

I had my first ever driving lesson with John on 15th May 2015. Prior to this, I would not have been able to identify what the handbrake was. I found driving at first to be an overwhelming experience. However, John filled me with confidence when he assured me that I wouldn't be leaving his car without a driving licence. His belief in his own abilities reassured me that I was with an instructor who was very experienced.



Kathryn

John's knowledge about learning to drive is extensive, and this was reflected in every lesson. His lesson plans always proved effective. Driving when you aren't greatly informed on the subject can feel daunting at times; John has the ability to make you feel safe on every lesson. He demonstrates confidence in his students and is always eager to improve any weak spots, without being forceful. His grading system at the end of every lesson helped to highlight areas whereby my driving needed improvement. I believe this is very useful as it gave me something to focus on for my next lesson.

He is extremely organised and was very flexible in slotting me in for lessons when I was available. The booklet John provided me with, I found particularly useful in helping to memorise driving techniques even when I was not on lessons. He also provided me with access to a website for theory practice which was

extremely helpful.

Throughout my learning experience with John, he was particularly concerned with safety. It is clear that he believes teaching people to drive safely for life, as opposed to just the driving test, is essential. This is very reassuring; now that I have passed my test I know John's teaching methods will ensure I am a safe driver for life.

I passed my driving test on 30th September 2015. It is remarkable that in just four and a half months I was able to learn so much from John – not just about learning to drive, but doing so safely and wisely by planning ahead. His teaching is of the highest standard.

I am now considering taking Pass Plus with John to further increase my driving knowledge and experience. He was very practical in suggesting we altered the routes of Pass Plus so that I could practice on the road I would eventually be driving to university.

Thank you for everything John!

Kathryn

I could not recommended John highly enough. After reading his testimonials I decided he was the instructor I wanted to learn with and he lived up to every word.

The hand outs that were given to me were so helpful laying out different maneuvers, junctions etc. which enabled me to go over lessons at home. No question was ever too much (believe me I asked a lot) and encouragement was always given when needed.

I passed first time with 4 minors after 5 months of lessons. I went on to do the pass plus which was very useful. It was a different experience to the lessons and gave me the confidence to approach situations and roads that I had never encountered before.

I am pleased to say that I feel I am a safe and competent driver thanks to John for giving me my safety bubble and preparing me for every eventuality.

Thanks for all your help.

Sarah



Sarah



Laura

I highly recommend Thistle School of Motoring to anyone wanting to learn to drive or any age or experience.

Driving wasn't something that came naturally for me and before learning with Thistle, felt like a dream

With johns help I passed with no minors and it has completely changed my life

Laura

I was first introduced to John through my dad who is a work colleague. I remember my dad took me to my first driving lesson and I refused to get out of the car because I was scared! However John got me settled straight away and gave me the confidence to drive. He told me that I would not be leaving his car without a driving license.

John was very flexible in arranging my lessons around my school and work, and especially around exam time. I was never confident in myself with my driving and would get myself worked up if I did something wrong especially in my manoeuvres however, John is very patient and helped me over this.



Lauren

With the hand outs John gave me I was always able to read up on certain manoeuvres if I struggled to remember how to do them, they really helped me with my learning for roughly having just over 20 lessons I managed to pass my test first time with John.

I would highly recommend John as he an extremely patient and encouraging driving instructor. I just want to say a massive thank you to John for helping me pass my test in such a short time.

Thanks again

Lauren



Ronan

I found john a great driving instructor who filled me with the confidence to learn to drive. As soon as I sat in his car he made it clear I wasn't leaving without a driving licence.

With excellently structured lessons with handouts, along with experience, I really enjoyed learning to drive with john.

I definitely will not forget my 'safety bubble' around the car to keep me and others safe.

I enjoyed the 6 hours of Pass Plus and had no problems in driving along Byres road and through George Square in Glasgow. John, thank you very much for teaching me to drive safely and to pass my test on my first attempt

Ronan.

The first thing John said to me on my starter lesson was I was "not leaving his car without a driving license".

From the beginning John, with his sharp sense of humor and interesting stories, was brilliant at making learning to drive a fun experience. Being a student, John was excellent at being very flexible in arranging lesson which became handy, especially around exam time.

I will be first to admit I was probably not John's best student with regular lapses of concentration and poor planning, meant I struggled in lessons early on, but John was very patient with me and very strong at identifying what I was needing to work on and helping me get up to test standard. He was able to calm me down when I got frustrated with myself for making silly mistakes and broke everything down into steps and made maneuvers simple and easy to do.



Adam

John provided me with a booklet and every time we covered something new, he gave me a handout on it, by the time I was ready to sit my test I had a very useful guide to driving, that I could use if I was ever unsure on anything.

After I passed I went with John for the Pass Plus scheme. Having a qualified instructor guide me through motorways and city driving was incredibly helpful in building my confidence, especially on long journeys. I would recommend Pass Plus to any driver who has just passed.

Thank you for everything John.

Adam

I had been driving for 2 years and was still having difficulty reaching test standard. After one phone call John was able to give me a **free** assessment and was able to talk through in which ways I would have to improve. At first I had difficulty changing the style of driving which I had adapted to, but with John's encouragement and good teaching techniques I was soon able to improve. We set a goal as to when I wanted to and when he himself thought I would be capable of passing my test. John booked my test for me, taking care of dates, time etc which he thought would be suitable. I found this useful as I otherwise would have probably held off booking it myself.



Kayleigh

Once we identified my weak driving points we did continuous practice to improve and increase my confidence. Once I slowed down my driving and learned how to plan well in advance I was much better able to cope with different road situations and had better control of the car. I did an intense fast track kind of course which meant I did lessons daily for a few weeks. I think that this was very helpful and I think it is great that John was able to do this. At the end of every lesson we would talk through how it went and what I still had to improve on which was also helpful.

The booklet John provided me with was particularly useful as it meant I could learn things by talking through for example different manoeuvres to myself.

I have finally passed my driving test and would like to thank John for all his help. I would definitely recommend him! He is a very patient, encouraging driving instructor. I think that I am going to do pass plus to help increase my confidence further, and it is great that John does this and that I can do this with the driving instructor who I passed my test with. Not all driving instructors do pass plus.

Thank you Kayleigh.

It had been around eight years since I last had a driving lesson when I first got in the car with John. I'd put off learning for so long that I lacked real confidence I would ever pass my test. John really helped put this right in the first few lessons, making me feel like I was always improving (well, maybe not always) while pointing out things I still needed to focus on.

