



Learning Guide

Disclaimer

The information in this learning guide has been written by a professional driving instructor and is merely a guide. This guide is designed as a tool to help learner drivers in Western Australia (WA) better understand the process for obtaining their drivers licence.

Indi Drive takes no accountability for how this information is applied in individual circumstances. Driving is situational and there are sometimes circumstances which negate the information provided in this guide.

Legislation, policies and processes may change over time and Indi Drive holds no responsibility for updating content to reflect any changes to the above.

This learning guide has no association to the WA Department of Transport. The information in this learning guide is relevant as of May 2020 and may change over time. This guide is not legislation or road law and cannot be used to dispute an assessment decision or the judgement of traffic enforcement.

Topics covered in this learning guide

1. Steps to get your WA drivers licence
2. Top 5 reasons for failing the practical driving assessment (PDA)
3. WA road rules
4. What to expect on the PDA



Steps for obtaining your drivers licence

1. Get a learner's permit
2. Learn to drive
3. Complete the Hazard Perception Test
4. Pass the Practical Driving Assessment
5. Get a provisional licence ('P' Plates)



Step 1 - Get a learner's permit



- Before you can drive on the road, you must first gain a learner's permit. For 'C' class vehicles (Manual and Automatic cars) 16 years old is the minimum age. On or after your 16th birthday you can apply for a learner's permit at any Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) branch.
- After you have passed the theory test, eyesight test and paid the relevant fees you will then be issued a learner permit which is valid for 3 years. Now you can start learning how to drive!

Step 2 – Start learning to drive



- Once you have your learner's permit you can begin learning to drive with a supervisor. The supervisor must be either a licensed driving instructor or a licensed driver who has held a license of the same class or higher than the person learning for a minimum of 4 years (including P plates).
- If you are under 25 years old, you must complete and record a minimum of 50 supervised driving hours (including at least 5 nighttime hours) in order to be eligible to sit the practical driving assessment.

Step 3 - Complete the Hazard Perception Test (HPT)

- After holding your WA learners permit for a minimum of 6 months, you can sit the Hazard Perception Test. (HPT). You do not need to book your HPT simply go into a DVS branch near you.
- The HPT is a computer test with a series of video clips. You are required to respond to situations by clicking your mouse when you should take action.
- There is a fee of approx. ~\$25 for sitting your Hazard Perception test.
- After passing your HPT you will need to continue completing your minimum of 50 supervised driving hours if you have not done so already.

Step 4 - Pass the Practical Driving Assessment (PDA)



- When you have completed your minimum logbook hours and are at least 17 years old you can book in and sit a PDA.
- Your 1st PDA, you will have already paid for when you purchased your learners permit.

On Test Day:

- Ensure the vehicle you bring with you for your PDA is road worthy and licensed, your logbook is correctly completed and signed by yourself and all your supervisors, that you are on time and bring primary ID.

Get a provisional licence ('P' Plates)



- Once you have passed your PDA you will be issued your provisional licence. You can now drive without supervision.
- You will be issued a set of red and green 'P' plates to display when driving.
- For a first time licence holder you will display red 'P' plates for 6 months and green 'P' plates for 18 months unless otherwise specified by the Department of Transport.

Top 5 Automatic Fails on the PDA



1. Not stopping at a stop sign
2. Not knowing right of way rules
3. Failing to give way (cars and pedestrians)
4. Speeding
5. Causing a crisis/potential crisis

Not stopping at a stop sign

At a stop line or solid white line symbolizing a stop means you must come to a complete compulsory stop within 1 meter of the white line.

