

ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION OFFICE
G.C.S.E. MOTOR VEHICLE
& ROAD USER STUDIES



G.C.S.E. MOTOR VEHICLE & ROAD USER STUDIES

Why is it necessary?

For many years it has been accepted that our educational system must equip young people not only with the knowledge to pass examinations but also the skills necessary to cope with everyday life after school. In that context one of the most important lifeskills is the ability to cope with road and driving conditions as they exist in Northern Ireland today. The loss of young lives is both tragic and largely avoidable. The importance of road safety teaching has been clearly recognised by the listing of the subject within the Education Reform Order (NI) 1989 and continued within the 1996 Order.

What is involved?

A GCSE course has been introduced to the school curriculum to help realise that aim. Motor Vehicle and Road User Studies leads, after two years, to an examination in three parts.

- (a) One of two theory papers, each carrying 60% of the overall marks. The Foundation Tier Paper lasting 1 1/2 hours will carry a range of grades from C-G inclusive.

The Higher Tier Paper lasting 2 hours will carry grades from A*-D (E), with E being awarded to those narrowly failing to achieve grade D.

Topics covered include:

- The Highway Code
- Alcohol abuse with special reference to the road user
- Legal requirements such as documentation and the different types of insurance available
- Motoring mathematics including the buying and selling of vehicles
- Accident procedure
- Motor Vehicle technology

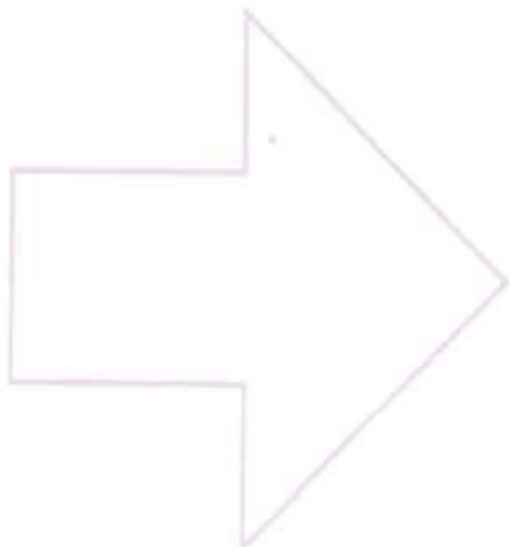
- (b) **An Investigative Study** carried out during the two year course and with a marks allocation of 20%. This will involve selection from a range of options such as an in-depth study of traffic problems at a location near the school.
- (c) **Practical riding** carried out on a 49cc moped within the school grounds, not on public roads, and carrying 20% of the marks.

What are the advantages?

Firstly, the course will instil a greater knowledge and awareness of road safety.

Secondly, a good grade in this subject will be accepted by most employers. Indeed, the Northern Ireland Civil Service Commission, the largest single employer in Northern Ireland, has accepted that a C pass in this subject will count as one of the five passes required for entry to the Civil Service.

The Association of British Insurers has also indicated that a pass in Motor Vehicle and Road User Studies would be particularly useful for potential employees in their field, and a good grade will be accepted by both Universities and Teacher Training Colleges.



CONTACTS

Further information on Road Safety may be obtained from the DOE Road Safety Education Offices located at the following addresses:-

Belfast Education and Library Board Area

c/o 40 Academy Street
Belfast
BT1 2NQ
Tel: 028 9050 8181

North Eastern Education and Library Board Area

County Hall
182 Galgorm Road
Ballymena
BT42 1HN
Tel: 028 2564 4311

South Eastern Education and Library Board Area

Hydebank
4 Hospital Road
Belfast
BT8 8JL
Tel: 028 9025 3123

Southern Education and Library Board Area

Library Headquarters
1 Markethill Road
Armagh
BT60 1NR
Tel: 028 3752 0773

Western Education and Library Board Area

Lisnagelvin Crown Building
2 Crescent Road
Lisnagelvin
Londonderry
BT47 2NJ
Tel: 028 7131 9319

