



The Knowledge and Locality Test

The test will comprise of two parts.

First Part – Locality Test (Hackney Carriage/Joint driver applicants only)

This will be carried out by Licensing Enforcement Officers and will test candidates on their knowledge of County Durham.

Please note the test may be recorded.

The test will take up to 30 minutes and is divided into 4 sections.

Section A and B

Candidates will be expected to demonstrate their ability to verbally describe routes within County Durham: Routes will be selected from a start point to a finish point within the below groups (i.e. the start and finish points will be from the same groups)

Candidates may not use any reference material or electronic aids for these sections; however they need not memorise road names or numbers. Candidates may describe the route using any landmarks or points of interest which allows the examiners to know exactly where they are at all times throughout the route thereby demonstrating sufficient knowledge of the route to pass the section.

Group 1:

- Bede Way Rank
- Seaham Asda (Byron Place Shopping Centre)
- Horden Train Station
- Tweddle Farm, Blackhall
- Peterlee Magistrates Court
- Tommy War Memorial Statue, Seaham

Group 2:

- Black Horse, Beamish
- Chester-le-Street Taxi Rank (Wicket Gate)
- Consett Front Street
- South Causey Inn
- Lumley Castle

Group 3:

- Spennymoor Leisure Centre
- Newton Aycliffe Train Station
- Sedgefield racecourse
- Newton Aycliffe Sports Club, Moor Lane
- Mainsforth Cricket Club
- Bishop Auckland Retail Park, Tindale

Group 4:

- Bishop Auckland Retail Park, Tindale
- Crook Civic Centre
- Coop Tow Law
- Bishop Auckland Castle
- Manor House Hotel, West Auckland

Group 5:

- Durham Taxi Rank (North Road)
- Adventure Valley
- Durham Train Station
- Collingwood College, Durham University
- Durham Night-time rank (Prince Bishops)
- Hallgarth Manor Hotel, Pitlington

Candidates will be expected to know the location of all the Councils Vehicle Testing Centres. These may be used as start or finish points in the above routes.

Morrison Busty Morrison Road Annfield Plain Stanley Co Durham DH9 7RX	Hackworth Road Depot Unit 2 Hackworth Road North West Industrial Estate Peterlee Co.Durham SR8 2JQ
Chilton Depot Chilton Industrial Estate Ferryhill DL17 0SD	Meadowfield Depot Service Direct St Johns Road Meadowfield Durham DH7 8XQ

All routes have been calculated using the shortest route provided by “Google Maps” however minor deviations from this will be acceptable providing the route is not unnecessarily prolonged.

Below is a link of all authorised taxi ranks throughout County Durham.

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/3531/Taxi-ranks>

In section A you will be asked to describe one route and must achieve at least 75% to pass.

In section B you will be asked to describe the location of 3 land marks and a route either to or from each of those land marks, you must achieve at least 75% to pass.

Section C

Candidates will be expected to give accurate locations of a number of landmarks within County Durham, such as Hospitals, Schools and Colleges, Hotels, Sports Clubs, Council Buildings and Shopping Centres.

The pass mark for this section is 70%.

Section D

From a list of 10 towns and villages candidates will have to identify a number of areas not located within the area administered by Durham County Council.

The pass mark for this section is 100%

Please note the examiner’s decision is final on whether a candidate has passed or failed.

Second Part – Knowledge Test

This part of the test will be carried out by the Licensing Enforcement Team and will test candidates on their knowledge of legislation and Council Policy. The test will take up to 60 minutes and is divided four areas.

Highway code signs and road markings

This area is split into two sections.

Section 1 - asks five questions and candidates must achieve 100% to pass.

Section 2 - asks ten questions and candidates must achieve 80% to pass.

General questions on the highway code

This area asks five questions and candidates must achieve at least 80% to pass.

Legislation, the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy including conditions and the Hackney Carriage Fare Scale

This area is split into four sections.

Section 1 – eleven questions which must be completed by all candidates,

Section 2 - two numeracy questions which test the candidates mental arithmetic and two questions testing the candidates understanding of Child Sexual Exploitation.

Section 3 – eight questions to be completed by candidates applying for either a hackney carriage driver's licence or joint drivers licence only.

Section 4 – four questions to be completed by candidates applying for either a private hire driver's licence or joint driver's licence only.

100% pass must be achieved for each section completed.

You would have received a copy of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy with your application pack or it can be downloaded via the Council's website at www.durham.gov.uk

A copy of the current hackney carriage fare scale is attached.

Private Hire Drivers only

Section 2 of the Knowledge test will be an oral test as no locality test is required. This will be conducted by 2 Licensing Enforcement Officers in a 5 minute allocated slot.

Important information

You must pass all required parts of the test prior to the grant of a hackney carriage / private hire driver licence.

Applicants will be required to demonstrate basic oral and written English language skills to pass these tests. If there is any doubt about an applicant's ability to communicate in English (spoken and/or written), they will be required to undertake and pass an English Speaking for Other Languages (ESOL) course, the cost of which is to be covered by the applicant. The knowledge test will also include a section on basic numeracy. All applicants claiming dyslexia, or any form of learning difficulty will be required to provide medical proof of the condition e.g. screening results, to enable extra forms of help or assistance to be afforded.

Please note where an applicant has already been issued with a licence and wants to upgrade to a joint licence they must complete and pass the relevant sections of the locality test and knowledge test prior to the issue of the new licence.

Testing will take place at the Council Offices, Annand House, John Street North, Meadowfield, Durham DH7 8RS.

To book a test / retest please contact the Licensing Administration Team on:
Licensing@durham.gov.uk

The fee to sit the locality test is £25. The fee to sit the Knowledge test is £15. Retest fees will be £25 and £15 respectively.

You will need to bring photographic I.D. to the test. This can be either a photo card driving licence or passport.

The test requires a great deal of research and study, we strongly recommend that you do not make a test appointment until you are fully confident that you will successfully complete it.