

DVSA Driving Test Routes St Helens — 6 Representative Practice Routes

■ **TRAINING GUIDE DISCLAIMER:** These routes are representative practice routes based on known roads and verified road types used at this test centre. They are NOT confirmed DVSA examiner sequences. Road sequences, junctions and directions should be verified locally with an ADI before use with learners. The DVSA does not publish official test routes.

Test Centre: St Helens DVSA Test Centre — 1 Navigation Road, off Pocket Nook Street, St Helens, WA9 1NS

St Helens routes depart via Pocket Nook Street. Verified roads include Atherton Street, Cooper Street, Cowley Hill Lane, Boundary Road, Knowsley Road, A580 East Lancs Road (70 mph dual carriageway), A58 Linkway West (50 mph), Rainford Bypass (A570), Prescot Road and residential areas of Thatto Heath, Eccleston and Windle. Pass rate ~38.6% — one of the UK's more challenging centres.

Route	Title	Manoeuvre	Independent Driving
Route 1	Cowley Hill & Knowsley Road — Verified Bay park — St Helens town centre car park	Bay park — St Helens town centre car park	Follow sat nav: St Helens Market
Route 2	East Lancs Road A580 — 70 mph	Parallel park — residential street off Rainford Road	Follow road signs: Rainford / M6
Route 3	Linkway West A58 & Sherdley Road	Parallel park — residential street, Thatto Heath	Follow sat nav: Thatto Heath Park
Route 4	Rainford Bypass & Eccleston	Bay park — Chalon Way car park	Follow road signs: Rainford Bypass
Route 5	Windle & Pull Up Right	Pull up on the right — reverse back, re-join	Follow road signs: Windle Village
Route 6	Emergency Stop & A58 Linkway	Emergency stop (1 in 7 tests)	Follow road signs: Prescot / M57

■ **Test Format (2025):** Eyesight check → Show Me/Tell Me → ~40 min drive → 1 manoeuvre → Independent driving (up to full test). Emergency stop: 1 in 7 tests. Max 3 normal stops.

■ **Manoeuvres (current):** Parallel park | Bay park (forward or reverse) | Pull up on the right & reverse. Turn in the road is NOT a current test manoeuvre.

ROUTE 1 — Cowley Hill & Knowsley Road — Verified Route

Manoeuvre: Bay park — St Helens town centre car park	Independent Driving: Follow sat nav: St Helens Market	Approx: 8–11 miles ~40 mins
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#	Road / Location	Direction / Action	Examiner Notes
1	Test Centre — Navigation Road	Turn LEFT via Pocket Nook Street	Tight town departure — 30 mph, observe immediately
2	Atherton Street	Turn LEFT — 30 mph	Residential — parked vehicles
3	Cooper Street	Turn LEFT — 30 mph	Tight residential — observe crossroads
4	Cowley Hill Lane	Traffic lights AHEAD — 30/40 mph	Busier A-road — speed management
5	Boundary Road	Traffic lights RIGHT — 40 mph	Variable junctions
6	Knowsley Road	Take 3rd turning RIGHT — 30 mph	Count side roads carefully
7	Windsor Road / Mulberry Avenue	End of road LEFT — 30 mph	Estate road
8	Hewitt Avenue / Ackers Lane	2 crossroads then RIGHT	Observe both ways at unmarked crossroads
9	Mill Brow	Turn RIGHT — 30 mph	Gradient — hill start possible
10	Millbrook Lane / Chapel Lane	Roundabout RIGHT	Give way, signal, smooth exit
11	Springfield Lane / Houghtons Lane	Turn LEFT — 30/40 mph	Residential return
12	Navigation Road	Return via Pocket Nook Street	Controlled finish

Key Hazards: ■ Unmarked crossroads on Hewitt Avenue | ■ Cowley Hill Lane traffic light sequence | ■ Mill Brow gradient | ■ Millbrook Lane roundabout give-way

