

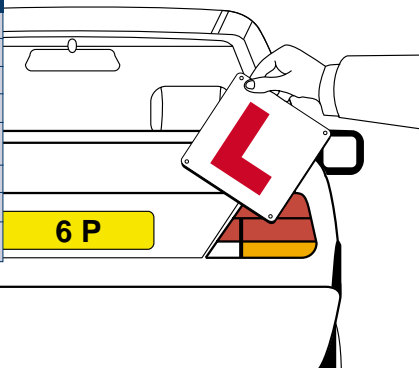
## Further penalty points

If you pass a retest and run up more penalty points, you do not go through the same process again. But points stay on your licence four years from the date of the offence. Twelve points in three years usually means you lose your licence for at least six months.

### Your licence is precious. Why risk it?

#### Main penalty points offences

Offence	Points
Speeding	3-6
Traffic light offence	3
Careless and inconsiderate driving	3-9
Driving without insurance	6-8
Failing to stop after an accident or failing to report an accident	5-10
Failing to identify the driver of a vehicle	3
Driving when disqualified	6
Driving other than in accordance with a licence	3-6



## The road back to ...

### New drivers beware!

Six penalty points and lose that new licence

## Six points and lose your licence!

If you have just passed your first driving test, congratulations! But you must remember you are "on probation" for the first two years. If you clock up six or more penalty points during that time you will lose your licence and go back to being a learner. You will have to reapply for a provisional licence and take both the theory and the practical driving test all over again.

## Why?

We want to cut the number of people killed and injured on the roads. Newly qualified drivers<sup>1</sup>, especially young ones, are more at risk in the two years or so after passing the test than at any other time in their motoring career. One in five will have an accident in the first year alone. We will take your licence away if you increase that risk by committing offences such as speeding.

## Counting the six points

Penalty points count if you offend in the first two years after passing your test, even if a court does not give the sentence until after the probation period.

Points awarded if you accept a Fixed Penalty Notice count towards the "6".

Any penalty points you get before passing the test may also count as they are valid for three years.

## Returning to L plates

If you run up six or more penalty points, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) will be told. They will write to you to say your licence is no longer valid. You then have to apply, and pay, for a new provisional licence if you want to drive. As a learner again:

- you cannot drive on the motorway;
- you must display L plates again; and



- you cannot drive a car unless you are with a driver aged 21 or over who has held a full licence for at least three years.

A learner motorcyclist will be restricted to smaller less powerful bikes<sup>2</sup>.

**To carry on driving without a valid licence is an offence with a maximum penalty of £1,000.**

## Appeals

You cannot appeal directly against having your licence cancelled in these circumstances. But if your case was heard in a court, it is possible to appeal against the conviction for which you got the penalty points or the penalty. The court can advise anyone who thinks they have a good reason on how to go about this. Your licence won't be cancelled before the court has decided on the appeal.



If you accept a Fixed Penalty Notice you can't appeal.

## Insurance

Having your licence cancelled affects your insurance policy and you should tell your insurance company immediately.

## Taking a retest

The retest is just the same as a normal driving test. You must pay for and take the theory test as well as the practical. Passing one retest in a car or motorcycle should give you back all the classes of full licence you held before. But if you had an LGV (lorry) or PCV (bus/coach) licence, the traffic commissioner must be satisfied you are fit to have it back. He can insist you take another LGV or PCV test if he chooses.

In some cases, a court may order you to take a retest, which may be an extended test. You would not have to take two retests, but you would have to take the one ordered by the court.

<sup>1</sup> The scheme is for first-time drivers, so if you already have a full licence in one category and pass a test in another you do not have another probationary period.

<sup>2</sup> If you are over 21, you can practise for your retest on larger bikes with certain conditions. See DTLR's leaflet Mopeds and motorcycles routes to your licence T/NF/330.