in neutral (manual) or park (automatic), put the handbrake/park brake on and switch off the engine.

7 Moving off from the kerb

Aim

- » To legally and safely pull out from the kerb, with the vehicle under full control, at the first attempt.

Situation

- » On a flat road in a 50km/h zone.
- » The vehicle should be stationary and parked legally and within 300mm of the left kerb, with at least 50 metres of straight road ahead.
- » The engine should be started, but the handbrake/park brake should be on and the vehicle should be in neutral (manual) or park (automatic).

The driver should

- Search ahead and behind for hazards, using mirrors both inside and outside.
- Indicate right for at least three seconds before moving.
- Push in the clutch and put the vehicle in first gear (manual) or place right foot on the brake pedal and select drive (automatic).
Note: when driving automatic vehicles, use the right foot for both the brake pedal and the accelerator.
- Release handbrake/park brake.
- Check mirrors again and check the right-hand blind spot with a head check over shoulder.
- When it's safe to move out, release the clutch and accelerate smoothly, quickly and safely into an appropriate gap.
- Check mirrors again.
- Adjust steering if necessary.
- Perform the tasks at least three times.

8 Driving straight

Aim

- » To legally and safely drive the vehicle on a straight road in normal traffic conditions.
- » To position the vehicle correctly in relation to the road and other road users.
- » To stay within the posted speed limit and maintain place in traffic flow.

Situation

- » In a 50km/h zone.
- » On a two-way road with intersecting roads and no traffic signals (traffic lights).

The driver should

- Keep the vehicle in the centre of the lane.
- Keep the vehicle a safe distance from parked vehicles, kerbside hazards and oncoming vehicles.
- Drive at an appropriate speed for the conditions.
- Maintain their place in the traffic flow and keep a safe following distance (at least a two-second gap).
- Check the mirrors regularly - about every 10 seconds.
- Consistently search forward and to both sides to identify potential hazards.
- Perform the tasks at least three times.

9 Stopping at the kerb

Aim

- » To legally and safely bring the vehicle to a stop next to the left kerb.

Situation

- » In a 50km/h zone.
- » On a two-way road with legal and safe parking areas.

The driver should

- Locate a safe parking space and check appropriate mirrors.
- Smoothly slow down the vehicle.
- Position the vehicle appropriately to move towards the kerb.
- Indicate left for at least three seconds and check over left shoulder for hazards.
- Stop the vehicle in a legal and safe position, parallel and close to the kerb (within 300mm).
- Put the vehicle in neutral (manual) or park (automatic), put the handbrake/ park brake on and switch off the engine.
- Perform the tasks at least three times.

10 Turning left off a road

Aim

- » To legally and safely turn left from a road.

Situation

- » In a 50–60km/h zone.
- » On a two-way road with intersections to the left and right controlled by Stop and/or Give Way signs.

The driver should

- Check the mirrors (inside and outside).
- Check their blind spot by looking over their shoulder.
- Indicate left for at least three seconds before starting to turn.
- Check the intersection for hazards.
- Slow the vehicle for the turn, using appropriate gears.
- Keep the vehicle in the correct position throughout the turn (no less than 1 metre and no more than 2 metres from the kerb).
- Give way to pedestrians and vehicles if required.
- Drive at an appropriate speed throughout the turn.
- Check the mirrors again on completing the turn.
- After finishing the turn, accelerate to an appropriate speed for the traffic flow.
- Perform the tasks at least three times.

11 Driving straight ahead at a roundabout

Aim

- » To legally and safely drive straight ahead at a roundabout.

Situation

- » In a 50–60km/h zone.
- » On a two-way street with a roundabout.

The driver should

- Check the mirrors (inside and outside).
- Position the vehicle appropriately in the lane for the intended route through the roundabout.
- Slow the vehicle to an appropriate speed for the roundabout and stop or give way if required.
- Search the roundabout and exits for hazards.
- Select an appropriate gap in the traffic.
- Keep the vehicle in a correct position through the roundabout.
- Indicate left for at least three seconds before leaving the roundabout (when passing the exit before the exit they are taking).
- Check the mirrors when exiting the roundabout.
- Accelerate back to an appropriate road speed for the conditions.
- Perform the tasks at least three times.