ROUTE 2 — East Lancs Road A580 — 70 mph

Manoeuvre: Parallel park — residential street off Rainford Road	Independent Driving: Follow road signs: Rainford / M6	Approx: 8–11 miles ~40 mins
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#	Road / Location	Direction / Action	Examiner Notes
1	Test Centre	Turn LEFT — Pocket Nook Street	Town departure — 30 mph
2	Cowley Hill Lane	Continue STRAIGHT — 40 mph	Busier A-road
3	East Lancs Road (A580)	Turn RIGHT — dual carriageway 70 mph	Merge confidently — highest speed on test
4	A580 — dual carriageway	Continue STRAIGHT	Lane discipline — mirror checks every 5 seconds
5	Blindfoot Road / Mossborough Road	Take LEFT exit — decelerate smoothly	Signal early, smooth exit
6	Mossborough Road	Roundabout AHEAD then RIGHT	Rural roundabout — give way
7	Rainford Road (A570)	Turn LEFT — 40/50 mph	Varied A-road character
8	Residential side road — MANOEUVRE	PARALLEL PARK	Signal, smooth reverse, within 2 car lengths kerb
9	Rainford Road (A570)	Re-join LEFT — 40 mph	Re-establish speed and position
10	Cowley Hill Lane	Turn LEFT — 40 mph	Return arterial
11	Town centre approach	Continue STRAIGHT — 30 mph	Pedestrians, crossings
12	Navigation Road	Return via Pocket Nook Street	Controlled finish

Key Hazards: ■ A580 70 mph dual carriageway merge — most critical | ■ Smooth exit from dual carriageway at Mossborough | ■ Rainford Road 50 mph speed management | ■ Parallel park on A570 side road

ROUTE 3 — Linkway West A58 & Sherdley Road

Manoeuvre: Parallel park — residential street, Thatto Heath	Independent Driving: Follow sat nav: Thatto Heath Park	Approx: 8–11 miles ~40 mins
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#	Road / Location	Direction / Action	Examiner Notes
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1	Test Centre	Turn RIGHT — Pocket Nook Street	Quiet departure — 30 mph
2	Corporation Street / Church Street	Continue STRAIGHT — 30 mph	Town centre — bus stops, pedestrians
3	A58 Linkway West	Turn LEFT — dual carriageway 50 mph	Smooth acceleration, lane discipline
4	Linkway West	Continue STRAIGHT — 50 mph	Long dual carriageway run
5	Sherdley Road junction	Take LEFT exit — 40 mph	Decelerate early, smooth exit
6	Sherdley Road	Continue STRAIGHT — 40 mph	Parks, school zones — pedestrian awareness
7	Thatto Heath — residential street	PARALLEL PARK	Signal, check mirrors, smooth reverse
8	Thatto Heath Road	Re-join LEFT — 30 mph	MSM, pull away cleanly
9	Prescot Road (A570)	Turn LEFT — 40 mph	Link to East Lancs corridor
10	North Road	Turn LEFT — 40 mph	Busy arterial return
11	Duke Street / town approach	Continue STRAIGHT — 30 mph	Mixed commercial
12	Navigation Road	Return via Pocket Nook Street	Controlled finish

Key Hazards: ■ A58 Linkway West 50 mph dual carriageway | ■ Sherdley Road school zone pedestrians | ■ Prescot Road 40 mph junctions | ■ Town centre return — bus stops

