



John is an extremely patient and easy going driving instructor who really embraces the fact that “there is no such thing as a stupid question”.

I took my lessons while studying for my Masters degree in a different city and working, however Johns schedule was flexible and he was happy to work with me in the little free time I had.

The progress reports at the end of each lesson were very helpful in giving me an idea of where I was going wrong and what needed improvement while the lesson hand outs were useful references between lessons.

Thanks to John I passed my driving test first time and would recommend him to anyone else looking to not only pass their driving test but to learn to drive safely.

Mel



I started driving with John soon after I came to Stirling for university.

One of the first things he told me was that no matter how long it took me, I would leave his car with a drivers licence. I was very nervous and lacked confidence when I first started with John, but his positive attitude and willingness to answer every question I threw at him definitely helped to calm my nerves.

John was completely the right choice for me, he told me that everyone learns at their own pace (which was definitely a comfort when my flatmate started lessons with him after me yet still managed to pass before me). I would highly recommend John to anyone, he is a very patient instructor and always manages to have a positive word to say at the end of every lesson.

His patience and positivity helped me to settle into driving easily and although I wasn't the fastest learner I can now say that he came through on his promise: I have a full drivers license.

Thanks, Kate



John Spalding is an experienced and patient instructor. As he says, you will not be leaving this car without passing the test. I was especially nervous as I had never driven before, but with John's guidance I reached test standard and passed my practical exam first time!

The handouts make it easier to fill in and revise gaps in your knowledge outside of lessons. I found the show-me, tell me and Craig's Roundabout sections especially useful.

As someone who lives in Dunblane, the additional half hour added to my lessons was very convenient, as it meant I could still have the equivalent of a full lesson in Stirling.

All in all, I am very happy with the standard of my lessons. Thank you, John. Hopefully I'll be seeing you soon for Pass Plus.

Rowan Watt



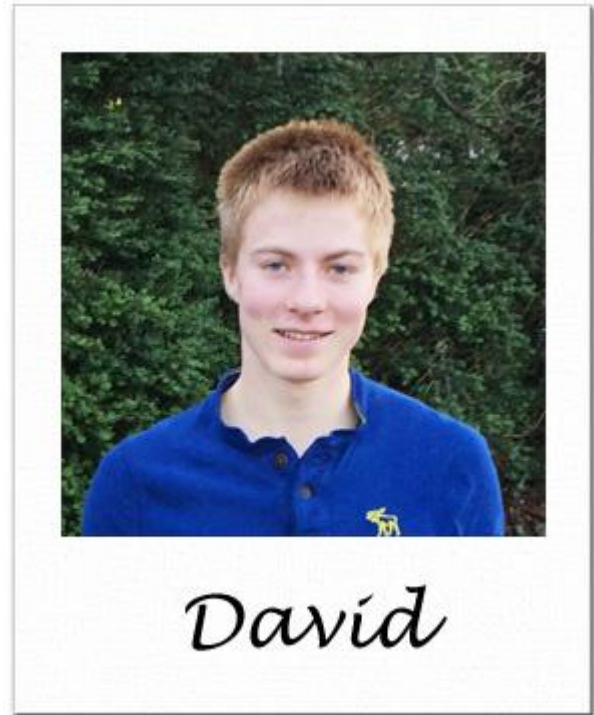
I was quite nervous about driving when I first started learning, I had previously had lessons with another instructor but I was still a very nervous driver.

After my lessons with John I feel much more confident when on the road, the lesson structure and hand outs he provided allowed me to gain a much better understanding of the driving practices I was learning and this in turn helped me to gain confidence.

He would always explain the aims of the lesson clearly and would talk me through any maneuvers I was unsure about. With 2 - 3 lessons a week I quickly picked up the driving practices I had previously found difficult and managed to pass my test first time with only five faults.

I really enjoyed learning to drive with John and would highly recommend him as a driving instructor.

