

Saving lives and improving practices with computer-based testing



With over 1.2 million annual deaths the result of global road accidents¹, the key challenge facing transport authorities is to improve road safety. To achieve this, reliable systems which assess drivers' ability and knowledge must be in place.

Although assessment methods vary from country to country, cumbersome administrative processes are often used to manage the delivery of tests and notify candidates of their results. From its experience working with leading transport authorities, Pearson VUE has identified the best measures to assess potential drivers' road knowledge as Theory and Hazard Perception Tests followed by a systematic Practical/Road Test. Delivery of these assessments via computer-based testing (CBT) guarantees that measurements of performance are reliable and beyond dispute, thus ensuring new drivers possess the required knowledge and skills to drive safely. CBT is the most advanced form of assessment and significantly reduces test owners'

costs, time and laborious processes. It also increases efficiencies and allows learner drivers to undertake testing at more accessible locations.

Driving Theory Test

While administering its Driving Theory Test via paper-based assessment, the Driving Standards Agency of Great Britain (DSA) became increasingly aware of the advantages offered by CBT. Following an extensive tendering process, Pearson VUE was awarded a multi-year contract to administer and process the Driving Theory Test via CBT.

"We are very proud to be the first authority in the Middle East to offer driving assessments via CBT. By partnering with Pearson VUE to offer innovative, flexible delivery we have cemented our status as the region's leading transport authority."

Ahmed Hashem Bahrozian,
CEO of the RTA's
Licensing Agency

The DSA's Driving Theory Test is the largest computer-based test in the world, with around 1.6m candidates taking the test every year



In 2009, government statistics showed that UK road deaths had reached a record low², while the European Commission announced the UK as having the lowest number of road deaths in the European Union³. Table One on page three shows the fewest road deaths and injuries per million citizens in Europe during 2009⁴, while Table Two shows the reduction in road deaths and injuries in the UK from 2003 to 2009.

Having learned of the successful partnership between the DSA and Pearson VUE, the Roads and Transport Authority for Dubai (RTA) entered into discussions with the leader in CBT regarding the delivery of an advanced assessment solution. Historically, RTA candidates undertook a traffic sign test to demonstrate their knowledge of the signs and symbols which they would encounter when driving in the Emirate. However, the test did not measure actual driving theory.

Given the RTA's commitment to road safety and technological innovation, the Licensing Agency sought an advanced and comprehensive test solution. With Dubai's population comprised of large

expat communities, the solution had to form a recognisable standard for all residents. Subsequently, Pearson VUE was appointed to deliver the Driving Theory Test on behalf of the RTA – forming the first computer-based test for the Middle East transport industry.

Hazard Perception Test

The DSA also appointed Pearson VUE to publish the Hazard Perception element of its Driving Theory Test.

The Hazard Perception Test is an interactive computer-based assessment which measures learner drivers' ability to spot developing hazards on the road. Before candidates start the test, they are shown a short video which explains its format. They are then tasked with viewing a series of clips which contain at least one developing hazard; the quicker they identify the hazards, the higher they score.

Practical/Road Test

In partnership with Pearson VUE, the RTA will introduce use of a Tablet PC for examiners to assess candidates' performance during the Road Test.

“Our extensive experience in delivering bespoke and pioneering assessment solutions for the transport industry, coupled with our status as the industry leader, has enabled our clients and their candidates to benefit from the most premier CBT service in the world.”

Matthew Poyiadgi,
Managing Director EMEA,
Pearson VUE

Examiners will record their observations without the need for internet connection. Once the test is complete, data is transferred from the Tablet PC to the central management system. This process eliminates the need for paperwork to be entered manually and ensures that the back-end of the management system contains the latest performance information.

In 2013, Pearson VUE delivered over 11m tests worldwide



Effective online registration and scheduling

The solutions created and delivered by Pearson VUE are comprised of robust online registration and scheduling systems for client and candidate convenience. For the RTA, Pearson VUE created a tailored solution which allows candidates to perform online registration and scheduling for their test in Arabic, English or Urdu. They then receive confirmations via e-mail and/or SMS with an SMS to remind them of the location and time of their assessment. Candidates then sit the test, using touch-screen technology, at any of five local driving centres.

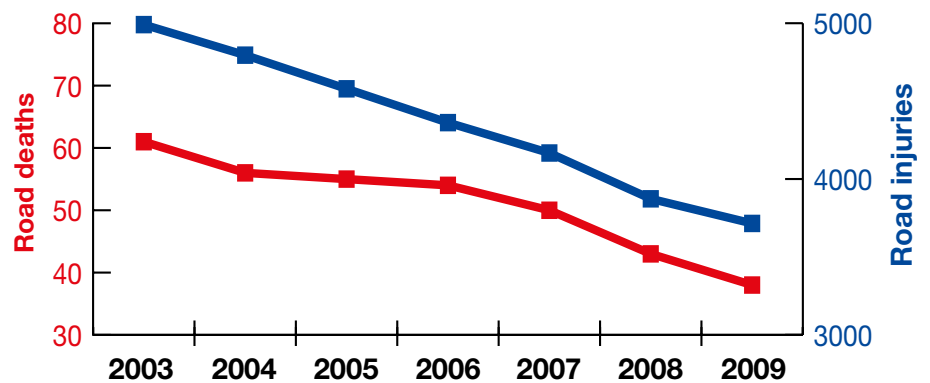
Robust management information for continual improvement

The management information generated by Pearson VUE's CBT systems are easy to use and can be manipulated to show where improvements in learning are required. This allows Pearson VUE and test owners to further enhance assessment and learning experiences. Performance information is transmitted from Pearson VUE's management system in a timely fashion so that test owners are kept up to date of all relevant assessment activity.

Table One: Fewest road deaths and injuries per million citizens in Europe during 2009

Countries	Road Deaths	Road Injuries
Sweden	38	2,757
Great Britain	38	3,715
The Netherlands	44	1,346
Norway	44	2,039
Switzerland	45	3,291

Table Two: Reduction in road deaths and injuries in the UK from 2003 to 2009



- 1 <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs358/en/index.html>
- 2 <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/8118341.stm>
- 3 <http://travel.uk.msn.com/news/articles.aspx?cp-documentid=154177553>
- 4 <http://w3.unece.org/pxweb/>

Americas

Chicago, IL
+01 888 627 7357
pvamericassales@pearson.com

Global Headquarters
Minneapolis, MN
+01 888 627 7357
pvamericassales@pearson.com

Philadelphia, PA
+01 610 617 9300
pvamericassales@pearson.com

Europe, Middle East & Africa

Dubai, United Arab Emirates
+971 44 535300
vuemarketing@pearson.com

London, United Kingdom
+44 0 207 775 6737
vuemarketing@pearson.com

Manchester, United Kingdom
+44 0 161 855 7000
vuemarketing@pearson.com

Asia Pacific

Beijing, China
+86 10 5989 2600
pvchinasales@pearson.com

Delhi, India
+91 120 4001600
pvindiabusiness@pearson.com

Melbourne, Australia
+61 3 9811 2400
pvseasiasales@pearson.com

Tokyo, Japan
+81 3 6891 0500
pvjpsales@pearson.com

Helping authorities to
improve practices
and reduce road accidents

