

drive**Johnson's**

Thought Provoking Questions

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SAMPLE

How to make your questions more thought provoking

Many instructors struggle to ask thought provoking questions and to keep it going. One of the main reasons they struggle is because they have fallen into the trap of over instructing without realising. So when they try to turn on the thought provoking questions, the questions can seem quite flat and basic.

Here are some examples of flat questions and some thought provoking questions.

Scenario One

The pupil doesn't do a 360 observation before moving away.

Flat Example

Instructor John, you missed your observations there it's really important to look all around you. Why is it important to look all around you?

Pupil Oh, so I don't hit/kill anyone.

Instructor Good. When you're ready, drive on.

Thought Provoking Example

Instructor John you missed your observations there. Did you realise you missed looking all around you, especially your right shoulder?

Pupil Oh, sorry.

Instructor See that house numbered 43? What would have happened if that silver car started coming off the driveway as you was about to move off?

Pupil I might have hit the car.

Instructor Did you know it was moving off the driveway as you were moving off?

Pupil No, I didn't.

Instructor Could it have been moving off the driveway?

Pupil Yes.

Instructor So let's say you did look all around you and you saw the car moving off the driveway, whose priority would it be?

Pupil I'm not sure.

Instructor It's usually our priority as we are on the road and they are on the driveway. But it's not clear cut, as it depends on who starts moving first. So what do you think you need to do if you see the car

- moving off the driveway?
- Pupil** Look at them, make eye contact?
- Instructor** Yes, that's a good idea. What else?
- Pupil** Look at their position, speed and signal and if I don't know where they are going, don't go.
- Instructor** Whose fault would it be if you both went at similar times and collided?
- Pupil** It would be theirs as they were on the driveway probably.
- Instructor** You said probably, but it's not certainty. It could be their fault and it could be ours. It could go either way when it's referred to the insurers/solicitors. What could happen to your insurance on a 50/50 claim?
- Pupil** Would it go up?
- Instructor** Yes, it would. We don't want that do we, so what are you going to 110% every time you move away from the side of the road?
- Pupil** Look all around me/full 360 observation.
- Instructor** Good stuff. If anything is moving towards you, what will you do?
- Pupil** Hold back and look at them.
- Instructor** If you have been waiting a little while then what should you do again?
- Pupil** What do you mean?
- Instructor** If you have been waiting a while, could something else happen on the other side of your car?
- Pupil** Oh yeah, I guess so.
- Instructor** Can you see why you have to reset your observations then?
- Pupil** Fair point. I get what you're saying.
- Instructor** I only want the best for you. When you're ready, drive on when you know it's safe.

After all of that, and this is an exaggerated example, you can see on example will stick with the pupil more than the other.

The key with the second example was the instructor asking questions that they pre-empted the pupil would struggle to answer. By stretching the pupil's thinking and opening their mind to the problems, various solutions were mutually agreed and dictated.

Another myth about taking the standards is that you should ask lots of questions.

Examples of thought provoking questions

Precautions and cockpit

1. When you first get into the car, why is it important to make sure that the parking brake is applied before adjusting the seat?
2. How can you check that all the doors are properly closed?
3. How can you judge the seat is in the correct position?
4. Why must you not adjust the seat, mirrors or steering column while the car is moving?

Foot Controls

1. What is meant by the term **acceleration sense**?
2. In what circumstances might it be necessary to apply the footbrake with the left foot?
3. What are the advantages of applying the footbrake progressively?
4. Why must you check the mirrors before accelerating or braking?
5. What action should you take if the footbrake fails?
6. Why is it important to use the footbrake rather than the parking brake to stop the vehicle?
7. What is ABS?

The Clutch

1. Where should your left foot be when you are not using the clutch?
2. What is meant by riding/slipping the clutch?
3. How can you recognise the gripping/biting point?
4. Why can coasting be dangerous?

12. How would you identify a fault with the steering?

Mirrors

1. Why is it important to make effective and regular use of the mirrors?
2. When must you use the interior mirror?
3. When must you use the exterior mirrors?
4. Why is the Mirrors-Signal-Manoeuvre routine so important to good driving?
5. Why is it important to use the M-S-M routine in good time?
6. What should you do if your car doesn't have an anti-dazzle mirror?

Blind Spots

1. What are blind spots?
2. What causes blind spots?
3. When and why must you check the blind spots?
4. Why should you be aware of other drivers' blind spots?

Moving Off

1. Which gear should you use to move off?
2. Why must you check the blind spots?
3. When should you release the parking brake?
4. What road position should you take up after moving off?
5. Why is it important to check the mirrors again after moving off?
6. Is it always necessary to signal?
7. What is the procedure for moving off up/downhill or at an angle?

