

Improving driver safety through next generation Hazard Perception testing



With more than 1.2m deaths per year resulting from global road accidents, it is well documented that a key contributing factor to road safety is a driver's awareness of, and reactions to, developing hazards.

At Pearson VUE we have been working with leading transport authorities to understand the vital role that Hazard Perception Tests (HPT) play within the Driving Theory Test. The approach used for HPTs assesses the ability of a candidate recognise developing hazards in a timely fashion.

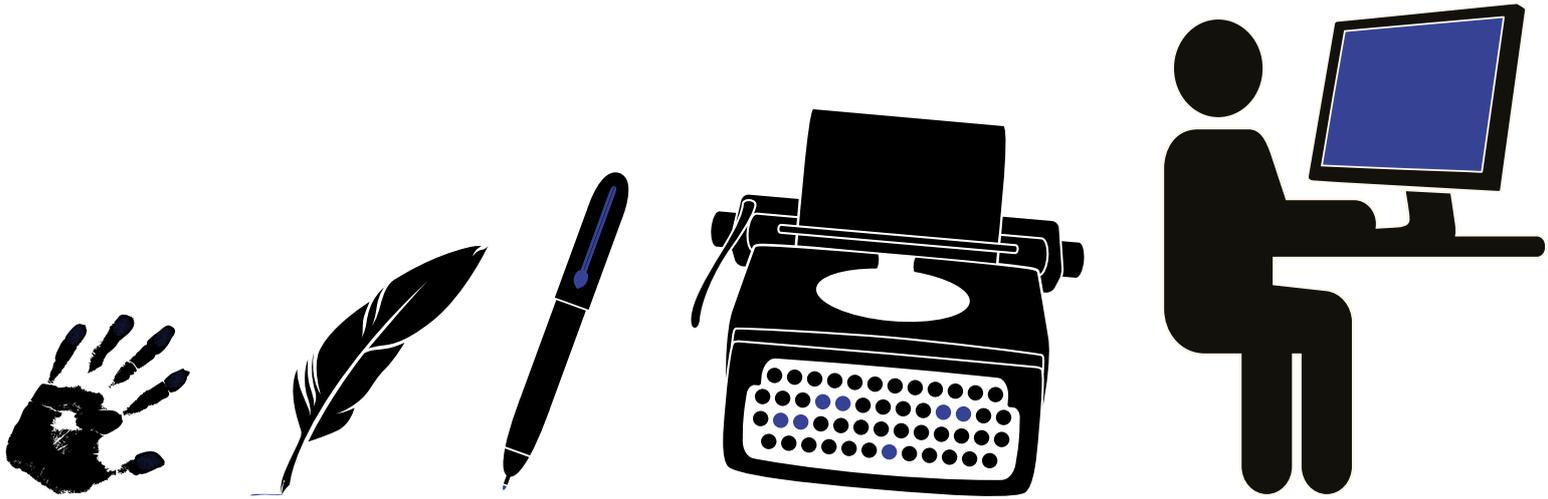
Pearson VUE is committed to developing driving theory tests using proven Computer-Based Testing techniques which not only guarantees that measurement of performance is reliable and beyond dispute, but also allows the use of more advanced technology to incorporate HPTs to assess a greater range of ability.

The virtue of Hazard Perception in the UK

The purpose of hazard perception testing is to enable the assessment of a driver's anticipation, scanning and hazard recognition skills. Delivered as part of Pearson VUE's partnership with the DSA in the UK, candidates have to demonstrate a certain level of hazard awareness to pass the test and thus be able to subsequently take their practical driving test.

Operating through our advanced CBT platform, the current UK Hazard Perception Test is an interactive video where candidates view a series of driving clips which contain at least one developing hazard; the quicker they identify the hazards, the higher they score.

The number of fatalities on UK roads fell by 47% from 2001-2010.



A reduction of up to 1,260 accidents, by introducing HPT per year.

Independent study shows HPT's role in reducing road accidents

A major study⁽¹⁾ of learner and new drivers by the UK Government recently explored the impact of introducing HPT. Investigating the extent to which respondents were involved in accidents after passing their practical test, it looked at the correlation between those who had passed a theory test which included Hazard Perception and those who had passed multiple choice questions alone.

The size of the accident reduction in the first year of driving for those who had taken the HPT compared with those who had not was between 0.3 and 3%. In the UK in 2009 there were 163,554 reported accidents, of which 26% (over 42,000) involved at least one young driver aged 17-24. This suggests that by including the HPT, accidents were reduced by up to 1,260 per year

The next generation of Hazard Perception Test – understanding hazards

Following the proven success of HPT in helping to reduce road accidents, Pearson VUE have been developing the world's most sophisticated HPT.

By harnessing video game technology we have been able to explore the opportunities to take HPT from simply assessing whether a candidate can identify a hazard, to testing whether a candidate understands the hazard, and how to react to it. With our advanced CBT rich media is easily embedded into the testing experience resulting in a better, and more accurate assessment of the candidate.



Notes:

1: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/cohort-ii-a-study-of-learner-and-new-drivers/>



Combining video and CGI to test reactions

Based on a driving simulation, the latest HPT combines state of the art concepts to combine video and CGI. Video enables a realistic driving experience, while CGI hazards provide a more refined testing experience. The advantage of CGI results in multiple testing options, from imbedded multiple choice questions to controlling the driving experience.

Through this next generation HPT there is no 'single' correct answer, but options for assessment are based on:

how the candidate reacts;
how **quickly** they react;
and if it is the **best** way to react.

In addition, the new technology means that customisation is easy and pain free and the test can reflect local roads or layouts across Europe. The hazards can also be adapted to suit individual countries' unique hazards.

Advantages of Hazard Perception Test with Pearson VUE

- Benefiting from state of the art gaming technology
- CGI hazards, with multiple testing options
- A layered approach so difficulty changes throughout test
- A more realistic and accurate assessment for the Driving Theory Test
- Easily adapted to suit any country and authority

Pearson VUE's experience

We have been delivering the Computer Based Driving Theory Test on behalf of the UK's Driving Standards Agency (DSA) since 2004. Since this time the UK has seen a year on year decline in the number of road accidents and in 2009, government statistics showed that UK road deaths had reached a record low, while the European Commission announced the UK as having the lowest number of road deaths in the EU.

Pearson VUE

Pearson VUE® operates the world's most advanced and reliable electronic assessment system. With a global network of approximately 5,200 test centres, we can help to define your assessment needs and design, write and publish tests.

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Ensuring a secure
and hassle-free move to
computer-based testing

