

## GR8Drive Driving School

GR8drive Driving School is owned by Gaz Reynolds who is regularly featured on television and radio shows including LBC Radio and Harrow FM (See our You Tube Page at <https://www.youtube.com/user/GRDrive> ). Visit [www.gr8drive.com](http://www.gr8drive.com) for details.

### Eco Aware Driving

Eco-aware driving has been part of the driving test exam for some time. As you may be aware the DSA introduced it into the Driving Test in September 2008 and there will be increasing emphasis on it in the future. Don't get caught out! Join a driving school that teaches up-to-the-minute eco-friendly techniques in Harrow, Pinner, Watford and surrounding areas!

From our experience of driving tests at both Pinner and Watford Test Centres and surrounding areas an increasing emphasis is being made on eco-aware or 'eco-friendly' driving and you will be marked on this in your test!.

At GR8Drive Driving School we teach a style of eco-aware driving which, when implemented successfully, will reduce emissions, minimise fuel consumption and reduce wear and tear on your vehicle. Listed on this page are the main points which contribute in these three areas. Implement them all and, depending what type of vehicle you drive, you will immediately see cost savings of up to 20%.

1. Anticipate road conditions well ahead and drive smoothly. This enables you to completely avoid sharp acceleration and heavy braking, decreasing fuel consumption by up to 15%.

2. Where possible keep a constant speed between 45mph and 60mph (this will not be possible on lower speed limit roads). Because engines are at their most efficient in this range fuel consumption is decreased, and so are emissions.

3. Check your revs. Change gear before 2500rpm in a petrol car and before 2000rpm in a diesel.

4. Don't leave the engine idling on a cold day just to warm it up. This uses unnecessary fuel and increases both emissions and the rate of engine wear.

5. Restarting the engine uses less energy than idling for 10 seconds, so if you are in a jam or a long queue turn the engine off.

6. Plan long journeys properly avoiding congestion and taking into account the road type. Remember a 110 mile trip cruising at optimum speeds is more efficient than a 100 mile trip on the back roads.

7. Walk or cycle for short journeys. It takes up to 6 miles for engines to warm up and a catalytic converter to work properly. In this time emissions can be up to 60% higher and fuel consumption almost doubles.

8. Keep your tyres correctly inflated. Under inflated tyres increase fuel consumption by up to 3% and emissions by up to 5% - and can be dangerous.

9. Keep use of air conditioning to a minimum, it significantly increases fuel consumption.

10. Don't carry unnecessary weight in the vehicle, or leave roof racks, boxes or bike carriers on when not in use.