I would highly recommend John as an instructor, throughout my time learning I never felt there was a lesson wasted and, although sometimes I'd lack confidence, John always kept me focussed on getting up to test standard as soon as possible. John teaches with just the right balance of good humour and clear, concise instruction and was a pleasure to learn with.

Before booking an actual test, John set up a mock test (or two) which was really helpful in preparing me for the format and expectations of the day itself. I passed my test first time. Something I'd never thought possible, even up to that morning.

After passing I then completed the motorway course which I would also recommend to anyone.

Cheers again John!

John Tobin



[Click photo to see large image of John](#)



Yashpal

John was recommended to me from a friend and I would recommend John to anyone who wishes to learn how to drive safely for life. From the beginning to the end it was a great experience. John uses a very professional and friendly method when on the roads. He taught me at a pace that I set and this helped me pass my test in 2 months. Throughout this journey he was encouraging and also provided very useful handouts!

John's methods and patience helped me pass my test. If you wish to learn to drive safely for life I would recommend John!

Thank you John for your time and patience.

Yashpal.

After learning and failing the 1st time in the Borders 4 years ago, the thought of learning and passing in Stirling was quite daunting.

However, when I first got in the car with John all those nerves disappeared. He gave me the confidence that I would in fact, "not leave this car without a driver's license", and I passed on my second attempt in Stirling. I thought John's strategy of teaching was very useful and effective (the handouts are fantastic and so handy when you need to refresh your memory).

Thanks John, for your great sense of humor and for keeping me focused when I was being a ditzy blonde. I would definitely recommend John as I now feel I have the ability to be a safe and independent driver."

Thanks again John, I will give you a call in a couple of weeks for Pass Plus :)

Jade



Jade

John helped my cousin Jamie to pass his test so I decided to book a lesson with him and see how I felt. My 1st and last lessons were free and I felt relaxed straight away. John was able to see where I was with my driving and take things at a pace suited to me. He was great at fitting my lessons around my college times and students get a discount on each lesson which really helps.



Eilidh

I was getting no other training at home but didn't need it as lessons with John were great he has a great sense of humor which really helped if I was feeling nervous (which I was all the time) he made learning to drive fun.

He was able to put up with me crying when I felt I wasn't doing well, reassured me and made me laugh to help me relax. His handouts are great and help you keep everything fresh in your mind between lessons he really does show his students he cares.

I was told I wouldn't leave his car without a licence and he was right as I passed first time with only 4 faults. I booked my test for December but the week before I explained to John I was too nervous and wanted some more time so we both came to a

decision together and he was more than happy to move it forward a month.

John will never push you to do more than you are comfortable with and I couldn't of asked for a better instructor, I am extremely pleased to have passed but I have to say I will miss my lessons with John.

Thank you so much for everything

Eilidh

I really enjoyed learning the ways of the road with John as he never failed to make the lessons interesting.

I was initially directed to thistle motoring by friends for John's quick but in depth teaching allowing me to build on what knowledge I already had.

After having previous lessons with a different instructor, it was immediately obvious that John's clear and safe instructions were the way to learn how to drive.

The hand-outs were of real benefit as if there was anything which I was confused about I knew where to look. It was this that allowed me to pass in under 3 months. I now feel very secure with my 'safety bubble' around the car at all times!

I would definitely recommend John to others who wish to pass their test quickly and safely!



Calum

Calum

John was recommended to me by my older sisters who both passed first time.



Lorna

I always found the lessons to be structured and organised which meant that it was a positive learning experience.

John's instructions were very clear and easy to understand, as were the handouts that he provided. Learning to drive with John meant that lessons could be flexible and easy to arrange.

I passed my test first time with 4 minors and I would recommend John to anyone starting to drive.

Thanks John

Lorna

Stirling

I highly recommend Thistle School of motoring for all types of people wanting to learn to drive.

It took me a short six months of lessons and it paid off as I passed first time. John is very patient and his way of teaching is unique!

I found the driving handouts extremely helpful as whenever I was struggling with something I could easily look over them and remind myself of how it should be done.

I will definitely be recommending John to all my friends and family. I am also taking the Pass Plus so I can build more confidence

My experience with driving with John has been very enjoyable and he makes driving fun!

So if you want to learn to drive think Thistle!!

Amy

Stirling



Amy

I would recommend John to anyone as a driving instructor. I have had various instructors in the past and was beginning to think I would never be able to drive. From the beginning John put me at ease and told me that I would not finish without a licence.



Carly

He taught at my pace and I found the handouts really helpful as I knew what was coming next and could revise what we had already covered. They were also useful for showing the people who were going out with me to practice so I was always doing things the same way. I was able to book my lessons when it suited me, around my shifts and could go out as often as I wanted.

John was very patient (especially with my awful memory) and encouraged me every step of the way. He kept things as simple as possible for me and his sense of humour helped when I was struggling with something.

If I was struggling to understand something he was happy to try to explain it in a different way. John encouraged me to book a test date as soon as he was happy I was ready and delivered me to the Test Centre

on the day feeling surprisingly calm and confident.

I cannot thank John enough for getting me through the driving test and I am now doing the Pass Plus course with him.

Carly Johnston.

John was recommended to me by a friend who had been successful in passing the driving test.

I presented John with some specific challenges. Firstly I had passed my driving test in my native country of Bangkok when I was a teenager. Having moved to the UK some years ago I legally drove for a period of time on an international driving licence, when this expired I had to take the UK driving test.

An additional complication was that English was not my native tongue and some of the phraseology associated with the driving test was unfamiliar to me. John overcame all these difficulties with his usual friendly and professional approach and a great deal of patience in ensuring that I clearly understood exactly what was expected of me with regard to understanding the requirements of the UK driving test.



Nong

I am pleased to say that I have now passed my driving test and would like to thank John for helping me to achieve this and would have no hesitation in recommending John to anybody wishing to pass their driving test

Nong Tripp



Kamran

It was time for me to drive and my mother's friend recommended me to John Spalding.

He was a brilliant instructor and was very calm and patient throughout my lessons even when I messed up!

He always talked me through everything very clearly and gave me great advice which really helped. This led me to pass my driving test which I was ecstatic about!

I would recommend him to anyone who wants a good instructor and is interested in driving safely.

Thank you, John, for all your help!

Kamran

From the very first lesson with John, through to passing my driving test the first time, John was relaxed and patient; I can highly recommend John as a driving instructor.