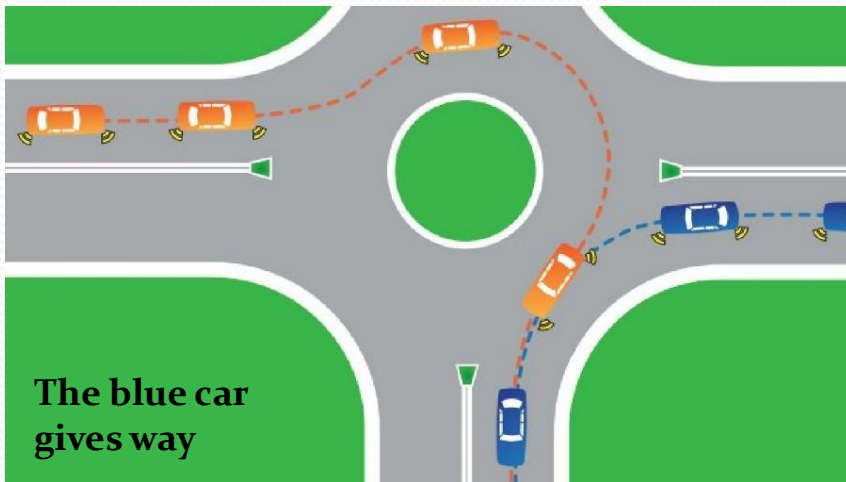
This means your wheels are behind the line and not moving.

You are not required to stop for any duration of time. Many people believe you must stop for 3 seconds. This is not true. A stop is a stop for 1 second or 3.



Right of way rules

Most drivers have heard the expression “give way to the right”. This rule typically applies when you are at a roundabout or turning left.

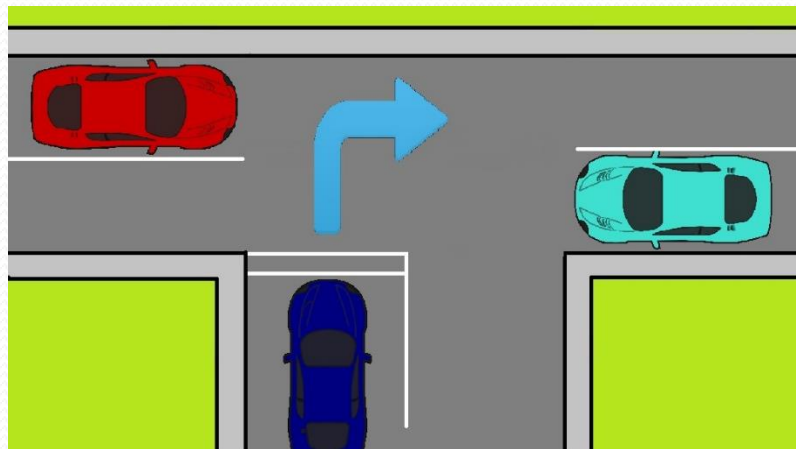


Pictures from Transport NSW

Right of way rules

There are many situations where solely giving way to the right does not apply. For example:

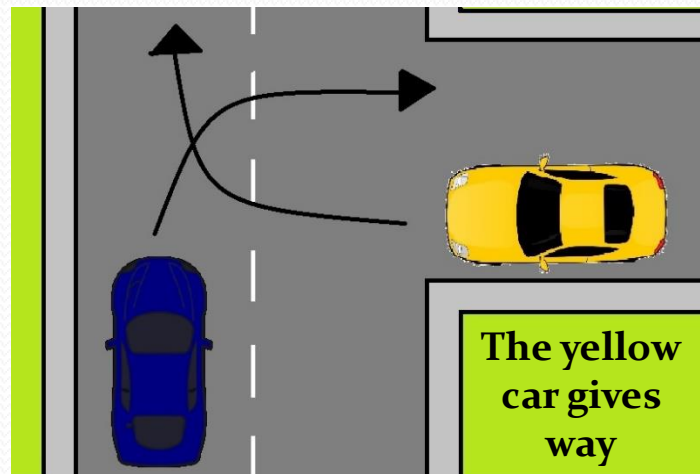
1. Turning right at a T-intersection you must give way to all vehicles oncoming from the right and left.



