

NASP Common sense guidance for training in car parks

We all want new drivers to have experience of using car parks. Whilst the revised driving test will continue to use DTC car parks for reversing into a bay, Examiners will now also use publicly accessible car parks for the driving into a bay and reversing out exercise. This will be done on one in four tests.

When taking your pupils on a training session focused on parking manoeuvres, there are a large number of publicly accessible car parks you should be able to use in your local area, outside of DTC car parks. Consider hotels, public houses, community centres, the parking areas of local parks and recreation grounds etc, which are usually free to use and less congested than those around shopping centres.

For this specific manoeuvre, the Examiner will ask the candidate to park in a bay. This is the instruction they'll give to drive forward into a parking bay.

"I'd like you to drive forward into a convenient parking bay finishing within the lines, either to the left or the right (if the car park allows it).

"Now, I'd like you to reverse out either to the left or the right (if the car park allows it)."

The candidate does not need to park in a bay where there are vehicles in adjacent bays. Candidates will not be allowed to drive through a first parking bay, and then park in a bay directly in front of that. When they reverse out, they can go back into any empty bay directly behind them.

Some car parks charge for parking, different car parks have different systems. It is important for trainers to be aware that some car parks use Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology to enforce their charges. Conditions vary in different car parks and some car parks may allow a short period of grace before charges start, in some car parks entering twice in one day or within a set period (e.g. 2hrs) may mean that a fee is payable.

We all want to keep car park owners and operators happy with pupils practising on their premises (meaning they continue to allow access) therefore driver trainers should try to make sure they:

- utilise car parks when they are quiet;
- take account of customers using the car park and don't get in their way;
- don't overcrowd a car park if other ADIs are already using the space;
- pay and display in "pay and display" car parks, if they are going to be any longer than the allowed "free" period
- stay away from car parks known to be on test routes during test times;
- observe car park speed limits and directional signage

NASP members are working with parking operator groups to promote the benefits of allowing ADIs and pupils to use their premises for practice and it is hoped that, as a result of this, more parking operators will open up their premises to learners and their trainers.