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STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

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**1996 No. 542**

**Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences)  
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996**

**Part III**

**Tests of Competence to Drive**

*Nature and conduct of tests*

**Nature of tests**

**29.**—(1) Subject to regulation 31, the test for a licence authorising the driving of a motor vehicle of a class included in category A, B, C, D or P shall be conducted in two parts, namely—

- (a) a theoretical test; and
- (b) a practical test of driving skills and behaviour,

and a person taking such a test must pass both parts.

(2) The test for a licence authorising the driving of a motor vehicle of a class included in category B + E, C + E and D + E—

- (a) in a case where the test is for a licence authorising the driving of vehicles in sub-category C1 + E and the applicant is the holder of a full licence which was in force at a time before 1st January 1997 and authorises the driving of motor vehicles included in sub-category C1 but not the driving of any other vehicles included in category C, shall consist of the theory test prescribed in respect of category C and the practical test prescribed in respect of category C + E; and
- (b) in any other case, shall consist of a practical test only.

(3) A person shall be treated as having passed—

- (a) the theory test if he satisfies the person conducting it that he has a knowledge and sound understanding of the specified matters;
- (b) the practical test if he satisfies the person conducting it of his ability to comply with the specified requirements.

(4) The test for a licence authorising the driving of a motor vehicle of a class included in category F, G, H or K shall be a unitary test and a person taking such a test shall be treated as having passed it if he satisfies the person conducting it that he is—

- (a) generally competent to drive a vehicle of that class without danger to, and with due consideration for, other road users;
- (b) fully conversant with the Highway Code; and
- (c) able to comply with the specified requirements.

(5) The practical test and the unitary test shall each be conducted so that—

- (a) the person taking the test drives, wherever possible, both on roads outside built-up areas and on urban roads; and
- (b) the time during which that person is required to drive on roads is—
- (i) in the case of a test for a licence authorising the driving of a class of vehicle included in category B + E, C, C + E, D or D + E, not less than 50 minutes;
  - (ii) in the case of any other test, not less than 25 minutes.
- (6) The theory test shall—
- (a) be conducted as a written examination consisting of—
    - (i) 25 questions in the case of the tests prescribed in respect of categories C and D, and
    - (ii) 35 questions in any other case,
 the questions being in either a multiple choice or multiple response form and testing a candidate on the specified matters in accordance with Schedule 6;
  - (b) have a duration of 40 minutes or, in the circumstances specified in paragraph (7), 80 minutes.
- (7) The circumstances referred to in paragraph (6) are that the candidate requires the assistance of a suitably qualified person at the test by virtue of having reading difficulties.
- (8) The specified matters for a theory test for a licence authorising the driving of a motor vehicle of a class included in a category shown in column (1) of the table are the matters specified in relation to that category in column (2).
- (9) The specified requirements for a practical or unitary test for a licence authorising the driving of a motor vehicle of a class included in a category shown in column (1) of the table are the requirements specified in relation to that category in column (3).

**TABLE**

Column (1)	Column (2)	Column (3)
<i>Category</i>	<i>Specified matters</i>	<i>Specified requirements</i>
A	Matters specified in Part 1 of Schedule 6	Requirements specified in Part 1 of Schedule 7
B	Matters specified in Part 2 of Schedule 6	Requirements specified in Part 2 of Schedule 7
B + E	—	Requirements specified in Part 2 of Schedule 7
C	Matters specified in Part 3 of Schedule 6	Requirements specified in Part 3 of Schedule 7
D	Matters specified in Part 4 of Schedule 6	Requirements specified in Part 4 of Schedule 7
C + E	—	Requirements specified in Part 3 of Schedule 7
D + E	—	Requirements specified in Part 4 of Schedule 7
F	—	Requirements specified in Parts 5 and 6 of Schedule 7

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**Status:** This is the original version (as it was originally made). This item of legislation is currently only available in its original format.

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Column (1)	Column (2)	Column (3)
G	—	Requirements specified in Parts 5 and 6 of Schedule 7
H	—	Requirements specified in Parts 5 and 7 of Schedule 7
K	—	Requirements specified in Part 5 of Schedule 7
P	Matters specified in Part 1 of Schedule 6	Requirements specified in Part 1 of Schedule 7