



FORTH VALLEY GROUP
OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS



IAM Group 6168

Scottish Charity SC023512

NEWSLETTER 2020

Issue 35

GROUP NEWS

DUE TO THE CONTINUING COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS & SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS, OUR PROGRAMME OF MEMBERS' MEETINGS IS SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. MEMBERS ARE ADVISED TO KEEP UP-TO-DATE BY FREQUENTLY FOLLOWING NATIONAL & LOCAL NEWS BULLETINS, AND FOLLOW OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR GROUP UPDATES.

Your Committee 2019/20

Acting Chair	Mark Elder	0797 3217256	chair@forthvalleyiam.org.uk
Secretary	David Allan		secretary@forthvalleyiam.org.uk
Treasurer	Lindsay Pyall		treasurer@forthvalleyiam.org.uk
Membership/Liaison Secretary	Mark Elder	0797 3217256	membership@forthvalleyiam.org.uk
Newsletter Editor	Kenneth Grant	01324228126	newsletter@forthvalleyiam.org.uk
Motorcycle Chief Observer	Fiona Robertson		chief_observer_bikes@forthvalleyiam.org.uk
Car Chief Observer	Derek Buchanan		chief_observer_cars@forthvalleyiam.org.uk
Committee Member	Amanda Aikman		
Committee Member	Andrew Dougall		
Committee Member	David McCall		

Highway Code: Share your views

For the last year the Department of Transport has been working privately with a coalition of walking and cycling groups to produce an interim review of the Highway Code. The new Highway Code proposals focus on cycling and walking as part of the Government's commitments to encourage these activities. There are important changes proposed that will impact the safety of all road users and we are interested in assessing the views of our members on what is, and is not, included in the review.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/review-of-the-highway-code-to-improve-road-safety-for-cyclists-pedestrians-and-horse-riders/summary-of-the-consultation-proposals-on-a-review-of-the-highway-code>

The Impact of Covid-19 lockdowns on road deaths in April 2020 in Europe

Preliminary data from 25 EU Member States show an average 36% drop in road deaths in April 2020 compared to the average of the same month in the previous three years, according to a new report by the European Transport Safety Council.

<https://www.roadsafe.com/theimpactofcovid19lockdownsonroaddeathsinapril2020ineurope>

Building your confidence post-lockdown

If you reduced your car or motorbike use to essential journeys only in recent months, to help in the collective effort to stop the spread of COVID-19, regardless of when you passed your test, many people will feel they need to build on their confidence post-lockdown.

<https://www.iamroadsmart.com/media-and-policy/news-and-insights/blog-post-details/building-your-confidence-post-lockdown/2020/07/27/building-your-confidence-post-lockdown>

CAR / MOTORCYCLE SECTION

QUIZ ANSWERS

Highway Code

Q1: Rule 83

On all journeys, the rider and pillion passenger on a motorcycle, scooter or moped **MUST** wear a protective helmet. **This does not apply to a follower of the Sikh religion while wearing a turban.** Helmets **MUST** comply with the Regulations and they **MUST** be fastened securely. Riders and passengers of motor tricycles and quadricycles, also called quadbikes, should also wear a protective helmet. Before each journey check that your helmet visor is clean and in good condition.

Laws RTA 1988 sects 16 & 17 & MC(PH)R as amended reg 4

Q2: New Drivers Act

REMEMBER that under the New Drivers Act you will have your licence **revoked if you get six penalty points on your licence within two years of passing your first driving test.** You will need to pass both the theory and practical tests again to get back your full licence.

Q3: Rule 110

Flashing headlights. Only flash your headlights to let other road users know that you are there. Do not flash your headlights to convey any other message or intimidate other road users.

Q4: Rule 51

At night. It is safer not to ride on the road at night or in poor visibility, but if you do, make sure you wear reflective clothing and your horse has reflective bands above the fetlock joints. **A light which shows white to the front and red to the rear should be fitted, with a band, to the rider's right arm and/or leg/riding boot.** If you are leading a horse at night, carry a light in your right hand, showing white to the front and red to the rear, and wear reflective clothing on both you and your horse. It is strongly recommended that a fluorescent/reflective tail guard is also worn by your horse.

Q5: Rule 293

Controlled Crossings. Most crossings have traffic light signals with a steady amber light, twin flashing red stop lights ([download 'Light signals controlling traffic'](#) and ['Traffic signs'](#)) and an audible alarm for pedestrians. They may have full, half or no barriers.

- You **MUST** always obey the flashing red stop lights.
- You **MUST** stop behind the white line across the road.
- **Keep going if you have already crossed the white line when the amber light comes on.**

Q6: Motorcycle licence requirements

If you have a provisional motorcycle licence, you **MUST** satisfactorily complete a Compulsory Basic Training (CBT) course.

