EzLicence

Instructor Resource

Mock Test Guide

Running a full test simulation that gives learners an honest, pressure-tested readiness check.

What Is a Mock Test?

A Mock Test is a full simulation of the official driving test, conducted by you, the instructor, from the passenger seat. The learner drives as though it's the real thing.

The purpose is to give the learner an honest, realistic assessment of their readiness before they sit the real thing. It gives you a structured record of their strengths and the gaps that still need work.

> The Mock Test is not a teaching session. Do not intervene unless safety demands it. Save all feedback for the debrief at the end.

Before the Session

Each state publishes its own official driving test criteria document. It's the same scoresheet an examiner will use, which is what makes this assessment honest rather than a general impression.

Fill in the criteria sheet as you go, not from memory afterwards — a fault noted in the moment is far more useful to the learner than a vague summary at the end.

Duration and Format

A Mock Test session is booked as 1 hour. How that time is used will vary depending on the learner and the route, but the table below gives recommended lower and upper limits for each phase.

Total session time: 1 hour.

The Three Phases

Phase	What the Instructor Does	What to Look For / Why It Matters
1. Pre-Drive Brief (5 min)	• Explain the format: you will observe only. • Confirm the learner has reviewed the relevant state criteria document (see Annex A). • Set the starting location.	• Confirm the learner understands no feedback will be given during the drive. • Check they are calm and ready.
2. The Drive (40 min)	• Direct the learner using examiner-style instructions only: "Turn left at the end", "Follow the road ahead". • Record faults on the state criteria sheet as they occur. • Intervene only to prevent a genuine safety incident.	• Observe control, observation, and judgement across all manoeuvres. • Note the exact location and nature of each fault, not just a general impression.
3. Debrief (10 min)	• Pull over safely and switch off the engine before beginning. • Walk through the criteria sheet with the learner. Give specific, evidence-based feedback for every fault recorded. • Confirm an agreed plan for what to practise next.	• Watch for the learner's reaction to feedback. Overconfidence or anxiety after the result will affect their real test preparation.
4. Travel and Admin (~5 min)	• Allow time for travel to the start point, parking, and any end-of-session admin. This is included in the 1-hour booking and should not be cut into debrief time.	• If the session is running long, prioritise the debrief - shorten the drive before shortening the debrief.

Fault Assessment

AU driving tests are competency-based. Each state uses slightly different terminology, but the underlying categories are consistent. Use the language from your state criteria sheet when giving feedback.

Fault Category	Effect	When It Applies
Immediate Fail	Fail on the spot	Any action creating real danger, a serious breach of road rules, or loss of vehicle control
Significant Error	Accumulation leads to a fail	A repeated or notable lapse in control, observation, or road law compliance
Minor Error	Noted; not fail on its own	A small imperfection that does not create risk; patterns of minors indicate readiness gaps

> An immediate fail incident during a Mock Test should trigger a direct conversation about readiness. A learner should not book a real test until they can complete a full mock drive without one.

Manoeuvres to Include

A complete Mock Test should cover a representative cross-section of the test syllabus. Your state criteria document lists the exact manoeuvres assessed. As a baseline, aim to include:

- Intersections: give way, stop signs, and traffic lights (turning left and right)
- Roundabouts: single-lane and multi-lane where available
- Pedestrian and school crossings
- Merging and changing lanes on multi-lane roads
- Reverse parking or a three-point turn (check your state criteria for which applies)
- Parking on the left and moving off from a parked position
- Country or higher-speed road sections where the route permits

Vary the route every time you run a Mock Test. Familiarity with a fixed route inflates the result and can mask gaps that would show up on an unfamiliar road.

After the Session

- Debrief the learner using your marked-up criteria sheet. Go through every fault recorded, not a general summary.
- Give the learner their copy of the marked criteria sheet to take home as their written record.
- Set a follow-up lesson plan that targets the specific faults identified.
- If the learner completed the drive with no immediate-fail incidents and minimal significant errors, discuss booking their real test.

> ***A learner who consistently passes Mock Tests is ready to book their real test - trust the result.***

Mock Test Checklist

Use this page as your quick-reference for the session.

Before the Session

- ☐ Download your state's criteria document (see Annex A)
- ☐ Print a copy to mark up in the car
- ☐ Ask the learner to review the criteria document beforehand

During the Drive (40 min)

- ☐ Give examiner-style directions only — no coaching, hints, or corrections
- ☐ Record every fault on the criteria sheet as it happens
- ☐ Intervene only if there's a genuine safety risk
- ☐ Cover a representative range of manoeuvres:
  - ☐ Intersections — give way, stop signs, traffic lights (left and right turns)
  - ☐ Roundabouts — single-lane and multi-lane where available
  - ☐ Pedestrian and school crossings
  - ☐ Merging and changing lanes on multi-lane roads
  - ☐ Reverse parking or a three-point turn (check your state criteria for which applies)
  - ☐ Parking on the left and moving off from a parked position
  - ☐ Country or higher-speed road sections where the route permits
  - ☐ A different route from last time

Debrief (10 min)

- ☐ Pull over safely and switch off the engine before starting
- ☐ Walk through every fault on the criteria sheet
- ☐ Give specific, evidence-based feedback — not general impressions
- ☐ Agree a follow-up practice plan with the learner

After the Session

- ☐ Give the learner their marked-up criteria sheet to take home
- ☐ Set a follow-up lesson plan targeting the faults identified
- ☐ If ready — no immediate fails, minimal significant errors — discuss booking the real test

Travel & Admin (~5 min)

- ☐ Build travel, parking, and admin time into the 1-hour booking
- ☐ Running long? Protect the debrief time — shorten the drive first

Annex A

State Driving Test Criteria

Official government sources by state

Each state authority publishes its own driving test criteria document. Download the relevant document for your state before each Mock Test session and use it as your scoresheet during the drive.

> These links were verified in July 2026. Government sites reorganise periodically. If a link does not resolve, search the authority name plus "practical driving test criteria" to find the current page.

New South Wales

Authority: *Transport for NSW (TfNSW)*

NSW publishes a "Guide to the Driving Test" document covering all competencies assessed, the manoeuvres included, and the conditions for an immediate fail. This is the closest equivalent to a criteria checklist available in NSW.

Guide to the Driving Test (PDF): nsw.gov.au - Guide to the Driving Test

Victoria

Authority: *VicRoads (Department of Transport and Planning)*

VicRoads publishes a driving test criteria document specifically for driving instructors. It lists each competency assessed, how it is marked, and what constitutes a fail. This is the most directly usable scoresheet format of any AU state.

Driving Test Criteria for Driving Instructors (PDF): vicroads.vic.gov.au - Driving Test Criteria (Instructors)

Queensland

Authority: *Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR)*

TMR publishes the Q-Safe practical driving test guides. These cover the full assessment criteria used by examiners, including competency descriptions and fail conditions.

Q-Safe Practical Driving Test Guides: publications.qld.gov.au - Q-Safe Practical Driving Test Guides

Western Australia

Authority: *Department of Transport WA (DoT WA)*

WA's safer driver learner booklet sets out the competencies assessed during the Practical Driving Assessment (PDA), including the manoeuvres required and the standard expected.

Safer Driver Learner Booklet (PDF): transport.wa.gov.au - Safer Driver Learner Booklet