

*Helping people with physical disabilities, with special educational needs and those with hearing difficulties.*

## Advice for novice drivers, fact sheet 5a

# Applying for a Special Needs Theory Test

**When you book your Theory Test you should say if you've got special needs. In many cases, special arrangements can be made to help you during the test.**

If you have learning difficulties, problems with reading or writing, or have required additional help with schoolwork or taking examinations at school or college, then you may be able to get help with the Multiple Choice Theory Test.

The only special allowance made when taking the Hazard Perception Test is the facility to pause the test between clips for people who suffer with motion sickness.

To apply for a Special Needs Theory Test – if extra time is needed, if a one to one reader/recorder is needed or if an OLM test is required – the easiest way is to email your details to the “DVSA/Pearson VUE Customer Care Team” (name, address, contact phone no, and driver number – from licence) and request a Special Needs Test. Attach proof of the Special Needs – a letter from School / College (stating what Special Needs provision was made when taking tests/exams) or from GP (detailing the medical condition and Special Needs requirements) on headed paper should be sufficient.

DVSA have confirmed that they will also accept the Dyslexia+ Profiler (from Do-IT Solutions), available from the British Dyslexia Association website (<https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/screening>), as proof of Special Needs – this would be suitable for those out of education or those who have not been formally diagnosed. (Agreement confirmed by DVSA – 24.05.2019).

If you have had a PIP assessment and the Statement of Entitlement produced by the Department for Work and Pensions confirms difficulties with communicating and/or reading this may be adequate proof of special needs. Pearson VUE has previously accepted this as sufficient proof for needing extra time and the services of a reader/recorder.

For OLM tests evidence of severe difficulties in language comprehension will be required. This evidence would normally state that OLM has been required when taking exams at school or college and would take the form of a statement of educational needs from an educational professional or a report showing comprehension scores (which would usually need to equate to below 8 years of age) to warrant the service. For those out of formal education a report from any educational establishment attended or from a medical professional explaining the severe difficulties in language comprehension will be considered.

DVSA/Pearson VUE will consider the application and confirm back that they have agreed to the request, this letter will give a reference number that must be quoted when booking the test. The best way to book the test is to contact the Customer Care Team by phone, quoting the reference and requesting extra time, a reader/recorder or an OLM test, whichever is needed.

If a reader/recorder or OLM test is needed the test will take place in a side room so that there is no interference or distraction from other people taking the test and so they are not distracted. If no side room is available then the test centre could be closed off for the duration of the test, in this case the waiting time may be longer.

Alternative arrangements may be required due to COVID-19 restrictions

If any specific requirements are needed due to physical disability (e.g. wheelchair access to the building is needed, if a height adjustable desk is required, if a bespoke design of computer mouse is needed or if a touch screen computer is needed because the candidate cannot operate a computer mouse) these should be arranged when booking the test.

DVSA/Pearson VUE Customer Care Team:

Tel: 0300 200 1188 Textphone: 0300 200 1166 email: [customercare@pearson.com](mailto:customercare@pearson.com)

British Dyslexia Association:

Tel: 0845 251 9003 Fax: 0845 251 9005 web: [www.bdadyslexia.org.uk](http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk)

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