



Guidance on the Knowledge Test

In order to provide a safe and efficient service to members of the public it is important that drivers have a good working knowledge of the area in which they work. Because of this, all new applicants are required to pass a local Knowledge Test before their licence can be granted. If you are unsuccessful on the first attempt an administration fee of £14.07 will be charged for further tests.

You should read the information on this page carefully to help you pass the test. You will also need a good understanding of the Highway Code as well as Craven District Council's Rules and Regulations for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing as set out in our Taxi Policy which can be found on our website at the bottom of the following page <https://www.cravendc.gov.uk/licensing/taxi-and-hackney-carriages/applying-to-be-a-taxi-driver/>

What the test involves

The Knowledge Test comprises of three parts for hackney & combined licences and two parts for private hire.

For Hackney & Combined drivers the test comprises:

- 61 multiple choice questions. A pass is 55/61.
- 15 questions about the street names of Skipton. A pass is 12/15.
- 15 questions covering directions and locations of places and points of interest in the Craven District. A pass is 12/15.

For Private Hire Drivers the test comprises:

- 46 multiple choice questions. A Pass is 41/46.
- 15 questions covering directions and locations of places and points of interest in the Craven District. A pass is 12/15.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: It could be argued that with modern GPS and most jobs being booked in advance, that routes can be studied on a map by the driver or simply given to him by the operator before the customer is collected.

A: As a driver, you are required to collect passengers on time (unless of course you may be delayed because of a road accident or major traffic congestion etc.)

On a busy night, you will not be on time for all your pickups if you have to keep stopping in between jobs to look at a map.

It is far quicker and less stressful for both you and your Operator if you obtain some local knowledge of the area before you start work. In theory, jobs booked in advance with specified locations should be easy enough to carry out but in reality this is not always the case. Passengers often change their minds about routes or ask for extra drop offs.

Sometimes these passengers are not in a position to describe to you the exact route to take to that additional drop off point. Again, you would have to study your map causing even more delay, all in addition to the extra time it will take you to make the already extended journey.

Q: Why do I need to answer questions on the Highway Code when I have already done this to obtain my DVLA driving licence?

A: Whilst the Local Authority does not believe there is a need for you to be tested to a great depth on matters relating to the Highway Code, it does recognise that over time it is easy to forget some of the rules of the road. The Authority's overriding concern is for the safety of the public. Because of this there will be questions regarding the Highway Code contained in the Knowledge Test to serve as a refresher for applicants. We advise that you therefore re-familiarise yourself with the Highway Code before sitting the Knowledge Test.

Study tips

We advise that you obtain a good working knowledge of the local area (including key locations inside and outside Craven District Council) before attempting the Knowledge Test.

In order to help you study for your test you should consider the following:

- Spending time in the local area and studying maps
- Using the internet and/or the telephone directory to research the names of the roads on which local landmarks or bars, restaurants, schools etc. are situated
- Re-familiarising yourself with the Highway Code
- Read the Craven District Council's Taxi Policy.

What do I need to know about taking the Test?

If you have a disability which you think would impact you taking the Knowledge Test please contact a Licensing Officer to discuss assistance & options that can be provided for you.

You should bring some form of photographic I.D. with you to the test such as a driving licence or passport.

During the test you will not be permitted to use any of the following:

- Mobile phones
- Study notes
- Text book
- Hand-held computers
- Satellite navigation devices
- Any other devices or notes as deemed unacceptable by the invigilator.

Evidence of the use of any of the above will result in your test being cancelled. Ordinarily you will not be permitted to leave the room during the test so please ensure that you have taken any comfort breaks before the test begins.

The Council's decision as to whether you have passed is final.

You will be notified in writing if you have passed or failed within 7 working days. If you fail you can sit the test again up to a maximum of 3 times. If you are unsuccessful after 3 attempts you must wait 12 months before retaking the test.

We recommend a period of at least two weeks are allowed between tests to give you time to study the relevant information again.

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS

Multiple Choice Test example

Can a Licensed Driver smoke in their vehicle?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Only when I am not working

How many passengers can be carried in a licensed vehicle?

- a. I don't know
- b. I can decide how many passengers I want to carry
- c. I cannot carry more passengers than the number given on my licence plate

Street Name Test example

Hackney and Combined Licence Applicants Only

Please place a 'tick' in the box beside the answer you think is the correct one.

There should be only one 'tick' for each question. If you make a mistake and wish to change your answer, cross out your first 'tick' and make another selection.

In all the following questions, the journey will commence from the Swadford Street Taxi Rank.

1) The route to **Lindley Street** is:

- a) Up Keighley Road and fourth left after Railway Bridge.
- b) Up Keighley Road and second right after the Railway Bridge.
- c) Up Broughton Road and second left after the Railway Bridge.

2) The route to **Botheby Wood** is:

- a) Up Coach Street, left into Gargrave Road and right into Salisbury Street then left in to Botheby wood.
- b) Up Coach Street, left into Gargrave Road and right into Rockwood Drive then left in to Raikeswood crescent.
- c) Up Coach Street, left into Gargrave Road and left into West Bank Road.

3) The route to **Granville Street** is

- a) Up Keighley Road, left into Carleton Road and second right.

b) Up Coach Street, left into Gargrave Road, left into Brook Street and second right.

c) Up Coach Street, left into Gargrave Road and third right.

Craven Area Knowledge example

You will need to be able to describe how you get to points of interest and drop-off points in Craven in using the shortest route possible. For Hackney and Combined driver applications the vehicle is parked on Swadford Street Taxi Rank facing down Swadford Street down towards Broughton Road.

For Private Hire applicants – for the purpose of the test the vehicle is parked on the high street by the Statue of Sir Mathew Wilson facing towards Holy Trinity Church.

Below are two examples showing different ways in which to describe the journey, these examples start from Swadford Street. You may use road names and numbers if you know them but if you don't then you can use landmarks and features to describe the journey, or a mixture of both.

Please note that an answer will be incorrect if:

- You describe a journey that is not the shortest route
- You take a route that would require any manoeuvre or turn which is not allowed e.g. U turn on Swadford Street.

Example 1

How do you get to Carleton?

Sample answer 1: *Down Broughton Road, turn right onto Carleton New Road after Herriotts, turn right on to Carleton Road at the T junction which you then follow for a couple of miles and arrive into Carleton.*

Sample answer 2: *From the rank over the bridge take the first left drive past Tesco and the top junction drive past the petrol station. At the lights take a right then follow the road, passing the driving test centre, then the Brooklands estate and continue along the road for a couple of miles before arriving into Carleton.*

Sample answer 1 is correct as it is shorter.

Practice questions

Q1. How do you get to Tesco?

Q2. How do you get to Cracoe?

Q3. How do you get to Skipton Hospital?