

Uncoupling and Coupling Exercise

During your test the examiner will ask you to carry out the uncoupling and coupling exercise usually on return to the test centre but be guided by the examiner.

Uncoupling

1. Choose a safe, level and even surface. You may be guided by the examiner if not avoid using the manoeuvring area if possible.
2. **YOU MUST** put on the hand brake before moving on.
3. Disconnect the lights socket.
4. Lower the jockey wheel but only to the ground and ensure the clamp is tight.
5. Lift up the ball locking lever and wind down the jockey wheel until there is a good clearance of tow ball and coupling.
6. Disconnect the break away cable.
7. Drive forward and reverse along side the trailer, either to the left or right, using good all round observation so that you are parallel with the trailer and exit the vehicle.

Coupling

The examiner will now ask you to couple to the trailer. It is vital that you approach this as if you have just come in to the yard to hitch up to this trailer and someone else has used it before you.

1. **YOU MUST CHECK THAT THE TRAILER'S HANDBRAKE IS FULLY APPLIED.**
2. As you take a walk round the trailer to check it's condition and as you perform the check explain to the examiner what you are looking for. Make sure you check;
 - a. the tyre condition, pressure and age,
 - b. the wheel nuts,
 - c. that the wheel arches are attached and are not loose
 - d. that the number plate is present and matches the towing vehicle,
 - e. Condition of the lights/reflectors,
 - f. Condition of body work and the doors/curtains are locked.
3. Move the car forward in front of the trailer try to be in line by using the mirrors.
4. Reverse up to the trailer using good all round observation remember you don't not have to be deadly accurate the trailer can be moved very easily.
5. Release the hand brake and pull the trailer to the car.
6. Connect the break away cable.
7. Lift up the ball locking lever if it has released.
8. Wind up the jockey wheel until the coupling lever drops down and securely fastens to the tow ball **YOU MUST CHECK** this, the easiest way is to wind the jockey wheel back down and see if the back of the car lifts.
9. Connect the lights socket.
10. **YOU MUST CHECK ALL LIGHTS** are working, the examiner will assist you with the brake lights but you may have to check the other lights on your own.

You will then be asked to perform a brake test by driving a short distance forwards and then stopping the vehicle.