Birmingham taxi knowledge test: questions and answers

Practice questions for the Birmingham City Council test: Birmingham's own topics first, then the general topics its test covers. Answers and explanations are at the end.

Free from taxiknowledgetest.co.uk. Not an official council document: check your council's current guidance.

Questions

Birmingham private hire legal information

Licences, insurance and your vehicle

1. **Who may drive a private hire vehicle for hire in Birmingham?**
   - ☐ A. Anyone who has held a full driving licence for three years
   - ☐ B. Someone with a current private hire driver licence from the council
   - ☐ C. Anyone the operator has added to its own insurance policy
   - ☐ D. Someone with a hackney carriage driver licence from any council in England

2. **Your vehicle and driver licences are from Birmingham. Which operator licence must your operator hold to send you bookings?**
   - ☐ A. A Birmingham operator licence
   - ☐ B. Any operator licence in England
   - ☐ C. A London operator licence
   - ☐ D. No operator licence is needed for app bookings

3. **You hold a Birmingham private hire driver licence. A friend offers you his private hire car, which is licensed by Solihull Council. Can you use it for bookings?**
   - ☐ A. Yes, as long as his insurance covers you to drive it
   - ☐ B. No, you may only drive a PHV licensed by Birmingham
   - ☐ C. Yes, but only for journeys that start in Solihull
   - ☐ D. Yes, if you tell the Licensing Office first

4. **Your brother is named on the insurance for your licensed private hire car. He only has an ordinary driving licence. Can he drive the car on your day off?**
   - ☐ A. Yes, if he does not carry any passengers
   - ☐ B. Yes, because he is on the insurance
   - ☐ C. Yes, if he takes the licence plates off first
   - ☐ D. No, only a licensed private hire driver may drive it

5. **You are going to work in a private hire car that you have hired. What must you see before you start work?**
   - ☐ A. The insurance certificate that covers you for private hire
   - ☐ B. The last owner's driving licence
   - ☐ C. The full service history of the car
   - ☐ D. A letter from your operator saying you can use it

6. **You sell your licensed private hire vehicle to another person. Within how many days must you tell the council in writing?**
   - ☐ A. 14 days
   - ☐ B. 7 days
   - ☐ C. 28 days
   - ☐ D. 3 months

7. **When must your private hire licence plate be displayed on your vehicle?**
   - ☐ A. Only when you have a passenger in the car
   - ☐ B. At all times, whether you are working or not
   - ☐ C. Only between 6pm and 6am
   - ☐ D. Only when you are logged on with your operator

8. **The council revokes your vehicle licence. How long do you have to return the licence plates?**
   - ☐ A. 3 days
   - ☐ B. 14 days
   - ☐ C. 7 days
   - ☐ D. 28 days

9. **Your licence plate says your car can carry 4 passengers. A group of 5 friends asks you to fit them all in. What should you do?**
   - ☐ A. Take all 5 if one of them is a child
   - ☐ B. Take all 5, but drive slowly
   - ☐ C. Take all 5 if your operator agrees
   - ☐ D. Take no more than 4, the number on your plate

10. **Someone reverses into your private hire car and badly dents a door. The car is still safe to drive. Do you need to tell the Licensing Office?**
    - ☐ A. No, because the car is still safe to drive
    - ☐ B. Yes, within 72 hours, because the damage affects how it looks
    - ☐ C. Only if the police came to the accident
    - ☐ D. No, only your insurance company needs to know

On the road and with passengers

11. **Can a Birmingham private hire vehicle use a bus lane that has a sign allowing taxis?**
    - ☐ A. Yes, private hire vehicles count as taxis
    - ☐ B. Yes, but only when carrying a passenger
    - ☐ C. No, private hire vehicles may not use bus lanes in Birmingham
    - ☐ D. Yes, but only outside rush hours

12. **You are a private hire driver. There is space on a taxi rank near New Street station. Can you wait there for your next booking?**
    - ☐ A. No, only hackney carriages may wait on a taxi rank
    - ☐ B. Yes, as long as you stay in the vehicle with the engine off
    - ☐ C. Yes, for up to ten minutes
    - ☐ D. Yes, if there are no taxis waiting on the rank

13. **You arrive to collect a passenger from her home. What should you do?**
    - ☐ A. Sound your horn so she knows you are there
    - ☐ B. Ring the doorbell the moment you stop
    - ☐ C. Drive away if she does not come out in one minute
    - ☐ D. Wait a short time, then go and knock on the door

14. **You will be 15 minutes late for a pick-up because of an accident on the road. What should you do?**
    - ☐ A. Do your best to contact the passenger and tell them
    - ☐ B. Say nothing and get there as fast as you can
    - ☐ C. Cancel the booking and go to the next job
    - ☐ D. Ask another driver to take it without telling the operator

15. **A passenger with an assistance dog gets into your car. Where does the council say it is sensible for the dog to sit?**
    - ☐ A. In the boot
    - ☐ B. On the back seat next to the passenger
    - ☐ C. In the front passenger footwell
    - ☐ D. On the passenger's lap

16. **You are taking a passenger into the city centre. Your operator asks you to collect a second booking on the way. When can you do this?**
    - ☐ A. At any time, because the operator asked
    - ☐ B. Only if the second passenger pays more
    - ☐ C. Only if it adds less than 5 minutes
    - ☐ D. Only if your first passenger asks you to

17. **No fare was agreed when the passenger booked. What is the most you may charge?**
    - ☐ A. Whatever the passenger agrees to pay at the end
    - ☐ B. The fare worked out from your fare table
    - ☐ C. The hackney carriage fare plus 10%
    - ☐ D. A fare your operator texts you after the job

18. **A passenger gets into your car. When may you play the radio?**
    - ☐ A. Only if the passenger agrees
    - ☐ B. At any time, if it is not too loud
    - ☐ C. Only on journeys longer than 10 minutes
    - ☐ D. Only when you are stopped in traffic

Birmingham private hire licence conditions

Reporting and time limits

19. **You are arrested for an offence but not charged. What must you do?**
    - ☐ A. Nothing, unless the police later charge you with it
    - ☐ B. Tell the Licensing Office in writing within 7 days
    - ☐ C. Tell your operator within 14 days
    - ☐ D. Tell the Licensing Office when you next renew

