

# On the Road - Part One

## Starting the car

The way you start the engine will depend on the type of vehicle you are driving. Your supervisor/instructor should advise you on this.

You should maintain the same routine every time you get behind the wheel.

- Run through the 'Cab Drill' checklist.
- Disable the antitheft device or alarm (if fitted).
- Manual vehicle – push the clutch pedal in and select the neutral gear.
- Automatic vehicle – select park.
- Right foot on the brake.
- Check the key is inserted correctly and the steering wheel is not locked.
- Turn the key to the first position and check that the required warning lights come on.
- Turn the key to start the engine.
- Notice that all the warning lights have gone out except for the hand brake light.

Make sure you perform this check so that it is obvious to your supervisor and instructor, as it shows that you understand and can demonstrate the correct procedure.

### **Quick checklist:**

- ✓ Start the vehicle correctly and keep engine running.
- ✓ Vehicle is stationary when engine starts.
- ✓ Know what to do with your vehicle if the engine does not start the first time.

## Moving off

Follow a set sequence to ensure the vehicle moves off safely. Even if you know there are no other vehicles around, you must still carry out all required checks. This will show your supervisor and the assessor you understand and can demonstrate the correct procedure. Follow the appropriate checklist to assist you with moving off.

### **Manual vehicle**

- Select first gear and return your hand back to the steering wheel.
- Check your interior and side mirrors to make sure it's safe to go.
- Indicate your intention to move away from a kerb by indicating right.
- Slowly bring the clutch up to friction point.
- Slightly increase the engine revolutions (revs) by putting pressure on the accelerator.
- Check your blind spot by looking over your right shoulder.
- Release the handbrake.
- Slowly release the clutch pedal and gently increase the pressure on the accelerator.
- Cancel the indicator.
- Recheck your rear vision mirror.



## Automatic vehicle

- Select drive and put your hand back on the steering wheel.
- Check your interior and side mirrors to make sure it's safe to go.
- Indicate your intention to move away from a kerb by indicating right.
- Check your blind spot by looking over your right shoulder.
- Release the handbrake.
- Move right foot to accelerator and slowly increase the engine revs.
- Cancel the indicator.
- Re-check your rear vision mirror.

### Quick checklist:

- ✓ Give correct indication.
- ✓ Check mirrors and blind spots.
- ✓ Move off in the correct gear without jerking the vehicle.
- ✓ Rectify mistakes if made.
- ✓ Don't allow any mistakes to affect other areas of your driving

## Stopping

To pull over and stop the vehicle use the same steps as **moving off** but in reverse.

When deciding where to pull over, ask yourself the following questions:

- Is it safe and legal to park here?
- Will I be holding up traffic if I stop here?

Stop the vehicle next to the kerb, leaving approximately 20 centimetres between the car and kerb. Follow the appropriate checklist below to learn more about stopping your vehicle:

## Manual vehicle

- Check your rear mirror to see what is behind your vehicle.
- Indicate your intent to move left using the left indicator.
- Check your blind spot over your left shoulder.
- Gently lift your right foot off the accelerator and apply firm, even pressure to the brake pedal.
- Gently increase pressure on the brake, slowing down the vehicle's speed.
- Steer the vehicle toward the kerb so you are parallel to it.
- When you have almost stopped the vehicle, release the brake slightly then gently reapply the brake.
- Press in the clutch.
- Bring the vehicle to a complete stop and apply the handbrake.
- Cancel the indicator.
- Select neutral and slowly release the clutch.
- Apply the handbrake and release the brake pedal.



## Automatic vehicle

- Select 'park' instead of neutral

### Quick checklist:

- ✓ Do not jerk the vehicle or strain the mechanical parts when stopping.
- ✓ Stop within one metre of the required point.
- ✓ Give correct indication if required.
- ✓ Select the correct gear prior to moving off.

