



Driving  
Standards  
Agency

# National standard for developed driving competence

The standard is for people who want to show that they've maintained and developed their competence after getting their full licence.

# Demonstrate developed skills, knowledge and understanding in relation to the DSA National Driving Standards

## What this unit is about

This single unit standard is about demonstrating that you have maintained, and continued to develop, your competence in relation to the skills, knowledge and understanding set out in the DSA's National Driving Standard (NDS). The NDS set out the competences that the DSA believes an individual must have to be a safe and responsible driver. In particular, Role 5 says that to be safe and responsible a driver must continue to reflect on their competence and on their changing personal circumstances, to:

- check whether their skills, knowledge and understanding is up-to-date
- continue to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding, throughout their driving/riding career

The unit is primarily aimed at those who wish to become approved driving instructors (ADIs). However, it could be used in any situation where an individual needs to demonstrate that they have continued to develop their competence after licence acquisition.

DSA expects that anyone who wishes to be an ADI must demonstrate that they have continued to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding to the point where they can:

- drive a vehicle to a standard that demonstrates 'unconscious competence'<sup>1</sup> in the use of mechanical skills
- scan the driving environment, anticipate and prioritise potential hazards and plan effectively
- make progress safely and responsibly while demonstrating an understanding of eco-driving
- demonstrate and maintain appropriate attitudes to the driving task and to other road users at all times
- talk about what they are doing, and why, with no deterioration in their standard of driving
- comply with The Highway Code, and related legislation, at all times
- explain the competences set out in the NDS correctly and consistently

This unit contains two elements

Element 1.1 – Demonstrate developed understanding of the NDS and The Highway Code

Element 1.2 – Demonstrate developed driving competence

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<sup>1</sup> Where an individual has practised a skill so that it has become 'second nature' and easily performed. As a result, the skill can be performed at the same time as another task.

## Who this unit is for

This unit is for people who wish to demonstrate that they have maintained and developed their driving competence after gaining their full licence.

## Scope

The content of this Standard applies to driving:

- all types of vehicle covered by category B (including small and large, manual and automatic, fitted with electronic driving aids or not)
- on any class of road
- at any time
- in any weather conditions
- with any number of passengers (subject to legal requirements and the manufacturer's specification)
- with any load (subject to legal requirements and the manufacturer's specification)
- for private use and for commercial purposes (subject to relevant legislation)

**Unit 1 – Demonstrate developed skills, knowledge and understanding in relation to the DSA National Driving Standard**

**Element 1.1 – Demonstrate developed understanding of the National Driving Standard and The Highway Code**

**About this element**

This element is about demonstrating that you have developed your understanding of the content of The Highway Code and the National Driving Standard to a level where you can

- demonstrate a thorough objective knowledge of the contents of all sections of both documents
- explain the contents of both documents, showing understanding of how they apply to practical driving

**Performance requirements**

You must be able to

1. answer questions about the meaning and application of any of the rules of the Highway Code
2. answer questions about the meaning and application of any of the elements of the National Driving Standard (category B)

**Knowledge and understanding requirements**

You must know and understand

- a) the subject areas covered in The Highway Code
- b) the rules set out in each section of the Highway Code where failure to comply is a criminal offence
- c) the principles of the general guidance given within each section of The Highway Code
- d) the subject areas covered in the five roles that make up the National Driving Standard (category B)
- e) the competences that
  - each of the roles require
  - a safe and responsible driver should be able to demonstrate

**Unit 1 – Demonstrate developed skills, knowledge and understanding in relation to the DSA National Driving Standard**

**Element 1.2 – Demonstrate developed driving competence**

**About this element**

This element is about demonstrating that you have developed your driving skills to the level where you can

- demonstrate ‘unconscious competence’ in the deployment of mechanical skills
- make effective progress taking into account all external factors
- provide an explanation of what you are doing, and why, with no deterioration in your standard of driving
- deal with any personal or emotional factors that might affect your ability to drive safely and responsibly

**Performance requirements**

You must be able to

1. make progress on the road safely and responsibly
  - while driving a variety of category B vehicles
  - in urban and rural environments
  - on any class of road
  - at various times of day
  - in differing lighting and weather conditions
2. apply a systematic approach to driving to ensure that, at all times, you
  - are aware of what is happening on the road around you, including behind you
  - respond to all road signs and markings correctly
  - prioritise emerging and actual hazards and plan to deal with them effectively

**Knowledge and understanding requirements**

You must know and understand

- a) the main differences in configuration and technology that are found in category B vehicles
- b) how to modify your driving to take into account the differing conditions and hazards that you are likely to find
  - on different classes of road
  - in different levels of traffic
  - at different times of the day and night
  - in differing lighting and weather conditions
- c) how to apply a systematic approach to driving, such as Mirrors, Signal, Manoeuvre – Position, Speed, Look (MSM-PSL)
- d) how to balance and combine the demands of safe driving and the principles of eco-responsible driving

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• select and maintain a suitable position on the road</li> <li>• travel at a suitable speed</li> <li>• select the appropriate gear to be able to manoeuvre your vehicle, respond to hazards and minimise the environmental impact of your vehicle</li> </ul> <p>3. give a verbal commentary about</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• what you see on the road around you</li> <li>• what you understand about the principles of eco-driving</li> <li>• how you adjust your driving in response to what you have seen and what you understand</li> </ul> <p>with no reduction in driving competence</p> <p>4. maintain appropriate attitudes to all other road users at all times</p>	<p>e) how to give a simple commentary on your driving that allows an observer to understand how you</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• scan your environment</li> <li>• plan how to make progress</li> <li>• make sure you are safe</li> <li>• minimise the environmental impact of your vehicle</li> </ul> <p>f) how to deal safely and effectively with any negative attitudes and emotions that might be triggered while driving, such as anger at other drivers who you believe are driving dangerously</p>
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