20. **You move to a new home address. By when must you tell the Licensing Office in writing?**
    - ☐ A. Within 7 days
    - ☐ B. Within 14 days
    - ☐ C. Within 28 days
    - ☐ D. At your next renewal

21. **One of your vehicle's identity plates is stolen. Within how many days must you report it in writing to the Licensing Office?**
    - ☐ A. 7 days
    - ☐ B. 14 days
    - ☐ C. 24 hours
    - ☐ D. 3 days

22. **You lose your private hire driver's badge. What must you do?**
    - ☐ A. Make a copy to wear until a new one comes
    - ☐ B. Tell your operator, who will tell the council
    - ☐ C. Tell the police and give the report number to the Licensing Office within 3 days
    - ☐ D. Tell the Licensing Office within 14 days

23. **Your doctor tells you about a medical condition that you must report to the DVLA. When must you tell the Licensing Office in writing?**
    - ☐ A. Within 3 days
    - ☐ B. Within 7 days
    - ☐ C. Within 21 days
    - ☐ D. Only if the DVLA takes your licence away

24. **Your private hire driver licence runs out and you do not renew it. How long do you have to return your badge?**
    - ☐ A. 3 days
    - ☐ B. 7 days
    - ☐ C. 14 days
    - ☐ D. You may keep it

25. **A passenger leaves a bag in your car. Where and when must you hand it in?**
    - ☐ A. At your operator's office within 7 days
    - ☐ B. At the Licensing Office within 24 hours
    - ☐ C. At a West Midlands Police station within 72 hours
    - ☐ D. Keep it safe in the car until the passenger calls you

26. **You hand in lost property at a police station and get a receipt. What must you do with the receipt?**
    - ☐ A. Keep it in the car for 12 months
    - ☐ B. Give it to the passenger if they call
    - ☐ C. Throw it away once the owner has collected the item
    - ☐ D. Send a copy to the Licensing Office within 3 days

27. **Your vehicle insurance runs out and you cannot renew it straight away. What must you do?**
    - ☐ A. Keep working and renew it within 14 days
    - ☐ B. Tell the Licensing Office in writing within 72 hours and return the plates
    - ☐ C. Tell your operator within 7 days
    - ☐ D. Do only short journeys until it is renewed

Bookings, signs and your vehicle

28. **A regular passenger calls your own mobile and asks you to pick her up now. What should you do?**
    - ☐ A. Take her, as she is a regular customer
    - ☐ B. Ask her to book through your operator
    - ☐ C. Take her, but do not switch the meter on
    - ☐ D. Take her, then tell the operator at the end of the day

29. **When may a mobile phone be fitted in your private hire car to accept bookings?**
    - ☐ A. Only when it hosts your operator's booking app
    - ☐ B. At any time, as long as it is a hands-free phone
    - ☐ C. Never, phones are not allowed in the car
    - ☐ D. Only for regular customers who call you

30. **Your operator sends you a job. Which details must you have before you respond to it?**
    - ☐ A. The passenger's phone number and home address
    - ☐ B. The name, pick-up time and place, destination and any fare
    - ☐ C. Only the pick-up address
    - ☐ D. The passenger's name and how they will pay

31. **You want to start working for a different operator. When must you tell the Licensing Office in writing?**
    - ☐ A. Within 7 days of starting
    - ☐ B. At your next renewal
    - ☐ C. Within 14 days of starting
    - ☐ D. Before you start work for the new operator

32. **Where must your operator's door signs be displayed?**
    - ☐ A. On the two front doors
    - ☐ B. On the two rear doors and the boot lid
    - ☐ C. On the rear window
    - ☐ D. On the bonnet

33. **Which fare table must be displayed inside your private hire car?**
    - ☐ A. The council's hackney carriage fare table
    - ☐ B. A fare table you make yourself
    - ☐ C. The fare table issued by your operator
    - ☐ D. No fare table is needed

34. **You do not use a securing bracket for the rear identity plate. How must you fix it to the car?**
    - ☐ A. With strong magnets
    - ☐ B. With heavy-duty tape
    - ☐ C. With cable ties
    - ☐ D. With bolts, rivets or screws

35. **Unless a passenger asks you to go another way, which route must you take to the destination?**
    - ☐ A. The route your sat nav likes best
    - ☐ B. The route with the fewest traffic lights
    - ☐ C. The shortest possible route
    - ☐ D. The quickest route at that time

Plying for hire in Birmingham

Plying for hire

36. **Which of these is a lawful private hire journey?**
    - ☐ A. Someone waves you down in Broad Street
    - ☐ B. Someone outside New Street station asks you for a lift
    - ☐ C. A booking made through your operator and passed to you
    - ☐ D. A friend of a passenger asks for a lift after you drop off

37. **It is late on a Saturday. You have no booking. Which of these could look like plying for hire?**
    - ☐ A. Driving home at the end of your shift with your door signs on
    - ☐ B. Waiting at your operator's base
    - ☐ C. Parking at a supermarket to buy food
    - ☐ D. Parking outside a busy club so people ask you for lifts

38. **You are waiting at the airport for a booked passenger. A traveller asks if you are free to take him into the city. What should you do?**
    - ☐ A. Refuse, and tell him to contact a licensed operator
    - ☐ B. Take him if your booked passenger is 20 minutes late
    - ☐ C. Take him, but agree a cash fare before you set off
    - ☐ D. Take him, then ask the operator to log the job later

39. **A private hire driver slows down next to people on the pavement and calls out "Need a car?". What is he doing?**

- ☐ A. Giving good customer service
- ☐ B. Plying for hire, which is unlawful for private hire vehicles
- ☐ C. Nothing wrong, if he has his badge on
- ☐ D. Taking a booking on behalf of his operator, which is allowed

40. **A private hire driver is found guilty of plying for hire with no valid insurance. What does Birmingham's committee policy say should happen to his licence?**

- ☐ A. Nothing, because it is a police matter
- ☐ B. He should get a written warning only
- ☐ C. It should be revoked
- ☐ D. It should be suspended for 7 days

41. **A person flags down a private hire vehicle in the street and says, "It's fine, I'll pay cash." Does that make the journey lawful?**

