

**Return form to:**

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48 New Road  
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For Official use:



**Application for authority to drive Bucks County Council vehicles**

If you want to drive a County Council vehicle you must take a Council driving test. You must normally have held a full driving license for 3 years and have no more than 6 penalty points. You must be 21 or over for vehicles with 9 or more passenger seats, excluding the driver. Your driving license must show an entitlement to drive the category of vehicle for which you are applying for testing.

Once the application has been submitted you may use a County Council vehicle for practice purposes but must not carry goods or passengers. Special arrangements can be made to test applicants for driving posts at the time of interviews.

You are recommended to obtain adequate experience on your test vehicle before presenting yourself for a test

**Candidates failing to keep an appointment without notice or requesting a change of appointment within 7 calendar days of the test date will be charged the full test fee.**

**For further information contact Chiltern Driver Training Ltd 0845 230 8700**

[Karena@chilterndrivertraining.co.uk](mailto:Karena@chilterndrivertraining.co.uk)

Title ..... Surname ..... Forename .....

Home Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Email Address for notification of test date .....

Daytime telephone number .....

Line Manager Name ..... Tel: .....

Line Manager Email .....

Full address of establishment you will drive for .....

.....

..... Postcode: .....

Payment will be requested after your test. For accounting purposes please either provide the appropriate cost code from your line manager or state that you are a cheque book school:

.....

Test fee is set by Buckinghamshire County Council & from 1 Oct 2011 is £95 + VAT for a standard test slot or £110 + VAT for a one-off test. Please address fee queries to [aclarke@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:aclarke@buckscc.gov.uk)

## Driving Licence Details

Driver Number: 

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**You must submit a photocopy of all sections of your driving licence – the paper license and both the front and back of the photocard.**

### Endorsements on Licence:

Date of Offence			
Offence Code			
Penalty Points			

Do you suffer from any medical condition notifiable to DVLA Swansea? YES/NO

If Yes, please give details:.....

**Test Details** Tests will take approximately 45 minutes, subject to road conditions.

Please circle your preferred test centre: **AYLESBURY      MILTON KEYNES      HIGH WYCOMBE**

Please specify any period or specific dates when you cannot take a test .....

Circle the Council vehicle class for which test is required (see appendix):

**CAR   GV5   GV4   GV3   GV2   GV1   PV5   PV4   PV3   PV2   PV1**

### CANDIDATES MUST REPORT FOR THE TEST IN THE APPROPRIATE CLASS OF VEHICLE

I wish to be included on the County Council list of authorised drivers and agree to take the County Council test. I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the above particulars are correct and complete.

Signed ..... Date .....

**Please read the notes on driving tests attached to this form.**

## APPENDIX

### Class of Vehicles

Class	Definition	Additional Classes Covered
CAR	A car, small van, car derived van or van derived car with no more than 4 passenger seats (excluding the driver) and also car derived estate cars with extra occasional seats within the rear luggage area.	None
GV5	Light goods vehicles of up to 3.5 tonnes maximum weight	CAR
GV4	Light goods vehicles of up to 7.5 tonnes maximum weight	GV5, CAR
<b>NOTE</b> Goods vehicles in excess of 3.5 tonnes and below 7.5 gross vehicle mass will require category C licence (Old HGV Licence) when towing a trailer if the gross train weight exceeds 7.5 tonnes.		
GV3	2 axled rigids goods vehicle over 7.5 tonnes maximum weight	GV5, GV4, CAR
GV2	3 or more axled rigid goods vehicle over 7.5 tonnes maximum weight	GV5, GV4, GV3, CAR
GV1	An articulated goods vehicle over 7.5 tonnes maximum weight	GV5, GV4, GV3, GV2, CAR
PV5	Multi-passenger vehicle with seats for 5 - 8 passengers (excluding the driver) not being saloon cars or estate vehicle version of saloons (commonly known as "people carriers" or "MPVs").	PV5, CAR
PV4	Multi-passenger single deck vehicle with seats for 9-16 passengers (excluding the driver) including wheelchair accessible vehicles with a maximum authorised mass not exceeding 4.25 tonnes. (eg Ford Transit, LDV Convoy). NB. A PCV (Cat D or D1) licence is required.	PV5, GV5, CAR
PV3	Single deck passenger vehicle no longer than 8.5 metres, with seats for 17 passengers or more (excluding the driver) and larger wheelchair accessible vehicles exceeding 4.25 tonnes maximum authorised mass. (eg Mercedes Vario). NB A PCV (Cat D or D1) licence is required.	PV5, PV4, GV5, CAR
PV2	A single deck passenger vehicle exceeding 8.5 metres in length - see Note 2	PV5, PV4, PV3, GV5, GV4 and GV3 (providing category C (Old HGV) is held), CAR
PV1	A double deck passenger vehicle - see Note 2	PV5, PV4, PV3, PV2, GV5, GV4 and GV3 (providing category (old HGV) is held), CAR