Right of way rules

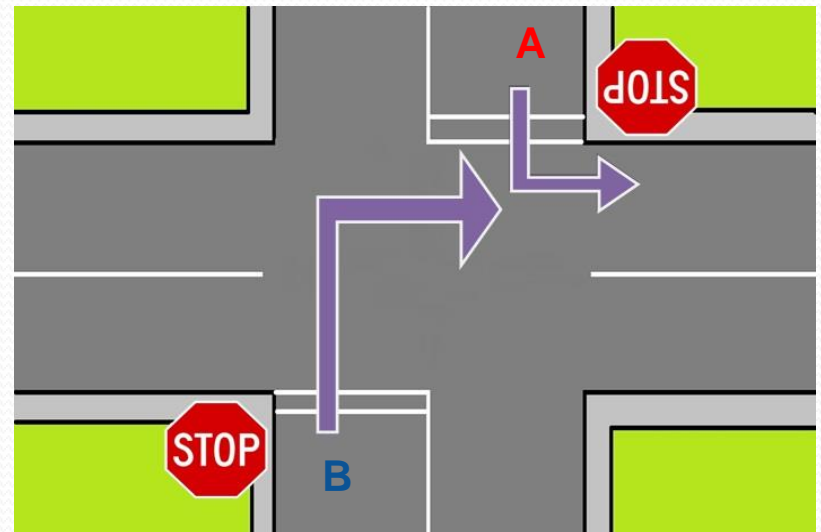
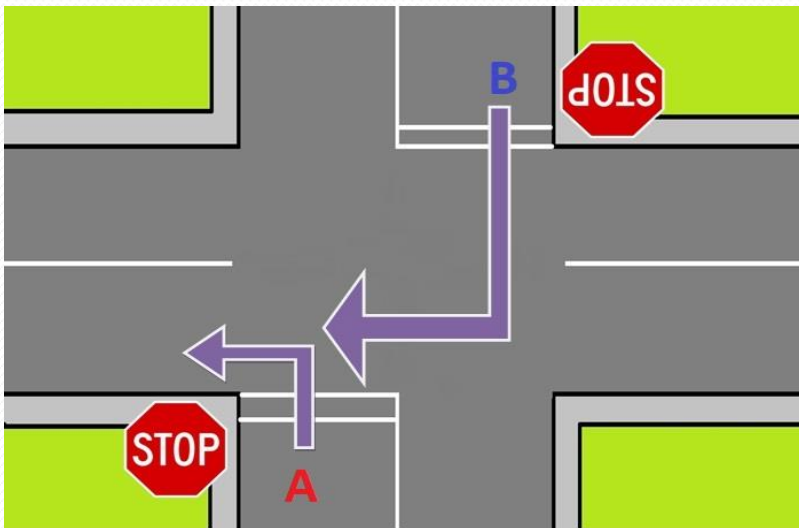
2. Turning right from a major road onto a minor road.

The vehicles exiting the minor road at a T-intersection must give way to all vehicles on the major road although they appear to be on the right



