



**EXETER & TORBAY  
ADVANCED MOTORISTS**  
**Who are we? What do we do?**

For further information, go to  
our website or contact  
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The Institute of Advanced Motorists was formed in March 1956 with the primary objective of promoting road safety by encouraging motorists to take pride in good driving. Through the advanced driving test, the IAM aims to raise driving standards by increasing the skills and competence of drivers. Higher driving standards can reduce the likelihood of an accident and this is the main and most significant benefit of membership.

**The Group**

Exeter & Torbay Advanced Motorists is one of over 200 local Groups all around the UK. These Groups are voluntary, semi-autonomous charitable organisations (or with charitable aims) and, although not part of the IAM from a legal point of view, are affiliated to the IAM under common terms and conditions.

**The Region**

The link between Exeter & Torbay Group and the IAM is facilitated via our Regional Manager, whose area covers the South of England, from Essex to Cornwall.

**Associate Member**

You obviously like the idea of joining an organisation whose main interest is in the enjoyment of skilled and safe driving because you are considering joining our Group as an "Associate".

The term "Associate" applies to anyone who has not yet passed the advanced driving test. "Associate membership" includes **FREE** advice from our observers, through observed drives, to enable you to attain test standard. Observed drives are conducted in your vehicle, but the Observer may use his/her own vehicle to demonstrate a particular aspect of advanced driving.

The Advanced Driving Test is not easy but is within the reach of most motorists with the right attitude and appropriate guidance. So far, some 325,000 motorists have taken the test, with a pass rate of 70%, of which one in five is a woman. And, the test pass rate increases to approximately 85% for Group candidates.

**The Examiner**

All examiners are holders of the Police Class 1 Advanced Driving Certificate. This means that they have passed the stiffest test of driving ability in Britain and will have extensive experience from working within the Traffic sections of the Police Force.

**Learn our "Language"**

"The System of Car Control" – a way of approaching and negotiating hazards that is methodical, safe and leaves nothing to chance. It consists of 5 phases –

**I**nformation, **P**osition, **S**peed, **G**ear and **A**cceleration.

**Recommended reading:**

**"Advanced Driver Course Manual"** – The IAM RoadSmart's official manual will provide you with the information you will need to know;

**"The Highway Code"** – the rules every road user is supposed to know;

**"Roadcraft"** – the Police Drivers' Handbook is also a useful reference work.

These publications – and your Observer – will help you to learn about:

- "Feeding the Wheel"
- "Mirrors-Signal-Manoeuvre"
- "Brakes to Slow, Gears to Go"
- "Observation"
- "Tolerance and Courtesy"
- "Anticipation and Planning"
- "The Two Second Rule"
- "Cornering Forces"
- "Mechanical Sympathy"
- "POWDEREY" (safety checklist)

**Meetings**

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month (except January) at the Kenn Centre, in Kenn, just off the A38/380 at the bottom of Telegraph Hill, postcode EX6 7UE. Here you will get the opportunity for an "assessment" or "demonstration" drive, and "skills improvement" sessions during the summer months where you can practise steering and manoeuvres. We also arrange driving-related talks, details of which can be found in our quarterly Newsletter and on our website which also contain information on Group activities and other events.

Committee Members and Observers are identified by the badges they wear – look out for them, make yourself known, and don't hesitate to ask questions.

## Full Member

This applies to anyone who has passed the advanced driving test and is a current member of the IAM.

## Observer

All Observers are current Members of the IAM and the Group. It is important to remember that an Observer will not be teaching you to drive a car – you can already do that. You have a licence which indicates that you have attained an acceptable standard in the skills required to drive a particular vehicle. The job of your Observer is to refine these acquired skills and to introduce new concepts and more advanced skills to enable you to achieve a higher standard. You should look on your Observer as a coach, co-ordinator and adviser – not Instructor – and he/she will endeavour to perform this task in the most efficient manner possible, enabling you to gain confidence and ensuring the experience is enjoyable for both of you.

All Observers are volunteers and their qualifications are regularly re-verified by an external body, the IMI – the Institute of Motor Industry.

You will be allocated a 'Local Observer' for your test preparation and, when you reach the required skill level you will be assessed by a 'National Observer' prior to booking for your test, which will be carried out by an Examiner in your area.

## Group Friend

The Committee may accept applications from the general public to become Group Friends. This category may also include former Associates who have not passed the advanced test and, for one reason or another, are unable or unwilling to re-take. They are welcome to remain with us as Group Friends and take part in meetings and other activities.

## Why take the advanced test? What can it offer?

**Skill with responsibility** – this is what the IAM aims to promote. The number of road accidents – causing 1792 deaths and 181,384 casualties in 2016 [UK DfT statistics] - would decrease dramatically if every driver had the ability to pass the IAM test and the self-discipline to adhere to its standards at all times. You have to pass the test to become a member of the IAM.

The test can help you to:

- ☞ develop your driving skills
- ☞ reduce the likelihood of an accident and injury to yourself and others
- ☞ make you a better insurance risk
- ☞ add competence and professionalism to your driving
- ☞ teach you to use appropriate speed to your advantage – with safety
- ☞ gain more enjoyment from your driving.

## What does the test involve?

The Test lasts for about 90 minutes and covers around 35 - 40 miles. It gives a thorough workout of driving ability, allowing the candidate to alter their drive according to the conditions and environment. The types of road vary from narrow country lanes to motorways and from busy town centres to quiet residential areas. In each case there are hazards and situations that need to be negotiated and handled using the methods and techniques of advanced driving. The examiners do not expect exaggeratedly slow speeds or excessive signalling but they do want to see candidates drive with due regard for road, traffic and weather conditions, with all speed limits being observed.

There may be opportunities for the candidate to show flair and panache, where progress can be gained with maximum safety, using optimum road positioning and excellent observation. All this combines to give a brisk, smooth drive up to the legal limit on the open road. In other situations, the candidate will need to show restraint and composure to deal with tricky conditions that may become apparent during the drive, such as in a town centre where observation is used to pick out and prioritise hazards in situations that are constantly changing.

You will be asked to carry out certain manoeuvres, for instance, reverse round a corner, reverse and park, turn in the road or make a hill start. There are no trick questions in the test and no attempts to catch you out. Although you are no longer required to give a "spoken thoughts" commentary, you will be encouraged to do so to illustrate your ability to "read the road".

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Remember the five "S"s of Advanced Driving:

**S**afe, **S**ystematic, **S**mooth, **S**peed and **S**parkle

Exeter & Torbay Advanced Motorists

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Affiliated to the Institute of Advanced Motorists

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