Mary



I was the one of three of my family to learn with John and everyone of us passed first time. He is an excellent instructor who teaches you to drive safely as well as how to pass your test. You never feel like you have a wasted lesson, each one is carefully thought out so you never feel like you are wasting money.

You are given handouts for every teaching practise which allow you to check anything you are unsure of and to improve faster. The progress card done after every lesson lets you see where you are improving and what still needs work. John makes every lesson enjoyable with his friendly nature and sense of humour.

It was a fantastic experience to learn to drive with John and I passed my test after just over 20 lessons.

I would recommend John to anyone who is wanting to learn how to safely drive and how to pass their test first time.

David



John is the third instructor I have had. Due to financial constraints and moving I was never able to continue with my driving lessons. I had however previously sat my theory test and passed. When I came to John I only had 3 1/2 months before I needed to be at test level otherwise I was going to have to sit my theory test again.

John's approach was very different to my previous instructors however the structure and handouts were exactly what I needed. The step by step guide meant that I knew exactly what to do and when. The lessons were slower than I was used to but by the time I was doing practice lessons I felt confident driving and did not feel surprised by anything that could have happened. John is very relaxed and calm and adjusted the lessons to support me with the areas I struggled with.

On the day of the test John was very reassuring and made me feel relaxed. I honestly believe that if I had gone with a different instructor I would have had to resit my theory test. I would highly recommend John.

Laura



Learning to drive with John was a great experience. Each lesson is well structured, including handouts to help you understand everything more clearly, which are particularly helpful with the manoeuvres.

He is very flexible and worked around my schedule, allowing me to progress quickly. John organises lessons excellently with every lesson focusing on a different aspect of driving or a manoeuvre.

The progress card allows you to track how well you are doing, helping you to know what to work on most. I passed my test first time with four driving faults after just three months of driving and only 25 lessons.

John not only taught me how to drive in order to pass my test but how to drive safely in the future. I would certainly recommend John as a driving instructor to anyone and wish him all the best in the future.

Jenny



From the very first lesson that I had with John, I knew that it was the right choice. For me.

I enjoy having a stable routine in place, and with John's structured lesson plans, it's easy to stay on track and make regular progress.

If you're looking to pass your driving test, and leave with valuable road confidence, then give Thistle School of Motoring a call.

As a driving instructor, I would recommend John Spalding in the highest regard.

All the best.

John





Stepping into John's learner car was a daunting process for me as I lack confidence and self-belief when learning new skills. Immediately John presented himself as a professional driving instructor who instantly put me at ease in his company.

As time went on, John was able to identify my strengths and weaknesses in order to progress to test standard: eliminating bad habits and perfecting good ones. Whilst meticulous in his ways, John always appreciated the fact that I had other commitments as well as learning to drive and was therefore keen to work around my schedule. Continuously reminding me I would not be leaving his car without a driving license, which proved to be the case as I passed first time!

If you are looking for a driving instructor who will ensure your success, I would highly recommend Thistle School of Motoring. I can't thank John enough for his belief in my abilities and his ongoing support.

Nadia



John was a pleasure to learn to drive with, he was always very calm and would point out where you went wrong in order to make it better, He was always organised and on time for lessons, hand-outs were provided during lessons to help revise what you had learned at your own time.

I also done the pass plus module to enhance my understanding of driving on motorways and rural roads and loved the experience, all the driving and thinking was down to you and John sat back and helped when needed, it made me feel more confident to then go out and drive on my own.

I highly recommend learning with John as he is very helpful and makes learning to drive a worthwhile experience.

Thank You!

Lauren



*Sidhant*

After several lessons with another instructor, I felt I wasn't really getting anywhere with my driving and had almost given up after starting university. A year later, I decided to change instructor and have no regrets in choosing John. I was aiming to be able to pass my test within the summer holidays and John was able to provide 2-3 lessons a week to help me achieve this.