Right of way rules

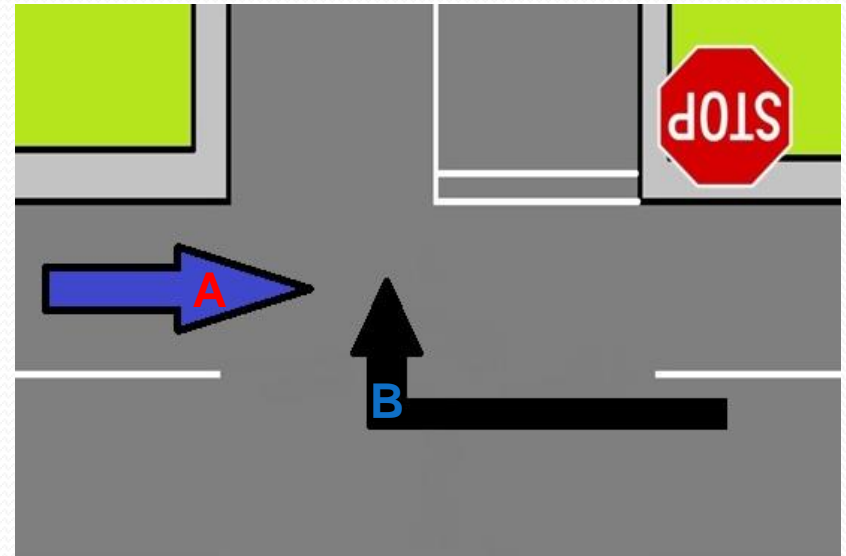
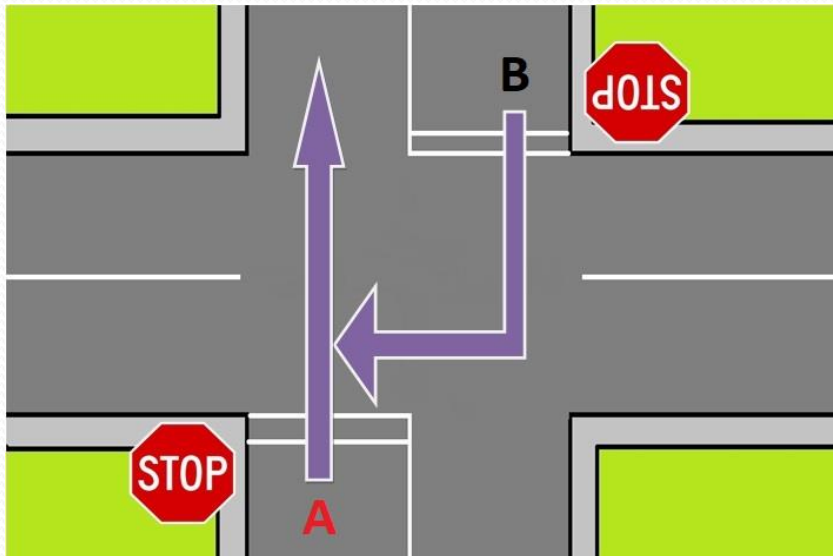
When two cars are opposite each other at a 4-way intersection, the vehicle turning right across the intersection gives way.
Car “A” goes before car “B”



Right of way rules

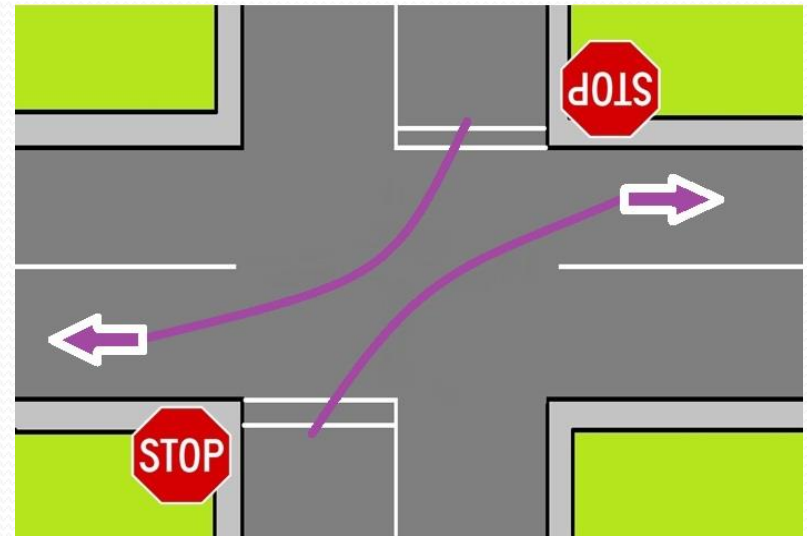
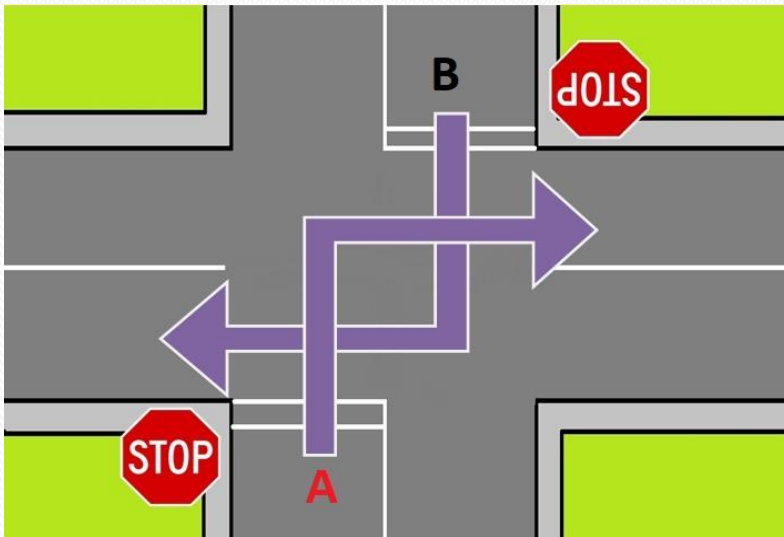
This is the same when one car is going straight and the other is turning right. The vehicle turning right gives way.

