

# Special Study – DL25

## The Examiner's Marking Form

This is an overview of the driving test marking system. It includes an explanation of the system and ten sample multiple-choice questions for you to complete and mark yourself.

When conducting driving tests examiners use a standard marking form – the DL25 (DL25 is the DVSA internal reference number for this form, the).

You might be asked basic questions about the DL25 during Part-One. You will also need to know how driving is assessed in order to evaluate your own driving for Part-Two and to prepare your learners for their driving test after you qualify. The form simply records deviation from safe and correct driving procedure. You should already be aware of correct procedures, and by default, incorrect procedures, following your study; this extra study simply references your knowledge to the test making form.

This information is based on the DVSA Examiners' guidelines (DT1).

## The Driving test marking system

Driving test errors are categorised as

- Driving faults
- Serious faults
- Dangerous faults

The examiner only marks errors – these are the basis for a pass/fail.

In order to pass, the candidate must have no more than 15 driving faults (the norm for a pass is between 0 and 8). Serious and Dangerous faults result in an instant fail – therefore a candidate with a clean sheet apart from just one serious or dangerous fault would fail.

The following extract from the DVSA examiner's guidance notes explains each category:

“A driving fault is one which in itself is not potentially dangerous. However, a candidate who habitually commits a driving fault in one aspect of driving throughout the test, demonstrating an inability to deal with certain situations, cannot be regarded as competent to pass the test, as that fault alone must be seen as potentially dangerous.

A serious fault is one which is potentially dangerous.

A dangerous fault is one involving actual danger to the examiner, candidate, the general public or property. (Note: If the fault has been assessed as dangerous then this should be marked regardless of any action taken by the examiner.)”

The examiner records the faults with a single stroke in the appropriate box on the marking form.

You can download a copy of the test marking form and form overview for learners on the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/driving-test-report-forms>

## Specific subject headings

The following is a brief description of the meaning of each item listed on the form.

### 1 (a) Eyesight

The test candidate must be able to read a number plate at the required distance. This is a pass/fail item – if the candidate is unable to meet the requirements of the eyesight test the examiner will mark this item and the test will not proceed.

### 1(b) Highway Code / Safety

This is not relevant to basic car tests.

### 2 Controlled Stop

If the test includes an emergency stop this will be marked in the event not braking sufficiently or losing control.

3 to 7 Set manoeuvres – the relevant category B test manoeuvres are:

- 4 Reverse right
- 5 Reverse Park (road or car-park)
- 8 Forward Park

The manoeuvres are all marked in the same way. The candidate must use the controls smoothly and accurately, and maintain effective all round observation throughout the manoeuvre.

The current form was last revised in December 2017 and still includes the reverse left and right manoeuvres and the turn-in-the-road. These are no longer tested on L tests or ADI Part-Two tests, however they remain on the DVSA recommended learning to drive syllabus. However, item 4 is now used to record any faults made during the 'Pull up on the right and reverse' exercise.

### 7 Vehicle Checks

This is marked if the candidate is unable to answer, or gives incorrect answers to, the safety-check questions.

The following three items are not applicable to the basic car test.

- 8 Taxi manoeuvre
- 9 Taxi wheelchair
- 10 Uncouple/recouple

### 11 Precautions

This is marked when proper precautions are not taken before starting the engine. Normally this would mean a handbrake and neutral check – however, if for example, the candidate stalled in the centre of a busy junction it might not be appropriate complete the handbrake/neutral routine; however, the car must be restarted safely.

## 12 Control

This section is marked in the event of:

- *Accelerator*: uncontrolled or harsh use of the accelerator.
- *Clutch*: uncontrolled use of clutch.
- *Gears*: failure to engage appropriate gear for road and traffic conditions. Coasting in neutral or with clutch pedal depressed.
- *Footbrake*: late and/or harsh use of footbrake.
- *Parking brake*: failure to apply or release the parking brake correctly and when necessary.
- *Steering*: erratic steering, overshooting the correct turning point when turning right or left, both hands off steering wheel or hitting the kerb.
- *PCV Door exercise*: any faults regarding safe operation of the door(s) at bus stops are marked here. (PCV tests only)

Control faults are not recorded under item 12 if they occur during a set manoeuvre – they are marked against the relevant manoeuvre.

## 13 Move off:

The candidate must take effective observation, use signals correctly and control the car smoothly when moving off either straight ahead, at an angle, or on a gradient.

## 14 Use of mirror(s):

This item is marked if the driver fails to make effective use of the mirrors well before:

- Signalling
- Changing direction.
- Changing speed (including stopping)

## 15 Signals:

Signals must be given correctly and in good time.

- *Necessary*: Marked if a necessary signal is omitted.
- *Correctly*: Marked if a signal is incorrect or misleading or if the driver fails to cancel direction indicators after use.
- *Properly timed*: Marked if a signal is incorrectly timed so that it becomes either misleading or too late to be of value.

## 16 Clearance / obstructions: -

The driver must allow an adequate safety margin when passing parked vehicles and other obstructions. Failure to do so will incur a mark here.

## 17 Response to signs /signals:

This marked if the driver fails to comply with, or reacts late to:

- *Traffic signs*: inappropriate response to traffic signs.
- *Road markings*: e.g. double white lines, box junctions, lane direction arrows.
- *Traffic lights*: (not Pedestrian Controlled crossings, this is covered under item 24), including failure to move off on green when correct and safe to do so.
- *Traffic controllers*: signals given by a police officer, traffic warden, school crossing warden or other persons directing traffic.
- *Other road users*: Failure to take appropriate action on signals given by other road users.

