

Information and Requirements on Diamond Advanced Tests for Private Hire & Taxi Drivers



Diamond is the UK's only government accredited advanced driver and rider development programme wholly delivered by regulated, professional trainers and examiners and available to both individual motorists and fleets alike throughout the UK.

You will see from our website at www.advancedmotoring.co.uk that the Diamond advanced taxi test costs £85. With regard to Diamond trainers each ADI will charge at their own standard rate per hour as and where necessary.

The Diamond taxi test lasts for 60 minutes and takes place over a route of mixed driving conditions, including motorways where possible. Candidates' driving will be assessed on their eco-safe driving ability and will include performing two out of five reversing manoeuvres (left and right reversing, bay and parallel parking and turn in the road). A pass will be awarded for no more than 6 driving faults, none of which are adjudged to be serious or dangerous. Highway code questions at the beginning of the test, suitable for taxi test candidates can be made compulsory if required.

Diamond Advanced Taxi Test requirements:

- A signed declaration that the car is properly insured and taxed for test purposes (declaration is on test report form).
- Preliminary vehicle and eyesight checks.
- 2 manoeuvres (reverse left or right in to a limited opening, reverse parking in to a bay or on the road or a turn in the road/U turn).
- Emergency stop (can be compulsory if required).
- At least 2 questions from the *Highway Code* (this can be specific if required).
- A valid and current driving licence will be checked on the test day together with signature validation.
- If you require an enhanced taxi test to cover wheelchair access requirements, please contact Karen Bransgrove on 020 8253 0120 to discuss the options available.

Road procedure requirements includes looking at the following:

- Making effective use of mirrors and observations.
- Signals (indicators/arm where appropriate).
- Take prompt and effective action on traffic signs, road markings, traffic controllers and other road users.
- Exercise proper care in the use of speed.
- Drive at an appropriate speed and avoid undue hesitancy.
- Safe following distances.

- Make proper use of accelerator, foot brake, clutch, gears, steering, parking brake and centre or side stand for riders.
- Moving away safely and under control.
- Act appropriately at road junctions.
- Judgment when overtaking, meeting and crossing traffic.
- Looking at normal driving position and lane discipline.
- Looking at adequate clearance.
- Taking appropriate action at pedestrian crossings.
- Safe positioning for normal stops.
- Show awareness and planning with regard to pedestrians, cyclists and drivers.
- Eco safe driving.
- Make proper use of ancillary controls.

What is the Diamond system based on?

The Diamond Tests are based on the Cardington system of marking, used by the DVSA on their standard driving tests. Diamond, runs a parallel system in line with DVSA testing requirements and we are accredited on this basis.

The Cardington marking system is an objective system based on grading the seriousness of driving faults, ranging from those not worth marking to dangerous faults. The principles underpinning the system are designed to assess a driver's control of the car and ability to mix with other traffic on the road. The Diamond tests take these principles and apply them more stringently and with a greater emphasis on safety and ecological driving.

Examiners look at faults as follows:

Driving faults – are faults, which are on their own, are not sufficiently serious as to warrant failure to pass the test but are worthy of being recorded.

Serious faults – is a fault, which is potentially dangerous and sufficient to warrant failure on its own.

Dangerous faults – is one that involves actual danger (or damage) to other road users, the candidate, the examiner or property.

Diamond Advanced test driving faults and pass requirements

0-6 (No serious or dangerous fault) Pass

7 plus faults (or one serious or dangerous fault) Fail

How a Diamond test is booked for taxi drivers

A candidate can book a test directly with Diamond at our head office in Crawley on 020 8253 0120, however, ideally we would recommend booking on line at www.advancedmotoring.co.uk.

Payments can be made using a debit or credit card. Once payment has been made the nominated examiner is contacted with instructions to make arrangements with the candidate. A mutually arranged date, time and place will be made between the candidate and examiner. Once the test has taken place a certificate is issued to the candidate

We aim to book candidates in for a test within 5-10 working days and in most cases within one week. Contact is initially made within 48 hours (Monday-Friday) once a booking has been made and any queries or problems are referred back to head office for quality control. Taxi drivers are made aware of the procedures for testing at the time of booking with reassurances in terms of time scales and requirements.

Candidates will be given a copy of the test report, which acts as proof of the test having taken place (this is very similar to the official DVSA DL25 form). The certificate for their advanced test for taxi and private hire normally arrives in the post within 2 or 3 working days or will be issued by the nominated examiner on the day of the test itself.