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FTT Cheat Sheet

The essentials of the Final Theory of Driving handbook on two pages. The test: 50 questions in 50 minutes, pass with 45 correct.

Key numbers

3
pedals in a manual car: clutch, brake, accelerator
p.5

>70 km/h
5th gear ("overdrive") for cruising
p.8

3× speed
look ahead in metres: 150 m at 50 km/h
p.25

76 m
shortest stopping distance at 80 km/h
p.70

2×
stopping distance on a wet road
p.76

3 s
minimum following gap, any speed; more in rain
p.86

100 m
high beam range: do not out-drive it
p.79

80 mg
blood alcohol limit per 100 ml
p.75

0.5 / 1.5 m
gap from fixed obstacles / moving vehicles
p.91

1 / 1.5 m
gap from pedestrians facing you / with backs to you
p.96

1 fist
max space between chest and a non-retractable belt
p.21

45°
parallel parking: straighten up, reverse straight
p.67

20 m
warning triangle behind an expressway breakdown
p.103

6 points
and a fine for driving on the road shoulder
p.102

18
most penalty points to still pass the driving test
p.108

2 yrs
to pass the practical test after the FTT
BTT p.4

Pedals, gears and handbrake





Typical 5-speed gear lever, with Neutral in the middle; where reverse sits varies by car.

- **Accelerator**: the most sensitive pedal. Ball of the right foot, heel on the floor. p.10
- **Brake**: all 4 wheels; brake firmly, then ease off. Heel off the floor. **Handbrake**: rear wheels only. p.9-11
- **Clutch** down: engine power cut from the gearbox. Rest the left foot on the floor, not on the clutch. p.11-12
- Gears: **1st** moving off, **2nd** steep slopes, **3rd** gentle slopes and bends, **5th** above 70 km/h. Lower gear = more power, less speed. p.7-8
- **Automatic**: P, R, N, D; start in P with the handbrake on. L holds a low gear; kick-down for quick acceleration. p.13-15

Warning lights and gauges

Brake light stays on	after the handbrake is off: brake fluid low
Oil pressure light	stays on after starting: oil low. While driving: stop safely
Battery light	stays on: charging system faulty
Temperature in the red	engine overheating: stop, let it cool
Both indicators flash	hazard lights are on
Tachometer / odometer	engine rpm / total distance (trip meter resets)

Ignition ON: brake, oil and battery lights come on; oil and battery go off once the engine runs. p.18-20

Moving off, changing gear, stopping

- Before starting: Neutral (P in an automatic), handbrake on. Seat, seat belt, then mirrors. p.15, 21-25
- **Biting point**: engine revs drop slightly; hold half-clutch. Not for long: it wears the clutch. p.25, 60
- Engine **vibrates**: too little accelerator or clutch over-released. **Jumps**: too much accelerator or sudden clutch. **Stalls**: too little accelerator or clutch released too fast. p.27
- Changing up: clutch down and ease off the accelerator, change, release the clutch smoothly. Eyes on the road. p.29
- Stopping: **brake first**, clutch just before the engine vibrates. Too early: free-wheeling. Too late: stall. p.27
- **Engine braking**: off the accelerator in gear; stronger in lower gears; cancelled by the clutch. Use it down long slopes to stop brake fade. p.32-33

Slopes, bends and parking

- Stopping on a slope: press the brake harder; handbrake on before releasing the brake. Stalled uphill? Brake, handbrake, Neutral, restart. p.60-61
- Steep hill: change down to 2nd or 1st **before** the climb. Short steep descent: 1st gear plus footbrake. p.33, 82
- Bends: brake before, not in the bend; accelerate as the wheels straighten. Right bend: keep left; left bend: near the centre line. p.35-36
- **Park facing uphill**: wheels outward, 1st gear. **Downhill**: wheels inward, reverse gear. Handbrake fully on. p.84
- Parallel parking: stop 0.5-1 m from the kerb. Vertical lot on the left: half a car length ahead, 1.5 m from the kerb. p.64-67
- Reversing: steer the way you want to go; it reacts less than forward. Never reverse onto a main road. p.6-7, 66

Driving in traffic

- Changing lanes: **mirrors, signal (3 s), blind spot**; hardest to judge is traffic behind you. p.37
- Large vehicles: keep well back. A lorry signalling left may swing right first: let it turn. p.100
- Cyclists looking back may change direction; motorcyclists are fast and hard to see: let them pass before pulling out. p.97-98
- Junctions: amber with room to stop, stop. Green but the road ahead is jammed: wait. Turning left: give way to crossing pedestrians. p.45-47
- Overtaking: one vehicle at a time; not near junctions, bends or crossings. Move back when you see it in your mirror. Being overtaken: slow down. p.53-59
- Centrifugal force pushes you out on bends and grows with speed: slow down before the bend. p.80

Expressways

- Join: signal on the slip road and match the traffic speed. Lanes: left slower, centre most traffic, right only to overtake. p.101-102
- No learners, bicycles, mobile cranes or excavators. No picking up or dropping off. Missed exit: carry on. p.101-102
- **Breakdown**: hazard lights, onto the shoulder, everyone behind the guardrail, warning triangle 20 m or more behind. p.103

Weather, night and skids

- **Aquaplaning**: tyres glide on water, no steering or braking. Slow down by braking on and off. p.77
- Wheels locked on a wet road: release the brake, then brake on and off. Rear skid: off the accelerator, steer into the skid. p.76, 79
- Floods: low gear through passable water, pump the brakes after. Unsure of the depth (at night especially): take another route. p.77
- Night: slower; dip for oncoming traffic and when following. Dazzled: look left, slow down or stop. p.78-79

Emergencies and accidents

Footbrake fails	hazard lights, handbrake, change down to 2nd, stop at the side
Accelerator stuck	lift it with your toe; else hazard lights, stop, ignition off
Tyre blow-out	grip firmly, steer against the pull, brake gently
Overheating	stop safely; open the radiator only when cool
Windscreen shatters	stop at the side, clear the glass with a cloth
Loose wheel	wobbles with noise, heavy steering: stop and tighten
Accident	always stop. Injury: police and ambulance. None: settle it, tell your insurer

p.103-107

The driving test

- Two parts: circuit skills, then a road test. A serious mistake fails at once; 20 penalty points fails. p.108
- Not allowed to take it with 13 or more demerit points. Bring your valid PDL. p.108
- Learners may never drive in public car parks, government hospital grounds or listed parks. p.109

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Based on the official Final Theory of Driving handbook; page numbers are the handbook's. An unofficial study aid, not a Traffic Police publication: where anything differs, the official handbook prevails. The handbooks are free from the Traffic Police Online Learning Portal.

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