Car “A” goes before car “B”. The same rule as a normal right turn.



Right of way rules

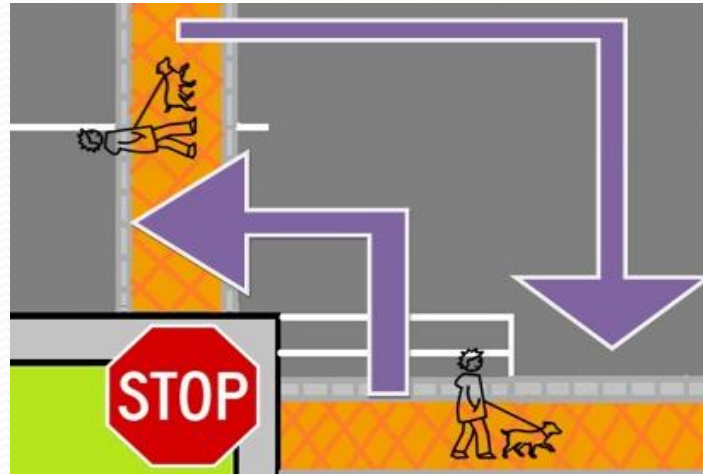
When both vehicles are turning right, they have equal right of way. In many cases, both cars may be able to turn at the same time. If this is not possible then proceed one at a time.



Failing to give way to cars and pedestrians

Failing to give way means you have entered the intersection when you should have waited for another vehicle or pedestrian.

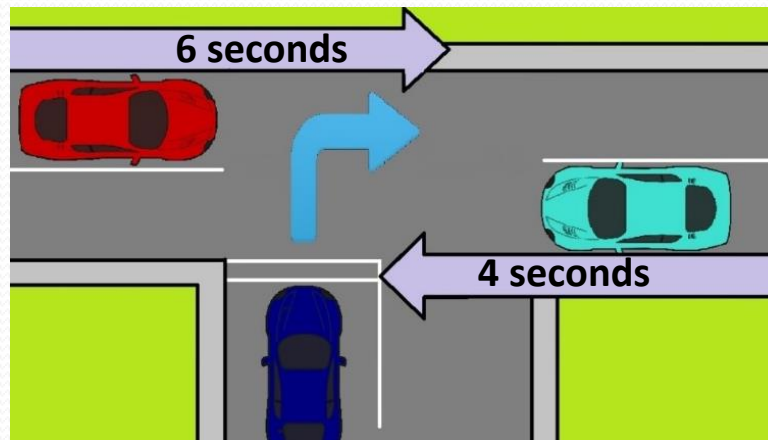
Vehicles must give way to pedestrians when turning in the same direction the pedestrian is crossing.



Failing to give way to cars and pedestrians

Failing to give way can also be selecting the wrong gap when entering an intersection.

As a general guide, you should select a gap of at least 6 seconds distance between cars travelling in the same direction as you and at least 4 seconds between vehicles who's path you are crossing.



Speeding

Exceeding the speed limit by more than 5 km/h is an automatic fail on the driving assessment.

However, even 1 km/h over the speed limit is technically speeding and you can have points deducted on the assessment for speeding between 1-4 km/h over the speed limit.

You should stay as close to the speed limit as is safe to do so for the conditions. Do not deliberately drive slowly on the driving assessment, this could result in loss of points or in some cases a fail for causing a potential crisis.