**Note 1 - Automatics:** A driver who takes the driving test on an automatic or semi-automatic transmission vehicle will be authorised to drive only automatic or semi-automatic vehicles of the appropriate classes.

**Note 2 - Driving Licences:** Drivers of vehicles with seats for 17 or more passengers excluding the driver must have entitlement to drive Category D Vehicles on their DVLA Driving Licence (applies to vehicle classes PV1, PV2 and PV3).

# BUCKS COUNTY DRIVING TEST

## Why a Test?

The County Council requires any person driving any vehicle (except lease and privately owned cars) in connection with County Council activities to pass a County driving test. The reasons for this are:

- 1 The County Council has a responsibility to ensure that anyone carrying out driving duties on their behalf is able to undertake them in a safe manner.
- 2 The holding of any form of driving license only indicates that on the date of the test, the candidate attained a satisfactory standard enabling them to carry on learning to drive without the need for a full licence holder in attendance. In the main, tests will have been carried out in private cars whereas the driving of larger vehicles requires a different approach and driving technique. The County Council requires the candidate to demonstrate that he or she has maintained the required standard.
- 3 The driver when carrying out driving duties on multi passenger vehicles may well be replacing a commercial driver who has had to pass the Passenger Carrying Vehicle Driver Test, which is of a higher standard, and it is only right that any person used as a driver by the County Council should be of a similar standard.

When preparing for the test it is important to realise that large vehicles are not just bigger cars as the handling characteristics are very different. They are considerably slower, decisions have to be made much earlier and you have to be prepared to wait for bigger gaps when joining traffic. A fully loaded vehicle will respond even more slowly to braking and accelerating. It will also affect the cornering characteristics which in turn will affect the road positioning. You will require more road space to execute the manoeuvre. Compensation for the different speed had to be made before the manoeuvre otherwise other road users may have to take avoiding action because of your size or slowness. The effect on passengers of drivers' actions such as braking is different from cars.

## Application for tests

Application should be made on the attached form for a test on the appropriate class of vehicle (see Appendix) and returned to the address shown when completed. Appointments are normally four or five weeks after receipt of the completed form.

You will receive a letter notifying you of your test date and if this is not convenient please contact Chiltern Driver Training immediately so that an alternative appointment can be made. Late cancellation will considerably extend your waiting time.

Candidates failing to keep a test appointment without notice or requesting a change of appointment within seven calendar days of the test date will be charged the full test fee.

In order not to waste your time and that of the examiner will you make sure before you come to the test that:

- a** your eyesight (with glasses if worn) is up to the required standard;
- b** you are in possession of your driving license which you should bring with you;
- c** you have made arrangements for an appropriate vehicle to be available for the test.
- d** your vehicle is in a thoroughly road worthy condition and suitable for the test.

## Your Examiner's Job

Your examiner's job is to see whether you are competent to drive a vehicle of the size and type used for the test. He will give you directions, ask you to carry out the set exercises, and ask you questions on the Highway Code and other motoring matters. He is there simply to see, and note on his form, how you cope; he will not talk unnecessarily while you are driving because that might distract you.

Try to drive normally. If you have made a mistake try not to worry about it - it may only have been a minor fault which would not fail you.