12 Turning left at a Give Way sign

Aim

- » To legally and safely turn left at an intersection with a Give Way sign.

Situation

- » In a 50–60km/h zone.
- » On a two-way road with a 90-degree turn at an intersection that has a Give Way sign.

The driver should

- Check the mirrors (inside and outside).
- Check blind spot for traffic by looking over shoulder.
- Indicate left for at least three seconds before starting to turn.
- Search well ahead through the intersection for hazards.
- Slow the vehicle down for the turn, using appropriate gears.
- Give way to pedestrians and vehicles if required.
- Keep the vehicle in the correct position in the lane throughout the turn (no less than 1 metre and no more than 2 metres from the kerb).
- Drive at an appropriate speed throughout the turn.
- Check the mirrors again when turn completed.
- Accelerate to an appropriate speed after completing the turn.
- Perform the tasks at least three times.

13 Turning left at a Stop sign

Aim

- » To legally and safely turn left at an intersection with a Stop sign.

Situation

- » In a 50–60km/h zone.
- » On a two-way road with a 90-degree turn at an intersection that has a Stop sign.

The driver should

- Check the mirrors (inside and outside).
- Check blind spot for traffic by looking over shoulder.
- Indicate left for at least three seconds before starting to turn.
- Search well ahead through the intersection for hazards.
- Slow the vehicle down for the turn, using appropriate gears.
- Bring the vehicle to a complete stop in a position where approaching traffic can be seen to check if the way is clear (but not in the way of other traffic).
- Give way to pedestrians and vehicles if required.
- Keep the vehicle in the correct position in the lane throughout the turn (no less than 1 metre and no more than 2 metres from the kerb).
- Drive at an appropriate speed throughout the turn.
- Check the mirrors again when turn completed.
- Accelerate to an appropriate speed after completing the turn.
- Perform the tasks at least three times.

14 Turning left at traffic signals

Aim

- » To legally and safely turn left at an intersection with traffic signals (traffic lights).

Situation

- » In a 50–60km/h zone.
- » On a two-way road with a 90-degree turn at an intersection that has traffic signals.

The driver should

- Check the mirrors (inside and outside).
- Check blind spot for traffic by looking over shoulder.
- Indicate left for at least three seconds before starting to turn.
- Select the left lane, or position the vehicle to the left of the lane.
- Search well ahead through the intersection for hazards.
- Slow the vehicle down before the intersection.
- If the signal is yellow or red, bring the vehicle to a complete stop at the limit line or behind other traffic.
- When the signal is green, check around the corner and continue when it's safe to do so.
- Give way to pedestrians and other vehicles if required.
- Keep the vehicle in the correct position in the lane throughout the turn (no less than 1 metre and no more than 2 metres from the kerb).
- Drive at an appropriate speed throughout the turn.
- Check the mirrors again when turn completed.
- Accelerate to an appropriate speed after completing the turn.
- Perform the tasks at least three times.

15 Turning right off a road

Aim

- » To legally and safely turn right from a road (turning right across traffic).

Situation

- » In a 50km/h zone.
- » On a two-way road with intersections to the left and right.

The driver should

- Check the mirrors (inside and outside).
- Check blind spot for traffic by looking over shoulder.
- Indicate right for at least three seconds before starting to turn.
- Position the vehicle in the appropriate lane or to the left of the centre line.
- Check the intersection for hazards.
- Slow the vehicle for the turn, using appropriate gears.
- Give way to pedestrians and other vehicles if required.
- Keep the vehicle in the correct position throughout the turn, using the appropriate lane.
- Drive at an appropriate speed throughout the turn.
- Check the mirrors again when turn completed.
- Accelerate to an appropriate speed after completing the turn.
- Perform the tasks at least three times.

16 Turning right at a Give Way sign

Aim

- » To legally and safely turn right at an intersection with a Give Way sign.

Situation

- » In a 50km/h zone.
- » On a two-way road with a Give Way sign and with intersections to the left and right.