Speeding

When there are no speed limit signs there are two 'default' limits in WA, a 'built-up' area limit and a maximum state speed limit.

In a 'built-up' area, the 'default' speed limit is 50 km/h unless otherwise sign posted.

The maximum state speed limit in WA is 110 km/h however, learner drivers are not permitted to exceed 100 km/h.

Double speed limit signs indicate a change in speed zone. These "end 90" signs mean the default speed limit is now 110 km/h



Causing a crisis/potential crisis

Causing a crisis/potential crisis refers to the candidate performing an action that immediately or potentially threatens the safety of the vehicle, themselves and others. At this point on the assessment, the assessor may intervene to avoid a collision.

The most common time an assessor might intervene would be when:

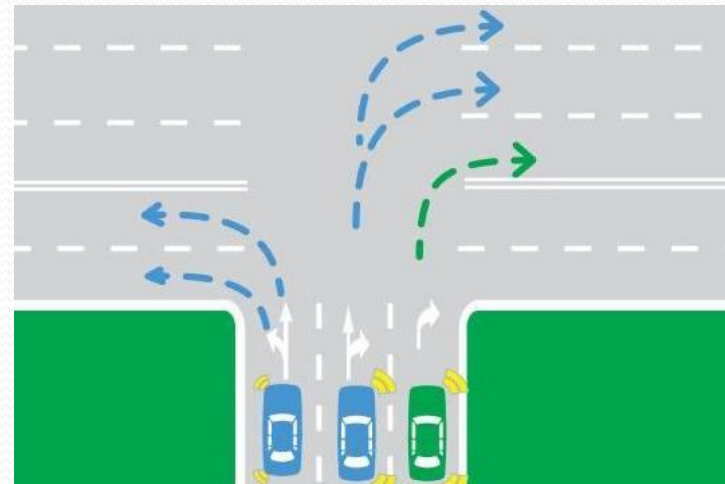
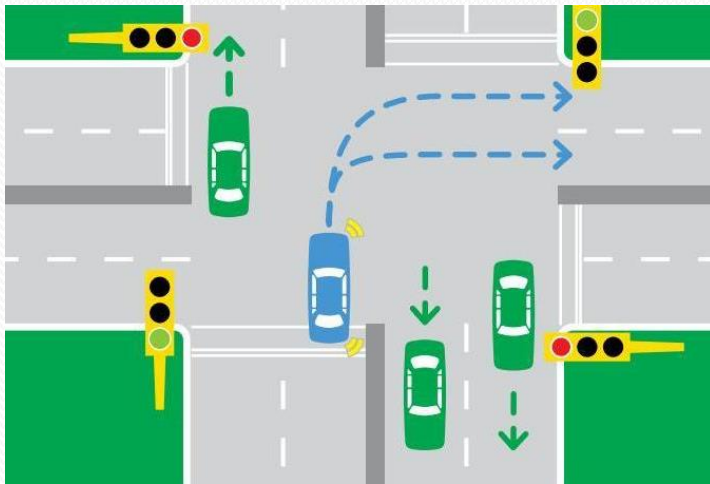
1. a candidate attempts to enter an intersection when it is unsafe
2. if the candidate gets too close to another vehicle when parking.

The assessor is not responsible for any damage to your vehicle on a driving assessment.

Common question from students

Are you allowed to go into any lane when turning?

Yes, you are permitted to go into the right or left lanes when you are the only lane turning in that direction.



How does the Practical Driving Assessment (PDA) work ?