## The Test

In assessing your competence the examiner will have regard to the items set out in paragraph 1 - 20 below:-

### 1 **Comply with the requirements of the eyesight test.**

Whenever you drive, you must be able to read in good daylight, and with glasses or contact lenses if you wear them, a vehicle number plate at:-

- a** 75 feet away if its letters and figures are 3 1/2 inches high.
- b** 67 feet away if the letters and figures are 3 1/8 inches high.

The examiner will ask you to read a suitable number plate. If you cannot meet the eyesight requirements you will fail the test at once and not be asked to drive. If you need glasses or contact lenses to read the number plate, you must wear them when you drive - during the test and afterwards.

### 2 **Know the Highway Code and legal responsibilities appertaining to the appropriate class of vehicle.**

You must obey the rules of the Highway Code as you drive and the examiner will question you about it at the end of the test.

### 3 **Take proper precautions before starting the engine**

Before you start the engine make sure the handbrake is on and the gear lever or selector is in neutral.

### 4 **Make proper use of / accelerator / clutch / gears / footbrake / handbrake / steering**

#### **Accelerator**

You should use the accelerator smoothly when moving off, or to speed up, slow down or change gear.

#### **Gears**

You should use the gear which matches your speed and the road traffic conditions. Change gear in good time - though not too soon - for changing road or traffic conditions, or for junctions. When changing gear do not coast by letting the vehicle run on in neutral or with the clutch disengaged, for example when approaching a road junction or going downhill. In an emergency, e.g. brake failure, it is essential to be able to change down gears without using the brake to slow the vehicle. However this technique should not be used in normal driving; slow the vehicle to the road speed required for the situation, by using the brakes then select the appropriate gear.

#### **Footbrake**

You should use the footbrake smoothly and progressively. If you look well ahead you will have time to avoid hurried or harsh braking. Remember in practice you may have vulnerable passengers or valuable loads.

#### **Handbrake**

You should know how to apply and release the handbrake and when to use it.

#### **Steering**

It is safest to keep your hands on the wheel in a position corresponding to "ten to two" or "quarter to three" on a clock face.

If you find either of these uncomfortable try adjusting your seat. (It may not be convenient to maintain the "ten to two" or "quarter to three" position when performing set exercises). You should keep both hands on the steering wheel except when you need one to operate another control or give an arm signal. Try always to steer in a steady course. If you steer too late or not enough when cornering you may not get round or you may end up incorrectly positioned. If you steer too early when turning left you may hit the kerb.

### 5 **Move away / safely / under control**

Whether the road is level or on a gradient, and whether you are moving off straight ahead or pulling out from behind a parked vehicle, you should do so safely. Take care not to inconvenience or endanger other traffic or pedestrians. This involves using the mirrors, looking round to check any blind spot and only moving away when it is safe to do so. Signal if necessary. Make sure you select the correct gear and co-ordinate your use of the accelerator, clutch, brakes and steering. A downhill start will not need the use of the accelerator until the vehicle is moving. Remember large vehicle acceleration is slower than a car and you therefore need a bigger gap. Do not use your vehicle size to force a gap in the traffic.

### 6 **Stop the vehicle in emergency / promptly / under control**

You will be asked to stop as if, for instance, a child had run in front of your vehicle. The examiner will explain fully what he wants you to do; brake quickly when he signals but, as you must keep full control of the vehicle until it stops, try not to lock the wheels - otherwise your vehicle may skid and go out of control. If an emergency actually arises during your test there may be no need for a special exercise. Remember a human life is more important than an animal's. It may be safer to run over an animal than risk the lives of your passengers.

## **7 Reverse into a limited opening to the right and to the left / under control / with due regard for other road users**

You will have to reverse your vehicle into a side road or other opening on the left or right. You will be asked to continue to reverse keeping reasonably close to the kerb for some distance after you have straightened up.

### ***Under Control***

Co-ordinate the use of the controls so that you move the vehicle smoothly and accurately.

### ***With due regard for other road users***

Keep a look-out for pedestrians and other traffic, show them consideration, and stop if necessary. Remember the front of your vehicle will swing out towards the middle of the road as you turn.

You may be asked to manoeuvre your vehicle in a restricted space.

