



ESDS THEORY TEST INFORMATION

Emergency Services Driving Standard

ESDS Structure and Content

ESDS Level and category specific theory tests are part of the ESDS Certification process in order to check the understanding of the theory within the ESDS Publications and reference material.

The purpose of this booklet is to inform ESDS candidates of what to expect when they are studying to sit an ESDS Theory Test.

ESDS Structure

ESDS Level 1

This is the entry level and sets out to describe the training, learning and assessment that will produce competent, socially responsible Emergency Service Drivers. The Level 1 Standard will not entitle a driver to drive under 'blue light' conditions but is pitched at a level above that attained at the RSA state driving test. This level does not extend to driving vehicles while exercising exemptions under road traffic legislation.

ESDS Level 2

This level describes the training, learning and assessment for emergency service drivers and includes the principles and skills set of "Roadcraft". Roadcraft is a recognised system of vehicle control in the training of Emergency Service Drivers that develops a methodical approach to driving hazards and increases safety by giving the driver more time to react in complex situations. Level 2 is an intermediate standard which will not facilitate driving under 'blue light' conditions but builds on Level 1 and is aimed at producing a much higher skilled driver. This level does not extend to driving vehicles while exercising exemptions under road traffic legislation.

ESDS Level 3

Level 3 is the highest standard and includes response driving i.e. driving under 'blue light' conditions and exercising exemptions as allowed under road traffic legislation. Level 3 builds substantially on Level 2 and describes the training, learning and assessment for Emergency Service Drivers to achieve and maintain competence at the highest level of safe and competent response driving.

ESDS Structure and Content

ESDS Level 1	ESDS Level 2	ESDS Level 3
<p>Module 1: Before driving emergency service vehicles</p> <p>Module 2: Driving emergency service vehicles</p> <p>Module 3: The fundamentals of road sharing</p>	<p>Module 4: Recognise, manage and avoid risk</p> <p>Module 5: Vehicle Control</p> <p>Module 6: Control in traffic situations</p>	<p>Module 7: Managing emergency response</p> <p>Module 8: Driving standards and vehicle assessment</p> <p>Module 9: Emergency response driving</p>
Practical Assessment and Theory Test (Level and Vehicle specific)		
ESDS Level 1 Certificate	ESDS Level 2 Certificate	ESDS Level 3 Certificate

ESDS Learning Documents

The following is a list of relevant training material which will support your preparation for the ESDS Theory Test.

- **www.rsa.ie/esds**
 - ESDS Information Booklet
 - ESDS Guidance Manual
 - ESDS Competence Framework
 - ESDS Syllabus
 - ESDS Standard Operating Procedures and Marking Guidelines
 - ESDS Trainers Handbook
 - ESDS Drivers Guide
 - ESDS Tactical Response
- **www.rulesoftheroad.ie**
 - Rules of the road
- **Roadcraft (Purchase On Line)**
- **Relevant Road Traffic Legislation**
- **RSA publications and website**
 - RSA Guide-Keeping your commercial vehicle roadworthy
 - Learning to drive a truck

Related Documents

- ▶ [ESDS Information Booklet](#)
- ▶ [ESDS Guidance Manual](#)
- ▶ [ESDS Competence Framework](#)
- ▶ [ESDS Syllabus](#)
- ▶ [ESDS Standard Operating procedures and Marking Guidelines](#)
- ▶ [ESDS Trainer Handbook](#)
- ▶ [ESDS Drivers Guide](#)
- ▶ [ESDS Tactical Response Guidelines](#)

ESDS Theory Test Levels and Category Options

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
LEVEL 1 CORE B, BE, W	LEVEL 2 CORE B, BE, W Elements of Level 1 Core Roadcraft	LEVEL 3 CORE B, BE, W Elements of Level 1 Core Elements of Roadcraft Emergency Response
50 multiple choice questions for ESDS Level 1 Core	80 multiple choice questions made up of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 ESDS Level 1 Core • 50 ESDS Level 2 Core 	100 multiple choice questions made up of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 ESDS Level 1 Core • 40 ESDS Level 2 Core • 30 ESDS Level 3 Core
Candidate must have completed the relevant core theory test (above) before proceeding onto the below modules:		
Truck Module	Bus Module	Trainer Module
30 multiple choice questions specifically for Truck.	30 multiple choice questions specifically for Bus.	40 multiple choice questions specifically for Trainers.

