

Notes for the car and trailer (B+E) test

Show me tell me questions

You need to answer five questions from the list (an incorrect response will result in a minor fault – five incorrect responses will result in a serious fault)

Manoeuvring element of the test

Do not knock over any cones (serious fault if you do)

You may pull forward on two occasions only to correct yourself or to prevent the trailer jack-knifing (minor fault for each)

You must not cross the boundary line on either side (serious fault if you do)

You must finish with the rear of the trailer overhanging the yellow box area (serious fault if you don't)

You may get out of your vehicle once only to check your position relative to the yellow box (if you stop and get out a second time the examiner will take that as your final stopping position and judge you accordingly (see previous note)

Hitching & unhitching element of the test

Before unhitching you must apply the trailer hand brake (serious fault if you don't)

Once you have unhitched you must give the trailer a slight push to show that the hand brake is secured (serious fault if you don't)

Before re-hitching to your new trailer you must carry out the following safety checks (serious fault if you don't or if you attach car before doing so) :

Check hand brake applied – push trailer lightly- check tyres for tread depth (1.6mm min) & condition (no cuts or bulges) – check light lens & reflector covers (no cracks with white light showing to rear)- check doors secured-check number plates (correct type, size and number shown-same as tow car)

Reversing up to trailer align mirror on trailer (should see car reg'n number in centre) – do not hit trailer with car (serious fault if you do) – you can get out several times to check positioning of car – you can pull the trailer on to car if you wish

Attach breakaway cable to car before attaching anything else (makes unit safe)

Once the hitch is on the tow ball (green markers should be visible) you must apply an upward pressure to the hitch to ensure it is properly connected (to do this lower the jockey wheel against

the ground until you see the tail end of the car rising – then raise the jockey wheel again to take off the pressure) (serious fault if you don't do this)

Check that lights all function (examiner will help check brake lights)

Driving element of the test – matters of particular importance

Speed in national speed limits must not exceed 10 mph less than that for a car (ie 50 mph on two way roads & 60 mph on motorways & dual carriageways)

Do not use the outer lane on a motorway

Pull out further at junctions to prevent the trailer cutting corners

Do not allow trailer to block junctions, keep clear markings, box junctions or pedestrian crossings

Do not take risks when emerging at T-junctions or roundabouts – allow more time due to added length and weight of unit

Be wary of clearance – particularly to the side of the trailer – allow a doors width clearance