

Information for Taxi Test Applicants

The assessment process has been developed to formalise best practice when driving a Taxi. The assessment programme is designed with the primary aims of:

- * Improving safety for drivers and their passengers
- * Reducing collisions
- * Improve fuel economy & efficiency

The main focus of the test will be on road safety and the safe conveyance of passengers. Your passengers must feel safe at all times.

Qualifying Requirements

All authorities undertaking the test will require you to have:

- A medical check, including an eyesight test. You will have to pay your doctor for this, as such check-ups are not free under current NHS regulations.
- Criminal Records Office check.
- A current full car driving licence.
- A fee for the issue of the licence.

The Assessment Process

The assessment will last for 45 minutes. The assessor will check your driving licence and will then ask you to read a number plate at a distance of 20 metres.

The route chosen by the assessor will cover a variety of different roads and will also give you the opportunity for parking and reversing.

Independent driving forms part of the practical driving test.

It requires the test candidate to drive without being given directions by the assessor by either following a series of street directions, following traffic signs, or a combination of both, for approximately ten minutes.

Remember – this is an assessment and involves no element of training or

guidance. The assessor is only there to observe your drive and mark accordingly.

The assessor is independent, accredited by the DVSA and will simply mark your driving against structured assessment criteria.

If you commit more than 9 minor driving faults you will fail.

You will also fail if you score one or more dangerous or serious faults.

Driving Fault - a non-dangerous fault such as hesitating at a junction or not signalling or signalling too late.

Serious Fault - a potentially dangerous incident has occurred or where a regular driving fault shows a serious or potentially dangerous weakness in the candidate's driving.

Dangerous Fault - an incident that caused actual danger while driving.

The Assessor can only mark what is seen. No matter how many years you have been driving or your previous driving experiences, the assessor will simply mark what you do on your assessment, so if you make mistakes these will be marked.

You will also be asked a few Highway Code questions during the assessment drive; the purpose of this is to gauge your level of knowledge and understanding in relation to modern driving situations.

There is an [online version of the Highway Code](#), which you may find useful.

Booking / Attendance

By the time you receive this information, you would have made an appointment to undertake your assessment via your Taxi assessor.

You must provide a vehicle for the test (car). If you intend to use a convertible for the assessment, you must contact us at the point of booking to verify its suitability.

Please note, the use of dash cams is prohibited during the test.

No passengers are allowed in the vehicle during the test without prior agreement with Norfolk County Council.

Your Result

At the end of the drive the assessor will complete an assessment form. Please remember this is a driving test and you will need to demonstrate a high standard in order to pass.

We advise that you consider taking some training before taking the test. If you have achieved the required standard, you will be given a copy of the assessment form. You will also be sent a certificate in due course, a copy of which will go to the licencing authority. This will be valid for a set period of 12 months.

If you have not achieved the required standard - you will be given a copy of the assessment form, which will detail the aspects of your driving that require development.

The assessor's decision on the day is final

Additional information

Please bear in mind the assessor may well have another appointment after yours and the assessment session must last for 1 hour in total.

If you do not attend at the arranged time the session will be cancelled, and you will be required to pay the fee again in order to re-book.

To cancel an assessment, we will require 5 full working days' notice, although any problems with illness will be viewed sympathetically. Work commitments will not be considered sufficient reason to cancel an assessment. **Please remember to bring your Driving Licence and glasses if you need them for driving.**

The information gathered during the assessment process will be stored manually and electronically, under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (Regulation (EU) 2016/679), the Data Protection Act 2018 and Norfolk County Council's data protection policy and guidelines.

All data is stored in a password protected electronic format – please read our [privacy notice](#) for further information as to how your data is used and your rights. The information will be used for statistical analysis by Norfolk County Council, and will not be issued to any third party. If you object to this, please inform the Road Safety Team.

If you have any questions about the assessment process, please contact:

roadsafety@norfolk.gov.uk