ESDS Theory Tests

Theory Test Title	Category Covered	Duration	Number of Questions
ESDS Core Level 1	(B, BE, W)	1hr 15mins	50
ESDS Core Level 2	(B, BE, W)	2hrs	80
ESDS Core Level 3	(B, BE, W)	2hrs	100

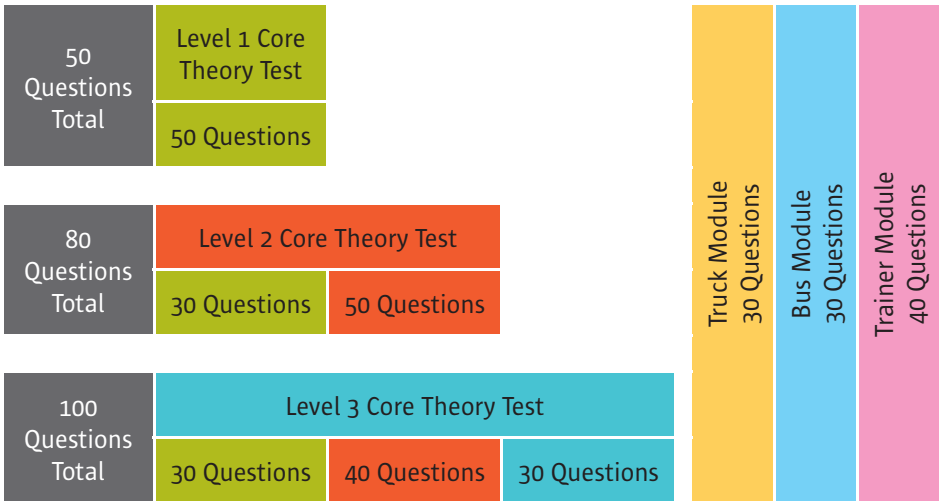
Additional ESDS Theory Test Modules

Theory Test Title	Category Covered	Duration	Number of Questions
ESDS Truck Module	(C1, C, C1E, CE)	1hr	30
ESDS Bus Module	(D1, D, D1E, DE)	1hr	30
ESDS Trainer Module*	All Categories	1hr	40

**Specific to trainer applications only*

A candidate must complete the relevant core theory test prior to practical assessment along with the relevant additional module if required

ESDS Theory Tests



e.g. Theory Test requirement at Level 2 in Category B - Completes 80 Question - Level 2 Core Theory Test.

e.g. Theory Test requirement at Level 2 in Category C - Completes 80 Question - Level 2 Core Theory Test **and** Truck Module - 30 Questions

ESDS Core Level 1

ESDS Core Level 1	Theory Test	Duration	Questions
Modules 1-3	ESDS Core Level 1	1hr 15 Mins	50

50 multiple choice questions from ESDS Level 1 Standard (Modules 1-3).

Reference Material:

- Rules of the Road
- Relevant ESDS Publications
- Relevant Road Traffic Legislation
- RSA publications and website

ESDS Core Level 1

ESDS Core Level 1	Theory Test	Duration	Questions
Modules 1-3	ESDS Core Level 1	1hr 15 Mins	50

Module 1	Before Driving Emergency Services Vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legislation relevant to driving emergency services vehicles• Administrative Aspects of Driving• Preparing for a Journey• Vehicle Safety and Technical Checks
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ESDS Core Level 1

ESDS Core Level 1	Theory Test	Duration	Questions
Modules 1-3	ESDS Core Level 1	1hr 15 Mins	50

Module 2	Driving Emergency Services Vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pre Start Routine• In Vehicle Technology Systems• Communication Signs & Signals• Correct Positioning on the Road• Primary Controls• Secondary Controls
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ESDS Core Level 1

ESDS Core Level 1	Theory Test	Duration	Questions
Modules 1-3	ESDS Core Level 1	1hr 15 Mins	50

Module 3	The Fundamentals of Road Sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sharing the Road• Managing Speed• Anticipation and Reactions• Driving in adverse weather conditions• Driving in an Eco – Efficient Manner• Changing Direction• Night Driving• Driving Calmly
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ESDS Core Level 1 – Sample Questions

What should a driver do when approaching a junction normally controlled by traffic lights and the traffic lights are not lighting?

- A. Proceed smartly through the junction to avoid delay.
- B. Stop at the junction and give way to traffic on the left.
- C. Treat the junction as an unmarked junction and proceed cautiously while watching out for other traffic.
- D. Switch on hazard warning lights and proceed.

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Answer (C)

On a regional road, is it permitted to move into the hard shoulder to allow following traffic to overtake?

- A. No, it is never permitted to drive on a hard shoulder except in the case of an emergency.
- B. Yes, temporarily when the hard shoulder is clear and it is safe to drive there while the faster traffic overtakes.
- C. Yes, when a truck or bus is oncoming.
- D. No, except on '2-plus-1 roads'.

