



PDI Zone Qualification Process

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Qualification
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This leaflet gives you a clear overview of the qualification process for becoming a driving instructor. Inside, you'll find details of the three qualifying tests, application requirements, and registration steps, with links to official DVSA guidance to help you progress with confidence.

The Qualification Process

To become a driving instructor in Great Britain (the process is different in Northern Ireland), you must complete several steps:

- DBS Check - You need a new Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, even if you already hold one. [Apply online here.](#)
- Responsibilities - You must agree to the terms outlined in the [ADI Register Guide \(ADI 14\)](#).
- Application - Once ready, you can [start your application online](#).

For the full step-by-step, visit: [Become a Driving Instructor](#).

The Qualifying Tests

There are three parts, taken in order:

- Part 1 can be retaken multiple times.
- Parts 2 and 3 are limited to three attempts each.
- From the date you pass Part 1, you have two years to complete all three tests.
- You may study and prepare for multiple parts at the same time.



Part 1 – Theory Test

[More details](#)

→ 100 multiple-choice questions

→ 14 hazard perception clips

Pass requirements:

→ At least 85/100 overall

→ At least 20/25 in each of the 4 categories

→ 57/75 in the Hazard Perception Test (HPT)

You will fail if you get an overall score of 85 or higher, but do not score high enough in each of the 4 categories. To pass the hazard perception part, you need to score at least 57 points out of 75.

Part 2 – Advanced Driving Test & Eyesight Test

[More details](#)

→ Eyesight Check:

- 27m for new-style plates (e.g. AB51 ABC)
- 27.5m for old-style plates
- Failing this counts as one of your three attempts.

→ Driving Assessment: You must show:

- Expert vehicle control
- Correct road procedures
- Anticipation and appropriate action
- Sound judgement of distance, speed, and timing
- Consideration for other road users
- Environmentally friendly driving

You'll drive in varying road and traffic conditions, including motorways or dual carriageways where possible.

→ Possible Manoeuvres:

- Parallel park
- Bay park (reverse in/drive out or drive in/reverse out)
- Pull up on the right, reverse two car lengths, re-join traffic
- Emergency stop (if asked)



Part 3 – Instructional Ability Test

[More details](#)

A DVSA examiner observes a 45-minute client-centred lesson with one of your pupils.

→ Structure:

- 3 minutes: Agree on lesson goals and discuss risk management
- ~40 minutes: Pupil drives (must be a varied lesson, not just a manoeuvre)
- 3 minutes: Reflection and feedback

→ Assessment Areas (17 competencies):

- Lesson planning
- Risk management
- Teaching & learning strategies

After Passing All 3 Tests

→ You must register as an ADI within 12 months. → First certificate: £300

→ With your certificate, you can start charging for lessons and either:

- Join a driving school, or
- Set up your own business ([guidance on being a sole trader](#)).

→ Ongoing requirements:

- Standards check every 4 years
- Registration renewal every 4 years
- New DBS check every 4 years