- ☐ A. No, the journey is still not booked through an operator
- ☐ B. Yes, if the fare is paid in advance
- ☐ C. Yes, if the passenger signs a note saying they asked for it
- ☐ D. Yes, if the driver phones the operator first

42. **A woman comes out of a takeaway that has a free phone to your operator. She asks you to take her home. Can you take her details and pass the booking to your operator?**

- ☐ A. Yes, if your operator accepts it before you set off
- ☐ B. Yes, because the takeaway has a free phone to your operator
- ☐ C. Yes, if she pays the fare before the journey
- ☐ D. No, a driver must not take passenger details for the operator

43. **You carry a passenger who did not book through your operator. What is likely to happen to your insurance?**

- ☐ A. Nothing changes if the passenger pays by card
- ☐ B. It is likely to be invalid, so you could be prosecuted for no insurance as well
- ☐ C. It stays valid because you were at work
- ☐ D. It is valid if the journey is under 5 miles

44. **What does the council say a conviction for plying for hire is likely to bring?**

- ☐ A. A warning letter and nothing more
- ☐ B. A large fine, penalty points and possibly a driving ban
- ☐ C. A short training course instead of a fine
- ☐ D. A small fine that has no effect on your licence or driving

Licensing law basics

Hackney carriage or private hire

45. **Which licensed vehicle may be hailed by a passenger in the street?**
    - ☐ A. A private hire vehicle that has its licence plate on show
    - ☐ B. Any licensed vehicle, as long as the meter is switched on
    - ☐ C. A private hire vehicle, if the driver is wearing a badge
    - ☐ D. A hackney carriage, in the area where it is licensed

46. **A person waves at your private hire vehicle in the street and asks for a lift home. What should you do?**
    - ☐ A. Take them, as long as you both agree the fare first
    - ☐ B. Take them, if there are no hackney carriages nearby
    - ☐ C. Refuse, and tell them to book through an operator
    - ☐ D. Take them, but phone your operator to log the job

47. **Who may wait at a taxi rank for passengers?**
    - ☐ A. Any private hire vehicle licensed by the council
    - ☐ B. Hackney carriages licensed by that council
    - ☐ C. Private hire vehicles waiting for a booking
    - ☐ D. Any vehicle at all, for up to two minutes

48. **What does 'plying for hire' mean?**
    - ☐ A. Taking a booking from your operator by phone or by app
    - ☐ B. Driving a passenger who has agreed a fixed price in advance
    - ☐ C. Putting your operator's phone number on the car doors
    - ☐ D. Offering a vehicle for hire on the spot, such as at a rank

49. **A council must not license a private hire vehicle that looks like a hackney carriage. Why?**
    - ☐ A. So that it costs less to insure as a private car
    - ☐ B. So that it can carry more passengers than a taxi
    - ☐ C. So nobody thinks they can hail it in the street
    - ☐ D. So that it does not need a meter or a plate fitted

50. **You are at a rank with your hackney carriage. A passenger asks to go to a place inside the council's area. Can you refuse?**
    - ☐ A. Yes, if the journey is too short
    - ☐ B. Yes, if you would rather wait for a longer fare
    - ☐ C. Yes, if you are near the end of your shift
    - ☐ D. Not without a reasonable excuse

51. **Who sets the maximum fares for hackney carriages?**
    - ☐ A. The council, in its table of fares or byelaws
    - ☐ B. Each driver, before the journey starts
    - ☐ C. The operator the driver works with
    - ☐ D. The Department for Transport, for all of England

52. **A hackney carriage journey ends outside the council's area. No fare was agreed before the journey. What is the most the driver can charge?**

- ☐ A. The fare shown on the taximeter
- ☐ B. Any fare the driver thinks is fair
- ☐ C. Double the fare shown on the meter
- ☐ D. The fare set by the other council

53. **A passenger books a private hire journey. Who is the contract for the hire made with, by law?**

- ☐ A. The driver who carries out the journey
- ☐ B. The owner of the private hire vehicle
- ☐ C. The operator who accepted the booking
- ☐ D. The council that licensed the vehicle

54. **When must a private hire operator write down the details of a booking?**

- ☐ A. Before the journey starts
- ☐ B. By the end of that day
- ☐ C. Within 7 days of the job
- ☐ D. Only if the passenger complains

55. **A driver takes a longer route than needed so that the fare is higher. What is this?**

- ☐ A. Allowed, as long as the passenger does not complain
- ☐ B. Allowed, as long as the meter is working correctly
- ☐ C. Only a breach of the operator's own rules
- ☐ D. An offence of unnecessarily prolonging the journey

Licences, fit and proper, and DBS

56. **Before a council grants a taxi or private hire driver's licence, it must be satisfied that the applicant is what?**

- ☐ A. A fit and proper person
- ☐ B. A British citizen born in the UK
- ☐ C. A home owner in the council area
- ☐ D. A member of a drivers' association

57. **How long must you have held a full driving licence before you can get a taxi or private hire driver's licence?**

- ☐ A. At least 6 months
- ☐ B. At least 12 months
- ☐ C. At least 2 years
- ☐ D. At least 3 years in the UK

58. **How long does a taxi or private hire driver's licence normally last?**

- ☐ A. 1 year, and the driver must then take the test again
- ☐ B. 5 years, the same as a private hire operator's licence
- ☐ C. 3 years, unless the council sets a shorter period for that case
- ☐ D. 10 years, the same as a photocard driving licence

59. **How long does a private hire operator's licence normally last?**

- ☐ A. 1 year
- ☐ B. 5 years
- ☐ C. 3 years
- ☐ D. 10 years

60. **What is the longest time a private hire vehicle licence can last?**

- ☐ A. 1 year
- ☐ B. 6 months
- ☐ C. 3 years
- ☐ D. 5 years

61. **The Statutory Standards suggest a question to help decide if someone is 'fit and proper'. What is it?**

- ☐ A. Has this person ever had a parking ticket at any time in their life?
- ☐ B. Has this person lived in the council area for at least five years?
- ☐ C. Would you let someone you care for travel alone with them?
- ☐ D. Does this person know every street and every rank in the area?