The driver should

- Check the mirrors (inside and outside).
- Check blind spot for traffic by looking over shoulder.
- Indicate right for at least three seconds before starting to turn.
- Search well ahead through the intersection for hazards.
- Slow the vehicle down for the turn, using appropriate gears.
- Give way to pedestrians and other vehicles if required.
- Keep the vehicle in the correct position throughout the turn, using the appropriate lane.
- Drive at an appropriate speed throughout the turn.
- Check mirrors again when turn completed.
- Accelerate to an appropriate speed after completing the turn.
- Perform the tasks at least three times.

17 Turning right at traffic signals

Aim

- » To legally and safely turn right at an intersection with traffic signals (traffic lights).

Situation

- » In a 50km/h zone.
- » On a two-way road with traffic signals and with intersections to the left and right.

The driver should

- Check the mirrors (inside and outside).
- Check blind spot for traffic by looking over shoulder.
- Indicate right for at least three seconds before starting to turn.
- Select the right lane, or position the vehicle to the left of the centre line.
- Search well ahead through the intersection for hazards.
- Slow the vehicle down for the turn, using appropriate gears.
- If the light is yellow or red, bring the vehicle to a complete stop at the limit line, or behind other traffic.
- When the light is green, check around the corner and continue when it's safe to do so.
- Give way to pedestrians and other vehicles if required.
- Keep the vehicle in the correct position and in the appropriate lane throughout the turn.
- Drive at an appropriate speed throughout the turn.
- Check mirrors again when turn completed.
- Accelerate to an appropriate speed after completing the turn.
- Perform the tasks at least three times.

18 Three-point turn

Aim

- » To legally and safely complete a three-point turn without touching the kerb or using driveways.

Situation

- » In a 50km/h zone.
- » On a two-way road with a light traffic flow, where there is 50 metres of visibility ahead and behind, and no parked vehicles in the way. The road should be wide enough to complete the manoeuvre but narrower than the turning circle of the vehicle.

The driver should

- Choose a safe and appropriate place to carry out the three-point turn.
- Position the vehicle to the left of the road, next to the kerb.
- Search all around (360 degrees), checking in mirrors and over shoulder for hazards.
- Indicate right for at least three seconds before starting to turn.
- When it's safe to move, quickly turn the wheels to the right while moving the vehicle slowly forward.
- When the vehicle is about 1 metre from the right-hand side of the road or kerb, straighten the wheels and turn them quickly to the left.
- Stop the vehicle before it touches the kerb and apply the handbrake/park brake if necessary.
- Search all around for other traffic.
- When safe, reverse slowly with wheels on full left lock.
- When back far enough to be able to drive forward along the road, quickly turn the wheels to the right.
- Stop the vehicle before it touches the kerb.
- Search all around and check mirrors and blind spots before moving forward.
- Perform the tasks at least three times.

19 Reversing into a driveway

Aim

- » To legally and safely reverse into a driveway from a roadway.

Situation

- » In a 50km/h zone.
- » On a two-way road with driveways, with light traffic flow, where there is 50 metres of visibility ahead and behind, and no parked vehicles in the way.

The driver should

- Indicate left for at least three seconds, before positioning the vehicle safely just past the driveway and about 1 metre from the kerb.
- Indicate left for at least three seconds before reversing.
- Search all around (360 degrees), checking in mirrors and over shoulder for hazards.
- Give way to pedestrians and other traffic if required.
- Turn to look out the back window while reversing.
- Reverse the vehicle all the way into the driveway, making sure there is equal space on either side.
- Put the gears in neutral (manual) or park (automatic), put the handbrake/ park brake on and switch off the engine.
- Drive at a safe and appropriate speed throughout.
- Perform the tasks at least two times.

20 Reverse parallel park

Aim

- » To legally and safely reverse parallel park between two stationary vehicles.

Situation

- » In a 50km/h zone.
- » On a two-way road where there is 50 metres of visibility ahead and behind, and with a suitable place to park between two vehicles.

Note: the first time you practise this, it's a good idea to try the steps without parking between other vehicles or by using cones (if available).