Throughout the course of my lessons, he actively encouraged me and tailored the lessons to suit my progression and diary.

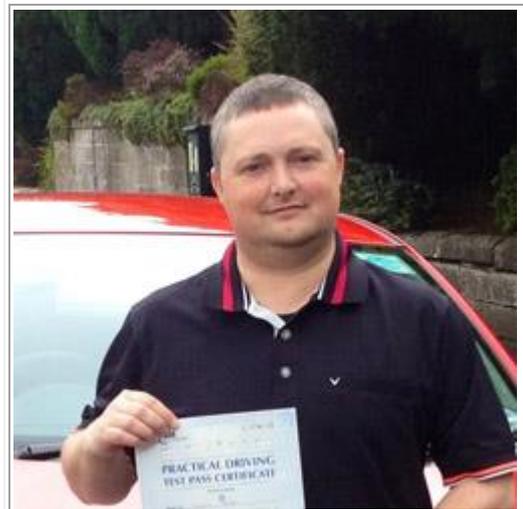
John's repeated promise: "Stephen, you will not leave this car without a driving licence" gave me considerable confidence

After passing my test, I did not hesitate in signing up for the Pass Plus; I'm intending to commute on a daily basis so this additional instruction has been crucial for improving my driving skills and confidence.

I would not hesitate in recommending John as a driving instructor.

Regards,

Stephen



Stephen

John was a fantastic driving instructor.

After having had numerous driving instructors and a loss of interest in driving in the past I was delighted to have John as an instructor, from the first time I sat in the car with him he was determined I would not be leaving the car without a license.



Shona.

He has a very relaxing and flexible approach to learning, putting you at ease while in the car and working at a pace that suits you. John works around your schedule allowing you to have a lesson as little or as often as you desire, he does not attempt to rush you and will not consider putting you forward for you test unless you agree with him that you are ready.

John's determination and hard-work to get me up to test standard was commendable; I was extremely nervous when I first started my lessons with him but he made every effort to make my lessons as enjoyable as possible. After passing my test I also completed the Pass Plus certificate with John, I was going to be commuting to Glasgow on a daily basis and felt I needed that extra practice and experience.

John took me on the route to my work several times and would not allow to make the journey alone until he felt comfortable I was confident enough to achieve this alone. I now have my first car and travel along the busy road to Glasgow on a daily basis, not something I ever imagined I would be able to do.

Thanks to John I am a confident and safe driver and I cannot recommend him enough. He is a fantastic instructor and I am so happy I had the pleasure of being taught by him, many thanks for all your hard work John, it certainly paid off in the end.

Thank you Shona

From the very beginning of my lessons with John at the Thistle School of Motoring I felt comfortable and at ease in his car. He is incredibly patient from the outset and always talks you through everything, but also encourages you to be independent early on as well.

His teaching style is methodical and precise, and his handouts also help you learn faster than you would just doing lessons. John is also amiable and his manner during the lessons makes the lessons fun and enjoyable, which I found made learning to drive much easier.

Having now passed my test and also my pass plus with John, I can thoroughly recommend him to any level of driver regardless of what their abilities may be. I enjoyed my time learning with the Thistle School of Motoring, and more importantly feel safe and confident driving independently now.

Thanks Mikey Hamill



Mikey.

John quickly got me up to test standard and I passed first time!



Anna.

I then decided to take my Pass Plus with him to widen my driving experience with someone who knows what they're doing. I even found I enjoyed it!

I liked how if I was having an off day John would slow things down, but if I was on form we could speed things up.

I found the handouts very helpful, as I could take them out in my own car, and practice exactly how he taught me.

Each lesson had a structure, and by tackling one teaching practice at a time I became confident with each one. I liked knowing what we'd be doing in the next lesson, so I could be prepared and put in some practice in my car.

John was very patient, and happy to explain things, and answer all my silly questions.

Thanks to all of this I'm now confident to drive safely myself.

Thank you!

Anna

I've recently passed my driving test and completed my Pass Plus with John's help and patience from start to finish.

I genuinely feel that I haven't simply just passed my test and obtained a piece of paper - I feel I have been taught thoroughly in order to drive safely and confidently in the real world thanks to John's informative and well structured lessons.

I am not scared or anxious to get out and start driving for myself and have lots of handouts and information should I need to refer to them as a new driver.

John is obscenely organised, impressively patient and highly knowledgeable. He puts you at ease from day one and is a thoroughly nice and charming chap. I never felt overly anxious or nervous in any of my lessons, in fact, I looked forward to them. I certainly had some off-days; I had to juggle lessons with an extremely busy period at work, commuting and



Pam.

pregnancy, but with John's guidance and reassurance I got there in the end.

I would positively encourage and recommend anyone to try Thistle School of Motoring

John's a trooper! Take care

Pam

John was a very patient driving instructor , from Day 1 he said "Max, I'm not letting you leave this car without a license" and he was so right. His teaching techniques suited my learning abilities with handout's on everything to do with driving to allow me to pass easier.



Max.

I progressed at my own pace with no rush from John. He backed me up, and if I forgot something or was unsure I knew I could always ask him a question, even if it was for my theory.

At the very start of learning he asked regular questions to aid my studying for the theory test which continued until the theory was passed. After the theory he asked questions to do with driving to have me constantly thinking about road position, driving techniques and the MSM procedure he so often reminded me off. On the way to the test centre he took his time to calm me down, knowing I was nervous after already messing the previous test up with little mistakes, made by me. John also showed me how to fix those mistakes and what I should have done instead.

After the test was passed we sat down and discussed the pass + scheme which I was very interested in doing. I'm on my way to completing the pass + and will be let loose on the roads on my own, knowing I have the knowledge and the skills to drive safely for life due to john's teaching methods .

Thank You Max

John has a very relaxed manner which right away, puts you at ease behind the wheel.

I found that my lessons were very structured.

The handouts that John provide are extremely helpful, giving you a point of reference to read up on in your own time. I

I found John's unique marking method was most helpful and at the end of your lesson, this would highlight any problematic areas so that these could be worked on.

It also worked well as an indicator of your progress. John was always punctual for lessons and was quite flexible when trying to work around my work patterns. This was a great help to me!

In conclusion I cannot recommend Thistle School of Motoring highly enough and I look forward to starting my Pass Plus lessons with John in order to gain more experience.



Heather.

Thanks John for teaching me the skills required for safe driving.

Heather.



