Oldham hackney byelaws: questions and answers

29 practice questions for the Oldham Council taxi and private hire knowledge test, with answers and explanations at the end.

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Questions

Taximeters

1. **You are standing on a rank with no passenger. How must the meter be set?**
   - ☐ A. Running, with the fare at zero
   - ☐ B. Locked, with no fare recorded
   - ☐ C. Switched on, showing HIRED
   - ☐ D. Covered with a cloth

2. **When must you start the meter for a journey charged by distance and time?**
   - ☐ A. Before the journey begins
   - ☐ B. As soon as you reach the main road
   - ☐ C. When the passenger first asks about the fare
   - ☐ D. When the journey is half finished

3. **Which word must appear on the face of the meter when it is running?**
   - ☐ A. TAXI
   - ☐ B. FOR HIRE
   - ☐ C. BOOKED
   - ☐ D. HIRED

4. **It is dark during a hire. What must you do with the meter?**
   - ☐ A. Switch off its light unless the passenger asks
   - ☐ B. Turn it away from the passenger
   - ☐ C. Keep the dial properly lit
   - ☐ D. Stop the meter until daylight

5. **Who may adjust a taximeter in an Oldham hackney carriage?**
   - ☐ A. The driver, if it shows the wrong fare
   - ☐ B. Any garage with a test licence
   - ☐ C. The proprietor, if they keep the seals
   - ☐ D. Only an Authorised Officer or a contractor approved by the Council

6. **A fare starts and the meter comes on. What must happen to the For Hire sign?**
   - ☐ A. It stays lit until the passenger pays
   - ☐ B. It goes off
   - ☐ C. It flashes during the journey
   - ☐ D. It changes to red

7. **You drive outside Oldham borough with no passenger. What about the For Hire sign?**
   - ☐ A. It must not be lit
   - ☐ B. It may be lit in Greater Manchester
   - ☐ C. It must stay lit until you return
   - ☐ D. It may be lit if you are looking for fares

Stands, conduct and luggage

8. **You are plying for hire in a street and are not hired. What must you do?**
   - ☐ A. Keep driving around the town centre
   - ☐ B. Go with reasonable speed to a stand appointed by the Council
   - ☐ C. Park outside the busiest venue
   - ☐ D. Wait where you dropped your last passenger

9. **You arrive at a stand and all the places are full. What must you do?**
   - ☐ A. Wait close by in the road
   - ☐ B. Sound the horn to move the line along
   - ☐ C. Park across the front of the stand
   - ☐ D. Go to another stand

10. **There is space on a stand. Where do you put your vehicle?**
    - ☐ A. Anywhere with a clear view
    - ☐ B. At the front, if you have a booking
    - ☐ C. Behind the last carriage, facing the same way
    - ☐ D. At the back, facing the other way

11. **A hackney carriage licensed by another council stops on a rank in Oldham. What does the policy say?**
    - ☐ A. It may stay for 20 minutes
    - ☐ B. Only Oldham hackney carriages can stand on the rank
    - ☐ C. It may stay if there is space on the rank
    - ☐ D. It may stay after midnight

12. **Your friend offers to stand on the pavement and call people over to your taxi. What does the byelaw say?**
    - ☐ A. It is allowed in the daytime
    - ☐ B. It is allowed if your friend holds a badge
    - ☐ C. It is allowed if no one complains
    - ☐ D. You must not use another person to do this

13. **The plate says 5 passengers. A group of 6 asks for one taxi. What does the byelaw say?**
    - ☐ A. Do not carry more than the number on the plate
    - ☐ B. Carry them if the journey is short
    - ☐ C. Carry them if one is a child
    - ☐ D. Carry them if they all pay

14. **Someone hiring your taxi has heavy bags. What does byelaw 12 require?**
    - ☐ A. Carry bags only for an extra charge
    - ☐ B. Carry a reasonable amount and give reasonable help loading and unloading
    - ☐ C. Carry only bags that fit on the back seat
    - ☐ D. Open the boot, then let them do the lifting

