

THE TEST

- Eyesight check
- Routine safety checks
- Turn the vehicle & trailer to travel in the opposite direction without reversing, i.e. using a roundabout.
- Emergency stop with trailer under full control
- Reversing the vehicle & Trailer as follows:
 - Under full control
 - With good observation
 - On a pre-determined course
 - To enter a restricted opening
 - To stop so that the rear of the trailer is within a clearly defined area
- Select a safe & suitable place to stop the combination reasonably close to the nearside kerb when required – as follows:
 - On level ground
 - Facing uphill
 - Facing downhill
 - Before reaching a parked vehicle & leaving sufficient room to move away again
- Use additional mirrors & observation to compensate for the restricted view caused by the trailer & load.
- Show consideration for other road users including pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists & horse riders.
- Demonstrate a high standard of vehicle control & hazard perception
- Uncouple & re-couple (hitch & re-hitch) the trailer to the vehicle safely

The brake test and reversing will be carried out off the public road – see below.

You will be expected to drive to a very high standard, similar to that expected of heavy goods drivers throughout the exam

Regular use of mirrors is essential, as well as “shoulder checks” on pulling away, traffic islands & junctions

You will drive on a variety of roads and traffic conditions with the examiner for up to 90 minutes.

You will need to demonstrate that you can move off smoothly & safely both uphill & downhill, you will also have to move off normally from the side of the road, & at an angle.

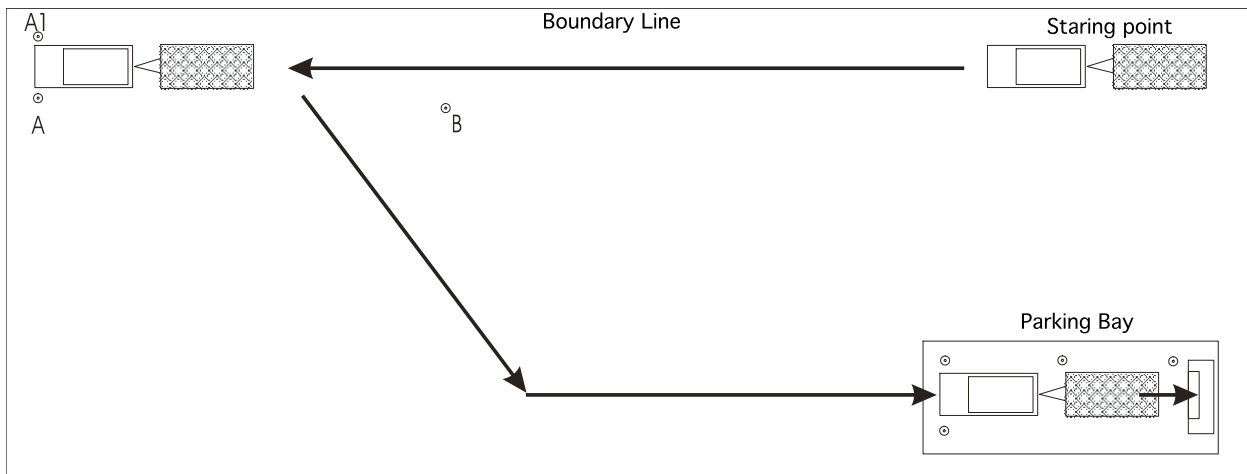
YOU WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO CARRY OUT THE FOLLOWING:

- Emergency stop on the road
- Reversing round a corner
- Reverse parking
- Turning in the road

The brake test will be carried out on the same site as the reversing exercise. You are required to reach a speed of 20 mph when the front wheels pass through a pair of cones, bring the unit to a controlled stop as quickly as possible with the unit in a straight line and without locking the wheels.

THE REVERSING EXERCISE:

This will take place off the public highway, usually at an HGV / vehicle test centre. The size of the reversing area shown below will be set out according to the size of your vehicle & trailer. The diagram below is a rough guide to the layout that you will be test on.



Drive from the starting point into the gate marked by the cones A & A1 with the front wheels level with the cones – DO NOT cross this line. (Cone A1 is only 1 metre from the boundary line !)
TIP – the cones are 1.5 times the widest part of the vehicle/trailer combination – KEEP to the LEFT

Reverse between cones A & B (these are twice the length of the vehicle/trailer)
TIP – TAKE CARE - do not cross the boundary line !

Reverse into the parking bay until the rear of the trailer enters the yellow box (your examiner will show you how far to go in)
TIP – CHECK YOUR REFERENCE POINTS when the examiner first shows you the box.

The overall length of the exercise is 5 times the length of the vehicle/trailer combination
The width of the bay will be 1.5 times the widest point of the vehicle/trailer combination

The length of the parking bay will be based on the length of the vehicle/trailer combination and you will normally be advised to check the parking bay visually prior to driving in to it. At this point you should look for a point of reference to match to the vehicle such as a cone or road marking.

The yellow box that you are aiming at should be the same width as the cones and 1m deep

TIP – if you need to stop the vehicle to check behind remember to first ask your examiner !

TIP – if you do leave the vehicle – PARK properly, STOP the engine, REMOVE KEYS !

TIP – if you have left the vehicle make FULL CHECKS when you get back in – OBSERVATION !

The rear of the trailer should be within the yellow box.