62. **When a council decides whether someone is fit and proper, what standard of proof does it use?**

- ☐ A. The balance of probabilities
- ☐ B. Beyond reasonable doubt, as in a criminal court
- ☐ C. Only whether they have a criminal conviction
- ☐ D. Benefit of the doubt always goes to the driver

63. **Which DBS check do the Statutory Standards say taxi and private hire drivers should have?**

- ☐ A. Basic, which only shows convictions that are not yet spent
- ☐ B. Standard, without any check of the barred lists at all
- ☐ C. None, as long as the driver says they have no convictions
- ☐ D. Enhanced, with checks of the children's and adults' barred lists

64. **How often do the Statutory Standards say a council should check licensed drivers for new DBS information?**

- ☐ A. Every month
- ☐ B. Every 6 months
- ☐ C. Every 3 years
- ☐ D. Only at renewal

65. **What does the DBS Update Service let the council do, with the driver's consent?**

- ☐ A. See the driver's medical records and their GP's notes
- ☐ B. Check online at any time if the DBS certificate is still up to date
- ☐ C. Check the driver's bank account for any unpaid fines
- ☐ D. Track where the driver's licensed vehicle is in real time

66. **A private hire driver is working. Where must their driver's badge be?**

- ☐ A. Kept in the glove box of the car
- ☐ B. Left at home in a safe place
- ☐ C. Kept in a pocket, ready to show if asked
- ☐ D. Worn where it can be plainly seen

67. **A driver has permission to stay in the UK for another 18 months. What does the law say about their licence?**

- ☐ A. It lasts the normal 3 years and the council checks later
- ☐ B. It cannot be granted until they get permanent permission
- ☐ C. It lasts 6 months whatever their permission to stay says
- ☐ D. It must end no later than their permission to stay ends

Suspension, revocation and appeals

68. **Can a council suspend or revoke a driver's licence when the driver has not been convicted of anything?**

- ☐ A. No, a court must convict the driver of a crime first
- ☐ B. Yes, 'any other reasonable cause' is a ground in law
- ☐ C. No, the council can only act if the police ask it to
- ☐ D. Only if the driver has 12 or more points on their licence

69. **Normally, when does a council's suspension or revocation of a driver's licence take effect?**

- ☐ A. At once, on the same day the council decides
- ☐ B. 21 days after the driver is given notice
- ☐ C. 7 days after the driver is given the notice
- ☐ D. Only after a magistrates' court has agreed

70. **When can a suspension or revocation of a driver's licence take effect straight away?**

- ☐ A. When the driver has not yet paid the licence fee
- ☐ B. When public safety needs it and the notice says why
- ☐ C. When the driver has missed one booking that day
- ☐ D. When any passenger has made a complaint about them

71. **After suspending or revoking a driver's licence, how long does the council have to give the driver notice of the grounds?**

- ☐ A. 7 days
- ☐ B. 14 days
- ☐ C. 21 days
- ☐ D. 28 days

72. **Where can a driver appeal against the suspension or revocation of their licence?**

- ☐ A. To the local MP's office
- ☐ B. To the Department for Transport
- ☐ C. To their private hire operator
- ☐ D. To a magistrates' court

73. **How long does a driver have to appeal to the magistrates' court?**

- ☐ A. 21 days from when the notice was served
- ☐ B. 7 days from when the notice was served
- ☐ C. 14 days from when the notice was served
- ☐ D. 6 months from when the notice was served

74. **A council revokes a licence with the normal 21-day notice. The driver appeals in time. Can they keep working until the appeal is decided?**

- ☐ A. No, they must stop driving on the day that they receive the notice
- ☐ B. No, they must stop driving as soon as the 21 days have ended
- ☐ C. Yes, unless the decision had immediate effect for public safety
- ☐ D. Only if the council writes to say that it agrees to this

75. **After a driver's licence is suspended or revoked, what must the driver return to the council when asked?**

- ☐ A. Their DVLA driving licence
- ☐ B. Their vehicle's log book
- ☐ C. Their driver's badge
- ☐ D. Their insurance certificate

76. **A council officer asks to see your driver's licence and you do not have it with you. By when must you show it at the council offices?**

- ☐ A. Within 24 hours
- ☐ B. Within 5 days
- ☐ C. Within 14 days
- ☐ D. Within 28 days

77. **During a check, a driver refuses to give a council officer information they reasonably need and then gives a false answer. What is this?**

- ☐ A. An offence of obstructing an authorised officer
- ☐ B. Allowed, as the driver can choose to stay silent
- ☐ C. Only a matter for the operator to deal with
- ☐ D. Only an offence if a police officer is there too

78. **A licensed vehicle has an accident that affects its safety. How soon must the proprietor tell the council?**

- ☐ A. Only when the vehicle is next due for its council test
- ☐ B. Within 14 days, once the vehicle has been fully repaired
- ☐ C. As soon as reasonably practicable, and within 72 hours
- ☐ D. Only if the police were called out to the accident

Working across borders, insurance and smoking

79. **For a private hire journey, which of these must be licensed by the same council?**

- ☐ A. Only the driver and the passenger's home
- ☐ B. The driver, the vehicle and the operator
- ☐ C. Only the vehicle and the vehicle's owner
- ☐ D. Only the operator and the place of pick-up

80. **Can a private hire operator pass a booking to an operator licensed by a different council?**

- ☐ A. No, a booking must always stay with the first operator who took it
- ☐ B. Yes, if the other operator is licensed and accepts it in its own area
- ☐ C. Yes, but only if the passenger has agreed to it in writing first
- ☐ D. Yes, and the first operator's drivers can then do the journey

81. **Can a hackney carriage ply for hire in the area of a different council?**

- ☐ A. No, only in the area of the council that licensed it
- ☐ B. Yes, it can ply for hire anywhere in England and Wales
- ☐ C. Yes, if the driver lives in that other council's area
- ☐ D. Yes, but only at night after 11 pm when it is busy

82. **What kind of motor insurance must a licensed vehicle have when it carries paying passengers?**

- ☐ A. Hire and reward insurance that covers the licensed use
- ☐ B. Social, domestic and pleasure insurance, with no business use
- ☐ C. Insurance that covers commuting to and from work only
- ☐ D. Business use insurance for driving to meetings

83. **A council officer asks the proprietor of a licensed vehicle to show documents. Which must they produce?**

