

Reading the Road

Facilitator guide for “Signals, Signs and Right of Way”

AUDIENCE

New drivers preparing for supervised road practice or a practical driving test

DURATION

10 minutes

MATERIALS

Five-slide deck; display large enough for sign details to remain visible

METHOD

Visual explanation, targeted questioning, worked scenarios and a three-item check

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Respond correctly to each traffic signal, including amber and flashing signals.
2. Identify regulatory, warning and information signs by shape and colour.
3. Apply the right-of-way hierarchy at junctions, roundabouts and crossings.

Facilitation principle: Keep the pace brisk, but do not reward speed over accuracy. Ask participants to state the required action—not merely name the signal or sign.

Module opening

01 NEW DRIVER PROGRAMME - MODULE 1 - 10 MIN

Reading the Road: Signals, Signs and Right of Way

The instructions every driver must recognise and act on within seconds. This module covers the three most frequently failed areas in the practical test.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- 1 Respond correctly to each traffic signal, including amber and flashing signals
- 2 Identify regulatory, warning, and information signs by shape and colour
- 3 Apply the right-of-way hierarchy at junctions, roundabouts and crossings

Purpose: Establish relevance, surface prior knowledge and focus attention on the three practical-test risk areas.

Show

Display the title and learning objectives. Give participants a few seconds to scan all three objectives.

Ask / Tell

“Which of these three areas requires the fastest decision from a driver?”

Listen for: signals, because the driver often has only seconds to choose and act.

Tell participants that the module concentrates on the areas most frequently failed in the practical test: signal response, sign recognition and right of way.

Do

Invite participants to choose one objective they feel least confident about. Ask them to keep that objective in mind during the module.

TRANSITION

“We’ll begin with the instructions that change in front of you: traffic signals.”

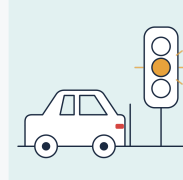
Traffic signals

OBJECTIVE 1 - TRAFFIC SIGNALS

Each signal phase requires a specific driver action

SIGNAL	MEANING	REQUIRED ACTION
 Red	Stop	Stop completely behind the white line and wait.
 Red + amber	About to change	Remain stopped. Select first gear and prepare to move.
 Green	Proceed if clear	Go only when the junction is clear and pedestrians have finished crossing.
 Amber	Stop if safe	Stop at the line unless you have already crossed it or stopping would cause a collision.
 Flashing amber	Give way	Give way to pedestrians on the crossing, then proceed with care.

Sequence: red → red + amber → green → amber → red



Common error: Accelerating on amber. In the practical test this is recorded as a serious fault.

Purpose: Connect each signal phase to one unambiguous driver action, with particular attention to amber.

Show

Point to the sequence across the top, then move down the table one signal at a time. Pause at amber and flashing amber.

Ask / Tell

“The light turns amber and the road behind you is clear. What should you do?”

Listen for: stop at the line, unless the vehicle has already crossed it or stopping would create a collision.

Clarify that amber does not mean accelerate. On green, the driver still checks that the junction is clear and pedestrians have finished crossing. Flashing amber requires giving way to pedestrians before proceeding carefully.

Do

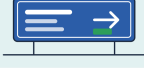
Call out three phases—“red and amber,” “green,” and “flashing amber.” Ask participants to respond with the required action in one short sentence for each.

TRANSITION

“Signals use colour and sequence. Road signs add another clue: shape.”

Road signs

OBJECTIVE 2 · ROAD SIGNS
Shape tells you the sign type; colour tells you the rule

Regulator	Warning	Information
 Regulator Gives an order that must be obeyed. Red ring Prohibits: speed limit, no entry, no overtaking Blue fill Instructs: turn left, minimum speed, keep right	 Warning Alerts you to a hazard ahead. Reduce speed and be ready to act. Red border Junction, bend, crossing, animals, roadworks Inverted Give way: the only inverted triangle	 Information Provides directions or facts. No immediate action required. Blue Motorway directions and services Green Primary route directions

Quick practice. Cover the caption and classify each illustration by shape alone before reading the rule.

Purpose: Build a simple recognition rule: shape identifies the sign type; colour refines the instruction.

Show

Cover or ask participants to ignore the captions initially. Point to the circular, triangular and rectangular examples in turn.