## **8 Make effective use of mirror(s) well before) signalling / changing Take effective rear observation well before) direction / slowing down or stopping**

### ***Make effective use of mirror(s)***

Just looking is not enough; you must look soon enough, judge what may happen and act accordingly. You should not set your mirrors so that you have to make an excessive head movement to use them, this can be dangerous and is unnecessary, the examiner is trained to recognise proper use of correctly adjusted mirrors.

### ***Mirror(s) Rear observation before signalling***

Before you give any signal you must make sure you know what is behind you. You need to know how your signal and what you intend to do could affect following drivers.

### ***Mirror(s) Rear observation before changing direction***

If you intend to change direction you must use your mirrors/look behind. You will need to do this before turning right or left, overtaking anything stationary or moving, or when changing lanes. Remember to make a further check just before you actually change direction.

### ***Mirror(s) Rear observation slowing down or stopping***

If you intend to slow down or to stop on the left you must first check behind. Do this also if you have to reduce speed or stop at traffic lights, junctions, pedestrian crossings, or for any other reason.

### ***Mirror(s) Rear observation in general***

Remember use of mirrors is essential, particularly for large vehicles because rear view is more restricted than with cars. Your nearside external mirror will enable you to see where your rear wheels are. This is particularly important because of your vehicle's additional length. Make good use of this mirror when turning left or returning to the nearside of the road after overtaking.

## **9 Give signals / where necessary / correctly / in good time**

You should give the correct signals and give them early enough. Then other road users will know what you intend to do well before you do it.

### ***Give signals where necessary***

A signal should be given if it will help or warn any other road users, including pedestrians.

### ***Give signals correctly***

Only use the signals shown in the Highway Code. Never beckon to pedestrians to leave a pavement or central refuge; you could put them in danger from other vehicles. Make sure direction indicators are cancelled as soon as your movement is completed.

### ***Give signals in good time***

Others on the road need plenty of warning of what you plan to do; so give your signals early enough.

## **10 Take prompt and appropriate action on all / traffic signs / road markings / traffic lights / signals given by traffic controllers / other road users**

### ***Traffic signs***

Look out for, and react correctly to traffic signs. If you do not comply with a STOP sign, for example, you will fail the test.

### ***Road Markings***

Look out for markings painted on the road and act appropriately. Use the correct lane and do not change lanes unnecessarily.

### ***Traffic Lights***

Act correctly at traffic lights. Make sure the way is clear before you go on, even though the light is in your favour.

### ***Signals given by Traffic Controllers***

Obeysignals given by police officers and traffic wardens directing traffic.

### ***Signals given by other road users***

Look out for signals given by other road users, including people in charge of animals, and act accordingly.

## **11 Exercise proper care in the use of speed**

Do not drive too fast for the conditions. Make sure you can stop safely well within the distance you can see is clear. Take account of other vehicles, pedestrians, animals, the weather conditions and the state of the road. Remember that on wet roads you need a greater distance to stop. Remember the cornering speed of a large vehicle is slower than a car and that your passengers or loads should not be thrown about through excessive speed.

## **12 Make progress by / driving at a speed appropriate to the road and traffic conditions / avoiding undue hesitancy**

You will not pass the test if you wait when it is safe and correct to proceed, drive unnecessarily slowly, or stop needlessly.

## **13 Descending hills**

When approaching a steep descent reduce the vehicle speed by braking then change into a lower gear thus using your engine as a brake whilst descending the hill.

## **14 Act properly at road junctions**

### ***Regulate speed correctly on approach***

Slow down if necessary so that you can enter a road junction safely; stop if the way is not clear.

If your exit is blocked do not attempt to enter the road as you may be forced to stop with the rear of your vehicle in the road you are leaving. This is particularly important for a long vehicle.

### ***Take effective observation before emerging***

You must make sure it is safe to go on before you move into, or cross, any junction. This calls for accurate assessment of road and traffic conditions. So look all around for traffic and keep a special lookout for motorcyclists and cyclists who are not always easy to see. Be extra careful where there is a bend or hill or where something blocks your view.

