

Nottingham licence conditions: questions and answers

36 practice questions for the Nottingham City Council taxi and private hire knowledge test, with answers and explanations at the end.

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Questions

Plying for hire and operators

1. **Someone waves down your private hire vehicle in the city centre. They have not booked. What is it called if you take them?**
 - ☐ A. A walk-up fare
 - ☐ B. Illegally plying for hire
 - ☐ C. A cash booking
 - ☐ D. An emergency hiring
2. **Which vehicles can legally ply for hire in Nottingham city?**
 - ☐ A. Hackney carriages only
 - ☐ B. Private hire vehicles only
 - ☐ C. Both, with a badge
 - ☐ D. Any car with a meter
3. **You take a street pick-up in a private hire vehicle without a booking. What happens to the vehicle's insurance?**
 - ☐ A. It still covers the trip
 - ☐ B. It covers the passenger only
 - ☐ C. It is not valid
 - ☐ D. It covers the trip if short
4. **A private hire vehicle may park on a hackney carriage rank while the driver waits for a booking.**
 - ☐ A. True
 - ☐ B. False
5. **Can a Nottingham licensed driver work for more than one Nottingham licensed operator?**
 - ☐ A. No, only one operator
 - ☐ B. Yes, two or more
 - ☐ C. Only with a second badge
 - ☐ D. Only at weekends

6. You want to start working for a second operator. What must you give the Council before you start?

- ☐ A. A signed offer of work letter
- ☐ B. A new medical
- ☐ C. A new DBS certificate
- ☐ D. A passenger reference

7. How much notice must you give the Council before you start working for a second operator?

- ☐ A. 24 hours
- ☐ B. 3 days
- ☐ C. 7 days
- ☐ D. 28 days

8. You work for two operators. Whose side panel do you display?

- ☐ A. Both operators' panels
- ☐ B. Neither, while you work
- ☐ C. The operator you joined first
- ☐ D. Only the operator who booked this trip

9. Side panels only need to be displayed when you are working.

- ☐ A. True
- ☐ B. False

Conduct in the vehicle

10. A passenger asks if they can smoke an e-cigarette in your car. What do you say?

- ☐ A. Yes, with the windows open
- ☐ B. Yes, if you agree
- ☐ C. Yes, on long trips
- ☐ D. No, it is never allowed

11. You are not working and you are alone in your licensed car. May you smoke in it?

- ☐ A. No, not at any time
- ☐ B. Yes, when off duty
- ☐ C. Yes, with the window open
- ☐ D. Yes, if you clean it after

12. You arrive to collect a passenger outside their house. How should you let them know?

- ☐ A. Sound the horn twice
- ☐ B. Do not use the horn
- ☐ C. Sound the horn once
- ☐ D. Flash your lights and use the horn

13. When may you play the radio while carrying a passenger?

- ☐ A. Always, at low volume
- ☐ B. Never, under any conditions
- ☐ C. Only with the hirer's consent
- ☐ D. Only after 10pm

14. May you eat a sandwich while the vehicle is hired?

- ☐ A. No, not while hired
- ☐ B. Yes, if stopped at lights
- ☐ C. Yes, if the trip is long
- ☐ D. Yes, if the passenger agrees

15. You may talk to a passenger about private, personal or sexual matters if they start the conversation.

- ☐ A. True
- ☐ B. False

16. Your phone rings while you are driving a licensed vehicle. What should you do?

- ☐ A. Answer it if the call is short
- ☐ B. Not use a handheld device
- ☐ C. Answer it at the next red light
- ☐ D. Ask the passenger to answer

17. A passenger asks for a written receipt for the fare they paid. What must you do?

- ☐ A. Refuse unless it is an account job
- ☐ B. Ask the operator to email one
- ☐ C. Give them a written receipt
- ☐ D. Charge a fee for the receipt

18. An officer from a different council stops you while you work in their area. What must you do?

- ☐ A. Answer reasonable questions and show documents
- ☐ B. Refuse; they have no power over you
- ☐ C. Drive back to Nottingham first
- ☐ D. Only give your name

Passengers, animals and seating

19. A passenger is blind and has a guide dog. You have no exemption notice. What must you do?

- ☐ A. Carry them and the dog
- ☐ B. Ask the dog to go in the boot
- ☐ C. Refuse if you have allergies
- ☐ D. Charge an extra fee

