

# A guide to the drivers' eyesight test



Print out this page onto standard A4 white paper. Before you can use the chart, you need to make sure that it has been printed out at the size it was designed to be used at. You should use a ruler and check that the distance between the markers at the top and bottom is not more than 21 centimetres. If the chart has printed out larger than intended the test will not be correct.

## Instructions

You should get someone to hold this sheet three metres away from you (this is three fairly large paces) and you should test each eye separately. You should do this in a place which has good lighting.

If you need glasses to do this test then put your glasses on now.

Cover up one eye.

Start from the top and read each line. Keep reading down the chart until you find the smallest line you can read correctly. Make a note of the little number underneath that line of letters.

Now do the same with the other eye covered up, and write down the number of the smallest line you can read correctly.

Did you manage to read at least down to line number 7.5 with your best eye?

Did you manage to read at least the top line with your worst eye?

## Understanding the results

The DVLA standard for lorries and buses (which is also the standard required for driving taxis) is that you must be able to read the number 7.5 line with your best eye and the number 60 line (the top line) with the worst eye. It doesn't matter if you need glasses or contact lenses to do this so long as you read down to those lines.

If you need glasses or contact lenses to pass this test it doesn't matter, although strangely, DVLA still says that when you have your medical they want to know what you can see on this chart without your glasses or contact lenses even know the answer doesn't matter at all.

Also, to pass the DVLA medical you must not wear glasses which are thicker than +8 dioptres. These are very thick glasses which are thicker in the middle than the edges. Most people have glasses which are thinner in the middle than the edges. DVLA don't mind about those.

## Warning and limitations

You should not rely on this test as an accurate eyesight test. It is important that the test is done with a standard chart (this is not a standard chart), with good lighting, and at the correct distance. The above is a simplified version of the DVLA eyesight requirements and as such does not completely or accurately describe the requirements. In some cases it may be easier or more difficult to pass the actual test done under appropriate conditions with the correct chart.

This test should not be relied upon to find out whether a person has any particular standard of vision or to decide whether a person is fit or legal to drive any vehicle on a public road. It is provided only for general information purposes to help a person who is considering applying for a vocational licence to understand the general nature of the eyesight test and should only be treated as a rough guide to understanding what the actual eyesight test consists of. If you are not sure about your vision you should see a qualified optometrist for an eyesight test.

*Cotswold Medicals – Low-priced drivers' medicals across the UK*