

## E-YARD TRAINING TEAM

### Speed Limits

Again, we will revisit the subject of Speed and aspects of advanced riding and driving. A lot of this subject matter has been covered in a previous 'Excellence Through Training' publication with regard to overtaking, therefore there may be some repetition, but the subject of needs to be clear for all, whether associates, full members, tutors, or visitors to our various social media platforms.

- *It is a common belief that it is OK to exceed the speed limit 'safely' or 'a little bit' to 'make progress' when entering or leaving a limited speed zone 20's, 30's 40's etc.*
- *It is said that the examiner will tell you to "get on with it", on the gas as leaving a limited speed zone.*
- *The examiner wants to see this and if you don't do it, you'll fail/get a lower grade"*
- *It's all about progress, you need to show you're making progress.*

Firstly, let's look at what RoadCraft says about speed

- *Statutory speed limits set the maximum permissible speed, but this isn't the same thing as a safe speed.*
- *Always ride/drive so you can stop safely within the distance you can see to be clear on your own side of the road.*
- *Acceleration Sense – the ability to vary speed in response to changing road and traffic conditions by accurate use of the throttle, so that you use the brakes less or not at all. You need to use acceleration sense in every situation: moving off, overtaking, complying with speed limit*
- *(acceleration sense) requires observation, anticipation, judgement of speed and distance, riding/driving competence and knowledge of vehicle capabilities*

Now let's look at what the Road Traffic Acts and Regulations say

- *It shall not be lawful for a person to drive a motor vehicle on a restricted road at a speed exceeding (the posted) speed limit*

#### *Vehicles Legally Exempt from Speed Limits*

- *Emergency Services: Police, fire brigade, and ambulance service vehicles.*
- *National Security/Military: UK Military Special Forces (acting in response to an emergency or conducting high-speed training).*
- *Other Essential Purposes: Vehicles transporting human organs/tissues for transplant and Ministry of Defence bomb disposal units.*

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So, to the question posed. Can you exceed the speed limit when entering a limited speed zone or exiting a limited speed zone. Does the examiner allow some slack to permit it, is it something required for a pass or higher grade etc.?

- *Q. Does the law allow us to speed? What exemptions are there to exceeding the speed limit?*
- *In the UK, strict legal exemptions to exceeding the speed limit are generally limited to specific emergency services and government functions when performing their duties. General motorists cannot legally exceed the speed limit in any circumstance, including emergencies or medical situations.*

That is the answer. It's black and white. An examiner cannot condone any exceeding of the posted limit. There is no exemption for an advanced candidate.

The answer is black and white.

An examiner will tell the candidate this.

A speed limit is just that – a limit.

*What about 20's – they don't get enforced do they?*

Where a posted limit is 20, the speed limit is 20mph. No different to a 30, 40, 50 – the speed limit is, again, the limit.

Are they enforced? Generally, in England, the 20 speed limits are supported by engineering such as speed humps and pinch points (road narrowing to physically slow traffic) In Wales and Scotland the default limit in built up areas (BUA's) is 20mph and they are enforced with cameras, both fixed and mobile. This is also becoming the case in some areas of England.

*You're allowed ten percent plus two (10%-2mph)*

The National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC – formally ACPO) used to give guidelines for speed enforcement using this guideline.

It was never law.

This guideline is no longer given, so the speed limit is the speed limit.

Exceed any speed limit and risk the chance of prosecution.

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You should always aim, by taking, using and giving information, to be in the correct position, at the correct speed, in the correct gear, to deal with every hazard you encounter.

This includes arriving at the posted speed limit at no more than that speed limit, not just over it, not slowing down once you're in it – arrive AT the speed limit.

Doing so on test is likely to result in a downgrading of grade or even a failed test.

*How does the examiner mark a candidate's 'use of speed'?*

The full Examiners Marking Manual is available for all members to view on the E-YARD website ([www.yard-advanced.org](http://www.yard-advanced.org)) under Training Documents. From the Examiners Marking Manual these are the guidelines used by the Examiner to mark how the candidate performed, or didn't demonstrate use of speed

**X SPEED/PROGRESS**

The candidate must be able to demonstrate the ability to ride up to the legal speed limits where circumstances allow and to always maintain an appropriate speed for the circumstances. Accurate adherence to all speed limits will be required although exceeding a speed limit to accelerate away from danger may be acceptable. **Consistently** exceeding a limit is unacceptable and will lead to a fail being awarded. Riders who are over cautious may also create an unacceptable risk.

- 1 Excellent; well up to legal limits when circumstances permitted.
- 2 Made intelligent use of speed, observed limits well.
- 3 Good variation allowing smooth progress.
- 4 On occasions a little too keen to make progress, to the detriment of the ride.
- 5 Pinched a little too much in the lower limits.
- 6 Too brisk in some situations.
- 7 Speed dominated and spoiled the ride.
- 8 Reluctant to make progress, where circumstances allowed.
- 9 Consistently in excess of the legal limits.

*Guideline used by the Examiner to judge the awarding of marks*

Speed	Advanced riding/driving is not all about speed, it is essential that you continually assess the hazards around you and adjust your speed accordingly. Having said that you will be expected to demonstrate your ability to control your motorcycle/car at speeds up to the legal limit where it is appropriate to do so. Be aware that a riding/driving plan that requires you to exceed the legal limit to complete a manoeuvre safely is not acceptable. Likewise, if you consistently exceed the speed limit the Examiner may stop the test and you will fail.
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