



**2022**

**Unit of Competence for Carriage Driving**  
The Road Driving Syllabus

# Unit of Competence for Carriage Driving :

## The Road Driving Assessment

This assessment is recommended as a minimum competence for driving Equine on the public highway. Candidates who wish to progress through the BDS Levels of Competence must precede the Road Driving assessment with the BDS Preliminary Competence. The Road Driving Assessment is a prerequisite to BDS Intermediate Competence. For candidates using this assessment as a stand alone unit or for candidates with accreditation from Unit 2 of the Preliminary Competence.

Candidates who have a proven driving record, can be accredited for Unit 2, Practical Driving, in the Preliminary Competence. However, these candidates will need to have their driving ability assessed in an enclosed area prior to proceeding onto the roads in Element 2 of the Assessment - Drive on the Public Highway. See page 5 for details. This assessment can be used as a stand alone unit and can be taken in isolation from any other BDS assessment. Candidates using this Assessment as a stand alone unit must also complete the additional requirements found at the end of this syllabus. See page 7.

A certificate of human first aid is highly recommended.



## Department for Transport

The British Driving Society are the official advisory body for Carriage Driving to the Department of Transport

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## Guidance Notes :

### Method of Assessment

This assessment will be assessed by direct observation of the practical performance and oral questioning of the underpinning knowledge section of the syllabus. The assessment will be in line with safe yard practice.

The driving will take place on the public highway, using the English coaching style of driving (reins held in the left hand with the right hand supporting).

Time for completion Approximately 1 hour 30 minutes. Candidates needing the 'Additional Requirements' will need approximately 10 minutes more.

### Assessor Guidance

The successful candidate will be capable of harnessing up safely and efficiently, will drive a single turnout safely, using the English coaching style of driving on the public highway. They will be capable of adjusting pace to suit road conditions, be aware of other road users at all times, observe road traffic signs and signals, show courtesy to pedestrians and other road users and have a sound knowledge of the highway code. They must be able to show effective use of an assistant/groom and be in control of the turnout at all times.

### Candidates

Candidates who wish to proceed to Intermediate level MUST have completed the Preliminary Competence prior to taking the Road Driving Assessment. Candidates MUST be members of the BDS.

Candidates with proven driving experience who have had Unit 2 of the Preliminary Competence accredited, must inform the assessment centre/ location organiser prior to the Road Driving Assessment taking place so that additional arrangements can be made. Candidates can sit this assessment as an isolated assessment. They must also inform the assessment organiser so that additional arrangements can be made.

### Age of Candidates:

16 years and above

### Equine:

Must be 5 years or over with a minimum of 1 year driving experience. They must be safe in traffic. They must be of a suitable size and fitness to convey the candidate and the assessor for a drive on the roads which will last for approximately 45 minutes. Road driving pace is expected. The Equine may be the property of the candidate or be hired or borrowed for the occasion.

**Harness:**

Must be in sound condition and fit correctly.

**Vehicle:**

2 or 4 wheeler. It must be well maintained and suitable for the type and size of the animal and the passengers.

**Venue:**

This must have a safe and secure area for Elements 1 and 3. There must also be reasonably quiet access to suitable public roads but with some real 'hazards' as required for the performance criteria. (Some of the hazards - roundabouts, crossings, traffic lights, etc. - may not be available in such an environment. Questioning or simulation will then be sufficient). A substantial part of Element 2 of the assessment must be completed using the public highway - not a simulation using tracks or estate roads.

**To be successful, the candidate will be successful in all of the Elements in one assessment situation.**

**ELEMENT 1 : Prepare for Road use****Requirements:****Animal:**

Equine, 5 years or over with a minimum of one years driving experience. It must be quiet in traffic and suitable for the requirements of the assessment.

**Harness:**

A sound set of single harness suitable for the Equine and carriage used.

**Vehicle:**

A 2 or 4 wheeled vehicle.

**Location:**

Controlled, secure environment suitable for putting to eg. Stable yard.

**Time:**

Approximately 15 minutes.



### **Performance Criteria:**

- A. Control of Equine is maintained at all times.
- B. Harness is selected and fitted to the Equine.
- C. Horse is put to using laid down procedure.
- D. Health and safety of Equine, self and others is maintained at all times.

