

Purpose of the driving test and essential points

The purpose of the practical driving test is to confirm whether you are skilled to drive safely and smoothly by appropriately operating the vehicle in accordance with the road/traffic conditions, and while following the Japanese traffic rules. Being a good driver in the license-issuing country doesn't necessarily mean that the person is likely to pass the driving test here.

- The test starts even before getting on the testing vehicle, and until getting out of the testing vehicle.
 - **Before getting on the testing vehicle:**
You need to make sure to check around the testing vehicle before opening the door.
 - **After the test:**
You need to make sure to:
 1. put the gear shift in "Park", pull up the hand brake
 2. turn off the engine, remove the seatbelt
 3. watch the traffic around the vehicle
 4. slightly open the door
 5. look again for the traffic
 6. open the door to get out.

- **Safety checks:**
Safety checks must be done through the rearview, side mirrors, and with your own eyes.

- **Regarding maintaining speed indicated on the road signs:**
On a straightaway between the second corner and the third corner, the speed has to be maintained at 40km/h on this straightaway.

- **Measure to be taken for derailment:**
Derailment refers to a situation in which a vehicle runs on to a curb stone. When encountering derailment, the vehicle must come to a complete stop immediately and be backed up till the vehicle is off the curb stone. If the vehicle runs over the curb stone, either a great number of points will be deducted or the test itself will be terminated immediately.

- **Regarding cutting the wheel** (going back and forth to put the car back in the right position):
Cutting the wheel refers to a situation in which a vehicle must go back and forth in order

to position itself in a proper position. Although the candidates are allowed to cut the wheel (go back and forth) up to three times, some amount of points will be deducted each time. If you cut the wheel 4 times or more, the test will be terminated immediately.

- **Regarding lane changing:**

On the driving course within the Driver's License Center there are roads called "Trunk line A" and "Trunk line B".

Trunk line A is a twin-lane road (2 lanes in each direction) while Trunk line B is a two-lane road (1 lane in each direction).

When coming from Trunk B onto Trunk line A, make sure to turn into the leftmost lane of the road.

If you are asked to turn right while you are on Trunk line A, make sure you change to the right lane before turning. On Trunk line A, make sure you check road marks which indicate directions you are allowed to go.

- **Regarding the testing route:**

The proctor will give the directions in simple English during the test. Don't worry even if you fail to follow the instructions. In case you fail to follow the proctor's instructions, the proctor will guide you to go back to where you were and will let you start from there.