Abby

While learning to drive I found John to be very relaxed, calm and understanding throughout all my lessons. His lessons are extremely well taught and his teaching methods were perfect for me. I was able to understand each lesson and make progress in future lessons. His handouts were especially helpful to look over while at home.

Lessons with John were always enjoyable which made it a lot easier to be comfortable at learning to drive and made the experience very rewarding. John always gave me encouragement and support to pass my test. He also helped to keep me calm before sitting the test; a very valuable skill.

I went on to do Pass Plus with John. This was a great experience as I now feel comfortable with all parts of driving. I would highly recommend Pass Plus to anyone who has just passed their test.

John has taught me to be a safe and considerate driver and I could not recommend him highly enough.

Thanks for everything John.

Abby

His mantra is confidence comes with knowledge and practice. John backs this up by giving you a folder with hand-outs covering all the basics and manoeuvres involved in driving and practicing them consistently throughout the lessons. During the lesson John is very calm (especially when you aren't), reassuring and patient. Every mistake is explained and he tells you how to improve. Every lesson ends with a progress review so you can see how well your doing and what needs to be worked on to get you to test standard. Under John's tuition I gained in confidence with my driving to pass the test with seven minors.

I would highly recommend John as a driving instructor. He formulates the lessons around what you as the pupil need. For example when I told John I was dyslexic he adjusted the way the lessons worked by giving me instructions earlier which really helped me. He is extremely knowledgeable about Stirling's roads and is an excellent teacher.

Many Thanks John

Aileen



Aileen.

John was extremely patient with me when learning to drive. I never felt like a lesson was wasted as I always learned something new.



Emily.

His handouts were especially helpful as you could look back over them at home if you ever forgot something and it consolidated what you had learned that lesson.

He relaxed me when I was behind the wheel and had full confidence in me that I could pass my test first time and I'm sure all that he taught me will stick with me in the future.

John taught me how to drive safely and he got me up to test standard extremely quickly as I passed my test first time within 4 months with 5 minors.

Before my test he helped calm my nerves therefore helping me believe that I could pass.

I cannot recommend John enough due to his understanding, thorough explanations and expertise in the area. And I would encourage anyone who is looking for a driving instructor to learn with him. Emily

John was recommended to me by a good friend. I experienced her driving and since she was really good, I thought John has to be good teacher. It was not long till I got to find out myself.

First of all John helped me to deal with my confidence when driving. He was not rushing me, and he made sure I was sure of my skills before we tackled more advanced issues.

I found John's approach to teaching very detailed. I always got very specific instructions, which meant I rarely needed to ask questions about what I was supposed to do.

Plus, the hand outs provided meant I could go back to the areas, I was not sure about, in my own time. The general learning approach was very personal.

I really felt that John is building a learning plan, which suited my needs. The learning sessions were designed in a way, which helped me to deal with my main driving faults.

The outcome is I passed my driving test in first attempt. Thanks John!

Marta,

Stirling

After many attempts at driving (and a couple of failed tests) in different locations and a move up to Stirling,

I decided to try to learn one final time. My aim was to pass my test before I turned 40. John's teaching style enabled me to learn at my own (slow) pace, but also gave me a push when I needed it.

He gave clear instructions, talked me through different situations but helped me to be independent behind the wheel.

I passed my first driving test in Stirling but, better still, John helped me to feel that I can drive safely.

I also asked for a couple of motorway lessons after I passed my test which increased my confidence. I've got another couple of years before I reach 40 too.

Sue, Stirling

Having been with a few other driving instructors over the past 3 years I was already fairly comfortable driving a car.



Michael.

John gave me the motivation to get ready for a test and sit it and pass. I was with John from the Start of August and sat my test at the start of November 2011, I passed first time.

John's teaching methods were ideal for me as I knew what I'd be doing with him in the next lesson, or even a few lessons after that.

John also kept me up to date on how well I was doing and what areas I should try and improve for next lesson.

After my test I then went on to do Pass Plus with John. This was a great experience as I felt a lot more comfortable driving after it.

The lessons were fairly laid back as John wanted me to get used to driving without

directions.

I'd definitely recommend the Pass Plus scheme for anyone that has just passed their test.

Thanks again John,

Michael, Stirling.

I had been taking driving lessons on and off for years but never seemed to make much progress. I'd been with two different driving instructors before John but felt I was getting no where.

So one day I decided to look on the Internet for a local driving instructor with a good pass rate.

After reading the reviews on John's web site I decided that I would give him a call to arrange an appointment.

I was a very nervous driver and lacked self confidence but John always made me feel at ease and was always very calm, reassuring and extremely patient.

I started taking driving lessons in the middle of April and by the end of August I had passed first time!

John is an excellent driving instructor I would highly recommend him if you want a professional, efficient and friendly driving instructor.



Lesley.

Before I went with John, driving was a total nightmare I could not make sense of it all but John explained it all in fine detail and the pieces of the puzzle all fell into place.

Thanks John,

Lesley

I had several lessons prior to going with John and felt I was not progressing as well as I could. After my initial lesson I felt that I had found my saviour.

He made me feel at complete ease and gave me confidence which I previously lacked.

I had the self belief to move forward.

John taught in a very structured, informative manner with plenty of handouts for reference.

The result was passing my test with only four minor driving faults. What can I say? Other than if you want to pass go with the best, Thistle School of Motoring.

I am extremely grateful to John for spending so much time and effort ensuring that I passed my test.

Rebekka

Wallace Park, Stirling

I started learning to drive with John after having him recommended to me by a friend. Throughout my time learning to drive with John I did not have the opportunity to practice between lessons, so my entire experience of learning to drive was with him. I had a very positive experience.

I began as a very nervous driver, struggling to contemplate that I would ever reach speeds of over 10mph, let alone tackle roundabouts, but John was always very patient and encouraging. His style of 'coaching' along with strategic lesson-plans and accompanying handouts helped consolidate my knowledge and skills which in turn allowed me to gain in confidence.

A month or so after beginning to learn to drive I moved back through to Glasgow to return to University, I had really enjoyed John's style of teaching and as I was progressing well with him I decided to return to Stirling every week for my lessons. This meant fitting lessons around traveling, studies and part time job. John was always incredibly flexible and took into account that sometimes the trains were late or I couldn't make it through due to bad weather. Coming back for the lessons was definitely worth the effort.

