



Bill Plant Driving School

PR update

December 2020

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BILL PLANT
DRIVING SCHOOL

December 2020

What we sent:

- Reactive comment: Lessons to resume across all three tiers
- Press release: Leyton Orient charity shirt
- Press release: Leyton Orient charity shirt – repush / last day to place a bid on the online auction
- Exclusive comment for Matt Allan: Sunday driving tests
- Feature: How to drive safely in winter
- Press release: It takes motorists X long to get on the motorway after passing their test (dependant on whether they learnt on the motorway or not)
- Exclusive comment for CAR magazine: Crossover vehicles
- Reactive comment: Tier 4 driving lessons and tests

Results:

129 pieces of coverage

Total combined reach of 57,492,793 worldwide



Syndicated 2x times



The DVSA has confirmed that those living in low three areas would be affected by some minor changes to tests. The number of tests made available to those in the region will be lower than other areas which could see hundreds of young drivers forced to wait even longer to pass their test.

The DVSA confirms anyone living in low three areas would need to wear a face covering to take part in their test.

They warn that those who turn up to the exam without one could have their exam cancelled despite months of waiting.

In a statement posted on Twitter, the DVSA said: "Car driving tests can safely restart as normal in low one and two, but there will be changes to how we can test in low three areas.

"To continue car driving tests safely in low three areas we will be reducing the number of tests our examiners carry out per day in low three areas.



Drivers look at a sign before their test (Image: iStock)



Driving tests can go ahead outside of low three areas (Image: iStock)

"Anyone who has a practical test booked in a low three area who is exempt from wearing a face covering may have their test delayed and their area moves out of low three.

"If we cannot find a volunteer driving examiner to conduct their test without them wearing a face covering."

Like last week there had been confusion over whether tests could resume with instructors confirming this would happen despite no official word from the DVSA.

The agency has now confirmed they will contact candidates directly if their test is affected or



Published 07 December 2020
By Sunday Times Driving

HOW TO DRIVE ON SNOW AND ICE

Escape the scrapes this winter



LEARNING how to drive on snow and ice can be difficult — the percentage of us who have hit the roads with a driving instructor after a snowfall is likely fairly small, leaving many inexperienced motorists to find out for themselves how best to tackle extremely low grip roads.

Despite long-range forecasts and weather warnings from the emergency services advising drivers in parts of the UK not to travel unless they have to, motorists still get caught out on the roads when we have sudden snowfall, as gritting lorries and snow ploughs struggle to keep up — even with less people predicted to hit roads during the festive season.

That's why it does no harm to be reminded of the dos and don'ts of winter driving. Follow these steps and you're more likely to escape a scrape.

1. Remove all snow and ice

If your view of the road is obscured by snow, frost or fog, you're breaking the law. Clear the windscreen, side windows and wing mirrors before setting off. Brush snow off the roof, too, as that could slide down onto the windscreen once you're moving. Driving school Bill Plant notes that it'll help if your headlights are as clean as possible, so that they're working to their full capability.

2. Don't let air out of your tyres

It's an oft-repeated myth, but reducing your tyre pressures will not help your grip on snow, say experts.

"Your tyres are designed to function at a certain pressure and changing that could be dangerous," says Adrian Flak of the RAC. "The most important thing is to make sure you have sufficient tread depth."

In Britain that means at least 3.5mm of tread, across the width of the tyre. In snow, less will help massively. Winter tyres will also help, and of course modern four-wheel drive is a big advantage for both traction and stability.

3. Do your checks

It's important to make sure that your car is in working order before you try and drive in snow, when visibility is poor. As well as making sure your tread depth is sufficient, Bill Plant points out that you should make sure all of your headlights and indicators are working, as well as your fog lights — you never know when you'll come across a patch of fog in winter.

4. Pull away gently

Try setting off in a higher gear when driving on snow and ice. This reduces wheel rotations, so lessening your chance of skidding. Go down through the gears to help you slow down, applying the brakes only intermittently. Engage the clutch slowly and gently when setting off. If you have an automatic, look for a winter mode button, which will reduce power from the engine to the wheels.

5. Keep the speed down

An obvious one: too much speed when you drive on snow and ice will increase the risk of losing control. Any kind of skid indicates you've been driving too fast for the conditions.

6. Drive less than usual

Syndicated 121x times



Calls for DVSA to allow more weekend driving tests to tackle backlog

By Matt Allan
Thursday, 3rd December 2020, 10:08 am
Updated: Thursday, 3rd December 2020, 10:07 am



Driving instructors have urged the body responsible for driving tests in Britain to extend testing throughout weekends to help tackle the massive backlog caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

As [testing resumes in England](#) following a second lockdown, one of Britain's largest driving schools has urged the DVSA to use "whichever means possible" to speed up the testing process, including making more tests available on weekends.

Practical driving tests have been particularly badly disrupted during 2020 due to the nationwide lockdown, continuing restrictions on travel and social distancing and [problems with the DVSA booking site](#).



Hundreds of thousands of tests were [cancelled](#) during the first lockdown, leading to a massive backlog of tests when examinations resumed. This has been made worse again by England's recent lockdown and the introduction of tiered restrictions in [Scotland](#) and [England](#), which have seen more tests postponed or cancelled. [Interest in driving lessons has also soared](#) as people look for ways to avoid public transport.

Driving tests have been seriously disrupted this year (Photo: Shutterstock)

Signed Orient shirt being auctioned off for Haven House Children's Hospice

07 Dec 2020 12:06 pm Haydn Jeavons



The shirt has been signed by 17 players from the O's first team

A signed Leyton Orient football shirt is being auctioned off to raise money for a local children's hospice.