ROUTE 4 — Rainford Bypass & Eccleston

Manoeuvre: Bay park — Chalon Way car park

Independent Driving: Follow road signs: Rainford Bypass

Approx: 8–11 miles | ~40 mins

#	Road / Location	Direction / Action	Examiner Notes
1	Test Centre	Turn LEFT — Pocket Nook Street	30 mph departure
2	Cowley Hill Lane	Turn LEFT — 40 mph	A-road approach
3	Rainford Bypass (A570)	Turn RIGHT — dual carriageway 50 mph	Build speed, lane discipline
4	Rainford Bypass	Continue STRAIGHT — 50 mph	Long dual run — mirror checks, following distance
5	Eccleston / College Road exit	Take LEFT exit — 30 mph	Decelerate early, smooth exit
6	College Road	Continue STRAIGHT — 30 mph	Residential — Eccleston approach
7	Eccleston village	Continue STRAIGHT — 30 mph	Narrow village road — parked vehicles
8	Lythgoes Lane	Turn LEFT — 30 mph	Residential return
9	Dentons Green Lane	Turn RIGHT — 30/40 mph	Suburban connector
10	Church Street	Turn LEFT — 30 mph	Town approach — signals
11	Chalon Way	Turn RIGHT — BAY PARK	Reverse bay in town centre car park
12	Navigation Road	Return via Pocket Nook Street	Controlled finish

Key Hazards: ■ Rainford Bypass 50 mph dual carriageway | ■ Eccleston village narrow road — parked cars | ■ Bay park in Chalon Way car park | ■ Dentons Green Lane speed variation

ROUTE 5 — Windle & Pull Up Right

Manoeuvre: Pull up on the right — reverse back, re-join

Independent Driving: Follow road signs: Windle Village

Approx: 8–11 miles | ~40 mins

#	Road / Location	Direction / Action	Examiner Notes
1	Test Centre	Turn RIGHT — Pocket Nook Street	30 mph departure
2	Standish Street	Turn LEFT — 30 mph	Residential
3	Boundary Road	Turn LEFT — 40 mph	North St Helens approach
4	Windle Road	Turn LEFT — 30/40 mph	Semi-rural fringe
5	Windle village — residential road	PULL UP ON RIGHT	Signal, check, reverse 2 car lengths, re-join
6	Windle Road	Re-establish 30/40 mph	MSM, smooth pull-away

7	North Road	Turn LEFT — 40 mph	Busy arterial — bus stops
8	East Lancs Road (A580)	Turn RIGHT — dual carriageway 70 mph	Merge smoothly — maintain lane
9	A580 short section	Continue STRAIGHT	Lane discipline — mirrors
10	Parr / Sutton exit	Take LEFT exit — decelerate	Signal, smooth exit
11	Prescot Road (A570)	Turn LEFT — 40 mph	Return corridor
12	Navigation Road	Return via Pocket Nook Street	Controlled finish

Key Hazards: ■ A580 70 mph merge on return | ■ Pull-up-on-right safe re-joining on 40 mph road | ■ Windle semi-rural — limited sightlines | ■ North Road bus traffic

ROUTE 6 — Emergency Stop & A58 Linkway

Manoeuvre: Emergency stop (1 in 7 tests)	Independent Driving: Follow road signs: Prescot / M57	Approx: 8–11 miles ~40 mins
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#	Road / Location	Direction / Action	Examiner Notes
1	Test Centre	Turn LEFT — Pocket Nook Street	Town departure — 30 mph
2	Corporation Street	Continue STRAIGHT — 30 mph	EMERGENCY STOP section
3	EMERGENCY STOP if required	Examiner signal	Firm, straight stop — handbrake, neutral
4	Corporation Street	Re-establish 30 mph	Compose — MSM
5	A58 Linkway West	Turn LEFT — dual carriageway 50 mph	Smooth acceleration
6	Linkway West	Continue STRAIGHT — 50 mph	Lane, speed, mirrors
7	Sherdley Road	Take LEFT exit — 40 mph	Smooth deceleration
8	Sherdley Road	Continue — school zone ahead	40 mph — pedestrian awareness
9	Prescot Road (A570)	Turn LEFT — 40 mph	Varied junctions, anticipate lights
10	Dentons Green Lane	Turn RIGHT — 30/40 mph	Residential return
11	Church Street / town	Continue STRAIGHT — 30 mph	Bus stops, pedestrians
12	Navigation Road	Return via Pocket Nook Street	Controlled final park

Key Hazards: ■ Emergency stop composure | ■ A58 Linkway West 50 mph dual carriageway | ■ Sherdley Road school zone on return | ■ A570 Prescot Road varied junctions