The driver should

- Indicate left for at least three seconds before positioning the vehicle to the right of the parking space. Position the vehicle just ahead and parallel to the space (normally this will be alongside the vehicle parked in front of the space).
- Indicate left for at least three seconds before reversing.
- Search all around for hazards, using mirrors and a head check.
- When it's safe to go, reverse left into the parking space. Once the back of the vehicle is well into the parking space, bring the front of the vehicle in to the left, without touching other vehicles or the kerb.
- Get the vehicle parallel to the kerb (within 300mm) and within the parking space with equal space in front and behind the vehicle.
- Use no more than four direction changes to straighten the vehicle.
- Put the gears in neutral (manual) or park (automatic) and put the handbrake/park brake on.
- After successfully parking, safely re-enter the traffic flow.
- Perform the tasks at least two times.

21 Higher-speed areas - single lane each way

Aim

- » To legally and safely drive at higher speeds, while staying in a safe position on the road and keeping within the posted speed limit.

Situation

- » In a 70-100km/h zone.
- » On a two-way road with a marked centre line.

The driver should

- Keep the vehicle near the middle of the left lane.
- Keep a safe distance from parked vehicles, kerbside hazards and oncoming vehicles.
- Drive at a speed appropriate for the conditions.
- Keep a correct position in the traffic flow and stay at a safe following distance behind the vehicle in front (at least two seconds behind).
- Check the mirrors regularly (about every 10 seconds).
- Consistently search forward and to both sides for potential hazards.
- Perform the tasks at least two times.

22 Higher-speed areas - multi-lane

Aim

- » To legally and safely drive at higher speeds on multi-lane roads, while staying in a safe position on the road and keeping within the posted speed limit.

Situation

- » In a 70-100km/h zone.
- » On a multi-laned, two-way road.

The driver should

- Choose the appropriate lane.
- Keep the vehicle near the middle of the lane.
- Keep a safe distance from parked vehicles, kerbside hazards and oncoming vehicles.
- Drive at a speed appropriate for the conditions.
- Keep a correct position in the traffic flow and stay at a safe following distance behind the vehicle in front (at least two seconds behind).
- Check the mirrors regularly (about every 10 seconds).
- Consistently search forward and to both sides for potential hazards.
- Perform the tasks at least two times.

23 Higher-speed areas - driving a curve

Aim

- » To legally and safely drive at higher speeds through a left or right curve (bend in the road), while maintaining a safe position and speed (keeping within the posted speed limit).

Situation

- » In a 70-100km/h zone.
- » On a two-way road with a left or right curve that requires the driver to adjust their speed.

The driver should

- Search well ahead, to the sides and in mirrors to identify potential hazards and warning signs.
- Select the appropriate position before the curve starts.
- Adjust to an appropriate speed for the conditions before entering the curve, paying attention to any signs.
- Keep the vehicle within the marked lane.
- Keep a safe distance from kerbside hazards and oncoming vehicles.
- Stay at an appropriate speed for the conditions throughout the curve.
- Keep a correct position in the traffic flow and stay at a safe following distance behind the vehicle in front (at least two seconds behind).
- Search well ahead and to both sides to identify potential hazards.
- When leaving the curve, check mirrors again, accelerate to normal road speed and stay in correct position in the traffic flow.
- Perform the tasks at least two times.

24 Higher-speed areas - merge onto a motorway or highway

Aim

- » To legally and safely merge onto a motorway or highway, via a merge lane or from the kerb.

Situation

- » In a 70-100km/h zone.
- » Either:
 - Ⓐ parked on the side of the road on a two-way highway, or
 - Ⓑ in a merge lane for a multi-laned motorway.