The jersey was due to be worn in the League Cup tie against Tottenham Hotspur in September, but the game was called off after several Orient players tested positive for Covid-19.

Bill Plant Driving Schools, which was due to be the O's sleeve sponsor for the game, has donated the shirt to Haven House Children's Hospice, which is based in Woodford Green.

Chris Bishop, from Bill Plant Driving School, said: "It was an honour for Bill Plant Driving School to feature on this iconic community-focused Leyton Orient kit and sadly for everyone involved the game didn't go ahead."

"In passing the shirt to Haven House to auction, we trust this unique shirt will be an item for someone to treasure dearly and raise money for the fantastic team at Haven House."

The shirt features the signatures of 17 Orient players, and anyone who wants to make a bid for the shirt can do so on eBay's website.

Lindy Hunt, Head of Community Engagement at Haven House, said: "We cannot thank the team at Bill Plant Driving School enough for this gesture to donate the match shirt from the Leyton Orient and Tottenham Hotspur game. We hope this special shirt goes to a great home and the hospice will thoroughly appreciate the funds received."

The auction is live until 8pm on Monday, 14 December.

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Murray Scullion

Bauer Automotive's finance editor; keeps an eye on finance trends and manufacturer deals. Loves old fast cars

Why driving schools are investing in crossovers

Published: Today 08:30

- ▶ AA signs up to Seat Arona
- ▶ Crossovers offer benefits, say driving schools
- ▶ Ageing first time buyers hint at change

Your age largely determines what car you learned to drive in. Those born in the Seventies might have taken their first legal drive in a Morris Marina, while those born in the Nineties will have likely learned in a Ford Fiesta.

Comfortingly, several generations of car drivers will have learned to drive in basic Minis. But this could be set to change.

Driving schools are increasingly adding crossovers to the range of cars on offer. The schools say that these mini-SUVs add a degree of flexibility to their cars, and they're 'more representative' of cars people will be driving. There's no denying that pitching lessons in a posh-ish crossover appeals more than a 10-year old i10.

According to the latest set of figures, the average age of a new driver is around 26, and the youngest group of drivers (17-20 year olds) has taken a severe dip. In other words, some people are leaving it nearly a decade to learn how to drive. So it's only natural that fresh drivers might have needs beyond a supermini.



The AA Driving School has recently signed an agreement with Seat to use, among other cars, the Ibiza FR 1.0 TSI and Arona SE Technology 1.0 TSI.

A Seat spokesperson told CAR: "Seat SUVs continue to increase in popularity, so there's an overall trend in customers purchasing this type of vehicle."

"Crossovers provide the perfect blend of small car dimensions with the feeling of a big car inside, and this is ideal for those who are learning to drive at a later stage of life."

Drivers who took motorway lessons more confident to drive solo on motorways post-test

Pre-motorway lessons drivers take six months to drive on the motorway after they pass compared to just under three months for post-motorway lessons drivers.



DRIVER BEHAVIOUR

December 21, 2020 No Comments

Drivers who passed their test before lessons were allowed on the motorway, took an average of six months to drive on the motorway with a full driving licence, compared to two months and three weeks for those who had motorway lessons, according to new research.

Bill Plant Driving School surveyed more than 2,400 Britons above the age of 18, 1,450 of whom passed their test before 4 June 2019, with the remainder having passed afterwards.

Just 23% of new drivers who passed their test before 4 June 2019 admitted that they drove on the motorway within the first month of passing their driving test. The average time for this group was six months.

Of those who were able to take motorway lessons before their test, 57% found themselves on the highway within the first month of passing, with the average overall being slightly less than three months.

Of all participants, one in three (34%) admitted that they didn't move out of the left-hand lane on their first motorway experience, with an additional 16% admitting that they did but only to overtake, swiftly moving back into the left-hand lane when it was safe to do so. What's more, 40% admitted that they missed a turning on their initial motorway trips, which caused them to panic.

Parallel parking and reverse bay parking were found to be the manoeuvres most commonly avoided for seven to eight months, on average.

The researchers also found that drivers who had motorway lessons before their test were more likely to drive on the motorway within the first month of passing their test.



DRIVING LESSON

Five Ways to Get Yourself Ready for Your Driving Test

Author: Sam Richards Posted Monday, December 21, 2020 - 9:40pm

A driving test can be a daunting and nerve-racking experience, especially if you have waited for the day for a long time. Recently, driving tests have been allowed to take place again after national lockdowns and restrictions were lifted, due to the pandemic. Some areas, such as in Birmingham, has seen wait times of up to 15 weeks for taking a test, with other places seeing just three weeks.

Whatever the length of time you have between your lessons and your driving test, there are several ways you can prepare yourself and make sure you feel completely ready. In this guide, we've put together our top five ways:

1. Get to Know Winter Driving Conditions

At this time of year, you can't expect to be driving in perfect dry and sunny conditions, unfortunately. So, it's good to be prepared for winter weather and make sure you've practised in these types of conditions with your driving instructor. Brush up on what to expect and what to do in this type of weather in the time you're waiting for the date of your test.

You can also learn the stopping distances for rain, icy or foggy conditions - where driving in wet conditions means your total stopping distance will be double the distance to stop on a dry surface and for icy conditions, the braking distance could be ten times more than on a dry road.

Expert driving instructors from Bill Plant Driving School recommend that to stay safe when driving in winter, use dipped headlights in poor visibility and make sure all windows are clear of snow and ice on the outside and de-misted on the inside, especially in the North and West Midlands where icy and snowy conditions are more likely.

2. Learn the Different Test Routes

It is near impossible to know exactly what roads you will be directed to on the day of your test, the traffic build-up on that day, or the obstacles that could appear

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