

BRITISH DRIVING SOCIETY



**ASSESSMENT OF ROAD DRIVING
COMPETENCE WITH THE SINGLE DRIVEN
HORSE**

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Version 1.1

The British Driving Society Ltd

Hoste House

Whiting Street

Bury St Edmunds

Suffolk, IP33 1NR

www.britishdrivingsociety.co.uk | 01284 630591

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Guidelines

This assessment is recommended as a minimum competence for safely driving a single horse/pony on the public highway

The Road Driving Competence is a prerequisite to the BDS Intermediate Competence.

- Candidates who have a proven driving record, can be accredited for Unit 2, Practical Driving, in the Elementary Competence. However, these candidates will need to have their driving ability assessed in an enclosed area prior to proceeding onto the roads in Element 2 of the assessment – Drive on the Public Highway.

This assessment can be used as a stand alone competence and can be taken in isolation from any other BDS assessments.

- Candidates using this assessment as a stand alone unit must also complete the additional requirements found at the end of this syllabus.

Method of Assessment

The competence will be assessed by direct observation of practical performance and oral questioning of the underpinning knowledge. The road driving is to be carried out using the English coaching style of rein-handling (reins held in the left hand with right hand supporting).

ELEMENT 1 Prepare for Road Use**Requirements**

Animal Horse/pony, 5 years or over with a minimum of one year's driving experience. It must be quiet in traffic and suitable for the requirements of the test.

Harness A sound set of single harness suitable for the horse/pony and carriage used.

Vehicle A 2 or 4 wheeled vehicle

Location Controlled, secure environment suitable for putting to eg stable yard

Time Approximately 15 minutes

Performance Criteria

- a. Control of horse/pony is maintained at all times
- b. Harness is selected and fitted to horse
- c. Horse is put to using laid down procedures

- d. Health and safety of horse/pony, self and others is maintained at all times

Knowledge and Understanding

1. Safety precautions to be taken when handling horse/pony
2. Importance of safety checks
3. Dangers of inappropriate procedures when adjusting harness
4. Suitability of shoeing for road use
5. All sections of the Road Traffic Act appertaining to horse drawn vehicles. (Note these are different in different parts of the country.)
6. Safety clothing and their use
7. Carrying of adequate spares and their potential use
8. Importance of correctly fitting breeching

ELEMENT 2 Drive on the public highway using the English Coaching style of rein-handling ie reins in the left hand, supported by the right hand

Requirements

Conditions Genuine traffic on the public highway, varying road surfaces, gradients

Obstacles and hazards as encountered naturally on the drive out. The drive must include a substantial part of genuine public highway with road junctions, turns to the left and right, moving and stationery/parked vehicles.

Simulation or questioning can be used to cover any of the following that are not covered naturally in the drive – pedestrians, cyclists, traffic lights, road signs, pedestrian crossings, roundabouts, differing weather conditions, noise levels, environmental hazards.

Time Approximately 45 minutes

Performance Criteria

- a. The vehicle is mounted using safe procedure
- b. The whip is taken up
- c. Horse/pony and vehicle are driven smoothly and appropriately to road conditions

- d. A correct position is maintained on the road to ensure a safe and effective performance
- e. Naturally occurring obstacles and road hazards are negotiated safely
- f. Road safety procedures are adhered to at all times
- g. Health and safety of horse/pony, self and other road users is maintained at all times

Knowledge and Understanding

- 1. Horse/pony's reaction when working alone and in company
- 2. Effects of weather on road conditions
- 3. Application of the Highway Road and Road Traffic Act (NB There are significant local differences)
- 4. Use of the whip and voice
- 5. Types of hand signals
- 6. Procedure in the event of a road traffic accident
- 7. The importance of adopting the English coaching style of rein-handling, especially when driving on the highway

ELEMENT 3 Attend to Horse/Pony and Vehicle after Driving

Requirements As for Element 1

Time Approximately 20 minutes

Performance Criteria

- a. Vehicle is parked and secured at a suitable location
- b. Horse/pony is taken out of the vehicle using safe practice
- c. Horse/pony is unharnessed using laid down procedure
- d. Harness is returned to the appropriate place
- e. Control of horse/pony is maintained throughout
- f. Health and safety of horse/pony, self and others is maintained at all times

Knowledge and Understanding

- 1. Safe procedure when unharnessing
- 2. Recommended cooling down procedure

3. Method of securing the vehicle after use
4. When and how to use assistance
5. How to make safety checks to the vehicle (Ref Department of Transport Code of Practice)

Additional Requirements

For candidates who are using this assessment as a stand alone unit or for those with accreditation at Elementary Competence, Unit 2.

Requirements As for Element 1

Location Secure driving area eg field, driving arena

Time Approximately 8 minutes

Following completion of Element 1, these candidates (only) will be required to drive in an enclosed area to demonstrate their driving competence and rein handling.

Should the Assessor feel that the candidate is not up to the required standard of competence, style or safety, they will not be allowed to proceed to Element 2 - Drive on the Public Highway of the Road Driving Assessment.

Candidates with accreditation who are not seen as demonstrating the required level of competence will not be allowed to complete this assessment. They must complete Elementary Competence Unit 2 successfully before they can retake all of the Road Driving Test.