



Driving Test Tips & Reminders

Things to remember when taking your Practical Driving Test; with photos of some tricky roads found within test routes for **Southampton/Maybush**.

Top tips for your driving test

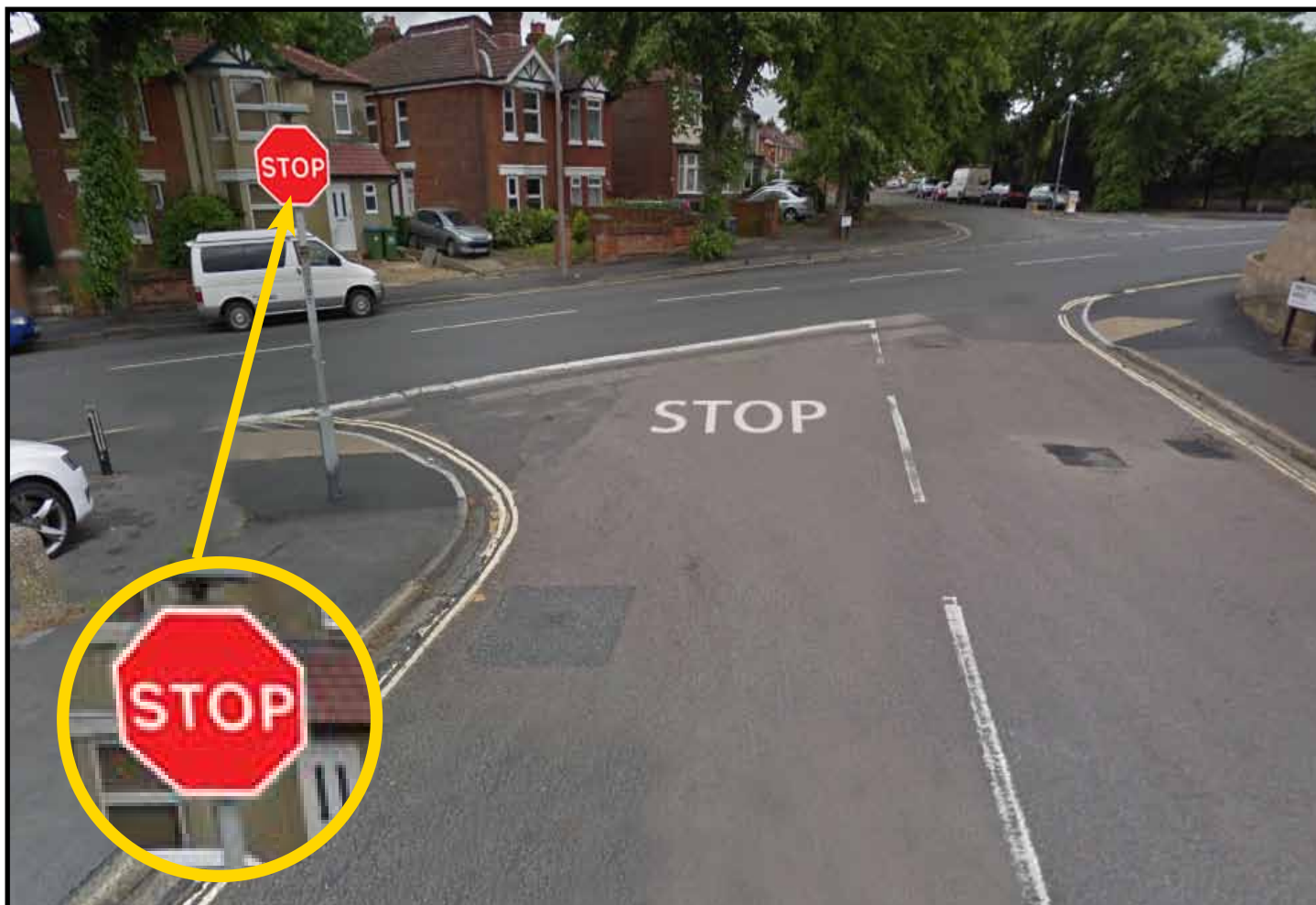
- 1. The biggest driving test tip is not to book a driving test unless you feel ready!** If you don't feel confident, check with your driving instructor whether you are ready for your driving test. It's natural to feel slightly nervous on the day of your driving test. Don't let this worry you too much.
- 2. Don't drive any differently.** Stay calm and drive as you have been driving with your driving instructor, don't drive any differently just because an examiner is sitting next to you.
- 3. Always check your mirrors** and indicate before stopping or moving off if there is anyone to benefit. Look carefully over your shoulders to check your blind spots. Failure to do the latter will most certainly get you a minor fault mark, and could be potentially hazardous to other road users.
- 4. Don't look down at the gear stick** when you change gear during your driving test. You should always keep your eyes on the road, constantly scanning the far, middle and near distance.
- 5. Always indicate correctly and in good time,** this helps other road to know your intentions.
- 6. Do not stop at every junction** during your driving test unless it is necessary. For example, if you stop at a roundabout when it's obvious that you're clear to go, you may pick up marks for hesitancy. However, where the road sign tells you to 'Stop', you must do so.
- 7. Don't get too close to stationary vehicles** or obstructions. Always keep a look out for pedestrians stepping out onto the road.
- 8. If you have to overtake cyclists during your driving test,** give them plenty of clearance (about the width of an average-sized car). Don't follow them too closely.
- 9. When reversing, keep looking round for road users.** Never continue reversing as another road user is passing.
- 10. Use your mirrors before you change speed (up or down),** change gear, stop or move off and whenever you change direction in your driving test.
- 11. If you think you're heading for the kerb when reversing round a corner,** stay calm. Make all round observations first, then pull forward and correct yourself. This is a much better approach than carrying on and hitting the kerb!
- 12. If another vehicle approaches while you're performing a turn in the road during your driving test, don't panic.** Make eye contact with the other driver first - if it's clear that he is waiting for you, continue calmly with your manoeuvre, but check all round first. Otherwise wait until he's driven past you before proceeding. In addition, while you should do your best to complete a turn in the road in three movements, you will not automatically fail your driving test if you take more than three. The important point is to look out for other road users and complete it at a reasonable pace.
- 13. Look at road signs, even if you are receiving directions.** Roundabout signs (for example) will tell you how to approach and treat the roundabout while providing information on which approach lane to take and how to signal.
- 14. Don't panic if you make a mistake during your driving test.** The examiner will not automatically fail you. Remain calm and move on. The national pass rate for the practical test is 42%.