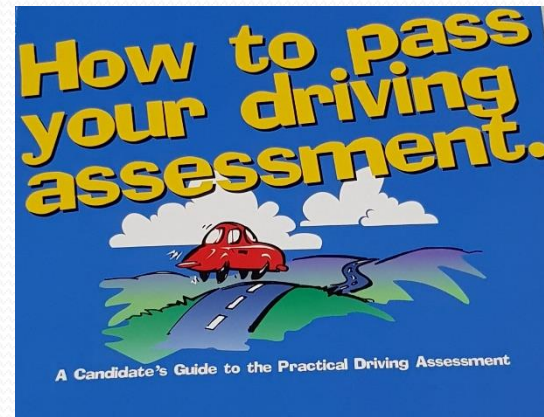
The PDA is conducted in 5 sections:

- Section 1
A drive from the licence centre carpark to Exercise A
- Section 2
Complete Exercise A - "Stop for Shopping" or "Left Something Behind"
- Section 3
A drive from Exercise A to Exercise B
- Section 4
Exercise B - which ever exercise was not conducted in Section 2.
- Section 5
A drive from Exercise B to the licence centre carpark to finish the driving test.

How does the Practical Driving Assessment (PDA) work ?


There are 7 categories that you can score points in on the driving assessments:

- Look Behind
- Signals
- Flow
- Movement
- Path
- Responsiveness
- Vehicle Management



More information can be found
in this WA DoT Book

How does the Practical Driving Assessment (PDA) work ?

 Department of Transport

Practical Driving Assessment Result

This document is not a driver's licence.

Candidate : [REDACTED]
 Assessment location : JOONDALUP
 Assessor number : [REDACTED]
 Date : 10/06/2019 Time : 07:55 AM
 Licence/Permit number : [REDACTED] (C)
 Vehicle plate : [REDACTED]
 Driving instructor : [REDACTED]

Assessment result **Standard met**

You have demonstrated the competency required to meet the driving standard. If you have any questions regarding this result or how it was calculated, please speak to the Assessor who will provide feedback.

Assessment summary

	PDA item							Section total	Section min req	Section result
	L	S	F	M	P	R	VM			
1	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	N/A	✓	5	4	✓
2 Stopping for shopping	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓	11	8	✓
3	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	N/A	✓	5	4	✓
4 Left something behind	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	X	11	8	✓
5	✓	X	X	✓	X	N/A	✓	3	4	X
PDA item total	5	4	7	8	7	0	4			Sufficient sections*
PDA item min req	3	3	5	5	5	N/A	3			
PDA item result	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓			Sufficient items**
Met standard										Yes

To pass the assessment and meet the standard the candidate must complete the assessment and achieve sufficient sections* and sufficient items** and not have a discontinue or fail recorded.

* Sufficient sections - achieve the minimum required score for at least 4 of the 5 sections (i.e. ticks in at least 4 "Section result" boxes).
 ** Sufficient items - achieve the minimum required score for all essential PDA items (i.e. ticks in 6 "PDA item result" boxes).

Assessment summary

	PDA item							Section total	Section min req	Section result
	L	S	F	M	P	R	VM			
1	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	N/A	✓	5	4	✓

In each section of the driving assessment the candidate is scored in the 7 categories. You must meet the minimum score to pass the section

How does the Practical Driving Assessment (PDA) work ?

Department of Transport

Practical Driving Assessment Result
This document is not a driver's licence.

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Assessment location : JOONDALUP
Assessor number : [REDACTED]
Date : 10/06/2019 Time : 07:55 AM
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Driving instructor : [REDACTED]

Assessment result **Standard met**

You have demonstrated the competency required to meet the driving standard. If you have any questions regarding this result or how it was calculated, please speak to the Assessor who will provide feedback.

Assessment summary

Sections	PDA item							Section total	Section min req	Section result	
	L	S	F	M	P	R	VM				
1	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	N/A	✓	5	4	✓	
2 Stopping for shopping	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	11	8	✓	
3	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	N/A	✓	5	4	✓	
4 Left something behind	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	11	8	✓	
5	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	N/A	3	4	X	
PDA item total	5	4	7	8	7	0	4			Sufficient sections*	
PDA item min req	3	3	5	5	5	N/A	3				
PDA item result	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓			Sufficient items**	
											Met standard
											Yes

To pass the assessment and meet the standard the candidate must complete the assessment and achieve sufficient sections* and sufficient items** and not have a discontinue or fail recorded.


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** Sufficient items - achieve the minimum required score for all essential PDA items (i.e. ticks in 6 "PDA item result" boxes).

