

Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills – Level 2

Practice Set 3

Time: 75 minutes

Paper Reference **PENR2**

English

Component 2: Reading Text Booklet

Do not return this Text Booklet with the Question and Answer Booklet.

Instructions

- You should write your answers in the Question and Answer Booklet.
- You must **not** write any responses to questions in this Text Booklet.

Information

- This Text Booklet contains the three texts required for the Level 2 Component 2: Reading exam.
- This Text Booklet must be securely destroyed by the centre immediately after the exam has been completed.

Advice

- Read each text before you answer the questions.

Turn over ►

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Text A

Leaflet

Paragraph 1

For many people, passing their driving test is an essential introduction to adult life, signalling greater independence and freedom. However, passing your test can be a daunting prospect so read on to learn how to ditch those L plates.

Paragraph 2

The first piece of advice is obvious - make certain you're ready before applying for the test. For most people this means lessons with a driving instructor, supported by practice with a friend or family member if possible. Allow plenty of time because the average person requires 45 hours of lessons and 22 hours of additional practice before passing their test.

Paragraph 3

It's a good idea to take a mock test before your driving test, as you would with your GCSEs. A mock simulates the test experience and lets you know what to expect. Your instructor will feedback on your strengths and weaknesses after a mock test and this should help to build up the required confidence for the real test.

Paragraph 4

On the date of your test, have a lesson earlier in the day. This will help you to feel comfortable driving and provides a warm up for the real thing. Check that you have your provisional driving licence before you go to the test centre to save getting stressed about not having the right paperwork.

Paragraph 5

It's OK to be anxious during your test as long as you have strategies for coping and can stay calm enough to concentrate. Take deep breaths if you're feeling under pressure and focus on what the examiner is asking you to do. Remember that the test lasts just 40 minutes and think positively by anticipating the opportunities you'll have after passing.

Text B

Article

The teenagers who aren't learning to drive

by James Salmon

Passing the driving test and getting behind the wheel is a priority for many people for work and leisure. It was also once seen as a stepping stone to adulthood. However, a report commissioned by the Department for Transport charts a dramatic decline in car use among young people over the last twenty years or so. According to this report, a number of factors, including the decline of the car as a status symbol, have all contributed to this.

Driving among young people peaked between 1992 and 1994. During this period licences were held by:

- 48% of 17–20 year olds
- 75% of 21–29 year olds.

By 2014 driving licences were only held by:

- 29% of 17–20 year olds
- 63% of 21–29 year olds.

The number of car trips taken by young people aged between 17 and 29 also slumped by 44% between 1995 and 2014.

According to experts from the University of Oxford and UWE Bristol, there are many reasons why this could have happened. Among them are the extended youth of young people today as they spend longer in education and enter the work force later. They are also typically settling down later than previous generations. All these trends are likely to have reduced the necessity to own and use a car.

