Practical Driving Test Checklist

Are you ready?

Tick each box only when you can do it **confidently and consistently**, without prompting.

01 Vehicle controls

☐ Identify the **handbrake**, front and rear **demister** (where fitted), **horn** and **window wipers**

02 Moving off and stopping

☐ **Moving off**
- MIRRORS Centre, Right
- INDICATE Right, 3 seconds
- BLIND-SPOT CHECK Right

☐ **Stopping**
- MIRRORS Centre, Left
- INDICATE Left, 3 seconds
- BLIND-SPOT CHECK Left

03 Turning

AT INTERSECTIONS

☐ **Turning LEFT**
- MIRRORS Centre, Left
- INDICATE Left, 3 seconds
- BLIND-SPOT CHECK Left
- POSITION Left
- GIVE WAY All non-turning traffic, pedestrians crossing, cyclists on your left

☐ **Turning RIGHT**
- MIRRORS Centre, Right
- INDICATE Right, 3 seconds
- BLIND-SPOT CHECK Right
- POSITION Near centre line, keep left of it
- GIVE WAY Oncoming straight or left-turning traffic, all non-turning traffic, pedestrians

AT TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Turning, with arrow signals

☐ **RED ARROW** You must **STOP**

☐ **YELLOW ARROW** **STOP** if it is **safe** to do so

☐ **GREEN ARROW** You may go if **safe**: other traffic should be stopped, but scan left, right and straight first

Green light, no arrows

☐ **Turning LEFT**
- MIRRORS Centre, Left
- INDICATE Left, 3 seconds
- BLIND-SPOT CHECK Left
- POSITION Left
- GIVE WAY Pedestrians crossing, and cyclists on your left
- PROCEED If exit is **clear**

☐ **Turning RIGHT**
- MIRRORS Centre, Right
- INDICATE Right, 3 seconds
- BLIND-SPOT CHECK Right
- POSITION Near centre line, keep left of it
- SCAN Left, Right, Straight
- GIVE WAY Oncoming straight or left-turning traffic, pedestrians
- PROCEED If exit is **clear**

*Move into the intersection to wait. If the light changes while you are in it, you may complete the turn when **safe**.*

☐ **Going straight**
- SCAN Left and right
- PROCEED If exit is **clear**

INTO MULTIPLE LANES

☐ You must turn into the **closest** lane

AT ROUNDABOUTS

☐ **Turning LEFT**
- MIRRORS Centre, Left
- INDICATE Left, 3 seconds; keep on until you exit
- BLIND-SPOT CHECK Left
- POSITION Left lane (if multi-lane)
- GIVE WAY Traffic already on the roundabout and to your right

☐ **Turning RIGHT**
▪ MIRRORS Centre, Right ▪ INDICATE Right, 3 seconds; then **Left** past the exit before yours ▪ BLIND-SPOT CHECK Right ▪ POSITION Right lane (if multi-lane) ▪ GIVE WAY Traffic already on the roundabout and to your right

☐ **Going straight**
▪ MIRROR CHECK Centre, **before** slowing ▪ POSITION Either lane, unless markings say otherwise
▪ INDICATE None on entry; Left past the exit before yours ▪ GIVE WAY Traffic already on the roundabout and to your right

U-TURN (ALSO CUL-DE-SAC TURN)

☐ **Turning RIGHT**
▪ MIRRORS Centre, Right ▪ INDICATE Right, 3 seconds ▪ BLIND-SPOT CHECK Right

3-POINT TURN

☐ **3-point turn: complete each step in order**
1. Pull over parallel to and within 300 mm of the left kerb (signal Left)
2. Mirrors (Centre, Right), indicate (Right, 3 seconds), head check (Right), look **both ways** before crossing
3. Stop **before** touching the right kerb
4. Mirrors and 360° check before reversing; look where you are reversing
5. Stop before touching the kerb at the rear **or** when easy to turn
6. Look **both ways** and head check before moving forward, back to the correct side

*No driveways or U-turn. Finish within **2 minutes**, crossing to the right only **once**.*

MERGING AND CHANGING LANES

☐ ▪ MIRRORS Centre, and the mirror in the direction you intend to move ▪ INDICATE In that direction, at least 3 seconds ▪ BLIND-SPOT CHECK In that direction ▪ GIVE WAY To traffic already in that lane

04 Reverse parallel park

☐ **Limits**
▪ TIME LIMIT **2 minutes** ▪ MOVEMENTS No more than **4** ▪ MAX REVERSE **7 m** behind vehicle in front

☐ **Approach (before slowing)**
▪ MIRRORS Centre, Left ▪ INDICATE Left, 3 seconds; keep on while reversing ▪ BLIND-SPOT CHECK Left
▪ POSITION 30 cm away from vehicle

☐ **Before reversing:** 360° check before moving in reverse

☐ **Finishing position**
▪ FROM KERB No more than 30 cm ▪ VEHICLE IN FRONT 1–2 metres ▪ ALIGNMENT Parallel to the kerb

☐ **Leaving the park**
▪ MIRRORS Centre, Right ▪ INDICATE Right, 3 seconds ▪ BLIND-SPOT CHECK Right ▪ MOVES Max **2**

ROB'S METHOD **Reverse parallel park, step by step**

1. **Before pulling next to the target vehicle:** mirrors (Centre, Left), indicate (Left, 3 seconds), blind-spot check (Left), position (Left)
2. 30 cm away from target vehicle when mirrors match
3. Stop when your mirror is at the front of the vehicle (optional when mirrors line up, or when the rear of both vehicles align)
4. 180° turn of the steering wheel to the **LEFT**
5. Select **REVERSE**
6. 360° check around the vehicle **before** moving
7. Reverse slowly, stopping exactly when the kerb disappears in the left mirror
8. Full lock **RIGHT**
9. Reverse until the kerb reappears in the left mirror and is parallel to the car
10. Straighten the wheel (second time it goes flat when turned to the left)
11. Move forward until 1–2 metres from the vehicle in front
12. Move the left mirror down to make your final position closer to the kerb, if required (up for further from the kerb)