I cannot recommend John and 'Thistle School of Motoring' highly enough. I really enjoyed learning to drive with him, he was always very friendly, patient and supportive and does his very best to keep you motivated even when you are doubting yourself and there seems like there is no end in sight. Thanks to him I managed to pass first time.

Julia Wylie Bridge of Allan

I started taking lessons with John when my younger brother passed his test after learning with John. My parents bought me some lessons to motivate me to learn as I was very nervous about driving. John was very patient and friendly and helped me overcome my nerves. I had a deadline to pass as I had taken my theory test and never took any driving lessons after passing my theory but John had confidence in me and helped get me up to test standard within the time we had, with 1 month to spare.

I passed my test first time with 5 minors.

John's teaching style was very organised, yet flexible to suit my own development needs. During each lesson any errors were quickly addressed and rectified to ensure they don't happen again and after each lesson he took the time to go over the lesson and highlight my strengths and key development areas.

The handouts he supplied are extremely helpful as I was given them in advance before carrying out each teaching practice so I had time to look over them and be prepared for what I was going to do each lesson.

Thanks John, I couldn't have done it without all you're hard work, persistence and faith in me! I would recommend Thistle School of motoring to anyone that is apprehensive about driving.

Robyn

Stirling

Learning to drive with John couldn't have been easier. All the lessons were planned and structured. I started in February and told John that I wanted to obtain my license by June, which meant time was limited.

But we still managed to cram everything in in about 20 odd lessons thanks to the flexibility that John provides. All in all it couldn't have gone better.

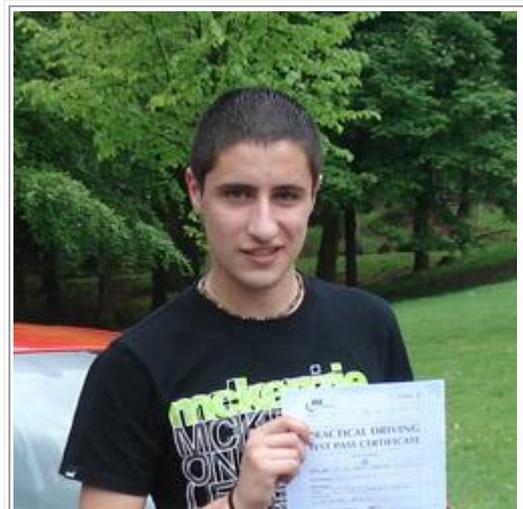
And when it came to decision day, in the beginning of May, the day of the test, I don't think I could have driven worse in the lesson before the test.

But John was very reassuring and helped me tackle those nerves and I passed with 4 minors.

Basically, a very good instructor, and highly recommended!
Thanks John.

Oliver Farzam

Stirling Uni.



Oliver.



Carly.

Having passed my test with John as my instructor, I feel like I learned not just how to pass a test, but how to drive safely now I have a full licence. I still hear the words 'three foot safety bubble around the car' as I start each journey.

John is meticulous, he's methodical, he's hard working, he's quick to point out your faults and weaknesses and get rid of them. Ultimately, you learn more, you learn faster, and you simply have a greater knowledge of how to drive.

He is exceptionally patient, very flexible and, as a private instructor, I always felt he was doing what he thought was best for me. I couldn't recommend him more, Thanks John!

Carly Mills Stirling

I was very nervous driving before coming to learn with John. I found the whole experience uncomfortable and I could not relax.

John's teaching method was very beneficial for me. His handouts and step-by-step lesson plan helped me learn from the basics of driving to passing my test at my own speed.

He took the time to teach me about things that I think other instructors might have only glided over in one lesson. This helped to make me more confident as I was more aware of what could happen around me.

John was very flexible I am very grateful to John for his patience and understanding and would highly recommend him to other learners who are nervous and find driving difficult.

Brogan

Stirling



Brogan.



Ikram.

Previously, I held an international driving license from my home country. Even though I have more than 15 years driving experience but need to learn the right and proper skills to drive in UK, especially with so many roundabouts and different weather conditions. So, 3 months before end of my international license, I'm started to search for a proper driving school with a good instructor. John was recommended to me by my friend Mr Lai & his wife who have both passed the test at the first attempt with John.

From the first lesson he start to recognize my 'bad habits' and weakness and started to sharpen my skills. With the handouts, structured lessons, clear and friendly approach and good teaching skills he build up my confidence to take the test. The result? yes also past the driving test at the first attempt!

Thanks to my friends that recommended Thistle SOM to me, if you are looking for UK Driving License you can depends on John from Thistle SOM, you won't be disappointed. Thanks John.

Mohd Ikram Mohd Razali

I enjoyed learning to drive with John.
From never driving a car to being able to sit my test in four months shows just how committed a driving instructor John is.

John was always flexible when I tried to fit learning to drive around my schedule.

After having my driving test cancelled three times due to the weather, I passed my first driving test with four minors. Thanks John

James

Bridge of Allan



James.



James.

I was learning to drive with another instructor for a few months and didn't feel I was getting anywhere. My mother saw a Thistle School of Motoring card on a notice board of our local Post office and I checked out his website.

I contacted John after reading his website and arranged a free assessment lesson and he quickly identified my strengths and weaknesses. John has a very structured yet flexible approach to teaching.

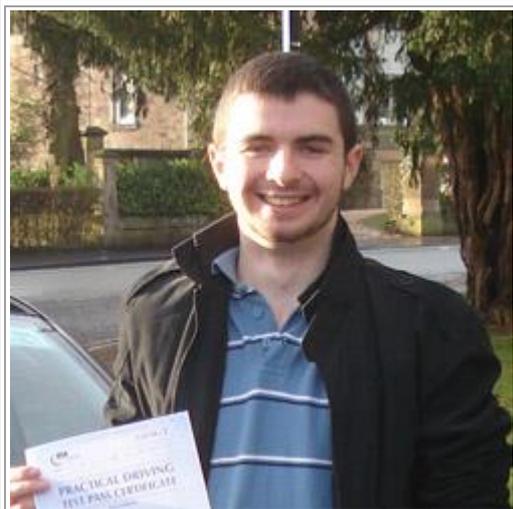
His handouts are very useful not only to learn during a lesson, but can be used to revise before and after each lesson, and he is always happy to answer any questions.

After 12 lessons with John I passed my test.

I highly recommend Thistle School of Motoring to any new drivers.

James Bridge of Allan

Before meeting John, I was first taught by a different driving school and had recently failed two tests.



Jamie.

