

The theory behind it all

I'm sure that none of you would buy a new games console and try to set it up without at least having a quick look at the instructions, but every day countless youngsters take to the roads for the first time on a potentially lethal weapon... without even looking at the Highway Code.

Learning the rules of the road may be a bit on the dull side, and you have all been car passengers, so surely you know the theory don't you? Actually, you'd be surprised at how many new provisional licence holders (or veteran licence holders for that matter) don't know even the most basic road signs, or how to enter a roundabout correctly. How about the sequence of traffic lights, or what a toucan crossing is? Try these sample questions from the theory test to see how your knowledge really is:

You are riding on a quiet road, your visor fogs up, what should you do?

- A. Continue at a reduced speed
- B. Build up speed to increase airflow
- C. Stop as soon as possible and wipe it
- D. Close the helmet air vents

What are triangular signs for?

- A. To give warnings
- B. To give orders
- C. To give information
- D. To give directions

After riding through deep water you notice your scooters brakes don't work properly, what should you do?

- A. Ride slowly braking lightly
- B. Stop and dry them with a cloth
- C. Ride quickly braking harshly
- D. Stop and wait for a few minutes

On a motorcycle you should only use a mobile telephone when you?

- A. Have a pillion passenger to help
- B. Have a motorcycle with automatic gears
- C. Have parked in a safe place
- D. Are travelling on a quiet road

The theory test itself isn't something to be afraid of, providing you've put a bit of effort in beforehand that is, after all most of it is common sense. The test is made up of 822 possible questions; you'll be given 50 and need to answer at least 43 correctly to pass. The only way to learn the answers is by reading through the Highway Code and making sure you understand it, preferably before taking to the road.

If you're a bit unsure about anything ask a parent or trustworthy driver to see if they can explain things better.

Before you even get to the age when you can apply for your first driving licence, you can be preparing yourself by learning the theory and by taking in as much information about the roads as possible. If you're out in the car with your parents, ask questions about signs, road markings and potential hazards. There's every chance your parents will be pretty rusty though and once you've spent a bit of time gaining a bit of road knowledge you'll no doubt be able to catch them out on a regular basis!

One of the best ways to learn how to pass the theory test is to practice online; there are countless websites these days to help you. Some offer a free service while others ask for a



few pounds to subscribe and get all the information you need.

A couple of useful sites we've come across are www.all4bikers.com which offers free mock tests and quite a bit of useful biking information. Another good site is www.drivingtheory4all.co.uk they offer free access to the DSA questions and you can customize the mock tests to suit yourself. You can also practise the hazard perception test and for a low monthly price (£3.17 for 30 days) you'll get full access to all their features and the site will guarantee you a pass. Learning online is much more appealing than trawling through a book and the mock tests will help you to get a feel for how the test actually works.

No matter how many years' riding or driving experience you've had you should never stop learning, it will make you into a better, safer and more courteous rider.

Here are our theory test answers, how did you do?

- 1. C
- 2. A
- 3. A
- 4. C

Driving Theory All - Revise Questions

Road Signs 1: (1 of 28)

Select one answer

What is the meaning of this sign

No vehicles carrying explosives
 Sudden explosion noise overhead

Loose chippings
 Severe overhead obstructions

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Driving Theory All - Custom Test

Road Signs 2: (9 of 28)

Select one answer

What is the meaning of this sign

Risk of ice
 Slippery road

Crosswinds
 Uneven surface

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