

Ask Horse & Hound

Our H&H guest experts answer your queries

YOUR
QUERIES
SOLVED

The road drive section of the test lasts between 60 and 90 minutes



How do I get about getting my HGV licence?

I have recently gained my BHSAI qualification and am interested in taking my HGV test. What training is required and how much practice would I need?
SL, Staffordshire

ACCORDING to Nick Allen, managing director of vehicle training provider Fresh Logic, the heavy goods vehicle (HGV — now correctly referred to as long goods vehicle, or LGV) driving test is broken down into sections.

The four components:

- Show/tell me questions
- Reversing exercise
- Braking exercise (controlled stop)
- The road drive

"Depending on when you passed your car test, you may also have to take a classroom theory test," said Nick. "The show/tell me questions are given at the start of the test, and you will be asked around six questions for a rigid [category C] vehicle. The question bank can be viewed at the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) website.

"Reversing is carried out at a DSA test centre, aiming to demonstrate good vehicle control while reversing left and right into a simulated loading bay, before stopping," he

explained. "The braking exercise or controlled stop is carried out from the reversing bay; the vehicle is driven to a speed of 20mph and, upon reaching a marked point, is brought quickly to a controlled stop within its own length."

The road drive lasts between 60 and 90 minutes and the examiner looks for correct use of mirrors, gears, accelerator, clutch, brakes (including parking brake) and speed.

"The general rule is to drive at a safe speed, suitable to the road conditions, doing the allowed speed where safe," said Nick. "Watch road signs and be aware of their information.

"Occasionally, the examiner will ask you to stop in a safe place, to ensure the correct pulling away procedures are carried out. This can be a mixture of level, uphill and downhill starts, or an angled start — such as pulling away from behind a parked vehicle."

Many people fail the pulling away procedure, so it should be well practised.

The key steps are:

- Check mirrors, then select appropriate gear
- Check mirrors; indicate when safe
- Blind-spot check in the left mirror, then check the rear "blind" areas out of the driver's window
- Look forward, release the parking brake and pull away, checking left and right mirrors

Candidates must also have a medical before their course and test.

"The examination assesses general physical condition and mobility, eyesight, diabetes and blood pressure and it is normally available from your GP for a fee," said Nick.

COSTS

HGV training at a DSA-accredited school costs around £1,200 including the practical driving test. This price is usually for a five-day course with the test on the final day but does not include other tests required before training begins, such as the medical and theory/hazard.

INFORMATION

Fresh Logic
Tel: 01869 365 796
www.freshlogic.co.uk
Show/tell me questions available at:
www.dsa.gov.uk

Would an equestrian business protect death duties?

MY father has always enjoyed racing and owns a number of racehorses. He has decided he would like to retire the mares to stud. He is proposing to buy a stud property and integrate my eventing into the business. We have been told a stud is tax-efficient for protecting death duties. Is this correct?
NT, Suffolk

A stud farm is considered to be "farming" or "agriculture" for tax purposes and can therefore escape all death duties or inheritance tax (IHT) if structured correctly, according to chartered accountant Julie Butler of Butler and Co.

"However, the stud farm must be commercial — there must be both sales and advertising of youngstock," she advised. "Recent guidance from the tax office states that the relief will not be available for 'a rich man's hobby which is not carried out for gain'."

"The IHT reliefs available are agricultural property relief [APR] and business property relief [BPR], which leads on to your eventing interests. If these are commercial and run as a business, this will help in the claim for BPR," Julie said. "Eventing is not agriculture in tax terms, whereas breeding is. If your eventing interests are substantial in



The stud farm must be commercial to qualify

relation to the stud farm, these private activities could put the IHT reliefs at risk. There can be considerable tax advantages of a stud farm and it would be worthwhile taking professional tax advice before moving the idea forward."

INFORMATION

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Ask Us?

Send your equine related questions to
HHadvice@ipcmmedia.com



A stud comes under the banner of agriculture for tax purposes

The general rule is to drive at a safe speed, suitable to the road conditions

Nick Allen managing director of vehicle training provider Fresh Logic