

## 15 Town driving

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<b>Trainee name</b>	
<b>Location</b>	
<b>Vehicle details</b>	
<p>While highway driving occupies a large part of some drivers' time, the majority of drivers spend most of their time driving in towns or cities. Restricted manoeuvrability, high traffic volumes and a much wider range of potential hazards present a real challenge for drivers, especially new ones, and to manage these requires patience, skill and knowledge. All drivers share basic obligations in this environment and a responsible and courteous attitude must be applied. Trainees need to quickly develop the ability to anticipate and predict the movements of other road users and to apply the hazard action plan and the system of vehicle control. This lesson has been broken into segments that reflect the six driving conditions.</p>	
<b>Performance</b>	Drive safely and efficiently in town.
<b>Standard</b>	<p>Without inconveniencing other road users.</p> <p>While meeting all legal obligations.</p> <p>While maintaining vehicle control.</p> <p>Using the system of vehicle control.</p> <p>Applying the hazard action plan.</p>
<b>Conditions</b>	<p>In a light motor vehicle.</p> <p>On public roads in town in 50-80km/h speed zones.</p> <p>In daylight.</p>
<b>Revision</b>	Performance objective 9: Hazards and the system of vehicle control

**Explain- demonstrate – practise**

1. Learning points (general)		Comments	Date completed	DI Initials
a.	Identifies potential hazards, predicts developments, decides on a course of action and acts on that decision.			
b.	Applies the system of vehicle control in all hazard avoidance situations.			
2. Learning points (road conditions)		Comments	Date completed	DI Initials
a.	Observes and reacts to all road signs and markings.			
b.	Reacts to railway crossings in the correct manner.			
c.	Reacts to pedestrian crossings in the correct manner.			
d.	Applies a cautious, courteous and patient driving style around busy shopping areas and schools.			
3. Learning points (traffic conditions)		Comments	Date completed	DI Initials
a.	Applies 2-second rule.			
b.	Applies appropriate scanning techniques around the vehicle (to the sides, behind, 12-second search ahead and where appropriate shoulder checks).			
c.	Stays left in multiple lanes unless setting up to turn right or passing slower traffic.			
d.	Identifies and anticipates actions of turning, oncoming traffic.			
e.	Monitors parked vehicles and adjusts lane position around parked vehicles.			
f.	Monitors and anticipates the movement of pedestrians.			
g.	Identifies and reacts to avoid any animal on the road.			
h.	Identifies and, where appropriate, gives way to other road users			
i.	Monitors and anticipates the movement of cyclists.			

j.	Travels at a speed that allows driver to stop in the amount of clear visible road ahead			
k.	Maintains correct lane position			
l.	Applies the system of vehicle control at intersections and obeys all controls.			
m.	Signals in advance of all turns or change in direction			
<b>4. Learning points (vehicle conditions)</b>		<b>Comments</b>	<b>Date completed</b>	<b>DI initials</b>
a.	Driving performance reflects an appreciation of the power and transmission options of the vehicle.			
b.	Manoeuvres the vehicle safely with consideration to size.			
c.	Vehicle speed reflects the driving conditions and posted speed limits.			
d.	Maintains correct road position in all driving situations.			
<b>5. Learning points (weather conditions)</b>		<b>Comments</b>	<b>Date completed</b>	<b>DI initials</b>
a.	Drives to the prevailing weather conditions.			
<b>6. Learning points (light conditions)</b>		<b>Comments</b>	<b>Date completed</b>	<b>DI initials</b>
a.	Takes steps to minimise the effects of any sun strike or glare.			
b.	Uses vehicle head lights in any low light conditions.			
<b>7. Learning points (driver conditions)</b>		<b>Comments</b>	<b>Date completed</b>	<b>DI initials</b>
a.	Displays a courteous and patient driving style.			
b.	Displays effective observation and manipulative skills.			
<b>Comments</b>				

Instructor's notes		
1.	Consider doing commentary drives as part of your demonstration and, if the trainee is capable, have them do the same once the teaching phase has been completed. This tool remains the only reliable method of assessing driver observation and anticipation skills.	
2.	Encourage an unrushes driving style and the benefits of applying correct lane positions and following distances.	
3.	The system of vehicle control, yet again, provides a systematic approach to driving that is crucial in these conditions.	
4.	This session offers the opportunity to assess progress relating to a large number of the early lessons and the trainee should, by now, be consistently competent in the basic driving skills.	
5.	Excessive downshifting in a car fitted with a manual transmission, prior to stopping, should be discouraged. It adds unnecessary, and distracting, activity and is pointless in many situations. Downshifting into third gear should be all that is necessary.	
6.	Bright and low light conditions demand, for obvious reasons, different reactions by the driver. If the risk of sun strike exists the windscreen must be kept clean and sun visors and sunglasses used. In low light conditions, even in the middle of the day, consider the colour of the vehicle and encourage the trainee to switch on head lights to improve conspicuity.	
7.	Keep in mind that this driving environment contains more potential hazards and risks than any other. Effective observation skills become paramount and the development of the ability to anticipate and predict the movement of other road users has to be encouraged and targeted as a priority. Assess progress of this aspect of driving by applying the hazard action plan.	
8.	Initial lessons should be planned for quiet periods during the day and then 'ramped up' as confidence improves. Any final assessments should be conducted in medium to heavy traffic conditions.	
Symptom	Faults	Address/check
Vehicle straddles lanes.	Fails to keep left.	Use of lanes.
Interference to other traffic. Well below speed limit.	Unreasonably slow.	Confidence. Is this lesson too soon?
Unnecessary changes in speed.	Erratic speed.	Confidence. Spatial awareness.
Unaware of surrounding traffic.	Not using mirrors.	System of vehicle control.
Exceeds speed limit.	Too fast.	Legal obligations. Over-confidence.
Too close to vehicle ahead.	Follows too closely.	2-second rule.
Not stopping at stop signs or red traffic signals. Not applying give way rule.	Fails to obey controls.	System of vehicle control, observation, attitude.
Late reactions to hazards, failure to check mirrors, erratic steering.	Poor observation skills.	Observation, hazard action plan, system of vehicle control.
Vocal or physical responses to road users, following too close, excessive speed, poor signalling.	Impatience.	Time out. Legal obligations, attitude.