You can then ride unaccompanied on the public road a motorcycle up to 125 cc, with a power output not exceeding 11 kW, with L plates (in Wales either D plates or L plates, or both, can be used), for up to two years.

Q7: Rule 112

The horn. Use only while your vehicle is moving and you need to warn other road users of your presence. Never sound your horn aggressively. You **MUST NOT** use your horn

- while stationary on the road
- **when driving in a built-up area between the hours of 11.30 pm and 7.00 am** **except** when another road user poses a danger.

Law CUR reg 99

Q8: Rule 219

Emergency and Incident Support vehicles. You should look and listen for ambulances, fire engines, police, doctors or other emergency vehicles using flashing blue, red or green lights and sirens or flashing headlights, or traffic officer and incident support vehicles using flashing amber lights. When one approaches do not panic. **Consider the route of such a vehicle and take appropriate action to let it pass, while complying with all traffic signs. (Rule 276)** If necessary, pull to the side of the road and stop, but try to avoid stopping before the brow of a hill, a bend or narrow section of road. Do not endanger yourself, other road users or pedestrians and avoid mounting the kerb. Do not brake harshly on approach to a junction or roundabout, as a following vehicle may not have the same view as you.

Q9: Rule 113

You **MUST**

- ensure all sidelights and rear registration plate lights are lit between sunset and sunrise
- **use headlights at night, except on a road which has lit street lighting.** These roads are generally restricted to a speed limit of 30 mph (48 km/h) unless otherwise specified
- use headlights when visibility is seriously reduced (see [Rule 226](#)).

Night (the hours of darkness) is defined as the period between half an hour after sunset and half an hour before sunrise).

Laws RVLR regs 3, 24, & 25, (In Scotland - RTRA 1984 sect 82 (as amended by NRSWA, para 59 of sched 8))

Q10: Rule 226

You MUST use headlights when visibility is seriously reduced, generally when you cannot see for more than 100 metres (328 feet). You may also use front or rear fog lights but you **MUST** switch them off when visibility improves (see Rule 236).

Law RVLR regs 25 & 27

Rule 236

You **MUST NOT** use front or rear fog lights unless visibility is seriously reduced (see Rule 226) as they dazzle other road users and can obscure your brake lights. You **MUST** switch them off when visibility improves.

Law RVLR regs 25 & 27

Q11:

If you have to stop in a tunnel, leave **at least a 5-metre gap between you and the vehicle in front.**

Q12:

In Scotland it is an offence for anyone aged 18 or over to smoke in a private motor vehicle (unless it is parked and being used as living accommodation) **when there is someone under 18 in the vehicle** and the vehicle is in a public place.

Laws [TSf\(EV\)R regs](#), [TSfP\(W\)R regs](#), [TPSCP\(S\)R regs](#), [S-f\(PV\)R regs](#) & [S-f\(W\)R regs](#)

Q13: **Rule 274**

If your vehicle breaks down, think first of all other road users and

- get your vehicle off the road if possible
- warn other traffic by using your hazard warning lights if your vehicle is causing an obstruction
- help other road users see you by wearing light-coloured or fluorescent clothing in daylight and reflective clothing at night or in poor visibility
- **put a warning triangle on the road at least 45 metres (147 feet) behind your broken-down vehicle on the same side of the road**, or use other permitted warning devices if you have them. Always take great care when placing or retrieving them, but never use them on motorways
- if possible, keep your sidelights on if it is dark or visibility is poor
- do not stand (or let anybody else stand) between your vehicle and oncoming traffic
- at night or in poor visibility do not stand where you will prevent other road users seeing your lights.

Rule 275

Never attempt to place a warning triangle on a motorway

Q14: **Rule 243**

DO NOT stop or park

- near a school entrance
- anywhere you would prevent access for Emergency Services

- at or near a bus or tram stop or taxi rank
- on the approach to a level crossing/tramway crossing
- **opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space**
- near the brow of a hill or hump bridge
- opposite a traffic island or (if this would cause an obstruction) another parked vehicle
- where you would force other traffic to enter a tram lane
- where the kerb has been lowered to help wheelchair users and powered mobility vehicles
- in front of an entrance to a property
- on a bend
- where you would obstruct cyclists' use of cycle facilities **except** when forced to do so by stationary traffic.

What Year?

Q1: 1931 Q2: 1935 Q3: 1983
 Q4: 1975 Q5: 1973 Q6: 1996
 Q7: 2018

So You Think You Know Your Road Signs?

Two-way traffic crosses one-way road

Opening or swing bridge ahead

Low-flying aircraft or sudden aircraft noise

Falling or fallen rocks

Trams crossing ahead

Level crossing without barrier or gate ahead

T-junction with priority over vehicles from the right

Side winds

Quayside or river bank