### ***Position the vehicle correctly before turning right***

Well before you reach the turn, you will need to move over to just left of the centre of the road. But if you are in a road which only allows one lane of traffic in each direction, keep over to the left. On a dual carriageway, or in a one way street, you should take the right hand lane when you intend turning right. If you are driving a long vehicle it may not be possible to take up the normal position. Where this is so, only encroach on other road users' space where you can see and be seen. DO NOT rely on space being available where you cannot see.

### ***Position the vehicle correctly before turning left***

Keep over to the left before turning. If you are driving an unusually long vehicle you may need to move out before you make the turn, but watch out for cyclists or motorcyclists who may be coming up on your left. Remember to use your nearside mirror so as to avoid mounting the kerb and to keep clear of cyclists.

### ***Avoiding cutting right hand corners***

Cutting right-hand corners is a dangerous practice; you will not be able to see so far round the corner and you will be on the wrong side of the road you are entering.

## **15 Overtake / meet / cross the path of / other vehicles safely**

### ***Overtake other vehicles safely***

Do not overtake unless you can do so without forcing vehicles coming towards you or the one you are overtaking to swerve or slow down. Always allow safe clearance between your own vehicle and the one you are overtaking. Remember on approach to an overtaking situation if you have a long vehicle, you will need to start to move out a lot earlier to avoid using too much road space. If you have to stop, do so well back from the obstruction to give it adequate clearance.

Give the vehicle you have overtaken plenty of room before you pull back into the left. Give cyclists plenty of room; they may swerve or wobble. When approaching pedestrian crossings, obey the special rules about overtaking, given in the Highway Code. Remember to use your nearside mirror.

### ***Meet other vehicles safely***

Watch for places where the road narrows or where for any reason there is not enough room for two vehicles to pass safely. Wait and let approaching vehicles come through if you are in doubt.

### ***Cross the path of other vehicles safely***

When turning right, do not cross the path of vehicles approaching from the opposite direction unless you can do so safely. Other vehicles should not have to stop, reduce speed or swerve to allow you to cross.

## **16 Position the vehicle correctly during normal driving**

Normally you should keep to the left. This does not mean driving with your wheels in the gutter, but do not hug the middle of the road either. Remember the camber can effect the angle of the vehicle on the road and the roof may foul nearside road furniture or trees. Remember the height of your vehicle.

## **17 Allow adequate clearance for stationary vehicles**

When about to pass parked vehicles, remember that one of them may move out, someone may open a door, or a child or other pedestrian may walk or run out between them; so allow plenty of room.

## **18 Take appropriate action at pedestrian's crossings**

You must slow or stop as necessary for pedestrians using a crossing. Where people are waiting on the pavement at a "Zebra" crossing slow down and be ready to stop. Let pedestrians make their own decisions as to when to cross: do not signal them to do so. When the amber light is flashing at a "Pelican" crossing you may go on unless any pedestrians are on the crossing.

## **19 Select a safe position for normal stops**

Stop close to the edge of the road. Remember the height of your vehicle and road camber: if you are too close the top of your vehicle can clip roadside furniture. Sometimes the examiner will tell you where he wants you to stop; for example, before he asks you to reverse. If the examiner leaves you to decide where to stop, choose a safe place where you will not inconvenience other people or traffic.

## **20 Show awareness & anticipation of the actions of /pedestrians/cyclists/drivers**

Always think ahead. Beware of pedestrians and others on the road and try to judge what they are going to do and how they could affect you, and drive accordingly. Try not to be taken by surprise.

***Pedestrians*** Watch out for pedestrians; they may not have seen you. A child or elderly person especially, may move into the road when you would least expect it; give them plenty of room and be ready to stop for them. When turning from one road into another, give way to pedestrians who are crossing.

### ***Cyclists***

Keep a look out for cyclists, particularly children. At junctions or in stationary or slow-moving traffic they may move up on your left. Cyclists may be using a bus lane or cycle track so look out for them if you intend to cross it. Remember a large vehicle can make a cyclist wobble; give them plenty of room as you pass.

### ***Drivers***

Watch the actions of other vehicles carefully, particularly when they are approaching junctions, pedestrian crossings and other hazards. Remember that motorcyclists may well come through where there is not enough room for a car.