The driver should

- Ⓐ When parked on the side of the road:
 - Search ahead and to the rear, using mirrors both inside and outside.
 - Indicate right for at least three seconds before moving.
 - Check the mirrors again and check the blind spot with a head check over right shoulder.
 - Select an appropriate gap.
 - When safe to go, accelerate quickly to an appropriate speed to merge with the traffic, while remaining within the posted speed limit.
 - Check appropriate mirrors.
- Ⓑ From a merge lane:
 - Use the full length of the merge lane to adjust speed to match the speed of the traffic flow, while remaining within the posted speed limit.
 - Indicate right for at least three seconds before merging (while in the merge lane).
 - Search for an appropriate gap in the traffic.
 - Move into the gap when safe.
 - Get into a correct position in the traffic flow and stay at a safe following distance behind the vehicle in front (at least two seconds behind).
 - Check appropriate mirrors.
 - Perform the tasks at least two times.

25 Incline start

Aim

- » To legally and safely bring the vehicle to a stop on an incline.
- » To start the vehicle on an incline and move off without rolling backwards or stalling the engine.

Situation

- » In a 50km/h zone, on a road with a moderate incline, where there is 50 metres of visibility ahead and behind.

The driver should

- » When stopping:
 - Locate a safe parking space and check appropriate mirrors.
 - Smoothly slow down the vehicle.
 - Position the vehicle appropriately to move towards the kerb.
 - Indicate left for at least three seconds and check over left shoulder for hazards.
 - Stop the vehicle in a legal and safe position, parallel and close to the kerb (within 300mm).
 - Disengage the clutch and select neutral (manual) or park (automatic) while pushing down the brake pedal.
 - Hold the brake pedal down while putting the handbrake/park brake on.
- » When moving off:
 - Put the vehicle in first gear (manual) or drive (automatic).
 - Search ahead and behind for hazards, checking in mirrors and over right shoulder.
 - Indicate right for at least three seconds before moving.
 - Push down on the accelerator, giving a little more power than usual, and hold it in this position.
 - Allow the clutch pedal to come up slowly and smoothly until the sound of the engine changes.
 - Slowly release the handbrake/park brake.
 - Check in mirrors again and look over right shoulder to check the blind spot.
 - Move off smoothly, accelerating to an appropriate speed.
 - Perform the tasks at least three times.

26 Angle parking

Aim

- » To legally and safely park in and exit an angle parking space.

Situation

- » A place with marked angle parks.

The driver should

- » To angle park:
 - Identify an appropriate space to park in.
 - Position the vehicle before the parking space.
 - Search all around for hazards, using mirrors and a head check.
 - Indicate for at least three seconds before turning.
 - When safe to go, move forward slowly and then turn into the parking space.
 - Position the vehicle in the centre of the parking space.
 - Move to the front of the parking space and stop.
- » To exit angle park:
 - Check mirrors and blind spots for traffic and pedestrians in all directions.
 - Release handbrake/park brake.
 - Gently and smoothly reverse the vehicle, keeping speed slow so the front of the vehicle can swing out without hitting other parked vehicles alongside, until the vehicle is completely out of the parking space.
 - Stop and check all around for hazards, using mirrors and a head check.
 - Select appropriate gear and drive forward smoothly.
 - Perform the tasks at least three times.

27 Driving across a pedestrian crossing

Aim

» To legally and safely drive across a pedestrian crossing, and stop if required.

Situation

» A road approaching a pedestrian crossing.

The driver should

- Search well ahead for hazards.
- Look left and right for pedestrians crossing or intending to cross the pedestrian crossing.
- Be ready to stop for any pedestrians.
- Stop and give way to any pedestrians who are crossing or are about to cross. If required to stop, stop behind the limit line.
- Proceed when safe.
- Perform the tasks at least three times.

28 Driving across railway level crossings

Aim

» To legally and safely approach and cross different kinds of railway level crossings.

Situation

- » On a road with a railway level crossing that is:
- Ⓐ controlled by a Stop sign or a Give Way sign
 - Ⓑ controlled by barrier arms or signals
 - Ⓒ uncontrolled (does not have barrier arms, signals or a Stop or Give Way sign).