- ☐ A. The driver's bank statements and their tax returns
- ☐ B. The vehicle licence and the insurance certificate
- ☐ C. The service history and all of the vehicle's receipts
- ☐ D. The passport and birth certificate of the owner

84. **A passenger in a licensed taxi asks if they can smoke, and the driver does not mind. Is this allowed?**

- ☐ A. Yes, as long as all the windows are fully open
- ☐ B. Yes, as long as the driver gives permission
- ☐ C. Yes, if no other passengers are inside
- ☐ D. No, the vehicle must be smoke-free at all times

85. **Can a driver smoke in their own licensed vehicle when there are no passengers on board?**

- ☐ A. No, it is used by the public so it is always smoke-free
- ☐ B. Yes, if they are parked and off duty
- ☐ C. Yes, with the windows and roof open
- ☐ D. Yes, between jobs with no passengers

86. **A passenger lights a cigarette in your licensed vehicle. What does the law say you must do?**

- ☐ A. Charge them a cleaning fee
- ☐ B. Open the windows and carry on
- ☐ C. Nothing, it is their choice
- ☐ D. Make them stop smoking

87. **What does the law say about no-smoking signs in licensed vehicles?**

- ☐ A. A sign is needed only when a child under 18 is on board
- ☐ B. A sign is needed only in vehicles with 8 passenger seats
- ☐ C. At least one legible no-smoking sign must be displayed
- ☐ D. No sign is needed if the driver tells each passenger

88. **True or false: a council can attach its own conditions to driver, vehicle and operator licences.**

- ☐ A. True
- ☐ B. False

National safeguards and new law

89. **What is the NR3S?**

- ☐ A. A national register of driver licence refusals, suspensions and revocations
- ☐ B. A national list of every taxi rank and private hire office in England
- ☐ C. A national register of all fare tables set by councils in England
- ☐ D. A national database of passengers who have refused to pay a fare

90. **Before deciding an application or renewal for a driver's licence, what must a council do under the 2022 Act?**

- ☐ A. Ask the driver's operator to write them a short reference
- ☐ B. Ask three passengers for their comments about the driver
- ☐ C. Check that the driver has an account with a UK bank
- ☐ D. Search the national database for entries about the person

91. **A council in England learns of serious concerns about a driver licensed by another council, who has been working in its area. What must it do?**

- ☐ A. Suspend the driver's licence itself, straight away
- ☐ B. Wait to see whether the driver comes back to its area
- ☐ C. Report the information to the council that licensed them
- ☐ D. Nothing, because the driver does not hold its licence

92. **Under the 2022 Act, how long does the first council have to pass on that information?**

- ☐ A. 48 hours
- ☐ B. 20 working days
- ☐ C. 10 working days
- ☐ D. 3 months

93. **How long does an entry on the national database of refusals, suspensions and revocations stay there?**

- ☐ A. 11 years
- ☐ B. 2 years
- ☐ C. 5 years
- ☐ D. For life

94. **What must councils do with the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards?**

- ☐ A. Nothing, as they are only a suggestion written for drivers
- ☐ B. Copy them word for word into each driver's licence
- ☐ C. Have regard to them when using their licensing powers
- ☐ D. Follow them only if the council's own policy agrees with them

95. **What is Common Law Police Disclosure?**

- ☐ A. Drivers telling the police about passengers who did not pay their fares
- ☐ B. The council telling the police about each new licence it gives out
- ☐ C. Operators sharing booking records with the police every month
- ☐ D. Police telling the council about a risk, for example at arrest or charge

96. **The Statutory Standards say a person who is on a DBS barred list should normally be treated how?**

- ☐ A. They can be licensed if they agree to take extra safeguarding training
- ☐ B. They should not be issued a licence, except in truly exceptional cases
- ☐ C. They can be licensed if they only do private hire and never hackney
- ☐ D. They can be licensed if they promise not to carry any children at all

97. **The English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026 includes new powers for taxi licensing. What will they let the government do?**

- ☐ A. Set one national table of fares for every hackney carriage in England
- ☐ B. Take over all taxi and private hire licensing from councils in England
- ☐ C. Set national standards for granting, renewing, suspending and revoking licences
- ☐ D. Remove the need for private hire journeys to be booked through an operator

98. **Once in force, what will the 2026 Act let an enforcement officer from any council in England do?**

- ☐ A. Suspend a licence from any English council for up to 48 hours for public safety
- ☐ B. Revoke any driver's licence for good, with no need to give the driver notice
- ☐ C. Suspend licences from their own council only, and only for up to 1 hour
- ☐ D. Issue a brand new licence to a driver who is visiting from another area

99. **When we checked on 29 October 2026, were the taxi and private hire sections of the 2026 Act in force?**

- ☐ A. Yes, they started on the day the Act was passed
- ☐ B. Yes, they started two months after it was passed
- ☐ C. No, and they can only start after a new Act is passed
- ☐ D. No, they will start on a date set by regulations

Answers

Birmingham private hire legal information

1. **B. Someone with a current private hire driver licence from the council.** To drive a private hire vehicle you must hold a private hire driver licence. It must come from the same council that licensed the vehicle. A DVLA licence or insurance on its own is not enough.
2. **A. A Birmingham operator licence.** The council's legal information says a Birmingham-licensed driver may drive a Birmingham-licensed vehicle and take work from a Birmingham-licensed operator.
3. **B. No, you may only drive a PHV licensed by Birmingham.** Your driver licence must come from the same council that licensed the vehicle. The council's legal information gives this exact example: a Birmingham driver cannot drive a PHV licensed by Solihull.
4. **D. No, only a licensed private hire driver may drive it.** The driver of a licensed PHV must hold a private hire driver licence, even when the car is not being used for private hire. Family members may not drive it unless Birmingham has licensed them.
5. **A. The insurance certificate that covers you for private hire.** The insurance must cover you to drive the car for private hire. The council says you must see the insurance certificate before you start work in a hired or borrowed car.
6. **A. 14 days.** You must tell the Licensing Office in writing within 14 days of the sale. Give the name and address of the person you sold it to.
7. **B. At all times, whether you are working or not.** The plate must be displayed in the way the council's signage policy says, at all times, whether you are working or not.
8. **C. 7 days.** You must return your plates to the council within 7 days of the licence running out, being revoked or being suspended.
9. **D. Take no more than 4, the number on your plate.** Carrying more people than the number on your PHV licence plate is a criminal offence. It may also make your insurance invalid.
10. **B. Yes, within 72 hours, because the damage affects how it looks.** Birmingham says you must report any accident that affects the vehicle's safety, performance or appearance, or the comfort of passengers, within 72 hours. It is best to do this in writing and keep a copy.
11. **C. No, private hire vehicles may not use bus lanes in Birmingham.** Private hire vehicles may not use any bus lane in Birmingham, even one that taxis may use. Only a police officer can direct you into one.
12. **A. No, only hackney carriages may wait on a taxi rank.** You must not park or let your PHV stand on any taxi rank. The council says private hire drivers who stand on hackney carriage ranks will be prosecuted.
13. **D. Wait a short time, then go and knock on the door.** Wait a short time, then get out and knock on the door. You must not sound your horn. You can also ask your operator to call the passenger.