Item	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	X				
5	✓	X	X	✓	X	N/A	✓	3	4	X	
PDA item total	5	4	7	8	7	0	4			Sufficient sections*	
PDA item min req	3	3	5	5	5	N/A	3				
PDA item result	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓			Sufficient items**	
											Met standard
											Yes

To pass the assessment and meet the standard the candidate must complete the assessment and achieve sufficient sections* and sufficient items** and not have a discontinue or fail recorded.


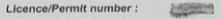
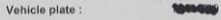


You can fail one section of the driving assessment (pass 4 of 5 sections). But you must meet the minimum criteria for each category


How does the Practical Driving Assessment (PDA) work ?

 Department of Transport

Practical Driving Assessment Result

This document is not a driver's licence.

Candidate : 
 Assessment location : JOONDALUP
 Licence/Permit number : 
 Assessor number : 
 Date : 06/06/2019 Time : 01:00 PM
 Vehicle plate : 
 Driving instructor : 

Assessment result  Standard not met

You have not demonstrated the competency required to meet the driving standard. If you have any questions regard this result or how it was calculated, please speak to the Assessor who will provide feedback.

Assessment summary

Sections	PDA item							Section total	Section min req	Section result
	L	S	F	M	P	R	VM			
1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓	6	4	✓
2 Stopping for shopping	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9	8	✓
3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓	4	4	✓
4 Left something behind	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	11	8	✓
5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓	5	4	✓
PDA item total	2	4	7	9	8	0	5			Sufficient sections*
PDA item min req	3	3	5	5	5	N/A	3			
PDA item result	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓	X		Sufficient items**
										Met standard
										No

To pass the assessment and meet the standard the candidate must complete the assessment and achieve sufficient sections* and sufficient items** and not have a discontinue or fail recorded.

* Sufficient sections - achieve the minimum required score for at least 4 of the 5 sections (i.e. ticks in at least 4 "Section result" boxes).
 ** Sufficient items - achieve the minimum required score for all essential PDA items (i.e. ticks in 6 "PDA item result" boxes).

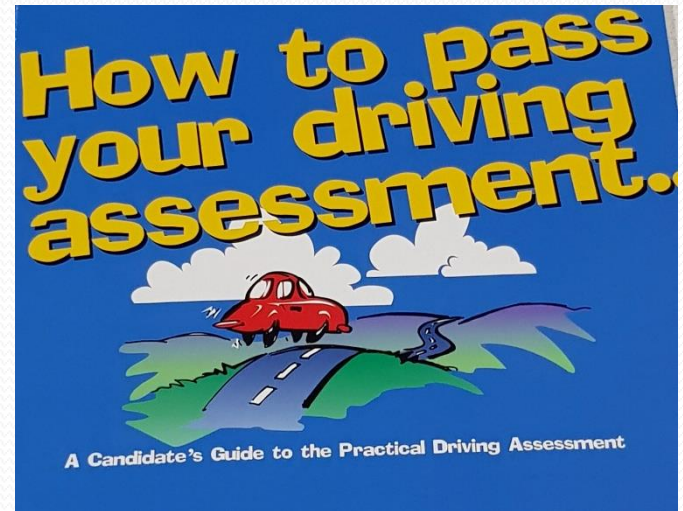
	5	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	N/A	✓	5	4	✓
PDA item total	2	4	7	9	8	0	5			Sufficient sections*	✓
PDA item min req	3	3	5	5	5	N/A	3				
PDA item result	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓	X		Sufficient items**	
										Met standard	No

To pass the assessment and meet the standard the candidate must complete the assessment and achieve sufficient sections* and sufficient items** and not have a discontinue or fail recorded.

If you pass every section but do not meet the minimum requirement in any of the categories, this will result in a fail.

What can I do to pass my test 1st time?

1. Read the “how to pass your driving assessment” book. This book is free from the Department of Transport.
2. See the resources on the Indi Drive website:
<https://www.indidrive.com.au/learner-driver-resources>
3. Practice driving as often as your can!



Let us know if you need anymore help



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