05 Scanning

- ☐ Scan **12 seconds** ahead to identify hazards early
- ☐ All 3 mirrors every **8–12 seconds** (return focus to ahead between each mirror)
- ☐ Centre mirror **before** braking or slowing
- ☐ All side streets and intersections on the left and right **before** entering **or** passing
- ☐ **All pedestrian crossings, left and right**
  Prepare to stop. *STOP if pedestrians are on either side of a crossing without an island, or STOP if pedestrians are on the left side or approaching the left side of the road with an island.*
- ☐ **All railway crossings**
  Look both ways *before crossing.* ***Prepare to stop*** *if there is a train coming and the signals are inactive.*

06 Stop signs

- ☐ You must come to a **complete stop** in a position where you can see **all traffic**, and **give way** before proceeding

07 Positioning

	SITUATION	POSITION
☐	**Unmarked road**	**Left**
☐	**Marked lane**	**Centre** of the lane
☐	**Turning LEFT**	**Left** of the lane
☐	**Turning RIGHT**	Keep **left** of the centre line, as near to it as practicable
☐	**Multi-laned roundabout: turning left**	**Left** lane (or as directed by signs or road markings)
☐	**Multi-laned roundabout: going straight**	**Either** lane (or as directed by signs or road markings)
☐	**Multi-laned roundabout: turning right**	**Right** lane (or as directed by signs or road markings)

08 Gap selection

- ☐ **Watch** approaching traffic first, then take the **first safe gap**
- ☐ **Reject any unsafe gap**
  No other road user should have to slow, stop or swerve because of you. If they do, it is an ***immediate fail****.*
- ☐ Don't **reject safe gaps**: waiting **5 seconds or more** with ample opportunity is a critical error
- ☐ Applies to **turns**, **merging**, **lane changes**, **stop and give way signs** and **roundabouts**

09 Following distance

- ☐ **2 seconds** behind the vehicle in front in **dry** conditions
- ☐ **4 seconds** behind the vehicle in front if **wet**

10 Speed limits

- ☐ Entering a **lower** speed zone: you must be doing the lower speed **before** passing the lower speed sign
- ☐ Entering a **higher** speed zone: you must not increase your speed until **after** the increased speed sign
- ☐ **Passing a stopped school bus** (picking up or dropping off, or flashing sign on): maximum **20 km/h**
- ☐ **Passing a crash, fire, breakdown or emergency warning sign**: maximum **20 km/h** until you are clear of the site
- ☐ **Emergency vehicle** approaching with siren or flashing lights: give way and pull over, stopping if necessary

SCHOOL ZONE

☐ As posted by electronic or written sign: do **not** increase speed until the 'SCHOOL ZONE ENDS' sign **or** a posted speed sign

SPEED ERRORS

☐ **You must not exceed the speed limit at any time, or drive too slowly**

5 km/h over the limit for **less than** 5 seconds	CRITICAL ERROR
5 km/h over the limit for **5 seconds or more**	INSTANT FAIL
10 km/h over the limit at **any time**	INSTANT FAIL
10 km/h or more under the limit in good conditions, holding up traffic	CRITICAL ERROR

11 Vehicle check

☐ Valid **registration**, **WOF** and **road user charges** (RUC, diesel vehicles only)

☐ Working **indicators** and **brake lights**, including the 3rd brake light (if applicable)

☐ **Tyres**: tread and pressure; no space-saver tyre fitted

☐ Working **seatbelts**

☐ **L plates** displayed on the front and rear

☐ Sufficient **fuel**

12 How the test is marked

Restricted licence test. Errors are marked **throughout the whole test**, not only during the set tasks.

You fail with **more than 1 critical error in stage 1** (the first 10 minutes) or **more than 2 in the whole test**. You can also fail on your **skill scores**, even with no critical errors. **One immediate fail error ends the test straight away.**

CRITICAL ERRORS

- **Too slow:** 10 km/h or more under the limit holding up traffic, or slow to move into a safe gap
- **5–10 km/h over** the limit for less than 5 seconds
- **Incomplete stop** at a stop sign
- Failing to **look**, or failing to **signal** at all
- **Blocking** a pedestrian crossing
- **One wheel** up the kerb, or **stalling** (manual)
- Other illegal actions: cutting corners, wrong lane, not staying in lane, following too close

IMMEDIATE FAIL ERRORS

- **Testing officer** steps in, or you can't carry out an instruction
- **Collision**, or more than one wheel up the kerb
- **Not giving way**: another road user has to take evasive action (including merging and lane changes)
- **10 km/h or more over** the limit, or 5–10 km/h over for 5 seconds or more
- Stopping in a **dangerous position**: blocking traffic, on a railway crossing or keep-clear zone, or on a pedestrian crossing so a pedestrian has to take evasive action
- **Not stopping** at a stop sign or red light, or when required at a yellow light or railway crossing
- Any other action causing **immediate danger**

Tip: if you don't hear or understand an instruction, ask the testing officer to repeat it. You won't fail for that.

SCAN THE QR CODE

See www.Learn2Live.co.nz for more helpful information

Disclaimer: This checklist is intended to be used alongside the New Zealand Road Code and relevant legislation. Where best practice exceeds the legal requirements, it may contain information that differs from the law.