

**HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS LICENCE  
INFORMATION SHEET**

Applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Drivers Licence will be required to undergo a Medical Examination with their own Doctor prior to a Topographical Test and a Driving Test with a member of the Technical & Environmental Services staff. The fee for this Medical Examination will be borne by the applicant and is separate from the Council's Licence Fee. NO TESTS WILL BE CARRIED OUT UNTIL THE RELEVANT FEE HAS BEEN PAID AND A BACKGROUND CHECK AND A CRIMINAL NAME CHECK IS COMPLETED. CHEQUES TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO SOUTHEND ON SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL.

An applicant will be allowed to take a maximum of three Topographical Tests with a minimum of two weeks between each attempt. If by the third attempt, they have been unsuccessful he/she will be required to wait six months for any further attempts.

Should any applicant fail his Driving Test on the first occasion he/she will be required to wait a minimum of four weeks for any further test. If any applicant fails a Driving Test on a second occasion he/she will be required to wait a minimum six months for any further test.

The conditions relating to periods between failed Topographical and driving tests may be varied at the discretion of the Hackney Carriage Officer.

The test aspects covered are as follows:-

1. A test on major streets of the Borough of Southend including minor residential streets.

Applicants will be asked to locate roads in the four sections of the test form, giving the exact location of the road by reference to where the road starts and finishes.

Section A	4	Roads	-main routes	-	All correct
Section B	6	Roads	-through routes )	-	1 incorrect
Section C	8	Roads)	minor )	allowed	2 incorrect
Section D	6	Roads)	residential )	-	3 incorrect

2. A knowledge of the principal buildings and public places in the Borough, pubs, clubs, restaurants, hotels.

Applicants should be asked the location of eight places and be allowed one incorrect answer in either Section of A or B.

3. A knowledge of routes in the Borough. This entails requiring the applicant to describe how he/she would travel between two points, either streets, buildings or public places by the shortest route. The applicant should be asked to give six routes. He is allowed one incorrect answer.

When the applicant has successfully passed the Topography Test, a convenient appointment will be made for a Driving Test to take place. The applicant will be required to produce a current driving licence. The vehicle used for the test should be similar in engine c.c. and body dimensions to that of a Licensed Vehicle.

A test taken in a vehicle with an automatic gearbox will restrict a successful applicant, to be licensed only to drive a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Car, fitted with an automatic gearbox.

The test will be approximately 40 minutes duration and the driver will need to show good car control, consideration and care for passengers and other road users. Any breach of Road Traffic Legislation will mean failure.

The applicant will be required to take a test on Byelaws and full tariff of the district in which he/she wishes to operate

***Hackney Carriage Office - February 2002***