14. **A. Do your best to contact the passenger and tell them.** You should arrive at the agreed time. If you are going to be late, do your best to contact the passenger and tell them.
15. **C. In the front passenger footwell.** You must carry the passenger and the dog unless you have a medical exemption notice. The council says it is sensible to let the dog sit in the front passenger footwell.
16. **D. Only if your first passenger asks you to.** Once you have passengers in the car, you must not collect anyone else unless the first passenger asks you to.
17. **B. The fare worked out from your fare table.** The fare is agreed between the operator and the customer when they book, and you must charge only that. If no fare was agreed, you must not charge more than your fare table gives.
18. **A. Only if the passenger agrees.** You must not play music or the radio without your passenger's permission. The only exception is equipment you use to send and receive messages about your work.

Birmingham private hire licence conditions

19. **B. Tell the Licensing Office in writing within 7 days.** You must tell the Licensing Office in writing within 7 days if you are arrested for any offence, whether or not you are charged.
20. **A. Within 7 days.** A change of home address is one of the things you must report in writing within 7 days.
21. **D. 3 days.** If a vehicle identity plate is lost or stolen, you must report it in writing to the Licensing Office within 3 days.
22. **C. Tell the police and give the report number to the Licensing Office within 3 days.** Tell the police and get a police report number. Then report it to the Licensing Office within 3 days.
23. **A. Within 3 days.** If an illness or medical condition stops you driving, or means you must tell the DVLA, you must tell the Licensing Office in writing within 3 days.
24. **B. 7 days.** The badge belongs to the council. If your licence runs out, is suspended, is revoked or is not renewed, you must return the badge within 7 days.
25. **C. At a West Midlands Police station within 72 hours.** Search your car after every job. Hand in any lost property at a West Midlands Police station as soon as possible, and within 72 hours, and get a receipt.
26. **D. Send a copy to the Licensing Office within 3 days.** You must give a copy of the police receipt to the Licensing Office within 3 days of getting it.
27. **B. Tell the Licensing Office in writing within 72 hours and return the plates.** You must tell the Licensing Office in writing within 72 hours of the cover ending and return the plates. The vehicle can be suspended until you show new insurance.
28. **B. Ask her to book through your operator.** A private hire driver may not make or take their own bookings. You must not use a phone to accept bookings, and you must not take a return booking straight from a passenger.

29. **A. Only when it hosts your operator's booking app.** Phones must not be used or carried to invite or accept bookings. The one exception is a phone fitted to host an app for bookings from your operator.
30. **B. The name, pick-up time and place, destination and any fare.** You must not respond to a booking unless you are given the passenger's name, the time and place of pick-up, the destination and the fare, if there is one.
31. **D. Before you start work for the new operator.** Before you start with the new operator, tell the Licensing Office in writing. Give your old and new operator, your new call sign and start date, and a signed operator's form.
32. **A. On the two front doors.** The operator identification door signs must be on the two front doors of the vehicle.
33. **C. The fare table issued by your operator.** You must display the fare table issued by your operator where every passenger can clearly see it.
34. **D. With bolts, rivets or screws.** The rear plate must be fixed so it cannot be removed without tools. String, tape, magnets and Velcro are not allowed.
35. **C. The shortest possible route.** You must take the shortest possible route, unless your passenger tells you to go another way.

Plying for hire in Birmingham

36. **C. A booking made through your operator and passed to you.** You may only collect passengers when the job was booked through an operator licensed by Birmingham and passed to you by that operator.
37. **D. Parking outside a busy club so people ask you for lifts.** You must not park near places such as bars, clubs, takeaways, hotels and hospitals in a way that makes you look available for hire, unless your operator has given you a booking there.
38. **A. Refuse, and tell him to contact a licensed operator.** If a member of the public asks you for a ride, you must refuse and tell them to contact a licensed operator. Taking him would be plying for hire.
39. **B. Plying for hire, which is unlawful for private hire vehicles.** Offering rides to people in the street is plying for hire. It is a criminal offence for a PHV driver to take a fare that was not booked with their operator.
40. **C. It should be revoked.** The council's committee policy says any driver found guilty of plying for hire and making their insurance invalid should have their licence revoked.
41. **A. No, the journey is still not booked through an operator.** How the passenger pays makes no difference. Every job must be booked with your operator before you collect the passenger.
42. **D. No, a driver must not take passenger details for the operator.** A PHV driver may not take passenger details for the operator, even next to a free phone or radio link. You must not pass booking details to your operator yourself.

43. **B. It is likely to be invalid, so you could be prosecuted for no insurance as well.** Carrying a passenger who has not booked is likely to make your insurance invalid. You could then be prosecuted for plying for hire and for having no insurance.
44. **B. A large fine, penalty points and possibly a driving ban.** The council's legal information says a conviction is likely to bring a substantial fine, penalty points and possible disqualification from driving.