After the disappointment of failing for a second time I decided it was time to try learning under a different instructor. I had a look on the web to find an instructor that I felt would do the best job and was local to me. I found John on his website and was inspired by all the positive things John had done as an instructor in the past and decided to contact him in relation to lessons.

In my first lesson with John I learned more than I had ever learned in such a short space of time with my previous instructor. Within no time at all John had improved my driving sevenfold up to test standard and also gave advice on calming methods for the test day, as I had mentioned that I did get nervous during prior tests. However knowing I was fully prepared for the test meant there was no need for nerves what so ever.

I can not stress enough how good Thistle School of Motoring is they will not set you up to fail. You will not leave that car without a licence and you are there not to pass a test but to learn how to drive safely after you have past the test.

I strongly feel that if John had been my first driving instructor I would have passed much sooner with his very helpful and friendly methods.

Jamie Campbell

Clackmannan

If I had to chose one word to describe John and his style of instruction, it would be 'meticulous'. To be clear, 'meticulous' works!

I am a 20 year driver new to the UK, and needed to learn the subtleties of driving in Britain. He correctly identified my 'bad habits', and after just a few lessons I passed my test at the first attempt.

Professionally, his style is very goal-oriented. He assesses, then makes a clear plan to reach that goal.

His approach is highly methodical. This may put some off in the beginning but stick with him. You will be quickly won over both by his method and by his personality.

Best of luck

Dr M. Fayed.

Stirling Uni



Marwan.

John was recommended to me by a friend. When I started to take my driving lessons I was very nervous, John gave me loads of confidence, he told me I wouldn't leave his car without passing my test, and true to his word I didn't, as I passed first time .

My mum and sister are now taking driving lessons with John and are almost ready for their test.

Thanks John

Sarah

I was very apprehensive when I started learning to drive, but John kept me calm and gave me confidence behind the wheel immediately. Before I met John I had never driven a car and I didn't know the difference between the gear stick and the hand brake but John quickly taught me what I needed to know.

I began to pick up the basics and before I knew it I was full of confidence. Unfortunately I developed problems with my health midway through my time with John and had to take quite a bit of time off. When I finally got back into it I had lost confidence and forgotten bits and bobs about the whole driving process, but John was patient in re-teaching me what I had let escape my head.

When I got back into it I still wasn't one hundred percent and so had to cancel quite a few lessons at short notice, John took my illness into account and did not charge me for missing them when I believe others would have. John was always on time and never missed a lesson.

I passed my test with 9 minors and I know that I have John to thank, when I started I thought I would never pass but I did and I must say it was much sooner than I thought it would be. I would recommend John to anyone who is new to driving, we always had something to talk about and it felt more like a friendship than a professional relationship.

Thanks John.

Gregor

Stirling



Gregor.



Douglas.

I was first taught by a national driving school (where not all instructors are fully qualified) and had recently failed two tests.

After a short break I decided to try again and went to Thistle School of motoring after reading about John on his website and was inspired by all the positive things that people had to say about him and after having failed several tests I felt I needed all the help I could get.

Within three weeks of first getting in touch with John he had me up to test standard and feeling very confident about my driving. I passed my first test with John.

I can't recommend Thistle School of motoring highly enough, and feel that if John had been my first driving instructor I would have passed much sooner with his very helpful and friendly methods.

Thanks John Douglas, Stirling Uni

John was recommended to me by my big sister who he had helped to pass first time.

From the start, lessons were structured and the atmosphere was always positive. This allowed me to enjoy lessons and therefore driving. The handouts that John provided were very organised and also very helpful as they meant I could revise and practice in my own time knowing that I was doing everything as he had taught me.

On the day of the test I was nervous as you would expect, but John kept me calm and I therefore went into my test knowing that I could do it.

Thanks to John I passed my test first time with only four minors. I would highly recommend him as an instructor to anyone wanting to drive and pass easily and confidently.

Many thanks John.

Ailsa

Stirling



Ailsa



Kate.

I came to John after he was recommended to me by a friend at uni.

I had been learning to drive with another instructor at home for 2 years before, and had previously failed two tests.

John quickly dealt with any fears I had about taking my driving test again. Needless to say I passed 1st time with John and with only 4 driving faults.

John is very patient and friendly, I enjoyed all my lessons with him. The lessons are structured, detailed and very flexible and are excellent value and that says a lot coming from a student.

I liked driving with John so much I even went back and did my pass plus.

Pass plus was a great experience as it takes the fear away from driving on your own for the first time.

I would never have been able to do it without him.

Kate, Stirling Uni

I'd taken three tests at home in Liverpool and I only just failed each of them.

But on attending University in Stirling I decided to take my lessons with Thistle, and John has done a fantastic job considering that I had been taught by another instructor for the best part of a year. One of the first things he said to me on my first lesson had stuck with me throughout my lessons.

When I said to John about the bad habits that I had picked up just by driving too often with my parents, he turned round to me and said, "You are not a driver yet, you are still a learner and learners do not have bad habits!" During 10 one hour lessons John fixed my bad habits, I took my driving test and passed first time in Stirling.

I would strongly recommend John to anybody who wants to pass their test with ease the first time and I am looking forward to completing pass plus with him.

James Breen

Stirling Uni



James

From the beginning, John inspired confidence. We set out for a free assessment lesson and he quickly identified my strengths and weaknesses and mapped out what I would need to do to get up to test standard.

John has a very structured yet flexible approach to teaching. His handouts are very useful as we not only learn during a lesson but can also revise before and after each lesson! And he is always happy to answer any question, however silly!

I had a deadline of 3 months to get a full license before moving to Glasgow and John went out of his way to ensure I achieved this target. Due to my erratic working hours, we had lessons in the early hours of the day, lessons after usual working hours, and even lessons before 7am on the weekend! I doubt you would come across any other driving instructor who would do this for a student!

And did all this pay off in the end? Yes it did! I passed first time! Thanks John!

If you are looking for a professional and focused yet very approachable driving instructor who will tirelessly coach you towards a full license, look no further than John Spalding!

Dr. Boon Hui Kua

Stirling

When I learned I would need a driving license to get employment upon graduating from university, I was far from confident with the idea of learning how to drive in Stirling.



Garry.

After having Thistle School of Motoring recommended to me by a friend of a friend, I checked out the website and was impressed by what was offered.

From having little experience and little confidence in driving, John's structured lesson plans, friendly nature and ability to teach safe driving made me confident in my ability to drive well within my set deadline.

