HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS
KNOWLEDGE TESTING

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

Applicants may take the test twice on an individual application and this must be done within three months.

In Cheshire East, taxi’s are currently regulated under three zones which represent the areas of the former district councils. You will only be tested for the zone you have applied to work within.

The zones are as follows:

- Crewe Zone: Crewe and Nantwich and surrounding rural areas
- Macclesfield Zone: Macclesfield, Wilmslow, Knutsford, Poynton, Alderley Edge and surrounding rural areas
- Congleton Zone: Congleton, Sandbach, Holmes Chapel, Middlewich, and surrounding rural areas.

The test is in three sections and ALL sections must be completed at a pass level.

Pass marks on sections will not be carried forward and no two tests will be exactly the same. There is one test date per month with the limited places allocated on a first come first serve basis.

If an applicant fails on both attempts they must wait for three months following the final test before re-applying. This period should be used to revise relevant information.

Fees may be refundable. However, the Council is not able to refund the part of your fee used for the Disclosure and Barring (DBS) check (£48.00), a DVLA licence check (£5.00) or your knowledge test fee(s). The knowledge test fee is £40.00 per test.

A new application will incur the full fee, a new Medical Report and new DBS check.

Please arrive at the test venue at least 15 minutes before your test is due to start. Please do not be late for your appointment. Any applicant who is late (not present 15 minutes before the test time) will not be allowed to sit the test on that day. They will also ‘lose a turn’ on their application. If they fail to attend a second test, their application will be closed.
Tests will be arranged and are conducted by the Licensing Team. Any decisions of a Licensing Officer are final.

Test results will be provided in writing and within 10 working days of the test date.

A licence will only be granted when all relevant have been returned to the Licensing Section and are satisfactory. Your licence will be granted 5 working days after all checks or documentation have been received, verified and confirmed that a licence can be granted.

Applications may be determined by the Council’s General Licensing Sub-Committee. Applicants should carefully consider the Council’s Policies and Conditions before making an application. This includes the Council’s Policy in relation to Convictions and motoring offences. You will be informed in writing if your application is to be determined by the Sub-Committee and you may be asked to attend an interview with a Licensing Officer.

**THE KNOWLEDGE TEST**

The test consists of three sections:

**Section One – Geographic knowledge**
Written questions where you must describe a route between two points in the locality of your chosen test area. As the area covered by Cheshire East Council is so large, you can opt to answer 10 out of 15 questions about geographic knowledge for the area. The questions will be landmark to landmark, for example:

- Train Stations / Bus Stations / Airports
- Public Buildings (eg schools/colleges, hospitals, libraries, police stations, Council buildings)
- Leisure destinations (eg tourists destinations, leisure centres, pubs/restaurants/hotels)
- Supermarkets
- Existing taxi ranks

**Section Two – Licensing conditions and legislation**
Multiple choice (tick/check box) and consists of twenty five questions on Taxi/Private Hire Licensing Legislation and The Council’s Conditions. The pass mark is twenty one.

**Section Three – Highway Code**
Multiple choice (tick/check box) and consists of fifteen questions on the Highway Code. The pass mark is eleven.

**SAMPLE QUESTIONS**

**Section One – Geographic Knowledge**

This section of the test is designed to test your knowledge of the local geographical area
There are 15 written answer questions - Select and complete 10 of your choice:

In this section the answers are written. You are required to describe a route from start point to destination and must include as many road names and/or numbers as possible with junctions and turning left or right (first, second exit etc.). Unless otherwise stated you should assume that you are driving a hackney carriage vehicle and that all roads are clear from obstruction and that no waiting time would be incurred.

**ONLY YOUR FIRST TEN ANSWERS WILL BE MARKED.** Any other answers will be disregarded. Please leave the questions you have not chosen blank.

DO NOT describe the WHOLE route using landmarks only. Landmarks may be used to enhance the description of the route. For example: From A34 turn left into Lawson Street (after White Lion Pub) but not in place of road names or numbers. You can use road names or numbers or both. You can also use abbreviations or symbols (eg arrows) in your answer. To be given a correct mark you must use the lawful route and the answer must make sense (eg can someone unfamiliar with the area follow your answer).

The pass mark for this section is 8/10

**Examples and Model Answers**

| Example: The Kings Lock Inn, Middlewich to George & Dragon, Holmes Chapel |
| Answer: Cross the bridge and turn right onto the A533 Booth Lane  
At the end of the road turn right onto Kinderton Street  
At the round about go straight on (second exit) onto Holmes Chapel Road (A54)  
Go Over the M6 onto Middlewich Road  
Destination on the left before the mini round about |

| Example: Bombardier Transportation, Crewe to Best Western Crewe Arms Hotel |
| Answer: Leave the main entrance of Bombardier  
Third exit onto Dunwoody Way (A5078)  
First exit staying on Dunwoody Way  
Go straight onto Wistaston Road  
Continue onto Oak Street  
At the roundabout take the second exit onto Mill Street  
At the box junction turn left onto Nantwich Road  
At the round about take the first exit (Tommy’s Lane) hotel on your left |

| Example: Sutton Hall to Lyme Green Business Park |
| Answer: Leave Sutton Hall onto Bullocks Lane  
Turn right onto Robin Lane  
Turn right onto Lindrum Avenue  
Turn right onto A523 (London Road)  
Turn left into Winterton Way (Destination) |
Section Two - Local Conditions and Legislation

This section is designed to test your knowledge of Licensing Conditions. It has 25 questions and the pass mark for this section is 21 correct answers. There is only one correct answer. Please put a tick/check next to the correct answer.

1. Where must a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver’s Licence be kept?
With the proprietor of the vehicle □
In a safe place □
In the vehicle at all times □
With the driver at all times. □

2. What route must you NOT take when carrying passengers?
A route requested by the passenger □
The route that unnecessarily prolongs the journey □
The shortest possible route in time □
The shortest possible route in distance □

Section Three - Highway Code

This section of the test is designed to test your knowledge of the Highway Code. It has 15 questions and the pass mark for this section is 11 correct answers. There is only one correct answer. Please put a tick/check next to the correct answer.

1. What is the typical stopping distance for a car travelling at 70mph
86 meters (282 feet) □
96 meters (315 feet) □
102 meters (335 feet) □
106 meters (348 feet) □

2. What is the meaning of this sign?
T-junctions □
No through way □
No turning left □
Give way □