Licensing law basics

45. **D. A hackney carriage, in the area where it is licensed.** Only a hackney carriage may ply for hire, which includes being hailed. It may do this only within the area of the council that licensed it.
46. **C. Refuse, and tell them to book through an operator.** A private hire vehicle must not ply for hire. Every journey must be booked through a licensed operator before it starts. A street pick-up is an offence, and your insurance may not cover it.
47. **B. Hackney carriages licensed by that council.** Ranks (stands) are appointed by the council for its hackney carriages. Private hire vehicles must not use them to wait for passengers.
48. **D. Offering a vehicle for hire on the spot, such as at a rank.** Plying for hire means making a vehicle available to be hired there and then, for example by waiting at a rank or driving around looking for fares. Only hackney carriages may do this.
49. **C. So nobody thinks they can hail it in the street.** A private hire vehicle must not be of such design and appearance that people would think it is a hackney carriage, because only hackney carriages can be hailed.
50. **D. Not without a reasonable excuse.** A hackney carriage driver who refuses or neglects, without reasonable excuse, to take a hirer to a place within the prescribed distance commits an offence.
51. **A. The council, in its table of fares or byelaws.** A council may fix hackney carriage fares and other charges by a table of fares. A driver must not charge more than the table allows.
52. **A. The fare shown on the taximeter.** For a journey ending outside the district with no fare agreed in advance, the driver must not charge more than the meter shows.
53. **C. The operator who accepted the booking.** Every contract for the hire of a licensed private hire vehicle is treated as made with the operator who accepted the booking, even if another person provided the vehicle.
54. **A. Before the journey starts.** An operator must record the particulars of every booking, in the form the council requires, before the start of each journey, and show the record to an officer or the police on request.
55. **D. An offence of unnecessarily prolonging the journey.** A licensed driver must not, without reasonable cause, unnecessarily prolong a journey in distance or in time. This applies to hackney carriage and private hire drivers.
56. **A. A fit and proper person.** A council must not grant a driver's licence unless it is satisfied that the applicant is a fit and proper person and is not disqualified by immigration status.

57. **B. At least 12 months.** A council must not grant a driver's licence to anyone who has not been authorised to drive a car for at least twelve months.
58. **C. 3 years, unless the council sets a shorter period for that case.** A driver's licence remains in force for three years, or for a shorter period that the council thinks right in the circumstances of the case.
59. **B. 5 years.** An operator's licence remains in force for five years, or for a shorter period that the council thinks right in the circumstances of the case.
60. **A. 1 year.** A private hire vehicle licence remains in force for the period the council sets, which must not be longer than one year.
61. **C. Would you let someone you care for travel alone with them?** The question is: would you allow a person for whom you care, regardless of their condition, to travel alone in a vehicle driven by this person at any time of day or night?
62. **A. The balance of probabilities.** Decisions are made on the balance of probabilities. The applicant should not get the benefit of the doubt, and conduct without a conviction can be considered.
63. **D. Enhanced, with checks of the children's and adults' barred lists.** Councils should require an enhanced DBS check with a check of both barred lists for every driver applying for or renewing a licence.
64. **B. Every 6 months.** Drivers should be required to keep up continuous registration with the DBS Update Service so the council can check for new information every 6 months. Drivers who do not subscribe should still be checked every 6 months.
65. **B. Check online at any time if the DBS certificate is still up to date.** Subscribing keeps a certificate up to date online and, with the person's consent, lets named organisations check its status at any time.
66. **D. Worn where it can be plainly seen.** A driver must wear the badge at all times when working under their licence, in a position where it is plainly and distinctly visible.
67. **D. It must end no later than their permission to stay ends.** If a driver has limited leave to remain, the council must set a licence period that ends at or before the end of that leave.
68. **B. Yes, 'any other reasonable cause' is a ground in law.** The grounds include convictions for offences of dishonesty, indecency or violence, breaking taxi law, immigration offences, or any other reasonable cause.
69. **B. 21 days after the driver is given notice.** A suspension or revocation normally takes effect at the end of 21 days beginning with the day the notice is given to the driver.
70. **B. When public safety needs it and the notice says why.** If public safety requires immediate effect, and the notice says so and explains why, it takes effect when the notice is given.
71. **B. 14 days.** The council must give the driver notice of the grounds within fourteen days of the suspension, revocation or refusal to renew.
72. **D. To a magistrates' court.** Any driver aggrieved by a decision under section 61 may appeal to a magistrates' court.

73. **A. 21 days from when the notice was served.** Appeals under Part II of the 1976 Act follow the Public Health Act 1936: the time limit is twenty-one days from the date the notice of the decision was served.

74. **C. Yes, unless the decision had immediate effect for public safety.** Until the time for appealing ends, or an appeal is decided, the person may carry on the business. This does not apply where the decision has immediate effect for public safety.

75. **C. Their driver's badge.** The driver must return the driver's badge to the council on demand. Failing to do so without reasonable excuse is an offence.

76. **B. Within 5 days.** You must produce your licence either straight away or, for a council officer, at the council's main offices within five days, beginning with the day after the request.

77. **A. An offence of obstructing an authorised officer.** It is an offence to wilfully obstruct an authorised officer or police officer, to fail without reasonable cause to give them information they reasonably need, or to give information you know is false.

78. **C. As soon as reasonably practicable, and within 72 hours.** The proprietor must report any accident causing damage that materially affects the vehicle's safety, performance, appearance or passenger comfort as soon as reasonably practicable and within 72 hours.

79. **B. The driver, the vehicle and the operator.** An operator must not operate a vehicle as a private hire vehicle unless the vehicle and driver are licensed under the 1976 Act. This is read as meaning all three licences come from the same council, often called the 'triple lock'.

80. **B. Yes, if the other operator is licensed and accepts it in its own area.** An operator may sub-contract a booking to an operator licensed in another district, if that operator accepts the booking in its own district. The second operator then uses its own drivers and vehicles.

81. **A. No, only in the area of the council that licensed it.** A hackney carriage licence allows plying for hire only within the area of the council that granted it. Plying for hire elsewhere without a licence for that area is an offence.

82. **A. Hire and reward insurance that covers the licensed use.** Carrying passengers for payment needs hire and reward cover. A council must not license a private hire vehicle without suitable insurance in force.

83. **B. The vehicle licence and the insurance certificate.** The proprietor must produce the vehicle licence and the certificate of insurance when an authorised officer of the council asks.

84. **D. No, the vehicle must be smoke-free at all times.** An enclosed vehicle used by members of the public, whether or not for hire, is smoke-free. Smoking in a smoke-free place is an offence.