John provided a free assessment lesson, after which we decided it was best to start from scratch as I had quite a few bad driving habits. In contrast to my previous instructor, his lessons were carefully planned out and structured, which meant that I was able to progress quite quickly and reach test standard in around two months. John also provided a set of handouts for each lesson which were really useful for reference purposes, as it can be easy to forget how to do something after being shown it.

All in all, I am very happy with the driving instruction I received from John, which helped me pass my driving test on first attempt. I would most definitely recommend Thistle School of Motoring to anyone who is learning to drive. It certainly made the difference for me! Sidhant



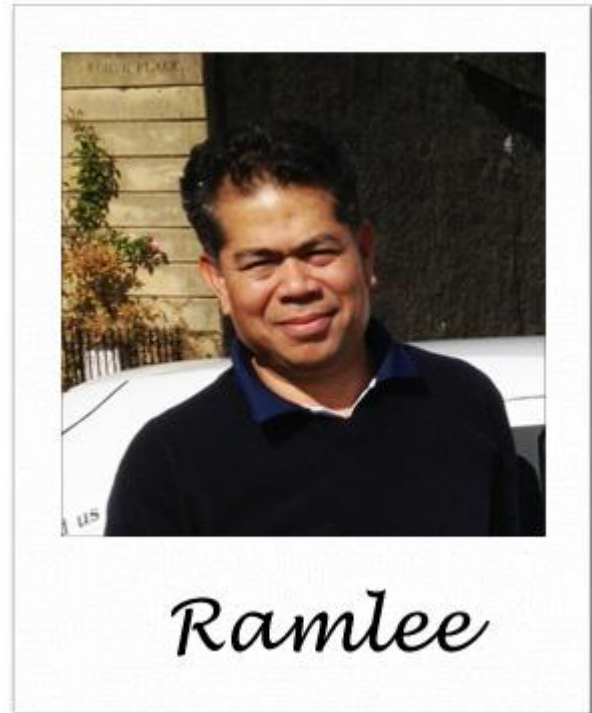
I would recommend John as a driving instructor to anyone that wants to pass first time and develop the skills to be a safe and competent driver.

I was given hand outs for every driving practice which let me know what to expect from each lesson, John would go through everything on the handout at the start of the lesson and write down helpful and key notes and highlight these in a simple colour coded system.

John has witty sense of humour which helps when you make silly mistakes. I had a problem with nerves throughout my learning, but John was always patient and encouraging and helped me to get over these for my test. And I passed first time with only 4 faults!

I can't wait to start Pass Plus soon as this will help me with my confidence and experience with driving on the motorway and at night."

thanks Ami



John Spalding was my instructor when I did my driving test and I feel that he was by far the best instructor I had in years, he was clear and understanding when giving me instructions and was quick to point out the important bits I missed.

He is very sociable and a fun guy to be in the same car with so the test had this easy atmosphere going on, no much tension. I actually had a lot of experience in driving as I had my licence decades ago but being in a new country meant following new rules and regulations so I had to retake the test.

With John as my instructor I have passed my driving test with minor so I think that is all that needs to be said. He also gives some useful tips and advice which was sound so if I were to decide which instructor to choose it would most definitely be John.

Ramlee



If you're looking for a patient, friendly and organised driving instructor with a good personality I'd recommend John.

From lesson one he I felt at ease in the car. His teaching methods are structured so you get the most from each lesson and he takes pride in teaching people how to drive as opposed to just getting them through their test.

Each lesson focused on a different driving manoeuvre and was accompanied by a handout so you could go over it independently at home.

I know for a fact that without his instruction and encouragement, I never would have passed first time with only 5 minors!

It was a pleasure learning to drive with John and I would recommend him to anyone wanting to learn.

Rachael



I originally decided to try an intensive driving course to gain my licence which didn't work out at all.

After 2 failed attempts with the intensive driving school I decided it wasn't working and began to look at other options. John was recommended to me by one of my mums friends so I decided to give John a call. I booked in for a free assessment lesson and John immediately identified my strengths and weaknesses.