### **Knowledge and Understanding:**

- 1. Safety precautions to be taken when handling Equine.
- 2. Importance of safety checks.
- 3. Dangers of inappropriate procedures when adjusting harness.
- 4. Suitability of shoeing for road use.
- 5. All sections of the Road Traffic Act appertaining to horse drawn vehicles (Note these are different in different parts of the country).
- 6. Safety clothing and their use.
- 7. Carrying of adequate spares and their potential use.
- 8. Importance of correctly fitting vehicle to Equine i.e.. length and height of shafts
- 9. Importance of correct length of traces and correctly fitting breeching - demonstrate how you know both of these are correct.
- 10. Discuss the three places horse drawn vehicles aren't allowed.
- 11. Show or discuss how to correctly balance a two wheeled vehicle.

## **ELEMENT 2 : Drive on the Public Highway**

Drive on the public highway using the English Coaching style of driving.

### **Requirements:**

#### **Conditions:**

Genuine traffic on the public highway, varying road surfaces, gradients.

#### **Obstacles and Hazards:**

As encountered naturally on the drive out. The drive must include a substantial part of genuine public highway with road junctions, turns to the left and right, moving and stationary/parked vehicles. Simulation or questioning can be used to cover any of the following that are not covered naturally in the drive - pedestrians, cyclists, traffic lights, road signs, pedestrian crossings, roundabouts, different weather conditions, noise levels, environmental hazards.

#### **Time:**

Approximately 45 minutes.



### **Performance Criteria:**

- A. The vehicle is mounted using safe procedure.
- B. The whip is taken up.
- C. Equine and vehicle are driven smoothly and appropriately to road conditions.
- D. A correct position is maintained in the road to ensure a safe and effective performance.
- E. Naturally occurring obstacles and road hazards are negotiated safely.
- F. Road safety procedures are adhered to at all times.
- G. Full and correct use of your groom/ assistant is made at all times.
- H. Health and safety of Equine, self and others is maintained at all times.
- I. The BDS guidelines and safety rules are adhered to at all times.

### **Knowledge and Understanding:**

- 1. Equine's reaction when working alone and in company.
- 2. Effects of weather on road conditions.
- 3. Application of the Highway Road and Road Traffic Act.
- 4. Use of the whip and voice.
- 5. Types of hand signals.
- 6. Procedure in the event of a road traffic accident.
- 7. The importance of adopting the English coaching style of driving, especially when driving on the highway.

## **ELEMENT 3 : Attend to Equine and vehicle after driving**

### **Requirements:**

As for Element 1

### **Time:**

Approximately 20 minutes

### **Performance Criteria:**

- A. Vehicle is parked and secured at a suitable location.
- B. Equine is taken out of the vehicle using safe practise.
- C. Equine is unharnessed using laid down procedure.
- D. Harness is returned to the appropriate place.
- E. Control of Equine is maintained throughout.
- F. Health and safety of Equine, self and others is maintained at all times.



## **Knowledge and Understanding:**

1. Safe procedure when unharnessing.
2. Recommended cooling down procedure.
3. Method of securing the vehicle after use.
4. Discuss the importance of checking the harness and making sure it is clean.
5. Discuss the importance of the Equine being groomed before and after use.
6. When and how to use assistance.
7. How to make safety checks to the vehicle (Ref Department of Trade Code of Practice)

## **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS :**

For candidates who are using this assessment as a stand alone unit or for those with accreditation at Preliminary Level Unit 2

### **Requirements:**

As for Element 1

### **Location:**

Secure driving area eg: field, driving arena.

### **Time:**

Approximately 10 minutes.

Following completion of Element 1, these candidates (only) will be required to drive in an enclosed area to demonstrate their driving competence and rein handling.

Should the Assessor feel that the candidate is not up to the required standard in competence, style or safety, they will not be allowed to proceed to Element 2 - Drive on the Public Highway of the Road Driving Assessment.

Candidates with accreditation who are not seen as demonstrating the required level of competence will not be allowed to complete this assessment. They must complete the Preliminary Competence Unit 2 successfully before they can retake all of the Road Driving Assessment.



Develop your driving skills with the comprehensive BDS training programme



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