15. **A child under 16 with no adult gets into your hackney carriage. Where can they sit?**
    - ☐ A. In the front, with a seat belt
    - ☐ B. Anywhere they choose
    - ☐ C. Not in the front of the vehicle
    - ☐ D. Only in the seat next to the door

Fares and lost property

16. **Who sets the fares for Oldham hackney carriages?**
    - ☐ A. The Council
    - ☐ B. The driver
    - ☐ C. The operator
    - ☐ D. Greater Manchester Police

17. **A hirer asks for a lower price than the Council's table for a journey within the borough. What does the policy say?**
    - ☐ A. The table is a fixed price and cannot change
    - ☐ B. The table is a minimum fare
    - ☐ C. A lower price can only be agreed by the Council
    - ☐ D. The table is a maximum, and the hirer can negotiate it down

18. **Your taximeter shows £9.40 at the end of a hire with no authorised extras. How much may you charge?**
    - ☐ A. £10, rounded up
    - ☐ B. £9.40 or less
    - ☐ C. £11, if it is late at night
    - ☐ D. £9.40 plus a tip you set

19. **Where must the statement of fares be displayed?**
    - ☐ A. Inside the carriage
    - ☐ B. On the rear window, outside
    - ☐ C. At the rank only
    - ☐ D. In the driver's door pocket

20. **A passenger leaves a phone in your taxi and no one claims it. Where must you take it, and by when?**
    - ☐ A. To the Council, within 7 days
    - ☐ B. To the operator, within 24 hours
    - ☐ C. To a police station in the borough, within 48 hours
    - ☐ D. To a police station in the borough, within 72 hours

21. **What must you get from the officer when you leave lost property at the police station?**
    - ☐ A. A receipt
    - ☐ B. The owner's address
    - ☐ C. A fixed fee
    - ☐ D. A reference from the Council

22. **What is the most you can claim from the owner when lost property is returned?**
    - ☐ A. £1
    - ☐ B. £5
    - ☐ C. £10
    - ☐ D. 10% of its value

23. **You are hired to attend at 7am. What does byelaw 9 require?**
    - ☐ A. Attend on time, unless a good reason stops you
    - ☐ B. Attend within 30 minutes
    - ☐ C. Attend only if you confirm the night before
    - ☐ D. Send another driver if you are busy

Hackney vehicle rules and journey records

24. **How many hackney carriages does Oldham Council limit itself to licensing?**
    - ☐ A. 60
    - ☐ B. 85
    - ☐ C. 120
    - ☐ D. No limit

25. **By what date must all Oldham hackney carriages be purpose-built and wheelchair accessible?**
    - ☐ A. 31 December 2026
    - ☐ B. 31 December 2027
    - ☐ C. 31 December 2028
    - ☐ D. 31 December 2029

26. **An Oldham hackney carriage that is not purpose-built must have a roof sign. What colours does it show?**
    - ☐ A. White to the front, red to the rear
    - ☐ B. Yellow to the front, red to the rear
    - ☐ C. Red to the front, white to the rear
    - ☐ D. White to the front and the rear

27. **What must the door signs on an Oldham hackney carriage include?**

- ☐ A. The driver's full name
- ☐ B. The driver's badge number
- ☐ C. The word TAXI
- ☐ D. The word HIRED

28. **You use a hackney carriage for a pre-booked job for an operator licensed by another council. What must be recorded?**

- ☐ A. Nothing, as the operator keeps a record
- ☐ B. Only the fare charged
- ☐ C. Only the passenger's name
- ☐ D. Date, time, pick-up, destination and the operator's name and address

29. **The journey record book for a hackney carriage is full. Where must it go?**

- ☐ A. To the Council's Licensing Department
- ☐ B. To the nearest police station
- ☐ C. To the operator's office
- ☐ D. To the shredder after 28 days