#### 18 Use of speed:

Marked when the candidate is driving too fast for road, traffic and weather conditions.

#### 19 Following distance:

The driver must keep a proper and safe distance from the vehicle in front when moving and leave a reasonable gap from the vehicle in front when stopping in traffic.

#### 20 Progress

'Making adequate progress' is the DVSA jargon for driving at a speed which does not cause unnecessary inconvenience to other road users.

- *Appropriate speed*: driving too slowly for road and traffic conditions.
- *Undue hesitation*: being over cautious by stopping or waiting when it is safe and normal to proceed.

#### 21 Junctions:

This relates to all junctions (including roundabouts)

- *Approach speed*: Approaching junctions at a proper speed, either too fast or too slow, for whatever reason.
- *Observations*: Not taking effective observation before emerging.
- *Turning right*: Late or incorrect positioning before turning right, including failing to move forward into the correct position to turn right at traffic lights
- *Turning left*: Positioning too close or too far from the kerb before turning left.
- *Cutting corners*: Cutting right hand corners, particularly where the view is limited.

#### 22 Judgement:

The driver must be able to exercise correct judgement in the following situations

- *Overtaking*: Attempting to overtake unsafely or cutting in after overtaking.
- *Meeting*: Failure to show proper judgement when meeting approaching traffic.
- *Crossing traffic*: turning right across the path of oncoming traffic.

#### 23 Positioning:

General positioning errors would be marked here – be careful not to confuse this with steering errors, for example, clipping the kerb when emerging at a junction.

- *Normal driving*: Incorrect positioning during normal driving, including cutting across the normal road position when going ahead at roundabouts without lane markings.
- *Lane discipline*: Failure to maintain proper lane discipline at junctions (inc. roundabouts) with lane markings and in one-way systems etc.

#### 24 Pedestrian crossings:

This is marked if the driver fails to give precedence to pedestrians on a pedestrian crossing or does not comply with lights at controlled crossings.

#### 25 Position / normal stops:

Marked when normal stops are not made in a safe position.

#### 26 Awareness / planning:

Marked if the driver fails to judge and react accordingly to what other road users are going to do.

27 Ancillary controls:

Failure to use ancillary controls when necessary.

33 Eco Safe Driving

This is not a pass/fail subject; however the examiner will assess the driver's ability to drive in an eco-friendly manner.

33 Wheelchair: Pass / Fail

Not applicable to car test.

ETA

This stands for 'Examiner took action' either verbally or physically (e.g., by using the dual-controls).

# Questions

Complete the following questions by printing them and ticking the correct answers or by noting your answers on a blank sheet of paper – and then check your answers against those provided.

1. If a driver hits the kerb during a driving test the examiner would mark an error against:
  - a. Steering
  - b. Road positioning
  - c. Clearance/ obstructions
  - d. Awareness/ planning
  
2. While reversing around a corner to the left the driver stalls the car. The examiner would record this error as:
  - a. Reversing – control
  - b. Control – clutch
  - c. Control – gears
  - d. Move off – control
  
3. When waiting to emerge to the left from a junction, the driver misses several opportunities to proceed safely. The examiner would record a fault against:
  - a. Use of speed
  - b. Progress – appropriate speed
  - c. Progress – hesitation
  - d. Junctions – turning left
  
4. If a driver cannot read a number plate at the required distance the examiner would:
  - a. Record a fault against Eyesight and continue with the test
  - b. Record a fault against Eyesight and abandon the test
  - c. Ask the candidate to attend a later test wearing glasses or contact lenses
  - d. Record a fault against Judgement and continue with the test
  
5. While driving along a clear dual-carriageway at 50mph the test candidate remains in 3<sup>rd</sup> gear for over a mile, this only happens once. The examiner would:
  - a. Record a driver fault against Control - gears
  - b. Record a dangerous fault against Control – gears
  - c. Record a fault against Progress – appropriate speed
  - d. Not mark any fault
  
6. A candidate drives up to a junction too fast. This is marked as a fault against:
  - a. Progress
  - b. Use of speed
  - c. Junctions
  - d. Awareness /planning
  
7. When reversing during the pulling up on the right manoeuvre the candidate hits the kerb. The examiner would mark a fault against:
  - a. Reverse Right
  - b. Steering
  - c. Reverse Park
  - d. Clearance /obstructions

8. The driver responds late to a school crossing patrol warden. This would be marked against:
- a. Use of speed
  - b. Response to signs/ signals
  - c. Pedestrian crossings
  - d. Awareness /planning
9. The driver gives a late signal when approaching a junction to turn right; the signal is given after the driver takes up position in a dedicated right-turn lane. This fault is marked against:
- a. Signals
  - b. Junctions
  - c. use of speed
  - d. Positioning
10. The driver misjudges a meeting situation and obstructs an approaching vehicle by positioning too far to the right. The examiner would record a fault against:
- a. Positioning
  - b. Judgement
  - c. Clearance /obstructions
  - d. Use of speed

The answers to these questions are listed on the following page.

## Answers:

1. a

2. a

3. c

4. b

5. a

6. c

7. a

8. b

9. a

10. b