

## Practical exam Guide

In this practical exam you will be observed to see if you can drive safely and smoothly while giving attention to road conditions and other road users.

### **A:** Scope of exam.

The exam starts once you've entered and finishes after exiting the car.

### **B:** Getting used to the car

During the exam, there will be a period where you can get used to the car. **I'm not sure this applies to the provisional, there might be a period for the first couple minutes after pulling away that you won't be marked down for stalling or making other such mistakes. In the main exam you are not marked down for mistakes until you leave the course and go onto the main road.**

### **C:** Minimum requirement for passing.

二種 license – over 80 points.

Other licenses – over 70 points. **Including provisional exam. They deduct points for mistakes and if you go below 70 the exam will be over and they'll direct you to drive straight back to the finish.**

### **D:** Order of priority in relation to road width.

All of the course is road. **(i.e. you will not be driving onto pavement/sidewalk).**

1 (highest priority) the circular outside road with three lanes

2 central road with 4 lanes

3 roads that just have a central line **(i.e. two opposite direction lanes with a central line)**

4 roads that don't have a central line. **Small roads like the S-curve ect.**

In roads that have multiple lanes, drive in the lefthand lane. On other roads drive close to the left edge of the road.

### **E:** Directions while driving and exam route.

The exam route will be specified before the start of the test, but the examiner will also give directions while you are driving. **The are signs with numbers throughout the course, in the provisional exam you will be told in Japanese 'At number 3 make a left turn' for example. In the main exam you will be told things like 'At the third traffic light turn left'.**

**\*During the road exam (main exam) if part of the course cannot be completed due to a closed road or if the road cannot be driven along in a regular manner, then that part of the exam, or the whole exam will be re-attempted. In the case of roadworks or some kind of unrelated road accident happening.**

## F: Topics of exam.

1 hill stop and start – stop at the assigned place and then promptly drive on. There is a pole you need to stop at. Ideally align the front of the bonnet with the pole, but they aren't strict on this. Literally just stop and engage hand-brake if manual, then do a hill start and carry on. At the top of the hill there is a place where people could potentially be crossing (not an actual pedestrian crossing though) so because you don't have good line of sight you should go slowly toward the crest of the hill and look both ways.

2 Speed limit – In the outside circle road, at the specified place, go the following speed.

- Normal car. Semi-intermediate car – 50km/h Try and hit the exact speed limit without looking at the speedometer too much. Speed up, check once, and if you still haven't reached 50 speed up a little more before checking again.
- Large car. Trailer – 45km/h
- Large specialist car – 25km/h

3 Procedure when driving on/over the curb.

When a wheel goes up onto the curb or outside the course boundaries, promptly stop the car and return the car to the course. Usually this is a fail, I hit the curb while doing the S-curve and just managed to get to the end of the course then failed by not putting the gear into reverse at the end. I recommend actually looking out the window if you are concerned about hitting the curb.

4 curves around the edge of the course

Don't brake within the curves, slow down sufficiently before entering the curves. This is something I had to get used to, slow down significantly then speed up a little during the corner if you need to.

5 Speed while driving in a straight line

In the outside circle and the straight sections where there is good line of sight, with respect to the length of the section you're driving on, accelerate sufficiently. One person before me kept getting told off for driving too slowly. The speed limit is 40km/h, so if it's safe and appropriate to do so, get close to that speed.

6 parallel parking method. These manoeuvres are done after the road section of the main exam

-Reverse into a parallel parking spot surrounded by poles. Park behind the line

-After parking say you've finished parking and wait for the examiner's instruction to drive off.

7 narrow road course: redoing manoeuvres.

When doing manoeuvres like curves, bends, direction changes and parallel parking, after entering and before leaving, for the first redo of a manoeuvre points won't be deducted. Second time 5 points are deducted, 3<sup>rd</sup> time 10 points and after a 4<sup>th</sup> time the exam will be stopped.

## G: Departing safely from the starting point.

After you've got into the car, carry out the following.

1 adjust the seat, 2 wear the seatbelt, 3 adjust the rear-view mirror

## H: How to move off from the starting point

When moving off, first indicate right, confirm the safety of the surroundings and blindspots. In case of stalling or a mistaken gear change, re-do the safety check as it may no longer be safe. **Check all mirrors and blindspots**

**I: Stopping the car. Main exam**

When stopping the car on the side of the road, put the car into neutral (auto into P) engage the handbrake, and engage the foot brake.

**J: Parking the car**

After arriving at the end point, give a left signal, move as close as you can to the left hand side of the road and align the front of the car with the pole.

**K: Exiting the car**

Before getting out of the car: 1 engage the handbrake, 2 put the car into reverse gear, 3 turn the engine off, 4 check the rear of the vehicle before alighting.

**L: How and when to make safety checks**

**1 At intersections**

At intersections with good line of sight, look far left and right.

At intersections with poor line of sight, drive very slowly up to a point where you can see left and right before checking and proceeding.

**2 When changing lanes**

- When changing lanes to turn right or avoid obstacles, check in good time before turning: 1 rear-view mirror 2 right door mirror, 3 right blind spot.
- When changing lanes to the left check: 1 rear-view mirror, 2 left door mirror, 3 left blind spot.

**3 Checking left**

When turning left, to avoid accidents involving bikes and pedestrians, check the left door mirror and left blindspot just before starting a left turn at an intersection.

**4 Checks before reversing**

Just before reversing, check behind the car with your own eyes (not just mirrors). While reversing continue to check the safety of the surroundings directly.

**5 Checks at railway crossings**

Check at a railway crossing by sight and sound, so therefore open the driver side window.

**M:** Turning left or right **On the course, as a general rule start indicating as you pass the intersection before the one you want to turn at.**

1 left turn. Indicate 30 m before the intersection. Slow down when nearing the intersection, perform checks and left side checks before slowly turning around the left edge of the road.

\*Avoid troubling other drivers by indicating too late or too early.

2 Right turn. First indicate to turn into the right hand lane, carry out the checks to change into the right lane within 3 second, then move toward the centre line of the road and go slowly as you approach the centre of the intersection. The point at which you approach the centre line is 30 m before the intersection. (so including the 3 seconds and distance for moving toward the centre, indicate early)

**N:** Preventing accidents during the exam.

-Please take care to ensure there are no accidents

-Accidents will be the driver's responsibility

-When there is no other option the examiner may suddenly brake the car

**O:** Other points to be careful of (requests)

-Take care of your own valuables and belongings

-When driving or riding in the car as a passenger take your belongings with you

-For people of ill health, (pregnant people) please get in contact about this before the exam.

Provisional exam practical section reception is from 13:00-13:15