Stopping on the left

1. Why is it important to check the mirrors in good time?

2. When will it be necessary to give a signal?
3. When might it be necessary to change gear before stopping?
4. What is meant by **progressive braking**?
5. Why is it important to apply the footbrake smoothly?
6. Why is it important to not put the clutch pedal down too soon?
7. How should the vehicle be left if parked facing uphill/downhill, with/without a kerb?

Stopping on the right

1. When is it safe/unsafe to pull up on the right hand side of the road?
2. Why is it important to check the mirrors in good time on the approach?
3. What should you do if you see someone behind you considering to overtake?
4. When is it safe to cross oncoming traffic?
5. What are the issues/dangers of stopping too close behind a car already parked on the right?
6. When you are reversing, how can you judge whether you need to stop for oncoming cars?
7. What important considerations are required before you cross and re-join the traffic on the left?

Safety Margins

1. How can you judge your stopping distance?
2. What factors affect your braking and thinking distance?
3. How does tyre tread depth/pressure affect your stopping distance?
4. What determines the distance you should keep from the vehicle ahead?
5. What is the 2 second rule?

Emergency Stop

1. In what circumstances would it be necessary to make an emergency stop?

19. At traffic light controlled crossroads - Why should you look in all directions still before proceeding?
20. What rule should be applied for box junctions?
21. When on the major road, why is it important to glance into both minor roads before passing a crossroad?
22. Why is it dangerous to stop too early before emerging or crossing and what focal points can you use to help judge the correct time to stop/cross?

Roundabouts

1. What advantages do roundabouts have over other types of junction?
2. What are the rules of priority at roundabouts?
3. How should you normally position/signal to go left/ahead/right at a roundabout?
4. How do you decide on which lane to choose on approach to a roundabout?
5. What should you do if there are three or more lanes on approach to a roundabout?
6. What should you do if you find yourself in the wrong lane for your route?
7. At what point should you signal to leave a roundabout?

Spiral Roundabouts

1. Where would you expect to see a spiral roundabout? (Large town/city or small village)
2. When are you allowed to go through the solid dashed lines on a spiral roundabout?
3. Why is it important to check your mirrors before changing direction when following the road markings on a spiral roundabout, especially from the inside of the roundabout?
4. How should you normally position/signal to go left/ahead/right at a roundabout?
5. When exiting off a spiral roundabout, why should you be aware of slip roads on your left side and what precautions should you take?
6. What should you do if you find yourself in the wrong lane for your route?

7. At what point should you signal to leave a roundabout on a spiral roundabout?

Mini Roundabouts

1. What are the rules of priority at mini-roundabouts?
2. How should you normally position to go left/ahead/right at a mini-roundabout?
3. In what circumstances would it be permitted to drive over the central white marking?
4. Why do you need to take care when large vehicles are turning at a mini-roundabout?
5. When would it be acceptable not to signal your intention to leave a mini-roundabout?
6. What rules of priority apply at double mini-roundabouts?
7. How should you deal with multiple mini-roundabout systems?
8. What are the dangers of attempting to make a U-turn at a mini-roundabout?

Bends

1. How would you recognise a bend in the road ahead?
2. Why is the MSPSL routine important when dealing with bends?
3. Where should you position on approach and through a left/right hand bend?
4. Why is it better to control speed before entering a bend?
5. Why is it to keep the car 'under acceleration' in a bend?

Making a U-turn

1. What would make it unsafe/illegal to make a U-turn?
2. If unsafe/illegal, what might be an option?
3. Why might indicator signals cause confusion?
4. When might it be necessary to use an indicator signal?

9. How should you deal with approaching traffic/pedestrians/cyclists?

Turn in the road

1. What would make it unsafe/illegal to make this manoeuvre?
2. If unsafe/illegal what might be an option?
3. Why isn't it necessary to give a signal?
4. Where should you look before starting/during the manoeuvre?
5. Why shouldn't you turn the steering wheel until the vehicle is moving?
6. When would it be necessary to use the parking brake during the manoeuvre?
7. How should you deal with approaching traffic/pedestrians/cyclists?
8. Who has priority whilst you are manoeuvring?

Parallel parking

1. What are the advantages of parking in reverse gear?
2. What is the minimum gap you would need to park?
3. Where should you start/finish the manoeuvre?
4. How can you judge the point of turn?
5. Why is it important to keep looking all around?
6. How should you deal with approaching traffic/ pedestrians/cyclists?
7. What should you do if you are positioned to park and another vehicle pulls up too close behind you?
8. Observations before manoeuvre?
9. Why is it important to keep scanning (busy roads)
10. Waving others on, is it okay? Eye contact?
11. Why should you finish with your wheels straight?
12. Are you allowed to wave others on?
13. How much clearance is needed between you and the car you are reversing next to?
14. Is a signal ever necessary, if so - when?