From then on the lessons were structured around my specific needs and handouts were provided with detailed information about each manoeuvre. John was always calm and patient and always had each lesson planned out beforehand. After 13 lessons I sat my test and passed first time with John and received three minors.

I would happily recommend John to anyone and look forward to completing my Pass Plus with Thistle School of Motoring. Michael



Learning to drive with John has been a fantastic experience.

From the beginning, John has been encouraging, supportive and patient. Always organised and always calm and reassuring, with a keen sense of humour - I could not have asked for a better instructor!

John is always prepared, with a great set of handouts for independent study at home to reinforce what you have learnt. Lessons are always at your pace, and there is no rush to advance on, but definitely a supportive push to progress.

His lessons are thorough and you always feel like you have accomplished something as you go through your progress card at the end of every lesson. He teaches you to become an aware, courteous and confident driver, and always has a supportive word for encouragement.

I would absolutely recommend John for learning to drive, no hesitation at all, and will be doing Pass Plus very soon! Sara.



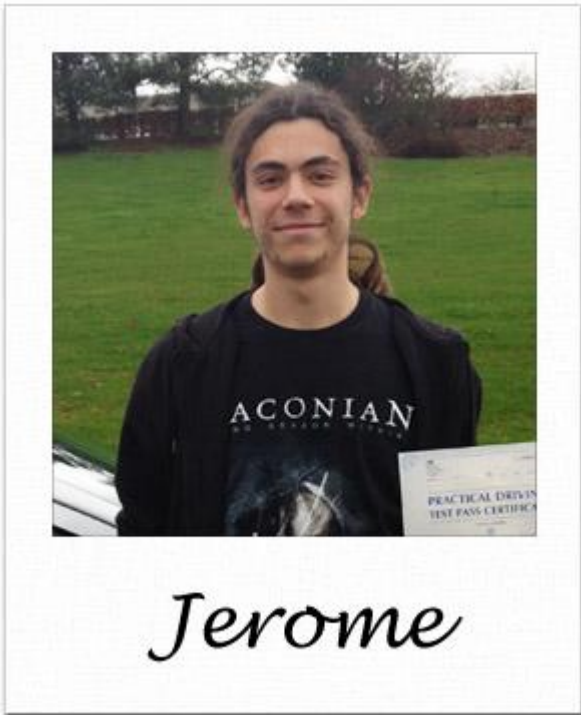


*Gregory*

John is a very versatile instructor, able to adjust each driving practice to my specific needs. Keeping a complete record of performance from all previous practices helped concentrating on and fixing all driving faults, one at a time. After mastering a maneuver, John would quickly push towards the next one, being encouraging and consistent, always pointing out my driving faults and bad practices. Although strict at times and making sure that every procedure is completed without faults, I felt that John has infinite patience, explaining the reasons for a recurrent fault over and over again.

Due to the good preparation that John provided, the driving exam felt like another driving practice. But instead of John asking “did you check that mirror?”, the examiner kept quiet.

John taught me how to drive safely and to recognize my driving faults to the extend that at the end of the exam there was hardly any need for debriefing: I knew exactly what I did right and what wrong. After passing the exam and while driving my own car, Gregory.



John is the only driving instructor I ever had, and I do not regret this at all.

John is very organised and each lesson is neatly structured.

Furthermore John keeps a progress card on you so as to always know what you need to practice and what you are good at.

I would often get a little nervous, especially around roundabouts, but knowing John is always on the lookout and ready with the dual controls definitely made me feel more comfortable.

Thank You for everything John,

All the best and see you around.

Jerome



If you're looking at this page wondering if driving is for you or not, or if you've failed before and feel like giving up, I certainly know the feeling but I would urge you to give it another go. I came back to Stirling in February with very low confidence in my driving ability.

I had sat a driving test the previous November in Stirling with a different instructor and failed, then tried again in January at home in Inverness with the same outcome. I had no intention of attempting to pass again after being so disheartened and with my theory certificate expiring mid March I felt there wasn't much point in trying, however after much persuasion from my family I booked a test and gave John a call. With two weeks to practise before the date I was feeling the pressure but John quickly identified that my driving faults were all due to a lack of confidence.

