

All the competencies or topics broken down on these pages may require knowledge of particular legal responsibilities which need to be covered. For detailed information about this or any other area please refer to the source material listed below:

- Driving - the essential skills
- The Highway Code
- Know Your Traffic Signs
- Vehicle handbook
- [www.driving-tests.co.uk](http://www.driving-tests.co.uk)

## COCKPIT CHECKS

- DSSSM
- driving position
- head restraints
- seat belts
- doors
- gears and handbrake safety check
- mirrors

### Underpinning knowledge

- order of adjustment
- best driving position
- mirror adjustment, including anti-dazzle
- variety of seat adjustments

## SAFETY CHECKS

- POWER (petrol-oil-water-electrics-rubber)

### Underpinning knowledge

- daily and weekly vehicle checks
- service intervals
- planning for journeys
- clear windscreens

## CONTROLS & INSTRUMENTS

- accelerator, clutch and footbrake
- handbrake, steering, speedometer, horn, indicators and gears
- instrument panel warning lights
- wipers
- hazard, reversing, side, fog and headlights
- demister and heated windows
- manufacturer's options

### Underpinning knowledge

- the function of each
- the effects of incorrect use
- how to read and understand them

## MOVING AWAY & STOPPING

- MSM and PSL
- observation and blind spots
- control and co-ordination
- on level and on gradient
- at angle and straight ahead

### Underpinning knowledge

- co-ordination of accelerator, clutch and footbrake
- handbrake and steering
- where and when to look and what to look for
- suitable stopping places
- signals when necessary

## SAFE POSITIONING

- normal driving
- lane discipline
- passing stationary vehicles and obstructions
- bends

### Underpinning knowledge

- MSM and PSL
- other vehicle's positioning (LGV, cyclists etc)
- wide and narrow roads
- one-way streets

## MIRRORS - VISION & USE

- interior and exterior
- flat, concave and convex

### Underpinning knowledge

- MSM and PSL
- when to use them
- why they should be used
- how to act on what is seen
- blind spots
- frequency of checks and why

## SIGNALS

- by arm and by indicators
- brake, reversing and hazard lights
- by other road users and traffic controllers

### Underpinning knowledge

- why signals are necessary
- when and how to signal
- unnecessary signals

## ANTICIPATION & PLANNING

- risk awareness in connection with: drivers, cyclists, motorcyclists, pedestrians, animals, road works, emergency vehicles and any other road users

### Underpinning knowledge

- MSM and PSL
- hazard perception
- visual warnings
- times and places of high risk
- weather conditions
- scanning and priorities

## USE OF SPEED

- appropriate speed
- making progress
- hesitancy

### Underpinning knowledge

- national speed limits
- restricted speed limits
- road and weather conditions
- traffic conditions
- pedestrian activity
- stopping distances

## OTHER TRAFFIC

- meeting, crossing and overtaking
- one way and two way roads
- three-lane two-way roads
- major, minor and narrow roads
- dual carriageways

### Underpinning knowledge

- MSM and PSL
- when and why to give way
- passing places and warning signs
- obstructions, parked vehicles...
- planning and anticipation
- how to act on what is seen
- motorways

## JUNCTIONS

- T-junctions and Y-junctions
- crossroads and slip roads
- marked and unmarked junctions
- one-way streets
- urban, rural and dual carriageways

### Underpinning knowledge

- MSM and PSL
- turning, entering and emerging
- advance warning signs and road markings
- zones of vision
- priorities

## ROUNDBABOUTS

- mini and major
- multiple and satellite
- traffic light controlled
- approaching and entering
- leaving and turning
- straight ahead

### Underpinning knowledge

- MSM and PSL
- lane discipline
- correct position
- zones of vision
- observation
- priorities