

## Rob Knowles Standards Check 7<sup>th</sup> October 2014

- ADI: Rob
- Pupil: Chris (Experienced Full Licence Holder)
- Lesson Subjects: Making Progress on Faster Roads & Effective Use of Mirrors.

I met the examiner at 12pm in TC waiting room & he asked to see my ADI badge.

- I explained that Chris was very low on confidence when it came to making progress on national speed limit single carriageway roads & her use of mirrors was quite poor so they would be the areas we'll be working on today.
- The examiner told me that once we were in the car to get started with the lesson straight away. He asked me to try & be back at the TC by about 12:50
- The examiner then introduced himself to Chris & thanked her for giving up her time to help out today.

### The Standards Check:

1. Once in the car, I explained to Chris that today was just going to be a normal lesson & that The Examiner was there to make sure I was teaching her correctly.
  - I asked Chris if she knew what the effects of having an extra passenger in the car were.
  - Chris replied that we would be using more fuel as the car was heavier so more gas would be needed.
  - I then asked Chris to look in her rear view mirror & tell me if she noticed anything different
  - She replied that she couldn't see as much as normal because The Examiner was there.
  - I then asked Chris what she would like to do on her lesson today.
  - She replied that she would like to be more confident driving at higher speeds as she gets overtaken quite a lot.

- I asked her why she thought so many people were overtaking her & she replied it was because she had trouble getting over 45mph.
- I asked what could be dangerous about that. She replied that someone might overtake her on a bend & an accident might occur.
- I asked Chris how we could know if someone was about to overtake us & that led us nicely onto the mirrors subject.
- I asked when we should check mirrors (changing speed & direction etc.) & why should we regularly check them. Chris wasn't sure of the answer to this so I explained the dangers of people tailgating us etc.
- At this point I asked Chris how confident she felt on a scale of 1-10
- At that moment. She replied 3 so I explained that our aim today was to get that number higher by the end!
- I then asked her how much input she would like from me throughout the lesson?
- She told me she would like me to ask her plenty of questions & to let her know how she was doing throughout the drive.
  - “And finally Chris, as the driver you are ultimately responsible for the safety of this car & your passengers.
  - If however, I see a situation developing that I think you might not have seen I will intervene.
  - That intervention might be verbal but if necessary I will use my dual controls or help with the steering wheel.
  - Do you understand & accept what I have just said?” She replied yes.
- I told her that her first job was to make sure that her passengers were secure & that all head restraints were correctly adjusted.
- Chris checked that I & The Examiner had our seatbelts on & head restraints were correct which they were.

**The above took 4/5 minutes to complete.**

### **The Drive:**

As the new buzzword is risk I asked Chris constantly;

- What potential risks she could see in front of her instead of using the word hazard. I don't know if it made any difference but thought it might go down well!
- Lots of Q&A about anything & everything that was going on. Lots of questions from me about the mirrors obviously.

On the first national speed limit road I encouraged Chris (completely over the top encouragement!!) to get a move on.

- After 15 minutes or so I asked Chris to start telling me what she could see in front of her & how she was going to approach it.
- At one point, we were turning left at a roundabout & a van came flying round without signalling. I decided against using the duals as I deemed it unnecessary but wondered if my hatred of people doing that & wanting to teach them a lesson had just screwed up my SC?!
- You really do forget sometimes that the examiner is in the back! Anyway, nothing I can do about it now so on we go.

Although Chris was making really good progress with her speed I was starting to worry about the mirror issue. It wasn't being fixed towards the end so I started to worry about how this would affect the outcome. She kept signalling before checking her mirrors & despite me trying every trick in the book it kept happening! I was seriously starting to wonder if I should have used a learner instead of someone that was so set in their ways?!

At one point we went through an industrial area. Lots of offices so I asked Chris what she should anticipate coming across as it was lunchtime?

- She said that there might be a lot of pedestrians around on their lunch breaks.
- I constantly used the words 'Anticipation' & 'Risk' throughout the drive.

### Back at the Test Centre:

- I asked Chris how she thought today's lesson went?
- She replied that she was so happy that she was able to drive at higher speeds. I praised her (again, completely over the top!) & told her that she had done really well & in my opinion had made so much progress today.
- I then asked if she thought there were any areas she could improve on.
- Immediately she said she felt that her mirror work was still quite poor & that she wanted to put that right.
- I asked on a scale of 1-10 how confident did she now felt after the drive. She said she felt great about her speed today so a 7 was how she felt now.
- I asked what she would like to work on her next lesson.
- She replied that she'd like to do some dual carriageways. I said that as the mirror work hadn't gone too well today I would prefer to work on that a bit more before taking her on dual carriageways as ineffective mirror use on multi-lane roads can be very dangerous. (I really wasn't sure if this was the right thing to say as the client had asked to do something but I kind of said no!)
- I congratulated Chris on a very good lesson (I had no idea if it had been a good lesson in The Examiners eyes!!)

**The above took about 3/4 minutes.**

### The End:

The Examiner thanked Chris for her time & wished her luck with her future lessons. He told me he'd be back in 10 minutes.

- It was the longest 10 minutes of my life!!

## The Debrief:

- The Examiner came back & asked me to join him across the road away from the car.
- The first thing he said was he really enjoyed the lesson. He said me & Chris worked very well together & she was the perfect person to bring to a standards check (very chatty!)
- He said I should have asked more questions about why certain roads are certain speed limits (built up areas etc) but other than that he thought it was an excellent lesson. Phew, no mention of the van at the roundabout!!
- He also said that Chris seemed very confident at the end so I should have warned about the dangers of over confidence.
- He also told me that I was right to say that the mirror issue needed sorting out before we went on dual carriageways! He said that sometimes what the client wants to do is not realistic at that stage so it's our job to explain that to them.

He then told me I got an A. Shake of hands, keep up the good work & that's it. I must add that the Examiner was excellent. He was very encouraging at the start, told me to relax & just do the job I've doing for 12 years but with a bit more sparkle today.

- I scored 12/12 for lesson planning
- 14/15 for risk management (Maybe saying the word risk over & over again did help?)
- 20/24 for Teaching & Learning strategies
- 46/51 in total

I hope this document helps those that have their Standards Check coming up. I've learnt so much from Donna Smiths Standards Check group so I just wanted to put something back in to it.

Please feel free to message me through Facebook if you have any questions or email me at [rob.knowles@sky.com](mailto:rob.knowles@sky.com). Very Best of Luck!

Rob