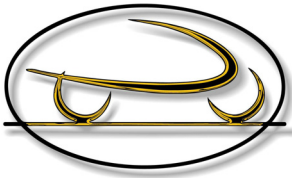


Frequently Asked Questions

- **I have a full car licence, do I need to do a theory test and take a CBT to get a full bike licence?**
- Yes. Everyone must take a motorcycle theory test and CBT before they can take the motorcycle practical test. The only exception is for someone who has already passed a Motorcycle or Moped test, and wants to upgrade to a higher power machine.
- **I am taking my car test and my bike test within 2 weeks of each other. Do I need to do 2 theory tests?**
- Yes you do. When you take your car test your examiner will want to see a car based theory test pass certificate, likewise on your bike test you will be required to show a valid bike theory test pass certificate.
- **So what exactly is a CBT?**
- A CBT (Certificate of Compulsory Basic Training) is issued following the successful completion of a CBT course. In most cases you will complete this course in 1 day, however, there is no specific course length. You will be issued with a CBT certificate (known as a DL196) once you have completed a series of off road exercises and a compulsory 2 hour minimum road ride, demonstrating that you are safe on the road and have full control of your motorcycle or moped. A certificate can only be issued by a DSA qualified CBT instructor.
- **I understand that there are changes to the Practical test which involve some new manoeuvres – what will they involve?**
- As from 30th March 2009 the Motorcycle Test will comprise of two parts. This is being changed to conform to the legislation required by the 2nd European Driving Licence directive. In addition to the road riding section there will be a new off road element which will incorporate a series of manoeuvres which will be conducted on a tarmac area at one of the DSA's new Multi purpose test centres.
- **How will the training course that I take change to reflect the changes in testing?**
- Trainers will try to incorporate as much specific training into their courses to familiarise you with the new manoeuvres. They will, wherever possible practice these in similar conditions to the test – i.e on a large flat off road area. Where this is not possible they will usually break down the manoeuvres and ensure that you are well practiced before the test itself.
- **My mate has a full licence. If I ride with him, can I practice before my CBT course?**
- No. If you do not hold a valid CBT you cannot ride on the road with anyone other than a qualified instructor. The only exception is if you passed your full car licence before 1st February 2001, in which case you can ride a moped on the road without being accompanied by an instructor.
- **I have a provisional licence, what can I ride?**
- With a provisional licence, you are not allowed to ride on the road until you have completed Compulsory Basic Training. Once you have completed the course you can ride a 50cc moped, or if you are 17 years old or over, with category A on your provisional licence, you can ride a learner legal bike up to 125cc. You will also have to display L plates at



all times, and you are not allowed to carry passengers or travel on motorways. Your CBT certificate will only be valid for 2 years, so you will need to renew it, or go on to take your full licence before it expires.

- **What is the definition of a moped? I have a 50cc bike which has a top speed of 40mph...**

- A moped is a vehicle with an engine size of 50cc or less, with a maximum speed of 30mph. *—If your 50cc bike can do significantly more than 30mph, due to modification or tuning, then it is no longer a moped, so your licence and insurance may not be valid!*

- **I want to ride a big bike, around 600cc, what do I need to do?**

- To ride a big bike, you will need a full (A) motorcycle licence. To get one of these, first, you need to be over 21 years old, with either a full car licence, or a provisional licence showing Category A. Next, you will need to pass the Motorcycle Theory test (phone 0870 0101372, with your driving licence number, to book.) Then you will need to complete Compulsory Basic training (CBT). Then you can go on to take your Motorcycle Practical Test, which must be taken on a machine of OVER 46.6bhp or 35kw to qualify for the full licence. *—If you want to practice for the test on a bike of more than 125cc, you MUST be accompanied by a qualified instructor, not just a friend with a full licence.*

- **I want to ride a big bike, around 600cc, but I'm not 21 years old yet. Is there anything I can do?**

- Yes! If you are between 17 and 20 years old you can take the restricted licence route. You will need to start with a licence showing provisional Category A, then you need to pass the Motorcycle theory test, complete Compulsory Basic Training, then go on to pass your Practical Motorcycle test on a 125cc

machine. Once you have passed, you will have a full category A2 (restricted) licence, which entitles you to ride any size of motorcycle, provided it does not produce more than 33bhp, or 25kw. Many larger bikes can be restricted to this power limit, and once you have held a full A2 licence for 2 years, (regardless of your age) it will automatically become a full, unrestricted (A) licence and you can ride any bike you fancy.

- **I took my CBT on a 50cc moped when I was 16 years old. I'm now 17 and I would like to ride a 125cc bike. What do I need to do?**

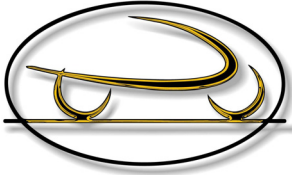
- First, check that your licence shows Category A provisional. If so, you can ride a 125cc machine for as long as your CBT certificate lasts. If your licence doesn't have Category A showing, you will need to apply to DVLA Swansea to get it added on. Once you have got your licence back, you will be able to ride a 125cc machine until your CBT certificate expires.

- **I took my CBT on an automatic scooter. Can I ride a bike with clutch and gears?**

- Yes, provided you comply with the age and engine size/power restrictions mentioned above, the CBT is normally valid for either type of transmission.

- **I took my full licence test on an automatic scooter. Can I ride a bike with clutch and gears?**

- A full licence taken on a bike with automatic transmission will only act as a PROVISIONAL licence for manual bikes, so you will be limited to 125cc with L plates, until you pass a Practical test on a bike with manual transmission.



- **I'm 16 years old, and I've completed my CBT. Is there a test I can do to ride a bigger bike?**
- No. You can take a full Moped test, by first passing the theory and then the moped practical test. You would then be entitled to ride without L plates, and carry a passenger, but you would still be limited to 50cc and 30mph.
- **I have a Full Car licence. Do I need to change it, to add provisional motorcycle entitlement to it, before I can start training for a Motorcycle Licence?**
- In most cases, no. Normally a full car licence would already have provisional motorcycle entitlement, shown as Category A in the green section of an old style paper licence, or on the counterpart of a photocard licence. (You must still have a valid Compulsory Basic training certificate before riding any motorcycle on the road).
- **I have a provisional licence, issued a few years ago. Will I need to change it or renew it before I start training for a Motorcycle Licence?**
- Probably yes! Many older provisional licences had a 2 year limit on Category A (motorcycle) entitlement. The good news is that the 2 year limit no longer applies, but you MUST have it renewed by DVLA Swansea if it has expired, otherwise you will not be able to ride anything bigger than a 50cc moped, even if you have a valid CBT Certificate. DVLA usually take about 3 weeks to exchange a licence.
- **I took my test last year, and forgot to send my pass certificate off to DVLA. Can I legally continue to ride my motorcycle on the road?**
- Once you pass your test you have 2 years from the date of issue to send it to DVLA, after which you will lose all motorcycle entitlements earned as a result of that pass.... You will have to start again, and that includes re-taking your CBT. It is always wise to send off your pass certificate as soon as possible.

For further information contact: Motorcycle Safety Department
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