

SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

HACKNEY CARRIAGE KNOWLEDGE TEST SYLLABUS

**Covering the areas of Sheppey, Sittingbourne,
Faversham and rural areas**



Guidance

Why do we have a Test?

By including a Knowledge Test as a compulsory part of the application procedure the Council wish to assist drivers that are licensed to comply with the law and to increase the professionalism of the trade.

The law, amongst other matters, requires that no licensed driver shall without reasonable cause unnecessarily prolong, in distance or in time, the journey for which their vehicle is hired.

The test is intended to assess how well you know the Swale area and could therefore pick up and deliver your passengers via the shortest routes and therefore with the minimum of delay.

What is included in the test?

The test consists of 40 questions in four parts;

Part 1 – will consist of 9 questions asking for the shortest journey between two points in your chosen area.

Part 2 – will ask 6 questions asking for the shortest journey between two points across the rest of the Borough of Swale.

Part 3 – will ask 5 questions on which street key landmarks are situated.

Part 4 – will consist of 20 questions about the law, Highway Code and the Swale Hackney Carriage Licencing Policy and Local Conditions.

The questions are a mixture of multiple choice or written answers.

The test will last for 1 hour and 30 minutes.

Rules of the Test

- As with any test you are not allowed to consult with anyone else.
- No use of mobile phones is permitted. You will be asked to turn them off and place them in front of you on the table.
- You must bring some form of identification with you when you attend the test, for example your driving licence or passport. Failure to do so may mean you will be unable to sit the test.
- You are permitted to use an A-Z map of the area but no other documents can be brought in, including notes made by yourself.
- The pass mark is 80% meaning you need to get a minimum of 32 questions correct.
- Your answers are marked against a predetermined set of answers. These are based on national information in the questions relating to laws/highway code, information written in the Swale Policy or local conditions, or for the journey questions it is the shortest possible

distance using legal routes. The shortest distance has been calculated using routes that have been driven and compared against google maps (not selecting their offered routes but measuring all possible routes to find the shortest).

What happens next?

- The test papers will be marked within 5 working days from the date of the test. Candidates will be informed using the contact details supplied at the initial application stage. This will give the number of questions they scored correctly and their percentage. If you wish to have feedback, you should call the Licencing officer who will talk through each section.
- Appeals must be made in writing to taxis@swale.gov.uk within 15 working days of the date you sat the test. You may be asked to attend Swale House to go through the paper but won't be allowed to take a copy of the test with you.
- You will be given three attempts to pass the Test. If you do not succeed, you will be asked to refrain from taking the test for 6 months from the date of your last attempt.

How can you prepare for the test?

- There are some example questions below.
- Try driving around your preferred area for a few weeks prior to applying for the Knowledge Test.
- Shadow another more experienced driver.
- Learn the major routes.
- Get an understanding of key landmarks – pubs, businesses, schools, tourist attractions.
- Understand the legislation that relates to driving in general and specifically for taxi drivers.
- Know the Highway code
- Study our local Swale conditions and Hackney Carriage Licencing Policy.
- If you have any learning difficulties please contact us in advance of the test. We are able to make reasonable allowances.

Example Questions

PART 1 – questions asking for the shortest journey between two points in your chosen area (examples of all areas below).

Faversham

1. Faversham Railway station to Faversham Golf Club?
2. Faversham Railway station to Deerton Street?
3. Tesco Faversham to Wheatsheaf Close, Boughton?
4. Stone Street to Ospringe Primary School

Sittingbourne

1. Sittingbourne Railway station to Kent Science Park?
2. Palmerston Walk to Gayhurst Drive?
3. Sittingbourne Railway station to Gore Court Cricket Club?
4. Laxton Way to Sittingbourne railway station?

Sheppey

1. Station rank to Southview Gardens?
2. Tesco to Augustine Road?
3. Dockyard House to Kings Road?
4. Sheerness Station to Nutts Avenue?

PART 2 – questions asking for the shortest journey between two points across the rest of the Borough of Swale

1. Cottage Hospital, Faversham to Sheppey Hospital?
2. St Helen's Road, Sheerness to Fulston Manor School, Sittingbourne?
3. Sittingbourne Greyhound stadium to Preston Street, Faversham
4. Love Lane Faversham to Hempstead House, Sittingbourne

PART 3 - questions on which Street key landmarks are situated?

Landmark Name	Street
Mount Ephraim Gardens	
Barton's Point Coastal Park	
Shepherd Neame Visitor Centre	

PART 4 - questions about the law, Highway Code and the Swale Hackney Carriage Licencing Policy and Local Conditions

1. If you are 19 years old, can you apply for a Hackney Carriage Licence? (please circle answer)

YES

NO

2. Can you wear blue jeans and trainers whilst driving a taxi? (please circle answer)

YES

NO

3. What is the maximum number of points you can have on your DVLA driving licence before you are not granted a licence?

4. What will happen if you are observed using a mobile phone whilst driving your taxi?

5. What does the sign below mean? (please circle correct answer)



a) No traffic lights b) Traffic lights not working

c) Crossing Closed d) Traffic signals not in use

6. Name 2 differences between a Hackney Carriage and a Private Hire vehicle?
