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Learning to **drive or ride**





Did you know?



One in five new drivers crash within a year of passing their test.



The Law

Cars

In order to drive a car, you must have a valid licence.

You can apply for a provisional licence from the age of 17 years which allows you to drive (except on motorways) while displaying an 'L' plate (or 'D' Plate in Wales) and being supervised by another driver who is at least 21 years old and has held a full car licence for at least 3 years.

To gain a full licence, you must pass the driving test;

which includes a theory test (this has two parts – a multiple-choice theory test and a hazard perception test) and a practical test.

Mopeds and Motorcycles

In order to ride a moped, you must be 16 or over, hold a provisional moped licence and complete Compulsory Basic Training before riding on the road unaccompanied.

You must display L-plates while riding on the road, until you pass both the theory test for motorcyclists and the moped practical test.

In order to ride a motorcycle, you must be 17 or over, hold a provisional motorcycle licence and complete Compulsory Basic Training before riding on the road unaccompanied. You must pass the theory test and display L-plates until you have passed the A or A1 practical test.

A1 – light motorcycle licence

The A1 Test is taken on a machine between 75cc and 125cc (with a maximum design speed of less than 100km/h). If you pass, you can ride any motorcycle up to 125cc with a power output up to 11kW or

14.6 bhp, carry pillion passengers and use motorways.

A – standard motorcycle licence

The A Test is taken on a machine over 120cc but no more than 125cc (with a maximum design speed of at least 100km/h). After passing the practical test you will be restricted for 2 years to riding motorcycles with a power output of up to 25kW or 33bhp. You can carry pillion passengers and use motorways. After 2 years you can ride any motorcycle.

Activities

Can you afford to become a driver or rider?

Find out how much it will cost to learn to drive or ride, buy and run a car or motorcycle for a year.

Consider:

- The cost of a provisional licence.
- The cost of professional lessons in your area. How many lessons do you think you will take?
- The cost of extra insurance for you to use the family or a friend's car for driving practice.
- The cost of buying a suitable car or bike (to practise in or to use once you have passed your test), insurance and tax for different sized cars and bikes.

What other running costs will there be? Repairs, servicing, MOT, fuel.

Activity 2

Set up a spreadsheet listing the costs that you've identified and insert the relevant figures for the following scenarios:

- A new car with an engine capacity of not more than 1000cc or a new motorcycle with an engine capacity of not more than 250cc (the make and model is your choice).
- A 2 year old car with an engine capacity of not more than 1000cc or a 2 year old motorcycle with an engine capacity of not more than 250cc (use an actual example from the dealers' ads in your local press).

- A 10 year old car with an engine capacity of not more than 1000cc or a 10 year old motorcycle with an engine capacity of not more than 250cc (use an actual example from the classified ads in your local press).

Work out initial set-up costs and running costs for 1 year. Is there anything you can do to reduce the costs? For example, can you get a discount on insurance in any way?

What alternatives are there to using a car or motorcycle? Consider the health and environmental implications of alternative transport and weigh up the financial costs.

🔍 Did you know?

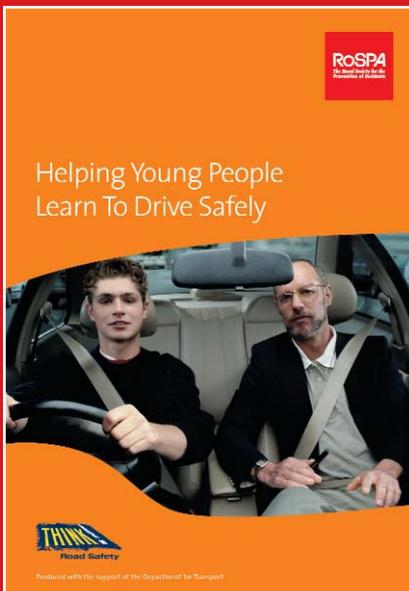
- 9 out of 10 road crashes involve at least one car driver and driver error is almost always involved.
- Certain kinds of car drivers crash more often than others. For example, about 6% of drivers are aged 17-21 years, but 12% of crashes involve this group of drivers.
- Biking is becoming more popular, and sales of small motorcycles and scooters have increased.
- More women are using scooters and motorcycles than a decade ago. Women now make up nearly 20% of the UK's motorcycling community.

Activities

- Find out the number, type and causes of crashes involving young drivers (17-24 years).
- Make a list of the types of crashes and the reasons for them, set this out as a table.
- Provide evidence to support your findings.
- Investigate the statistics for motorcycle casualties, set them out in a table divided by sex and age.

🔍 Did you know?

- Young and novice drivers are most at risk in the first few years after they have passed their test. There are many things that could be done to reduce the risk. Some are listed overleaf.



Discussion Points

Using the websites listed overleaf, find out:

- How often you have to renew your licence and the circumstances in which it can be revoked.
- What are the special rules for drivers within the first 2 years after passing their test? When was the theory test expanded to include a Hazard Perception Test (HPT)?

then

In a group explore:

- Whether you think a driver should have to renew their licences more often, for example every 5 years. What are the arguments for and against this?
- Why the HPT was introduced?
- The effect losing a licence has upon a driver. Think about economic, social and emotional impacts on both the driver and their family, friends and employers. Remember the special rules for new drivers.



Activities

In a pair / small group research one of these topics. Use the links below to find out:

- What it is and how it may affect road safety; find some examples, if possible.
- The advantages and disadvantages for adopting the measure (consider economic, social, cultural and environmental implications).
- If the measure exists in any other country, what is the evidence about its effectiveness in that country (use this to support or oppose the measure).

In your pair/small group prepare a presentation, using visual aids, to the rest of the class, to show the case for and against the measure that you have investigated (perhaps one person could present the case for and another present the case against).

Open up a debate on the issue with the class and then take a vote on whether the measure should be introduced.

Go on to discuss how you would bring about a change, either in the law or social attitude or both, to introduce the measure in this country.

Topics to choose from:

Minimum Driving Age

Raise the minimum driving age to 18 years or lower it to 16 years.

Minimum Learning Period

Set a minimum learning period – learners would have to wait for (say) 6 months or one year after getting their provisional licence before being able to take the driving test.

Minimum Amount of Experience

Require learners to complete a Log Book while learning to show that they have gained a minimum level of driving experience in different driving situations (e.g., at night, in the rain, on dual carriageways).

Graduated Driver Licence Systems

Some countries have a probationary period for new drivers for a year or two after passing the Test. Systems vary but they all involve an initial period of supervised-only driving, followed by an intermediate stage with restrictions on high-risk driving (night time driving, driving with passengers) leading to a full unrestricted licence.

Parent and Young Driver Agreements

These are popular in the USA. Parents allow their son or daughter to use the family car after they have passed their test in return for the son or daughter agreeing to certain conditions about how and when they will use the car.



Useful links

www.rospa.com

(Click on road safety link, then young drivers link)

www.rospa.com/drivertraining

www.dsa.gov.uk and

www.ask-what-if.com

Driving Standards Agency

www.passplus.org.uk

Pass Plus Scheme

www.dvla.gov.uk

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

www.dft.gov.uk

Department for Transport

(Click on road safety link, then driver and rider safety)

www.learnandlive.org.uk

Learn and Live

www.brag.org.uk

Bexley Road Safety Action Group

www.bsm.co.uk

BSM

www.roadafreeserve.co.uk

RoSPA Advanced Drivers Association

www.getinlane.com

Scottish Road Safety Campaign website for young drivers

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