

Hackney Carriage Knowledge Test

Knowledge Test Explained

Summary of the test

When you first apply for a Hackney Carriage Driver licence you will have to pass the knowledge test (even if you have previously been licensed as a Private Hire driver).

The test will take approximately 45 minutes and you will be asked questions including street names and the most direct routes between taxi ranks and various locations in the whole of the Borough.

You will be expected to know the location of schools, churches, hospitals, hotels, leisure venues, public houses, railway stations, shopping and residential areas and other places of interest. You will be questioned on the Hackney Carriage Byelaws, Hackney Carriage fares, Hackney Vehicle licence conditions and Hackney Carriage Driver licence conditions, and stands (taxi ranks).

Detail of how the test will be applied.

The test will be in three parts;-

1. Knowledge test of the borough's streets, and the most direct route between taxi ranks and various locations in the borough.
2. Knowledge test of the regulations and conditions a licensed hackney carriage driver will be subject to, based on the information shown in the Reigate & Banstead Borough council booklet 'Hackney Carriages and Hackney Carriage Drivers'.
3. Knowledge test of the current hackney carriage fare chart.

The test is a written test. You are not marked on spelling or handwriting, provided your answer can be understood.

The pass mark is 100%.

The test will last approximately 45 minutes.

1. Knowledge test of the borough's streets

- a) The applicant will be asked to describe the most direct route from a taxi rank to a location in the borough. You will have to provide the names of the roads you use – it will not be acceptable for the applicant to refer landmarks alone or use 'Second left then right at the lights' directions. The applicant will not be allowed to use a map or satellite navigation unit to help them.

Example question: What is the most direct route from the taxi rank at Redhill Station to Reigate Manor Hotel?

Example of correct answer: Turn left onto Princess Way, 4th exit on the roundabout back onto Princess Way, straight over the next roundabout onto Gloucester Road, carry on straight on to

North Street, right on to Linkfield Lane, left on to Daneshill, carry straight on to Coniston Way, left onto Batts Hill, left onto Croydon Road, right onto Raglan Road, then right onto Reigate Hill A217 – hotel on left.

- b) The applicant will be asked to give the location of places of interest in the borough.

Example question: Where is Reigate Library? Answer: Bancroft Road.

The applicant will be asked to answer 15 questions in this section, ten asking for the shortest route, and five asking for the location of points of interest.

2. Knowledge test of the regulations and conditions

The applicant will be asked 5 questions on the regulation, byelaws and conditions of being a hackney carriage driver. All questions will relate to information shown in Reigate & Banstead Borough council booklet 'Hackney Carriages and Hackney Carriage Drivers'.

Example question: What should you do with lost property found in your cab?

Answer: Hand it in to the licensing department within 48 hours and get a receipt.

3. Knowledge test of the current hackney carriage fare chart

The applicant will be asked 5 questions on the current Hackney Carriage Tariff as fixed by the Council. The applicant will have to demonstrate they know what charges apply at what times, and what extras may be charged. The applicant will be asked to estimate the fare for a passenger travelling a certain distance at a certain time, where extras may be charged, and the applicant will have to total the amount the customer should expect to pay.

Example question: A passenger would like to hire you on a Sunday at 12.30 pm. The journey is 3 miles long, the passenger has 2 children, aged 14 and 9, and no luggage. He asks how much he should expect to pay at the end of the journey. Approximately how much will the meter show (including extras)? (answer right +/- 40p)

Example Answer: Sunday 12.30 pm is calculated at Rate 2. Rate 2 is £4.50 for the first mile, and then approx. £2.70 each mile thereafter. 3 miles would then be approx. £9.90 (£4.50 + £2.70 + £2.70). The driver would be entitled to charge 20p for each child, so the meter will show approximately £10.30 at the end of the journey.

The applicant will be emailed the result of the test within 7 days of having sat the test. Applicants are able to retake the test any number of times, however a retake fee will be payable each time after the first. The checks on criminal record, driver licence and medical remain valid for 6 months from date of receipt by the Council. If the knowledge test has not been passed within this time then it will be necessary to re-apply for the necessary checks.

If you require any further information or advice you can contact the licensing team via email on licensing@reigate-banstead.gov.uk.

Document End