Answers

1. **B. Locked, with no fare recorded.** Byelaw 4 says that when standing or plying for hire, the device must be locked in the position where no fare is recorded.
2. **A. Before the journey begins.** Byelaw 4 says you must start the meter before beginning the journey and keep it running until the hire ends.
3. **D. HIRED.** Byelaws 3 and 4 say turning the key or flag brings the meter into action and makes the word HIRED appear.
4. **C. Keep the dial properly lit.** Byelaw 4 says the dial must be kept properly lit between half an hour after sunset and half an hour before sunrise, and at other times if the hirer asks.
5. **D. Only an Authorised Officer or a contractor approved by the Council.** Appendix B condition 11.1 says nobody else may tamper with a taximeter. Byelaw 5 also bans drivers and proprietors from tampering.
6. **B. It goes off.** Appendix B condition 10.4 says the sign must be switched off when the fare starts and the meter comes into operation.
7. **A. It must not be lit.** Appendix B condition 10.5 says the sign must not be lit when the vehicle is outside its licensing district.
8. **B. Go with reasonable speed to a stand appointed by the Council.** Byelaw 6 tells you to drive to a Council stand at a reasonable pace.
9. **D. Go to another stand.** Byelaw 6 says that if a stand already has the full number of carriages, you must go to another stand.
10. **C. Behind the last carriage, facing the same way.** Byelaw 6 says to stop immediately behind the carriages on the stand, facing the same way, and move up when the one in front moves.
11. **B. Only Oldham hackney carriages can stand on the rank.** The policy limits Oldham ranks to hackney carriages that hold an Oldham licence.
12. **D. You must not use another person to do this.** Byelaw 7 says you must not use another person to importune anyone to hire the carriage when standing or plying for hire.
13. **A. Do not carry more than the number on the plate.** Byelaw 10 says you must not carry more people than the number on the plate outside the carriage.
14. **B. Carry a reasonable amount and give reasonable help loading and unloading.** Byelaw 12 says to carry a reasonable amount of luggage and give reasonable help, including to or from the entrance of a building or station.
15. **C. Not in the front of the vehicle.** Appendix B condition 4.1 says a child under 16 with no adult must not be carried in the front.
16. **A. The Council.** The policy says the Council sets the Hackney Carriage Table of Fares. It cannot set private hire fares; those are for the operator.
17. **D. The table is a maximum, and the hirer can negotiate it down.** The table sets the top price. For a trip inside the borough, the hirer may talk it down.

18. **B. £9.40 or less.** Byelaw 14 says you cannot take more than the meter shows, except for extra charges authorised by the Council that cannot be recorded on it.
19. **A. Inside the carriage.** Byelaw 15 says the statement of fares must be shown inside the carriage in clear letters and figures.
20. **C. To a police station in the borough, within 48 hours.** Byelaw 18 says to take it to a police station in the borough as soon as possible, within 48 hours at most, and get a receipt.
21. **A. A receipt.** Byelaw 18 says you leave it with the officer in charge when they give you a receipt for it.
22. **B. £5.** Byelaw 18 sets the amount at 5p in the pound of its estimated value, or the fare to the Council office if greater, but not more than £5.
23. **A. Attend on time, unless a good reason stops you.** Byelaw 9 says you must be at the agreed place on time, unless a genuine reason delays or stops you.
24. **B. 85.** The policy says the Council is satisfied there is no significant unmet demand and limits the number to 85.
25. **D. 31 December 2029.** The policy sets 31 December 2029. Until then, a mixed fleet of saloons and wheelchair accessible vehicles is allowed.
26. **A. White to the front, red to the rear.** The policy says the roof sign on non-purpose-built hackney carriages shows white to the front and red to the rear.
27. **C. The word TAXI.** The policy says the mandatory door signs on the front driver and passenger door panels must include the word TAXI.
28. **D. Date, time, pick-up, destination and the operator's name and address.** Appendix B condition 17.2 lists date, time of first pick-up, pick-up point, destination, and the name and address of the operator.
29. **A. To the Council's Licensing Department.** Appendix B condition 17.5 says each full book must be delivered to the Council's Licensing Department.

Sources

- Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy (includes vehicle and driver conditions and byelaws), Oldham Council, Revised policy took effect 21 October 2025; Word file last modified 31 July 2026. Checked 1 November 2026. https://www.oldham.gov.uk/downloads/file/8473/hackney_carriage_and_private_hire_licensing_policy