The driver should

- Ⓐ When at a railway level crossing controlled by a Stop or Give Way sign:
 - Check the mirrors (inside and outside).
 - Look to right and left along railway line for rail traffic.
 - If there is a Give Way sign, slow down and be ready to stop.
 - Stop if there is a Stop sign.
 - If required to stop, come to a complete stop behind the limit line, or at a safe distance from the crossing (at least 5 metres away) if there is no limit line.
 - When it's safe to go, drive over the railway lines.
- Ⓑ When at a railway level crossing controlled by signals or barrier arms:
 - Check the mirrors (inside and outside).
 - If signals are flashing or barrier arms are down, come to a complete stop behind the limit line, or at a safe distance from the crossing (at least 5 metres away) if there is no limit line. Stay stopped until the signals stop flashing and the barrier arms have completely lifted.
 - When it's safe to go, drive over the railway lines.
- Ⓒ When at a railway level crossing that is uncontrolled:
 - Check the mirrors (inside and outside).
 - Look to right and left along railway line for rail traffic.
 - Slow down and be ready to stop.
 - If required to stop, come to a complete stop behind the limit line, or at a safe distance from the crossing (at least 5 metres away) if there is no limit line.
 - When it's safe to go, drive over the railway lines.
 - Perform the tasks at least three times.

29 Driving in poor visibility

Aim

- » To safely and legally drive in conditions of poor visibility, including at night and in adverse weather driving conditions.

Situation

- » In a 50km/h zone with the following conditions, where available:
 - Ⓐ at night
 - Ⓑ in rain
 - Ⓒ in fog
 - Ⓓ in sunstrike/glare.

The driver should

- Ⓐ At night:
 - Make sure the windscreen is clean.
 - Switch headlights on early when visibility is poor.
 - Scan the road 12 seconds ahead (see page 186).
 - Dip headlights when required.
 - Maintain vehicle position to the left of the road.
 - Check mirrors and blind spots for hazards.
 - Switch the mirror to anti-dazzle mode if required/available.
 - Adjust driving to suit the road conditions and take account of reflectors and guide posts.
- Ⓑ In rain:
 - Make sure the windscreen is clean.
 - Turn vehicle headlights on if necessary.
 - Turn on windscreen wipers and demisters if required.
 - Adjust speed appropriate to conditions and increase following distance to at least four seconds.
 - Maintain vehicle position to the left of the road.

Ⓒ In fog:

- Make sure the windscreen is clean.
- Turn vehicle headlights onto dip.
- Turn on windscreen wipers and demisters if required.
- Adjust speed appropriate to conditions and increase following distance to at least four seconds.
- Check mirrors.

Ⓓ In sunstrike/glare:

- Make sure the windscreen is clean.
- Use sun visor or sunglasses.
- Adjust speed appropriate to conditions and increase following distance to at least four seconds.
- Keep to the left of the road, or in the centre of the lane if on a multi-lane road.
- Watch out for other vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians.
- If necessary and safe, pull over to the side of the road and wait until conditions improve.

30 scanning and hazard recognition

Note: because this lesson is more complex, it may be a good idea to try it first with a driving instructor.

Aim

- » To continually scan for hazards while driving.
- » To recognise and be aware of various driving hazards.
- » To react appropriately to those hazards by adjusting driving behaviour (such as changing speed or direction).

Situation

- Ⓐ Parked on the side of the road in a place where various kinds of driving hazards can be seen. The coach should tick the hazards they see and ask the driver to point out any hazards they can see.

The coach should then point out any hazards that were not recognised by the driver.

- Ⓑ In an area with a range of different road types with a full range of speed limits and potential hazards, including one-way streets, right and left turns, roundabouts, traffic signals, motorways and city driving, lane changing, narrow roads, hills, railway level crossings, schools and shopping areas.

While driving, the driver should describe aloud the hazards they see and say what they are doing to react to it. For example:

- › 'Coming up to a bend. Slowing down, keeping left.'
- › 'Coming up to an intersection with a Stop sign. After stopping, I'm checking. It's all clear.'

This lesson should be repeated in different kinds of weather conditions and at night.