I passed my test first time with four minors.

I highly recommend Thistle School of Motoring to anyone wishing to learn how to drive. John's friendly nature, first class knowledge and coaching skills ensure you are more than likely to pass first time in an environment which promotes an enjoyable learning experience.

Garry

Hawick/Stirling

I had been having driving lessons in Edinburgh but I failed 4 times. By the fourth test my confidence and nerves were so shattered I was physically shaking behind the wheel, so I decided to give up.

Then 10 years, 4 children and a degree later. I came to realise that I really needed to learn to drive if I was to be able to continue on in my chosen career.

I was also becoming aware of how much my children were missing out compared to their friends, I was always relying on others to collect them but never able to return the favour.

John was fantastic! He took me right back to basics and worked on regaining my confidence and enabled me to believe in myself as a driver again. He was always very accommodating and able to fit the lessons around my family and student life. Being able to collect and drop me off at various locations around Stirling was ideal and a great timesaver.

John is fantastically patient and down to earth but is also very methodical and pays great attention to detail so he can iron out any little minor mistakes quite quickly. As a result I passed first time with very few minors and very little nerves.



Kim.

I bought a car straight away and was full of confidence even on my first drive home from the garage and I now really quite enjoy driving which is all thanks to John.

Kim

Stirling

Even when I was younger I looked forward to driving , so for my 17th birthday there was only one thing I wanted.

I started my lessons with John just after my birthday and he was great, patient and informative so I felt immediately relaxed and comfortable with him.



Kyle.

The lessons were good and well structured and I had lots of driving time. I passed first time round and I would recommend anyone wanting to learn to drive to choose John as well.

During the lessons any mistakes I made were pointed out and practiced until there was some improvement. At the end of the lessons we discussed how well I had driven, how it can be improved and what we were going to cover next lesson.

My progress card was always completed at the end of a lesson and I could see how well I had done

I have just completed the pass plus with John which has given me greater confidence on the roads.

I would like to say thanks to John for sharing his time and his experience with me.

Kyle

Falkirk

During the period of learning driving, John gave me so much help and was very patient and friendly, explained everything I was not clear or confused.

He made me confident while I was driving and over the driving test.

He's very responsible for every lesson, arranged the timetable and structured the lesson.

John is my highly recommended driving instructor and I think anyone who is seeking for an instructor would have a great time with John.

Finally I really appreciated John because I had a very good time with him during Pass Plus.

Zheng Guo

Stirling



Zheng

I had absolutely no experience driving a car and so I was a little apprehensive getting into the driver's seat for the first time!!



Kelsey.

However, right from the start John was very reassuring and made me feel safe. John always made sure each lesson was structured, so I made noticeable progress each week.

He was always very punctual and even allowed a few minutes at the end of to run through how the lesson went.

This was extremely helpful in finding which areas I needed to focus on and in building my confidence.

I managed to pass my driving test first time round, and it was all down to John's great approach to driving instruction. I quickly took the pass plus course with him afterwards which was also hugely beneficial.

All in all, I loved every minute of it and would

recommend Thistle School of Motoring to all learners.

Kelsey

Stirling

Getting a full UK driving licence is not a cheap investment. Thus I have to be very careful in choosing the right driving Instructor that could give me maximum return of investment. Reading all the positive testimonial or feedback about John make me believe that he is the man that could give me very good lesson.

It turn out that John is indeed a very good instructor. His way of teaching is very structured, calm and not hurrying things. His instruction and explanation is also very clear given the fact that I am a foreign student.

If you are still contemplating about choosing the right driving instructor then look no further, John is the answer. We had lots of fun together and I pass my test first time!

Lai

Stirling

When I first started taking driving lessons with John I had not driven for over a year, and I needed a lot of practice to bring my driving up to a safe standard. I had previously taken lessons with three other driving instructors in East Lothian, but I had never felt that I was making any progress.

John recognised straight away that I lacked confidence, and he structured my lessons to improve the driving skills I had as well as building up my confidence in my driving ability. At the end of each lesson John would complete my progress card and I soon gained confidence as I could see myself improving.

John's relaxed teaching style ensured that I learned everything to the highest standard and always felt at ease. The handouts which accompanied each teaching practice allowed for me to revise at home and further develop my skills when my mum accompanied me in my own car.

A few months ago, I never would have thought I would be able to drive, but I passed my test with only 4 minor faults. I completed the Pass Plus course with John which was very interesting (Driving through the centre of Glasgow, negotiating roundabouts with traffic lights in them, and overtaking on dual carriageways and motorways!)

I now have the confidence and the ability to drive safely unaccompanied. I have my own car here in Stirling which means I can get to the university and my part time work in 10 minutes. No more wet cold mornings waiting at bus stops for me. Thanks John...

Carolyn

Musselburgh



Carolyn.

I had been taking driving lessons with a national company for several months and felt that I was learning very little and getting nowhere fast. My instructor was pushing me to take two 2 hour lessons per week and my concentration was barely lasting one hour never mind two.

John Spalding was recommended to me by my partner and his sister who both passed first time and had glowing praise for John. John took me out for a free assessment lesson and straight away picked up on my lack of concentration towards the end of the lesson. John assured me that 1 hour lessons were sufficient and straight away I felt like the pressure was off.

When I started taking my lessons with John, I never got that sense of dread before my lesson that I used to get previously. I have to say that I was a very difficult pupil and John was great when I burst into tears or took the huff when things weren't going my way. He would just say "There are no shortcuts to safe driving Dawn."

John's relaxed teaching style, his use of driving handouts and the points system at the end of every lesson was something that I had never experienced before, but having all that extra information is so valuable when learning to drive. I felt for the first time that I was actually learning.

I just passed my driving test on the first attempt with only 4 driving faults, and I couldn't have done it without John Spalding.

Dawn

Stirling

I have never found learning to drive easy and often felt that I just didn't have the confidence to drive, but John put a stop to that by telling me that my confidence will improve with knowledge and practice. After a few lessons I felt better about my driving and could see myself improving. The grades on my progress card which was completed at the end of the lessons were better and this gave me more encouragement.

I am hugely enthusiastic about the free handouts that John provides. They really helped me to remember safe driving techniques and procedures. The handouts also provide a lot of good practical driving advice. I have had two other driving instructors previous to John and neither provided such helpful aids.

I passed my test first time with John, and feel I am now a confident and safe driver. I also enjoyed the 6 hour Pass Plus course.