Ask / Tell

“Without reading the sign, what does its shape tell you?”

Listen for: circles give orders, triangles warn, rectangles provide information.

Then add the colour rules: a red ring prohibits; blue fill instructs; a red-bordered triangle warns; blue and green rectangles provide route or service information. Highlight the inverted Give Way triangle as the exception learners should recognise by silhouette.

Do

Point to each illustrated sign in a mixed order. Ask participants to classify it by type first, then state what its colour adds.

TRANSITION

“Recognising the instruction is step one. At a junction, you must also know which instruction takes priority.”

Right of way

OBJECTIVE 3 · RIGHT OF WAY

Apply the priority hierarchy in order until the situation is resolved

PRIORITY HIERARCHY

- 1 Signals and signs**
A working traffic light or a Stop / Give Way sign overrides every rule below.
- 2 Pedestrians on or waiting at a crossing**
Stop and allow them to cross fully. Do not wave them across or overtake at the crossing.
- 3 Traffic already on the major road or in the roundabout**
Give way to vehicles approaching from your right before entering a roundabout.
- 4 Turning traffic gives way to traffic going straight**
When turning across an oncoming lane, wait for a safe gap; do not rely on the other driver slowing.



**SCENARIO A
Roundabout entry**
Circulating traffic has priority. Enter only when there is a safe gap from the right, and signal left before your exit.



**SCENARIO B
Zebra crossing**
A pedestrian steps onto the crossing as you approach. Stop behind the zigzag line and wait until they have reached the far kerb.

Purpose: Give learners a repeatable hierarchy and apply it to a roundabout and a zebra crossing.

Show

Reveal the hierarchy from 1 to 4: signals and signs; pedestrians at crossings; traffic already on the major road or roundabout; then turning traffic versus traffic going straight.

Ask / Tell

“At an unsigned roundabout, who has priority—and what must you confirm before entering?”

Listen for: circulating traffic from the right; enter only when there is a safe gap.

“A pedestrian steps onto a zebra crossing as you approach. Where do you stop, and when do you move?”

Listen for: stop behind the zigzag line; wait until the pedestrian reaches the far kerb.

Do

Ask participants to state which level of the hierarchy resolves Scenario A and Scenario B. Correct the level before discussing any lower-priority rule.

TRANSITION

“Let’s check whether you can now turn each visual cue into the correct action.”

Recap and knowledge check

SUMMARY
Module 1 recap and knowledge check

1 Signal
Amber means stop if you safely can. Green means proceed only when the junction is clear.

2 Sign
Circles order, triangles warn, rectangles inform. Red prohibits, blue instructs.

3 Right of way
Signals first, then pedestrians at crossings, then traffic already on the road or roundabout.

KNOWLEDGE CHECK

Q1. The light turns amber as you approach the line at 30 mph with a clear road behind. You should:

A Accelerate to clear the junction
B Brake and stop at the line
C Continue at the same speed

Q2. A triangular sign with a red border and a black walking figure indicates:

A No pedestrians allowed
B Pedestrian zone begins
C Pedestrians likely ahead

Q3. At a roundabout with no signals, you give way to:

A Traffic already circulating from the right
B Traffic entering from the left
C Whichever vehicle is larger

3 questions - pass mark 3 of 3 - answers in the facilitator notes

NEXT
Module 2: Lane discipline, indicating and mirror routine

Purpose: Retrieve the three decision rules and confirm that participants can apply them without prompting.

Show

Briefly recap the three rules at the top. Then direct attention to the knowledge check and ask participants to answer independently.

Ask / Tell

Read each question aloud without paraphrasing the options. After participants commit to an answer, ask one person to explain the rule behind it before revealing the answer.

Do

Record responses for all three items. The pass mark is 3 out of 3. Revisit the relevant slide for any missed item, then ask the participant to explain the corrected action in their own words.

Q1 • B

Brake and stop at the line. Amber means stop when it is safe to do so.

Q2 • C

Pedestrians likely ahead. The triangular shape warns of a hazard.

Q3 • A

Give way to traffic already circulating from the right.

Close

Return to the objective participants selected at the start. Ask: "What is the one rule you want to remember before your next drive?" Preview Module 2: lane discipline, indicating and mirror routine.