

**HEAVY HORSE TRAINING COMMITTEE**  
**ROAD DRIVING COMPETENCE ASSESMENT WITH THE SINGLE OR PAIR OF**  
**DRIVEN HORSES**  
**(PAIR ASSESSMENT CAN INCORPORATE SINGLE \*supplementary assessment fee applies)**

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The Heavy Horse Training Committee [www.heavyhorsetrainingcommittee.co.uk](http://www.heavyhorsetrainingcommittee.co.uk) | 07831198768

### **Road Driving Competence Guidelines**

This assessment is recommended as a minimum competence for safely driving a single or pair of horses on the public highway

- Candidates will need to have their driving ability assessed in an enclosed area prior to proceeding onto driving on the Public Highway

The competence will be assessed by direct observation of practical performance and oral questioning of the underpinning knowledge. The road driving is to be carried out using the English coaching style of rein-handling (reins held in the left hand with right hand supporting).

The assessor reserves the right to abort the assessment at any point should they deem necessary on health or safety grounds. In this instance no refund fee refund will be offered.

### **MODULE 1 - Prepare for Road Use**

#### ***Requirements***

Horse: 5 years or over with a minimum of one year's driving experience. It must be quiet in traffic and suitable for the requirements of the test.

Harness: A sound set of harness. suitable for the horse and carriage intended for use.

Vehicle: A 2 or 4 wheeled Vehicle

Location: Controlled, secure environment suitable for putting to e.g. stable yard, school, or arena

#### ***Criteria***

- \* Control of horse/s is maintained at all times
- \* Harness is selected and fitted to horse
- \* Horse/s is put to using laid down procedures
- \* Health and safety of horse, self and others is maintained at all times

#### ***Knowledge and Understanding***

- \* Safety precautions to be taken when handling horse/s
- \* Importance of safety checks
- \* Dangers of inappropriate procedures when adjusting harness
- \* Suitability of shoeing for road use
- \* All sections of the Road Traffic Act appertaining to horse drawn vehicles. (Note these are different in different parts of the country.)
- \* Safety clothing and their use
- \* Carrying of adequate spares and their potential use
- \* Importance of correctly fitting harness

### **MODULE 2 – Demonstrate Driving Ability**

#### ***Requirements***

Secure location/driving area e.g. field, enclosed arena/school

**Criteria**

Candidates 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 meeting the required standard of competence, style, or safety, they will not be allowed to proceed to Module 3

**MODULE 3 - Drive on the public highway using the English Coaching style of rein-handling e.g. reins in the left hand, supported by the right hand**

**Requirements**

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 including pedestrians, cyclists, traffic lights, road signs, pedestrian crossings, roundabouts, differing weather conditions, noise levels, environmental hazards.

- \* The vehicle is mounted using safe procedure
- \* The whip is taken up
- \* Horse/s and vehicle are driven smoothly and appropriately to road conditions
- \* A correct position is maintained on the road to ensure a safe and effective performance
- \* Naturally occurring obstacles and road hazards are negotiated safely
- \* Road safety procedures are adhered to at all times
- \* Health and safety of horse/pony, self, and other road users is maintained at all times

**Knowledge and Understanding**

- \* Horse/s reaction when working alone and in company
- \* Effects of weather on road conditions
- \* Application of the Highway Road and Road Traffic Act (NB There are significant local differences)
- \* Use of the whip and voice
- \* Types of hand and whip signals
- \* Procedure in the event of a road traffic accident
- \* The importance of adopting the English coaching style of rein-handling, especially when driving on the highway

**MODULE 4 - Attend to Horse/s and Vehicle after Driving**

**Criteria**

- \* Vehicle is parked and secured at a suitable location
- \* Horse/s are taken out of the vehicle using safe practice
- \* Horse/s are unharnessed using laid down procedure
- \* Harness is returned to the appropriate place
- \* Control of horse/s is maintained throughout
- \* Health and safety of horse, self and others is maintained at all times

**Knowledge and Understanding**

- \* Safe procedure when unharnessing
- \* Recommended cooling down procedure
- \* Method of securing the vehicle after use
- \* When and how to use assistance
- \* How to make safety checks to the vehicle (Ref Department of Transport Code of Practice)