20. Can you charge a higher fare because a passenger has an assistance dog?

- ☐ A. Yes, a small fee
- ☐ B. Only for cleaning
- ☐ C. No, never
- ☐ D. Only at night

21. Can you charge more to carry a passenger who uses a wheelchair?

- ☐ A. Yes, for loading time
- ☐ B. Only in a hackney carriage
- ☐ C. Only if they book late
- ☐ D. No, it is not allowed

22. A passenger has a pet cat in a box. Where may it travel, if you agree?

- ☐ A. In the front footwell
- ☐ B. In the rear only
- ☐ C. In the boot
- ☐ D. On the passenger's lap in front

23. A child aged 7 wants to sit in the front of your private hire vehicle. Is this allowed?

- ☐ A. Yes, with a booster seat
- ☐ B. Yes, if a parent agrees
- ☐ C. No, children under 10 cannot sit in front
- ☐ D. Yes, on short trips

24. Who may sit in the front seats of a Nottingham hackney carriage?

- ☐ A. No passengers
- ☐ B. One adult passenger
- ☐ C. Any passenger over 10
- ☐ D. Up to two passengers

25. Your private hire vehicle has no special seating plan. How many passengers may sit in the front?

- ☐ A. None
- ☐ B. One
- ☐ C. Two
- ☐ D. Three

26. Which passenger is not counted towards the number your vehicle is licensed for?

- ☐ A. A child under 3 on an adult's lap in the rear
- ☐ B. A child under 10 in the rear
- ☐ C. A baby in a car seat in front
- ☐ D. Any child under 12

27. A passenger has heavy bags. What do the conditions say?

- ☐ A. Luggage is not your job
- ☐ B. Give all reasonable help with luggage
- ☐ C. Only help if they pay extra
- ☐ D. Only help hackney passengers

Reporting and time limits

28. You change your address. When must you tell the Council?

- ☐ A. Within 24 hours
- ☐ B. Within 72 hours
- ☐ C. Within 7 days, in writing
- ☐ D. At your next renewal

29. Your licensed car is in an accident. How long do you have to send the Council an accident form?

- ☐ A. 24 hours
- ☐ B. 72 hours
- ☐ C. 7 days
- ☐ D. 14 days

30. A passenger leaves a phone in your car and no one claims it. Where must you take it, and when?

- ☐ A. Central Police Station within 24 hours
- ☐ B. The Council office within 7 days
- ☐ C. Your operator within 72 hours
- ☐ D. Keep it for 28 days

31. You are arrested but not charged. Must you tell the Council?

- ☐ A. No, only if charged
- ☐ B. No, only if convicted
- ☐ C. Only if it was a driving matter
- ☐ D. Yes, in writing within 7 days

32. You get a fixed penalty notice for a minor matter. When must you tell the Council?

- ☐ A. Only if you lose the appeal
- ☐ B. Within 7 days, in writing
- ☐ C. Within 28 days
- ☐ D. At renewal

33. Your GP tells you not to drive because of a health problem. When must you tell the Council?

- ☐ A. Within 7 days
- ☐ B. Only at renewal
- ☐ C. Within 28 days
- ☐ D. Only if DVLA asks

34. Where must you display your dashboard badge when working?

- ☐ A. In the boot
- ☐ B. In your wallet
- ☐ C. In clear view of passengers
- ☐ D. On the rear window

35. Your private hire vehicle has a meter. When must the meter be lit up?

- ☐ A. Never
- ☐ B. Only when the passenger pays
- ☐ C. Only on motorways
- ☐ D. In the hours of darkness during a hiring

36. Your licence is refused because the Council is not satisfied you are fit and proper. How long do you have to appeal to the Magistrates' Court?