Stop Signs

You **MUST STOP** at a Stop Sign - even if you can see the road is clear. You will not be expected to apply the hand brake, but it is a useful tool to prove you have come to a complete stop. This sign is at the end of Prince of Wales Avenue (Shirley).



You MUST stop at the stop-line - even if you can see the road is clear!



Bus Lanes & Signs

Watch out for signs instructing you to turn. Towards Shirley High Street, signs and road markings inform you to turn left. The examiner will not give you an instruction in this scenario - he/she will expect you to follow the direction signs and road markings.



Roundabouts

Plan well ahead. If you are travelling down a dual carriageway, and the examiner asks you to 'follow the road to the right at the next roundabout'; make sure you move to the right hand lane in plenty of time - you may run out of time to move over if the traffic is heavy!



Traffic Lights: Green 'Right' Filter Arrows

If you are turning right at 'traffic light controlled' crossroads, you **do not** have to wait for the green right arrow! You can emerge into the centre of the crossroads and wait for a break in the oncoming traffic. Make sure you do not drive too far forward, as oncoming traffic may wish to turn in front of you. The green filter arrow is a 'bonus' and usually means oncoming traffic has been stopped.



You DO NOT have to wait for the green arrow before moving forward!



Direction Signs

You will not be given directions by your examiner if road signs direct you. Pay attention to blue circular signs, as these will tell you which direction to travel. This road is near the test centre, it usually appears towards the end of your test.