The encouragement I needed was there and I'm delighted to say I passed this time in Stirling with TSOM! Thank you for all the encouragement.

Kerri Budge



Learning to drive with John for the past couple of months has been a very enjoyable experience for me. I was recommended to John by my brother who has also learnt to drive with Thistle School of Motoring.

John has clear handouts that are very useful when learning maneuvers. He has a great way of teaching by first showing me how to complete the maneuver and then letting me do it for myself. All throughout the training, John has kept me calm and taught me to be observant. I will definitely remember to do my observations now!

John has always thought of me as a confident driver and has had faith in me. He was very flexible with timing my lessons to suit my needs. I don't think I would have passed without your brilliant training.

Thank you

Iqra



*Michael*

Driving with John was a new experience for me. He is a calm and patient instructor, and will see you through until the end. John shows great enthusiasm towards your efforts and will not be afraid to praise you for it.

I wasn't the most talkative student. I just made emotionless faces all the time. But John saw through that using whimsy to make me understand that I have the ability to obtain a driving licence, He just didn't know how long it was going to take.

Every lesson, I focused on a specific driving manoeuvre. Whether that was a parallel park, or reversing into a parking bay, I practised it until I could do it without fault. Driving with John was a pleasure for me. He showed me my errors and sought to right them for as long as it took me to grasp it.

There would be times where I would make mistakes and sigh in frustration, but John would just smile and explain that it is just things that can be fixed with more practice and time. I am glad I had John as my Instructor and I wish him the best in the future. Michael



I am a very stubborn learner, I like things my way but John worked around me making sure I wasn't cramming everything all at once and made me feel comfortable to drive around with him. John has lots of patience with his students. He not only taught me but taught a few of my family members and we all passed!

There has been many of times I have been talking to myself while on my lessons and John was very understanding. John reassured me all the time that I was not leaving his car without a license - That was correct and he kept his word. I passed first time even though the 2 weeks before my test i drove terrible.

John took the 2 weeks before my test to help me get back up to driving standard. I couldn't ask for a better instructor. I would recommend everyone that is hoping to drive and pass to go with John! Thank you so much John, Without you I wouldn't have my drivers license.

Kathine.

Hi John, here's a testimony to put up on your site! Many thanks for everything!

After taking a few lessons with an instructor who made me feel intimidated and uncomfortable, I was booked lessons with John by my sister who had previously passed through John's tutelage.

I could instantly tell the difference as John was much more laid back, understanding, patient and overall a fantastic instructor! I now proudly hold a driving licence thanks to John and his incredibly straight forward, easy to follow methods!



Safe to say I would highly recommend Thistle School of Motoring to anybody of all ages and confidence! Many thanks John!

Gary McEwan



I had experience driving in the USA for many years before taking lessons with John. I was a bit dubious at first because on our first lesson he told me I had to start from the beginning. This was a real struggle for me as I'm stubborn and had so many years driving, but with really bad habits.

The first few lessons were really frustrating for me as I was juggling too much university work with work and driving lessons. But, when I told John that I wanted to get my licence quickly so that I can get better job opportunities he booked me in for my test and worked around my schedule to allow me to get enough practice

in.

He did a great job and was patient with me when I wasn't the most pleasant to be around. I passed my driving test first time with 'some excellent driving going on' all because John was extremely patient and did well to undo the bad habits I had previously formed.

All the Best Shelby Caughman

Before learning driving with John, I had two driving instructors, but John surprised me in the first lesson with giving me well presented hand-outs.

I told John that I failed the previous 4 driving tests with only one major fault each and my previous driving instructor told me it just was unlucky.

However, John said there is a knowledge and skills gap in my driving. Of course, he helped me and I passed my driving test on my first attempt in Stirling.



I highly recommend learning driving with John. Thanks John!!

Cathy