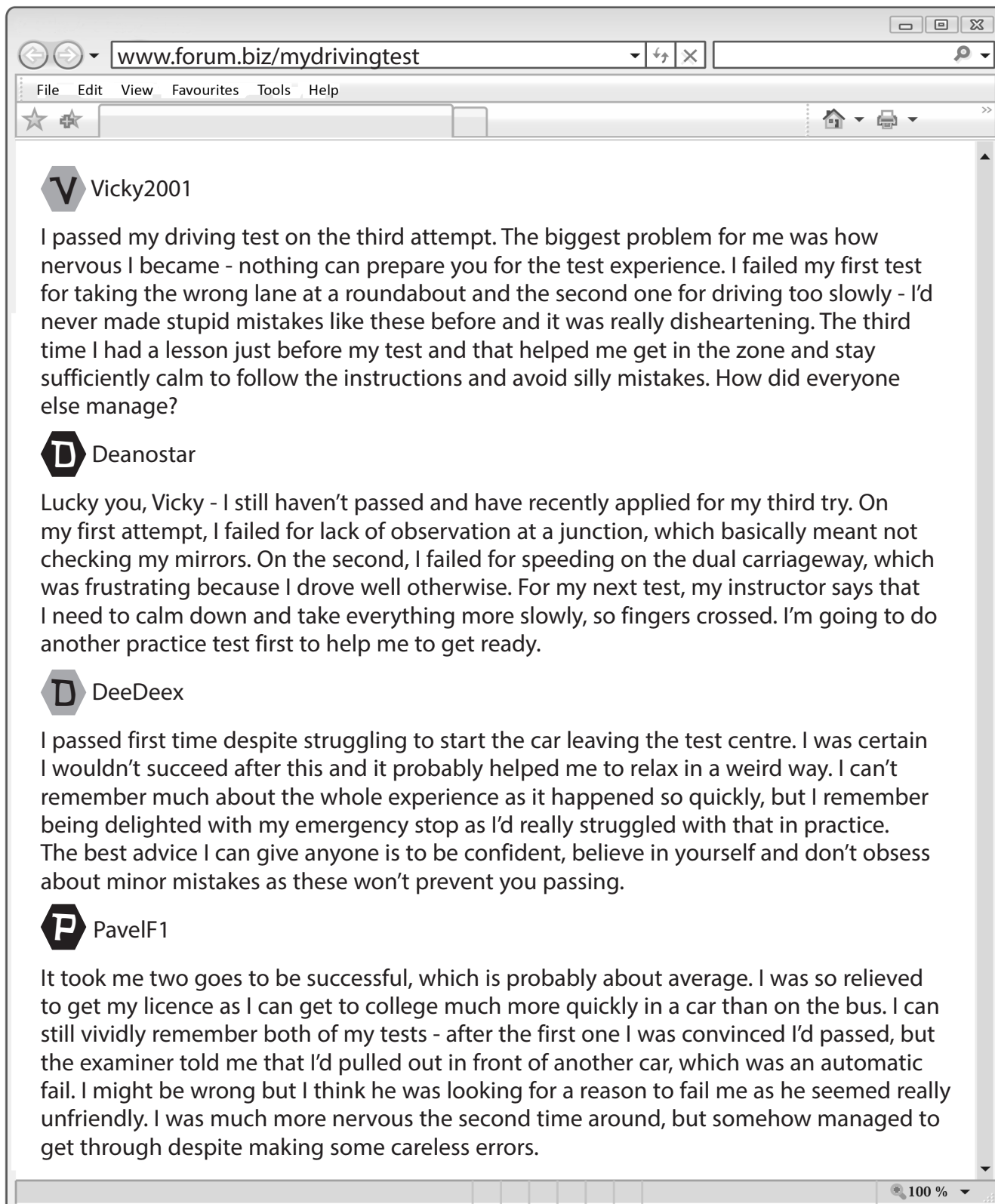
But the decline in young people's disposable income and the growth in low paid jobs are also likely to be key contributors to the drop in car use, according to the report. It added there is also good evidence that young people have been deterred from driving by high costs - especially car insurance costs. Young people tend to pay significantly more for their car insurance as they are deemed to be at much higher risk of getting involved in an accident.

Other less obvious factors given for the decline in young drivers could include the rise in digital technology and the increase of social networks. This could be causing people to replace face to face interaction with digital communication.

(Source: adapted from <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5305359/Large-drop-number-teenagers-learning-drive.html>)

Text C

Discussion forum



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar containing www.forum.biz/mydrivingtest. The browser has a menu bar with 'File', 'Edit', 'View', 'Favourites', 'Tools', and 'Help'. Below the menu bar is a toolbar with a star icon, a home icon, and a print icon. The main content area displays a forum thread with four posts, each starting with a user profile picture and name.

V Vicky2001

I passed my driving test on the third attempt. The biggest problem for me was how nervous I became - nothing can prepare you for the test experience. I failed my first test for taking the wrong lane at a roundabout and the second one for driving too slowly - I'd never made stupid mistakes like these before and it was really disheartening. The third time I had a lesson just before my test and that helped me get in the zone and stay sufficiently calm to follow the instructions and avoid silly mistakes. How did everyone else manage?

D Deanostar

Lucky you, Vicky - I still haven't passed and have recently applied for my third try. On my first attempt, I failed for lack of observation at a junction, which basically meant not checking my mirrors. On the second, I failed for speeding on the dual carriageway, which was frustrating because I drove well otherwise. For my next test, my instructor says that I need to calm down and take everything more slowly, so fingers crossed. I'm going to do another practice test first to help me to get ready.

D DeeDeex

I passed first time despite struggling to start the car leaving the test centre. I was certain I wouldn't succeed after this and it probably helped me to relax in a weird way. I can't remember much about the whole experience as it happened so quickly, but I remember being delighted with my emergency stop as I'd really struggled with that in practice. The best advice I can give anyone is to be confident, believe in yourself and don't obsess about minor mistakes as these won't prevent you passing.

P PavelF1

It took me two goes to be successful, which is probably about average. I was so relieved to get my licence as I can get to college much more quickly in a car than on the bus. I can still vividly remember both of my tests - after the first one I was convinced I'd passed, but the examiner told me that I'd pulled out in front of another car, which was an automatic fail. I might be wrong but I think he was looking for a reason to fail me as he seemed really unfriendly. I was much more nervous the second time around, but somehow managed to get through despite making some careless errors.

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