85. **A. No, it is used by the public so it is always smoke-free.** The vehicle is smoke-free because it is used by members of the public. This does not stop when the passenger gets out.

86. **D. Make them stop smoking.** The driver has a legal duty to cause anyone smoking in a smoke-free vehicle to stop. Failing to do so is an offence.

87. **C. At least one legible no-smoking sign must be displayed.** The person with management responsibilities for a smoke-free vehicle must make sure at least one legible no-smoking sign is displayed in it.

88. **A. True.** The 1976 Act lets a council attach the conditions it considers reasonably necessary. That is why local conditions differ, and why you must read your own council's.
89. **A. A national register of driver licence refusals, suspensions and revocations.** The 2022 Act requires English councils to record refusals, suspensions and revocations of driver licences on the national database, known as the National Register for Revocations, Refusals and Suspensions (NR3S).
90. **D. Search the national database for entries about the person.** Before deciding on an application for, or renewal of, a driver's licence, the council must search the licensing information database and consider any information it gets.
91. **C. Report the information to the council that licensed them.** If the council would have considered suspending or revoking the licence had it granted it, it must pass the information to the council that issued the licence.
92. **C. 10 working days.** The information must be provided before the end of 10 working days beginning with the day the council became aware of it.
93. **A. 11 years.** Each entry is removed at the end of 11 years beginning with the day it was first made.
94. **C. Have regard to them when using their licensing powers.** The Standards were issued under section 177 of the Policing and Crime Act 2017. Councils must have regard to them, and the DfT says that means more than a quick look.
95. **D. Police telling the council about a risk, for example at arrest or charge.** Common Law Police Disclosure lets police pass on information about a public protection risk at arrest or charge, rather than waiting for a conviction.
96. **B. They should not be issued a licence, except in truly exceptional cases.** In the interests of public safety, councils should not issue a licence to anyone on either barred list. Any exception must have its reasons recorded.
97. **C. Set national standards for granting, renewing, suspending and revoking licences.** Sections 70 to 74 let the Secretary of State make regulations setting national standards. When we checked on 29 October 2026, these sections were not yet in force.
98. **A. Suspend a licence from any English council for up to 48 hours for public safety.** Section 76 will let an enforcement officer suspend a driver, vehicle or operator licence granted by any English council if public safety requires it. Under section 77 the suspension normally lasts 48 hours. These sections were not yet in force on 29 October 2026.
99. **D. No, they will start on a date set by regulations.** Section 108 says Chapter 6 does not come into force when the Act was passed or two months after. It starts on a day the Secretary of State appoints by regulations.

Sources

- Private hire legal information, Birmingham City Council, Undated (the PDF file was created on 15 September 2016). Archived copy of 10 May 2026 (live page blocked automated access):

https://web.archive.org/web/20260510045631/https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/4214/private_hire_legal_information.pdf. Checked 29 October 2026. https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/4214/private_hire_legal_information.pdf
- Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy, Version 1 (Appendix 3 Private Hire Suitability Test; Appendix 4 Private Hire Driver and Vehicle Conditions of Licence), Birmingham City Council, Approved at City Council on 18 April 2023. Archived copy of 13 May 2026 (live page blocked automated access): https://web.archive.org/web/20260513112028/https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/27022/hackney_carriage_and_private_hire_licensing_policy.pdf. The council's policy download page, archived 15 May 2026, still lists this as the latest version.. Checked 29 October 2026. https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/27022/hackney_carriage_and_private_hire_licensing_policy.pdf
- Private Hire Combined Driver and Vehicle Licence Conditions, Birmingham City Council, Undated (the PDF file was created on 8 January 2020). The same 34 conditions are Appendix 4 of the 2023 licensing policy. Archived copy of 10 May 2026 (live page blocked automated access): https://web.archive.org/web/20260510233324/https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/821/private_hire_combined_driver_and_vehicle_licence_conditions.pdf. Checked 29 October 2026. https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/821/private_hire_combined_driver_and_vehicle_licence_conditions.pdf
- Licence conditions for hackney carriages (taxis) and private hire, Birmingham City Council, Page last updated 11 December 2023. Archived copy of 14 June 2026 (live page blocked automated access): https://web.archive.org/web/20260614140138/https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20107/taxi_and_private_hire/294/information_for_taxi_drivers_private_hire_drivers_and_operators/2. Checked 29 October 2026. https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20107/taxi_and_private_hire/294/information_for_taxi_drivers_private_hire_drivers_and_operators/2
- Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Part II, legislation.gov.uk, Revised text, shown as up to date to 29 October 2026.. Checked 29 October 2026. https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1976/57/part/II
- Town Police Clauses Act 1847 (hackney carriage sections 37 to 68), legislation.gov.uk, Revised text.. Checked 29 October 2026. https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Vict/10-11/89/contents
- Public Health Act 1936, section 300 (time limit for appeals), legislation.gov.uk, Applied to Part II of the 1976 Act by section 77.. Checked 29 October 2026. https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Geo5and1Edw8/26/49/section/300
- Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles (Safeguarding and Road Safety) Act 2022, legislation.gov.uk, Section 5 in force 31 May 2022; sections 2 to 4 in force 27 April 2023.. Checked 29 October 2026. https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2022/14/contents
- English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026, Part 3 Chapter 6 (sections 70 to 86), legislation.gov.uk, Chapter 6 is not in force at Royal Assent (s.108(2)(c)) and is marked

'prospective' as of 29 October 2026.. Checked 29 October 2026. https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2026/23/contents
- Statutory taxi and private hire vehicle standards, Department for Transport, Updated 25 November 2022 (translation added).. Checked 29 October 2026. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-taxi-and-private-hire-vehicle-standards
- Smoke-free (Exemptions and Vehicles) Regulations 2007, regulation 11, legislation.gov.uk, published 2007. Checked 29 October 2026. https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2007/765/regulation/11
- Smoke-free (Vehicle Operators and Penalty Notices) Regulations 2007, regulation 2, legislation.gov.uk, published 2007. Checked 29 October 2026. https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2007/760/regulation/2
- Smoke-free (Signs) Regulations 2012, regulation 2, legislation.gov.uk, published 2012. Checked 29 October 2026. https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/1536/regulation/2