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Answer (B)

ESDS Core Level 2

ESDS Core Level 2	Theory Test	Duration	Questions
Modules 1-6	ESDS Core Level 2	2hr	80

80 multiple choice questions consisting of:

- **30 Questions ESDS Level 1 standard (Modules 1-3)**
- **50 Questions ESDS Level 2 standard (Modules 4-6)**

Reference Material:

- Rules of the Road
- Relevant ESDS Publications
- Roadcraft publication
- Relevant Road Traffic Legislation
- RSA publications and website

ESDS Core Level 2

ESDS Core Level 2	Theory Test	Duration	Questions
Modules 4-6	ESDS Core Level 2	2hr	80

Module 4	Recognise, Manage and Avoid Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mental Skills for Better Driving• Intelligent Use of Speed• Advanced Observation and Anticipation Techniques• Dynamic Risk Assessment
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ESDS Core Level 2

ESDS Core Level 2	Theory Test	Duration	Questions
Modules 4-6	ESDS Core Level 2	2hr	80

Module 5	Vehicle Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• System of Vehicle Control• Skill of Vehicle Control• Controlling Vehicle Stability• Use and Interpretation of Driving Signals
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ESDS Core Level 2

ESDS Core Level 2	Theory Test	Duration	Questions
Modules 4-6	ESDS Core Level 2	2hr	80

Module 6	Control in Traffic Situations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advantageous Positioning• Principles of Cornering• Overtaking: Planning and Techniques• Multi-lane Roadways
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ESDS Core Level 2 – Sample Questions

According to the Roadcraft Handbook, what is meant by “Red Mist”?

- A. When a driver become involved in a dispute with another road user.
- B. When driving a vehicle under emergency conditions and encountering inclement weather.
- C. The haze emitting from a vehicle’s engine after having been driven at high speed for a period of time.
- D. The driver has become emotionally and physiologically caught up in a specific goal.

Answer (D)

The Roadcraft handbook states that when the brake/gear overlap is used, it

- A. makes the car stable for a short period of time.
- B. must be part of a planned approach to a hazard.
- C. allows the driver to compensate for poor road conditions.
- D. should only be to slow the vehicle down on slippery road surfaces.

Answer (B)

ESDS Core Level 3

ESDS Core Level 3	Theory Test	Duration	Questions
Modules 1-9	ESDS Core Level 3	2hr	100

100 multiple choice questions consisting of:

- **30 Questions ESDS Level 1 standard (Modules 1-3)**
- **40 Questions ESDS Level 2 standard (Modules 4-6)**
- **30 Questions ESDS Level 3 standard (Modules 7-9)**

Reference Material:

- Rules of the Road
- Relevant ESDS Publications
- Roadcraft publication
- Relevant Road Traffic Legislation
- RSA publications and website

ESDS Core Level 3

ESDS Core Level 3	Theory Test	Duration	Questions
Modules 7-9	ESDS Core Level 3	2hr	100

Module 7	Managing Emergency Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mental Skills for Response Driving• Evaluate Response Need• Dynamic Risk Assessment• Emergency Route Planning
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ESDS Core Level 3

ESDS Core Level 3	Theory Test	Duration	Questions
Modules 7-9	ESDS Core Level 3	2hr	100

Module 8	Driving Standards and Vehicle Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintains Driving Standards• Vehicle Assessment for Response
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ESDS Core Level 3

ESDS Core Level 3	Theory Test	Duration	Questions
Modules 7-9	ESDS Core Level 3	2hr	100

Module 9	Emergency Response Driving	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sharing the Road• Managing Speed• Anticipation and Reactions• Driving in adverse weather conditions• Driving in an Eco – Efficient Manner• Changing Direction• Driving Calmly
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ESDS Core Level 3 – Sample Questions

As per ESDS Tactical Response Guidelines, Emergency Response is defined as driving when using any of the exemptions afforded by the relevant legislation

- A. and/or the use of lights and sirens.
- B. and/or the use of emergency warning equipment.
- C. and the use of lights and sirens to facilitate progress.
- D. and/or the use of emergency warning equipment to facilitate progress.

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Answer (D)

The decision to utilise emergency equipment lies with

- A. the ESV Driver.
- B. the passenger.
- C. the radio controller.
- D. a trained ESV passenger.

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Answer (A)

ESDS Truck Module

ESDS Truck Module	Theory Test	Duration	Questions
Category C1, C, C1E, CE	ESDS Truck Module	1hr	30

30 multiple choice questions relevant to vehicles in Category C1, C, C1E, CE.

