Candidate ADI (cADI) Testing standard

Approved Driving Instructors (ADI)

The RSA has set standards for itself to examine candidate ADI (cADI) through the qualification, expertise and skills being brought together to set up the three stage examination process. We are also setting benchmarks in relation to the quality of the organisation/people that provide the services and train our staff to the standard necessary to carry out the examination/assessment process. The RSA expect that any applicant who applies to have previous qualifications recognised can demonstrate that the service providers who assisted in setting their examination process can equal or better those outlined below. It is important to recognise that the standards of the service providers are as equally important as the examination standard in the three stage examination process when applying for recognition of existing qualifications.

Stage 1: Theory test

Defining the theory test development process is a fundamental step in determining the key criteria required for the development, delivery and management of a fair and consistent test experience for all applicants.

Service provider – Prometric Ireland

Prometric Ireland is a recognised global leader in technology – enabled assessment services and in particular, test development and psychometric related services.

In addition to the Irish Driver Theory Test Service, they also manage test development and delivery programs for many state organisations such as EU-wide testing for EPSO (EU Personnel Selection Office), Health and Safety testing for CITB (Construction Industry Training Board) UK, public examinations development work for CCEA (Council for the Curriculum Examinations & Assessment) NI.

Prometric Ireland is ISO 9001 2000 certified. All Prometric Ireland test centre staff complete an annual test centre accreditation test with a minimum 70% required to pass. All staff must successfully complete this certification program to undertake their role and understand their responsibilities in order for them to provide a professional and high quality secure testing service. Prometric's test delivery technologies are aligned to industry standards to address security, reliability, performance and the candidate experience.

Theory test development process

The development process meets the high standard embodied in the Education Testing Services (ETS) Standards for Quality and Fairness. The ETS Standards are designed to ensure that all Prometric and ETS products and services demonstrably meet explicit criteria in areas of basic importance, including quality control for accuracy and timeliness, validity, assessment creation, test administration, reliability, scale definition, equating and score interpretation.

Údaras Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre
Road Safety Authority

Páirc Ghnó Ghleann na Muaidhe, Cnoc an tSabhaircín, Bóthar Bhaile Átha Cliath, Béal an Átha, Co. Mhaigh Eo, F26 V6E4.

Moy Valley Business Park, Primrose Hill, Dublin Road, Ballina, Co. Mayo, F26 V6E4.

Tel: (096) 25 000
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To ensure that the theory test is of the required standard there has been ongoing analysis and development of the process.

- Test Definition/Job Analysis
- Item Development Workshop
- Psychometric & Language Item Editing
- Item Review
- Pilot Testing
- Item Analyses and Form Assembly
- Setting a passing standard

Stage 2: Driving test

The Road Safety Authority (RSA) is responsible for developing and delivering the Stage 2 test (Driving test).

The Road Safety Authority have overall responsibility for the conduct of Driver Tests in Ireland and is the body designated in legislation to carry out tests in accordance with an EU standard.

The ADI examiners carrying out the tests have been selected for their high level of driving test skills and have successfully completed an extensive training programme designed by the ADI Chief Examiner to ensure that they have the requisite skills to deliver a high quality test in a consistent manner. On successful completion of the training each examiner will be approved by the ADI Chief Examiner.

Their ongoing work is monitored and supervised. All records of this continual assessment are recorded to ensure this high level of quality and consistency is maintained. As a regular feature of their work each ADI Examiner will be accompanied by a more senior Examiner.

Stage 3: Instruction ability test

The RSA believes that stage 3 of the examination requires a recognised educational standard in assessment by our ADI examiners to provide a fair and consistent test experience for all applicants.

Service provider – Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT)

Waterford Institute of Technology provides education up to doctorate level for full time (6,000) and part time (4,000) students in a wide range of disciplines, including business, education, health, humanities, engineering and science. WIT was established by statute as Waterford Regional Technical College in 1969 and is now one of the largest of the Institutes of Technology outside Dublin.

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In 2007 the WIT project team leader was Ray McGrath. He lectured on the Masters in Learning and Teaching and the Higher Certificate in Adult Education programmes. He has taught a 30-hour module on Assessment and Evaluation at the Masters level and designed and delivered workshops on Assessment for staff of WIT. He has extensive programme design experience including the development, collaboratively with colleagues from Tralee Institute of Technology, of several modules for the Higher Certificate in Adult Education programme. He has worked collaboratively with several organisations including Waterford County Council, County Wexford Partnership and WLR in designing and delivering training programmes.

Assessment certification process

The ADI examiners are qualified with a recognised award in assessment skills. To achieve this aim, a hands-on, practical approach to assessing instructional skills is used including in-situ simulations, writing up assessment reports and the use of video recordings. The assessment of trainee learning is an essential and integral dimension of WIT's training approach. In keeping with successful practice in other training situations, assessments are aligned directly with the agreed learning outcomes.

Important note

If you are applying for exemptions from one or all of the three stage examinations on the basis of an existing qualification you must be able to provide the required documentation. The RSA service providers have the qualifications and accreditation at a high standard so that all applicants who become a RSA ADI can be satisfied in the knowledge that all RSA ADI's have reached the standard required by the RSA.