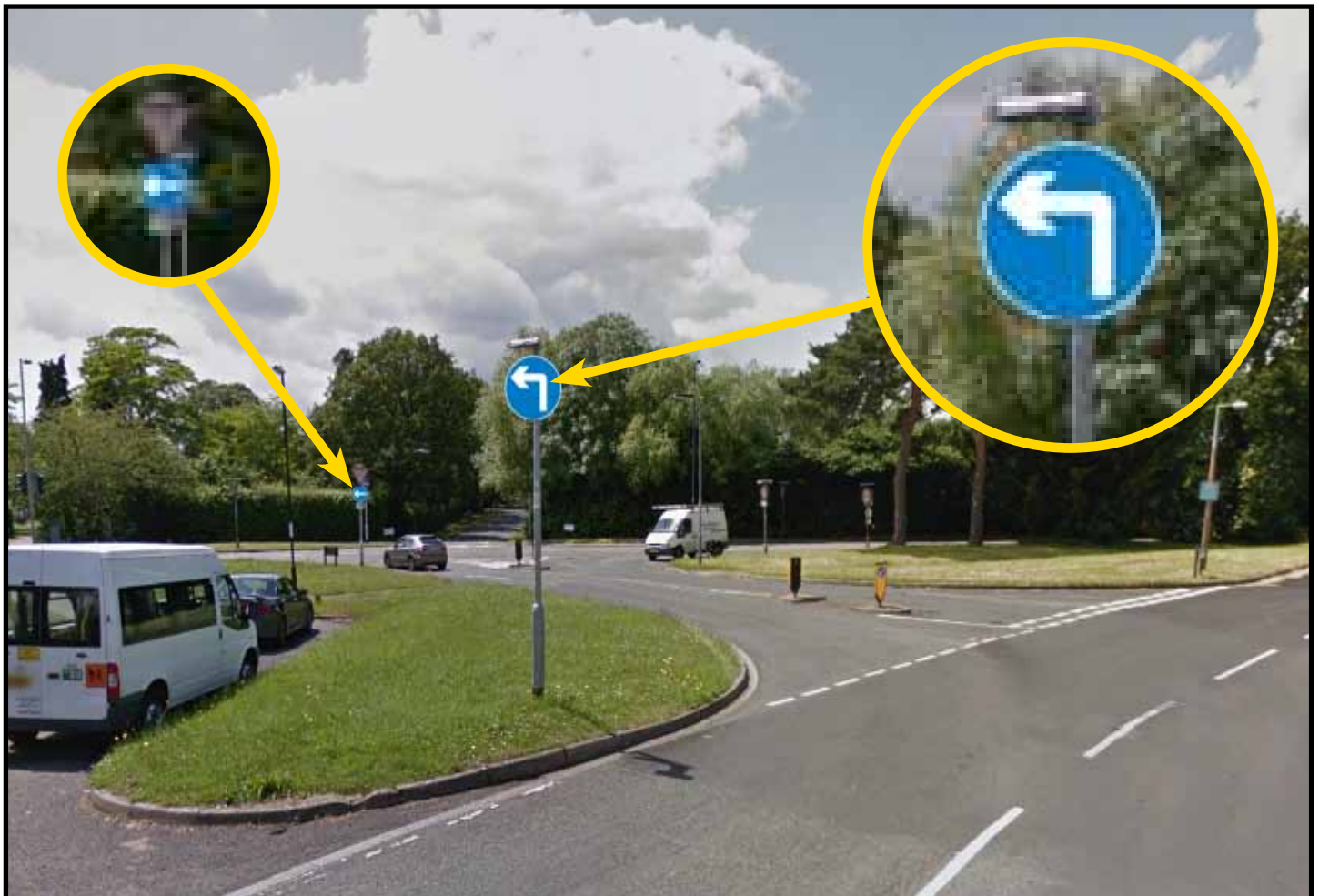


Turn Left Ahead



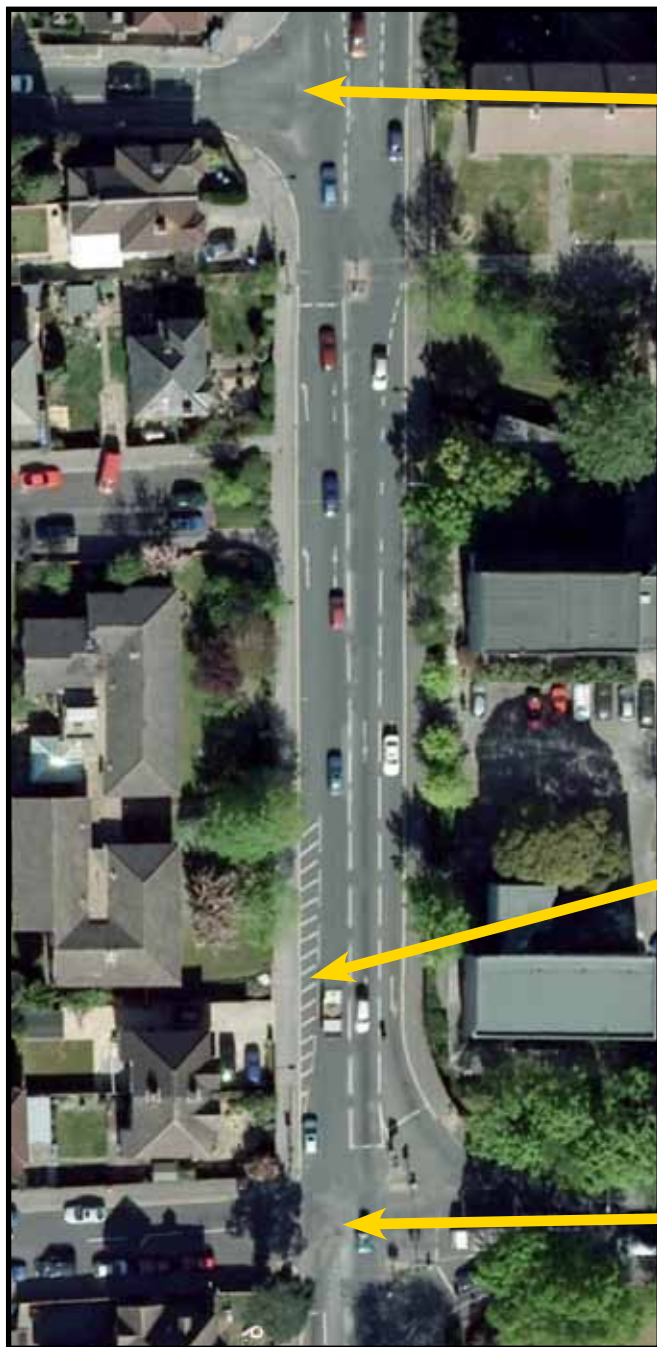
Turn Left

***Pay attention to direction signs!
Look well ahead and remember to
plan your approach.***

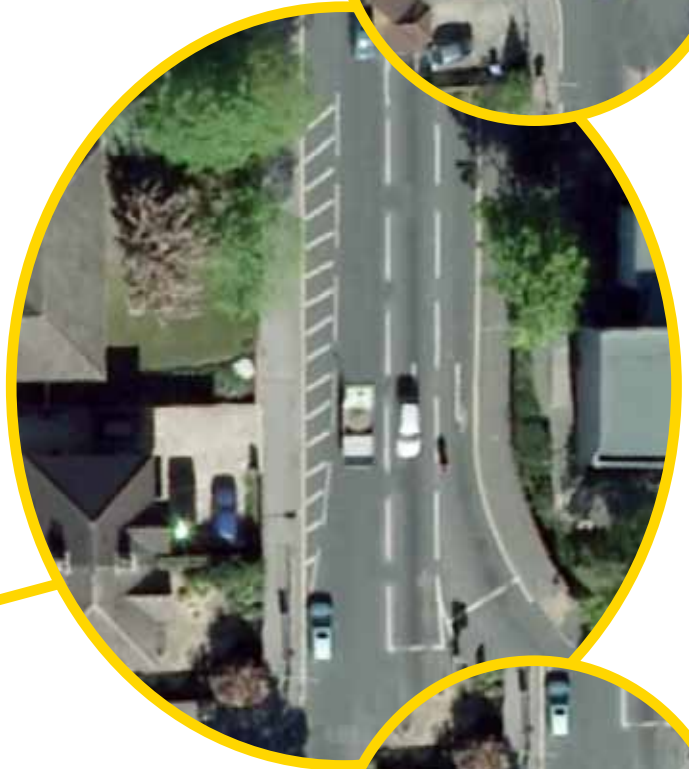


Hatched Markings: Winchester Road

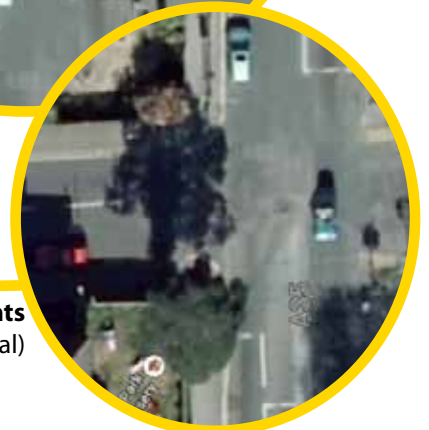
Drivers should not enter hatched areas with broken lines unless it is safe and necessary. The photo below shows Winchester Road as it approaches Dale Road (leading to the hospital). If you are instructed to turn left towards the hospital (second set of lights), you will need to move back to the left hand lane. This needs to be exercised with care, as other drivers often 'wrongly' ignore the hatched markings and may overtake you on your left.