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

Answers

1. **B. Illegally plying for hire.** Picking up a passenger who has not pre-booked through a licensed operator is illegally plying for hire.
2. **A. Hackney carriages only.** Hackney carriages are the only vehicles that can legally ply for hire within the city boundary.
3. **C. It is not valid.** The vehicle's insurance is invalid if a private hire driver illegally plies for hire without a pre-booking through an operator.
4. **B. False.** False. Private hire vehicles are not allowed to park on a hackney carriage rank.
5. **B. Yes, two or more.** A Nottingham City licensed driver can work for two or more Nottingham City licensed private hire operators, if they follow the conditions.
6. **A. A signed offer of work letter.** You must give the Council a signed offer of work letter from each operator before you start work for them.
7. **C. 7 days.** Give the Council 7 days' notice before starting or stopping work for an operator. If you have less notice, tell them within 24 hours.
8. **D. Only the operator who booked this trip.** Only display the side panel for one operator at a time: the operator the current hiring is booked with.
9. **A. True.** True. The Council's 'Did you know' sheet says side panels only need to be displayed when working.
10. **D. No, it is never allowed.** You must not smoke, vape or use an e-cigarette in the vehicle at any time, or let anyone else do so.
11. **A. No, not at any time.** The condition says no smoking or vaping in the vehicle at any time. The Council calls the licensed vehicle your place of work.
12. **B. Do not use the horn.** Drivers must not use the horn to alert a customer on arrival.
13. **C. Only with the hirer's consent.** You must not play a radio or music without the hirer's express consent, except for messages about the operation of the vehicle.
14. **A. No, not while hired.** Drivers must not drink or eat in the vehicle while it is hired.
15. **B. False.** False. Drivers must not engage in conversation of a private, personal or sexual nature with passengers.
16. **B. Not use a handheld device.** Drivers must not use a handheld electronic device in the vehicle while it is being driven.
17. **C. Give them a written receipt.** If the passenger asks, you must give a written receipt for the fare paid.
18. **A. Answer reasonable questions and show documents.** When in another council's area, you must answer reasonable questions and produce documents if that council's authorised officer asks.
19. **A. Carry them and the dog.** Assistance animals must be carried if asked, unless the driver displays a Notice of Exemption issued by Nottingham City Council.

20. **C. No, never.** A driver cannot charge a higher fare for carrying a guide dog or any assistance animal.
21. **D. No, it is not allowed.** A driver cannot charge a higher fare for carrying a wheelchair passenger.
22. **B. In the rear only.** You may carry passengers' animals or pets at your discretion, in the rear of the vehicle only. This limit does not apply to assistance dogs.
23. **C. No, children under 10 cannot sit in front.** Children under 10 must not be carried in the front of the vehicle.
24. **A. No passengers.** No passengers may sit in any front seat of a hackney carriage.
25. **B. One.** No more than one passenger may sit in the front of a private hire vehicle, unless the Council has issued a seating plan for an 8-seat vehicle with 2 front passenger seats.
26. **A. A child under 3 on an adult's lap in the rear.** Children under 3 sitting on an adult's lap in the rear are not counted for this purpose.
27. **B. Give all reasonable help with luggage.** Drivers must give all reasonable assistance with passengers' luggage.
28. **C. Within 7 days, in writing.** Tell the Council in writing as soon as reasonably practicable and within 7 days of a change of address.
29. **B. 72 hours.** Report all accidents involving the vehicle to the Council on an accident form within 72 hours.
30. **A. Central Police Station within 24 hours.** Unclaimed property must be taken to Central Police Station, Nottingham, within 24 hours of being found.
31. **D. Yes, in writing within 7 days.** You must tell the Council in writing within 7 days of an arrest for any offence, whether or not you are charged.
32. **B. Within 7 days, in writing.** Any fixed penalty notice must be reported to the Council in writing within 7 days.
33. **A. Within 7 days.** If your GP has advised you not to drive, or you must tell DVLA about a condition, tell the Council within seven days.
34. **C. In clear view of passengers.** Your dashboard badge must be clearly displayed in clear view of passengers at all times when working.
35. **D. In the hours of darkness during a hiring.** The meter must be properly lit during any part of the hiring in the hours of darkness, and at other times if the hirer asks.
36. **C. 21 days.** An applicant has 21 days to appeal to a Magistrates' Court after a refusal on fit and proper grounds.

Sources

- Conditions for combined hackney carriage and private hire driver's licence, Nottingham City Council, Undated; file created 2 January 2024. Checked 29 October 2026.

<https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/media/0bhccc2n/conditions-of-licence-for-a-hc-phv-drivers-licence.docx>

- Did you know - Topography Test, Nottingham City Council, Undated; file created 9 March 2020. Checked 29 October 2026. <https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/media/uqpijulf/did-you-know-topography-test.docx>