Sophie

Aberfoyle

I had quite a few lessons from another instructor who didn't really help me progress in my driving by not explaining things properly, so after a period of confused lessons I'd had to look for another instructor.

My dad give me John's card, we organised a free assessment lesson. After the assessment he told me my main driving faults and how we were going to correct them. Once these problems were identified he began instructing me in the ways to correct my driving. For each new teaching practice John supplied a training handout. These were very helpful as I could sit at home reading them which help me remember the correct procedures to use for different types of hazards. John explanations and instructions were very clear and simple to follow during the lessons.

John is very understanding and relaxed. During lessons he would say "this is a training car and it's okay to make mistakes, as long as I learn from them". When going for my test I was quite nervous but at the same time confident in my training.

And all of John's hard work during my lessons really paid off as I passed my test first time, with only 6 minor faults, which I got due to being very nervous. I have since completed Pass Plus with John, which I really enjoyed.

Thanks, John for all your hard work and persistence, it worked.

Aaron

Tullibody

When I started looking for a driving instructor, I looked around many different companies, both local and national. The information on the Thistle School of Motoring's website emphasising safe driving, coupled with the recommendation of a friend who had passed with Thistle previously, convinced me that John was the right man to teach me how to drive.

The lessons were always well structured, with one lesson spent learning new techniques, and the next spent practicing them until they were mastered. I was also given printed handouts which I could look at between lessons. This helped keep the techniques fresh in my mind until the next lesson. The pace of tuition was also tailored to my strengths and weaknesses, with more time being spent on the things that I wasn't so great at.

After passing my test, I can say that John has taught me how to drive well and safely, and would thoroughly recommend him to anyone who was thinking about learning to drive.

David

Stirling

John had been recommended to me by family and school friends. From my first lesson John was very helpful and clear in his instruction, making sure I was not only doing the right thing but doing it well.

His lessons were very structured - he set out what we were going to work on in each lesson at the start, then at the end he would fill in my progress card and we would discuss how the lesson went, this was useful as I knew what I needed to work on from week to week and how I was improving.

I was a very nervous driver at first, but John was really supportive and offered various strategies to improve my confidence. He was very concerned to make sure I enjoyed driving and that it wasn't something to worry about, which was great.

John's encouragement paid off and I passed with only minor faults. I'm looking forward to doing pass plus with him as well.

Sara Helen

Stirling

Having had about 3 years since my last driving lesson, in which time my younger brother had passed his test first time (also with John), I was understandably nervous about getting back behind the wheel and working myself up to test standard. The situation was not helped by having limited time before heading back to university.

But after a few lessons with John I was feeling much more relaxed and confident that I was going to manage my goal of passing my driving test in just 3 weeks. John was keen to organize a top loaded semi-intensive course. So I had 2 lessons a day for the first week then lessons were as and when needed, each lesson had a very specific focus and John would take things at the pace I was comfortable with. John has a very professional attitude when needed but he is also relaxed with a good sense of humor when you feel more comfortable with your driving.

He would give me a determination to improve and to strive for the best. Each lesson I would be left with something I was to improve on and with the use of a simple number chart system it was brilliant to be able to visualize your improvement as more and more of the boxes were scored higher and higher.

I was a brilliant feeling to walk into my test with confidence and walk out again with a driving license having passed first time with only 5 minor driving faults.

Thanks a lot John I couldn't have done it with out you.

Tim

Stirling

After taking lessons on and off for a couple of years with different instructors, I was then recommended to Thistle school of motoring by two friends who had passed first time.

I found that John Spalding was very friendly and made me feel at ease as I lacked confidence. His lessons were very structured and at the end of every lesson a progress card was filled in detailing how well I was achieving in each aspect of driving.

John is reliable, punctual and very thorough in his teaching. After a few months I passed my test first time with 4 minor faults, I wish I had gone to John for lessons sooner as I would have saved a lot of money in the long run.

I wish John all the best and thank him very much.

Elaine

Bannockburn

John was recommended to me by a family friend. Right from my very first lesson with John I felt comfortable and completely at ease. Throughout my lessons he constantly reassured me that I wouldn't be leaving his car without a full driving licence, this gave me more determination and drive to put all I could into my lessons and pass my test.

John was always on time and more often than not lessons ran over the hour as he spent a lot of time talking about how the lesson went and filling in my progress card. This showed what areas needed improving and what areas I was improving in.

I highly recommend John as a driving instructor, his humorous and patient approach always made driving lessons enjoyable which lead to me passing my driving test first time with only 5 driving faults.

Allyson

Wallace Park

I started to take lessons with John after I had failed two tests with another instructor. A family friend told me about him after he helped her pass her test, when she failed several times with a previous instructor. John is very friendly and soon helped me feel at ease and more relaxed about my driving. He built my confidence up by saying that I would not leave his car without a full driving licence, this was very reassuring. After every lesson, my progress card was completed and I could see how much I was improving.

Within a couple of months I was up to test standard thanks to John's method of teaching, his previous knowledge of being a driving examiner and his emphasis on safety. I felt far more confident to re-sit my test and passed with only 4 driving faults.

My brother is having driving lessons with John as his instruction is easy to follow, very thorough and detailed and he prepares you to pass your driving test first time.

Gabrielle Cambusbarron, Stirling

After two failed tests with a well know driving school in Stirling, I was introduced to John Spalding from Thistle School of Motoring (I didn't know I was working beside his daughter) I always found John very punctual and would often spend more than the hour giving a fully structured lesson, brushing up on the skills and driving techniques that I thought I already had.

I always felt totally at ease with John. He has a great deal of patience (which he needed when I was practicing reverse parking) and gave me lots of support and encouragement.

I soon regained my confidence and improved my driving skills under his supervision and guidance. I passed my test in September 2007. I also went on to complete the Pass Plus course with John, bought myself a small car and saved money on the cost of the car insurance.

I highly recommend John Spalding as a driving instructor, as he has the skills and knowledge which, when passed to you will allow you to pass your driving test on your first attempt.

Jen Raploch, Stirling

I was advised to learn to drive with John by my boyfriend who had been taught by him and passed his test with John. I had no problems with my training; John was very reliable, always on time for my lessons and very flexible when booking them.

He is patient and understanding, and was always adjusting his lessons to my learning speed. John's teaching methods clearly work as I passed my test first time, which was a big achievement for me in a short period of time

I would definitely recommend John to anyone considering taking driving lessons as he gives first class tuition.

Marissa

Sauchie