Second set of lights
(left for hospital / Dale Road)

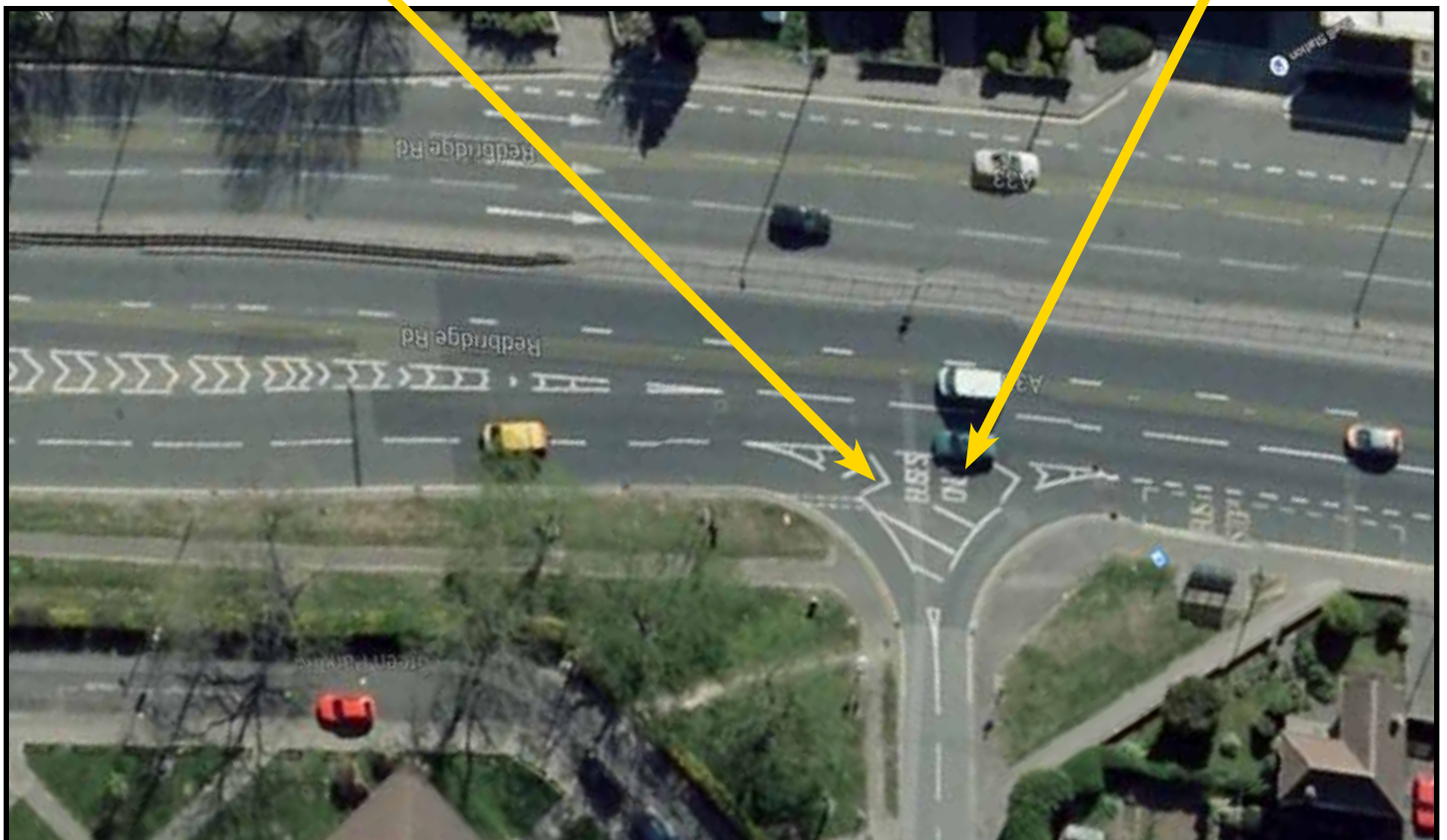


First set of lights
(ahead for hospital)



Hatched Markings: Joining Redbridge Road

Drivers should not enter hatched areas with broken lines unless it is safe and necessary. These markings will aid you when joining Redbridge Road, but you will still need to ensure that it is safe to enter the road, and that approaching motorists do not drive across the hatched markings. Also, remember that in this instance buses are allowed to drive through the markings!



Crossroads: Winchester Road to Romsey Road (towards the Test Centre)

These crossroads are by the Van Garage. If you are asked to turn right (towards the Test Centre), remember to signal early and move over as soon as you can! Don't forget those vital mirror checks.



***Signal and move over early,
or you might be caged in!***

Hill Start: Warren Avenue to Winchester Road

Watch out for the 'Keep Clear' markings because they are very faint. Also be careful not to position yourself too far to the right (as buses need space to swing around; and there are usually parked cars on the right). You will also need to beware of the cycle path on your left. Make sure you set the gas for the hill-start and remember to bring the clutch up smoothly!



Dual Carriageway: Lords Hill Way

Remember the process to enter and exit a dual carriageway. Signal early and avoid slowing down until you have exited (make full use of the slip road and don't be worried about driving through the bus stop). When entering, signal right, check it is safe and increase your speed to merge with the road traffic.