The Theory test is generic across ESDS Levels

Reference Material:

- Rules of the Road
- ESDS Publications (Level 1 – Modules 1-3)
- Relevant Road Traffic Legislation
- RSA publications and website

ESDS Truck Module

ESDS Truck Module	Theory Test	Duration	Questions
Category C1, C, C1E, CE	ESDS Truck Module	1hr	30

Truck Module	Before driving Emergency Services Vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preparing for a Journey• Vehicle Safety and Technical Checks
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ESDS Truck Module

ESDS Truck Module	Theory Test	Duration	Questions
Category C1, C, C1E, CE	ESDS Truck Module	1hr	30

Truck Module	Driving Emergency Service Vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pre Start Routine• In Vehicle Technology Systems• Communication Signs & Signals• Correct Positioning on the Road• Primary Controls
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ESDS Truck Module

ESDS Truck Module	Theory Test	Duration	Questions
Category C1, C, C1E, CE	ESDS Truck Module	1hr	30

Truck Module	The Fundamentals of Road Sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sharing the Road• Managing Speed• Anticipation and Reactions• Driving in adverse weather conditions• Driving in an Eco – Efficient Manner• Changing Direction• Driving Calmly
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ESDS Truck Module – Sample Questions

Which of the following is more advantageous in stabilising a high-sided vehicle in windy conditions?

- A. Having no load.
- B. Having a full load.
- C. Having a light load.
- D. Moving the heaviest part of the load to the front of the vehicle.

Answer (B)

What does this sign mean?

- A. No entry for vehicles over (3.0 t).
- B. No entry for vehicles with 3 axes.
- C. Maximum permitted length of vehicle (3.0 m).
- D. Minimum permitted length of vehicle is (3.0m).



Answer (A)

ESDS Bus Module

ESDS Bus Module	Theory Test	Duration	Questions
Category D1, D, D1E, DE	ESDS Bus Module	1hr	30

30 multiple choice questions relevant to vehicles in Category D1, D, D1E, DE.

The Theory test is generic across ESDS Levels

Reference Material:

- Rules of the Road
- ESDS Publications (Level 1 – Modules 1-3)
- Relevant Road Traffic Legislation
- RSA publications and website

ESDS Bus Module

ESDS Bus Module	Theory Test	Duration	Questions
Category D1, D, D1E, DE	ESDS Bus Module	1hr	30

Bus Module	Before driving Emergency Services Vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preparing for a Journey• Vehicle Safety and Technical Checks
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ESDS Bus Module

ESDS Bus Module	Theory Test	Duration	Questions
Category D1, D, D1E, DE	ESDS Bus Module	1hr	30

Bus Module	Driving Emergency Service Vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pre Start Routine• In Vehicle Technology Systems• Communication Signs & Signals• Correct Positioning on the Road• Primary Controls
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ESDS Bus Module

ESDS Bus Module	Theory Test	Duration	Questions
Category D1, D, D1E, DE	ESDS Bus Module	1hr	30

Bus Module	The Fundamentals of Road Sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing the Road • Managing Speed • Anticipation and Reactions • Driving in adverse weather conditions • Driving in an Eco – Efficient Manner • Changing Direction • Driving Calmly
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ESDS Bus Module – Sample Questions

What is the maximum Design Gross Vehicle Weight of a trailer that a driver can tow on a full Category D Licence?

- A. 550kg.
- B. 750kg.
- C. 3500kg.
- D. 4250kg.

Answer (B)

What precaution should a driver take when allowing passengers to alight from a bus or minibus?

- A. Make sure that the oncoming traffic is stopped before opening the door.
- B. Make sure that the passengers exit on the side away from the centre of the road.
- C. Ask the passengers to alight as quickly as possible.
- D. Watch for traffic in the rear-view mirror and advise the passengers when to get out.

Answer (B)

ESDS Trainer Module

ESDS Trainer Module	Theory Test	Duration	Questions
ESDS Trainer	ESDS Trainer Module	1hr	40

40 multiple choice questions relevant to the role of an ESDS Trainer.

The Theory test is generic across all categories of vehicles

Reference Material:

- Rules of the Road
- Relevant ESDS Publications
- Relevant Road Traffic Legislation
- RSA publications and website

ESDS Trainer Module

ESDS Trainer Module	Theory Test	Duration	Questions
ESDS Trainer	ESDS Trainer Module	1hr	40

- The ESDS Registered Trainer
- Driving Emergency Service Vehicles
- Delivery of Learning
- Assessment and Feedback
- Service Delivery

ESDS Trainer – Sample Questions

What should a ESDS Trainer remember when giving a demonstration?

- A. The demonstration should follow an explanation of the skill.
- B. The use of demonstration as a teaching method is ineffective.
- C. The demonstration should precede the explanation of the skill.
- D. The demonstration should be given after the driver has tried the skill.

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Answer (A)

During feedback with a driver, questioning is a good way of

- A. minimising conversation and rapport.
- B. remaining vague and maintaining a negative bias.
- C. targeting aspects of driving that cannot be changed.
- D. confirming that the driver has understood what has been taught.

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Answer (D)



Údarás Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre

Road Safety Authority

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