The driver should

Ⓐ When identifying hazards:

(Coach to tick hazards observed **L**eft, **R**ight, **A**head, **B**ehind or **O**ncoming.)

| | | | | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Pedestrians | <input type="checkbox"/> L | <input type="checkbox"/> R | <input type="checkbox"/> A | | |
| Vehicles | <input type="checkbox"/> L | <input type="checkbox"/> R | <input type="checkbox"/> A | <input type="checkbox"/> B | <input type="checkbox"/> O |
| Other hazards | <input type="checkbox"/> L | <input type="checkbox"/> R | <input type="checkbox"/> A | <input type="checkbox"/> B | <input type="checkbox"/> O |

(Other hazards can include animals, intersections, curves, bends, obstacles such as rocks or tree branches on the road, weather and changing road surfaces.)

Correctly identify various kinds of hazards.

Ⓑ When reacting to hazards:

Scan continually for hazards in front (12 seconds ahead), behind and to the sides (including blind spots).

Correctly identify various kinds of hazards.

React appropriately to various kinds of hazards.

Repeat the tasks at least three times.

Driving log

Use this table to record the number of hours you spend driving. Fill it out every time you drive.

As well as including training sessions with your coach and any formal driving lessons you have with a driving instructor, you should also include any time you spend driving with a supervisor.

When you complete a column, add it up. When you complete the table, add up all the columns. You should aim to get at least 120 hours of supervised driving practice before you apply to sit your restricted licence practical driving test.

Driving log

| | Date | Driving time | | Date | Driving time |
|----|----------|--------------|----|----------|--------------|
| 1 | | | 16 | | |
| 2 | | | 17 | | |
| 3 | | | 18 | | |
| 4 | | | 19 | | |
| 5 | | | 20 | | |
| 6 | | | 21 | | |
| 7 | | | 22 | | |
| 8 | | | 23 | | |
| 9 | | | 24 | | |
| 10 | | | 25 | | |
| 11 | | | 26 | | |
| 12 | | | 27 | | |
| 13 | | | 28 | | |
| 14 | | | 29 | | |
| 15 | | | 30 | | |
| | Subtotal | | | Subtotal | |
| | | | | Total | |

| | Date | Driving time | | Date | Driving time |
|----|----------|--------------|----|----------|--------------|
| 31 | | | 46 | | |
| 32 | | | 47 | | |
| 33 | | | 48 | | |
| 34 | | | 49 | | |
| 35 | | | 50 | | |
| 36 | | | 51 | | |
| 37 | | | 52 | | |
| 38 | | | 53 | | |
| 39 | | | 54 | | |
| 40 | | | 55 | | |
| 41 | | | 56 | | |
| 42 | | | 57 | | |
| 43 | | | 58 | | |
| 44 | | | 59 | | |
| 45 | | | 60 | | |
| | Subtotal | | | Subtotal | |
| | | | | Total | |

| | Date | Driving time | | Date | Driving time |
|----|----------|--------------|----|----------|--------------|
| 61 | | | 76 | | |
| 62 | | | 77 | | |
| 63 | | | 78 | | |
| 64 | | | 79 | | |
| 65 | | | 80 | | |
| 66 | | | 81 | | |
| 67 | | | 82 | | |
| 68 | | | 83 | | |
| 69 | | | 84 | | |
| 70 | | | 85 | | |
| 71 | | | 86 | | |
| 72 | | | 87 | | |
| 73 | | | 88 | | |
| 74 | | | 89 | | |
| 75 | | | 90 | | |
| | Subtotal | | | Subtotal | |
| | | | | Total | |

| | Date | Driving time | | Date | Driving time |
|-----|----------|--------------|-----|----------|--------------|
| 91 | | | 106 | | |
| 92 | | | 107 | | |
| 93 | | | 108 | | |
| 94 | | | 109 | | |
| 95 | | | 110 | | |
| 96 | | | 111 | | |
| 97 | | | 112 | | |
| 98 | | | 113 | | |
| 99 | | | 114 | | |
| 100 | | | 115 | | |
| 101 | | | 116 | | |
| 102 | | | 117 | | |
| 103 | | | 118 | | |
| 104 | | | 119 | | |
| 105 | | | 120 | | |
| | Subtotal | | | Subtotal | |
| | | | | Total | |