

BTEC in Driving Science

The a²om BTEC in Driving Science is an intermediate vocational training qualification (equivalent to a GCSE in level) and the world's first novice driver education programme. The course follows a highly structured learning programme (inclusive of post test elements such as motorway driving and driving at night) and works in conjunction with normal practical driving lessons.

The overall aim is simple: **To ensure the next generation of young drivers are safer, more responsible and fully equipped to deal with 21st century life on the road.**

Based on 2 key pieces of research:

1. The frontal lobe (the part of the brain responsible for anticipating danger and assessing risk) does not fully develop until about the age of 25. *We also know that with appropriate brain training, these skills can be developed at an earlier age.*
2. 19 out of 20 crashes are contributed to by attitude and behaviour. *The e-learning suite challenges the way people think and feel about driving.*

a²om[®] BTEC in Driving Science

The a²om BTEC in Driving Science is the only driver education system in the UK to incorporate the **European Goals for Driver Education (GDE) Matrix**.

What is the GDE Matrix?

A comprehensive driver competency framework, which places emphasis on coaching the behaviour of the student and in turn increasing their self-awareness.

Course implementation

The BTEC is broken down into 5 Units:

UNIT 1: Driving Skills and Risk.

An ordinary driving instructor may ask the young novice driver to demonstrate safe car control by just showing them how to carry out a cockpit drill and the basics of how to use the controls and instruments. A BTEC driving instructor, however, will of course cover the above but will go further by coaching the student about the dangers of ignoring this important cockpit drill i.e. when might you not carry out the cockpit drill?

The course ensures the young novice driver is starting to think about when he/she may be alone in the car and under time pressure or have passengers in the car. The BTEC instructor would delve into how and why the young novice driver might react/behave differently in these situations and provide training and guidance on how to deal with various scenarios.

UNIT 2: Safe Interaction with Other Road Users.

When thinking about impairments (drugs etc)/driver overload – If you were the designated driver and had a car full of friends, driving them back from a party, what factors do you have to consider, how could your behaviour change?

The BTEC driving instructor will address these issues and coach the young novice driver on how to handle this type of situation and ensure their own, and their passenger's, safety.

UNIT 3: Environmental Driving.

The BTEC driving instructor instils a proactive rather than a reactive style of driving by searching to identify potential hazards before they unfold, thus allowing space and time to respond. **For example:**

- **Proactive driving** via a smooth progression are the strongest factors for fuel efficiency, which is also associated with lower crash involvement.
- **Steady adjustment** to speed and minimal use of brakes.
- The importance of **journey planning**, i.e. do you even need to use the car, is also addressed in this unit.

UNIT 4: Driving Responsibilities.

Learning how to evaluate the circumstances under which good driving proficiency could be impaired. The BTEC driving instructor will make the young novice driver aware of the responsibility that a full licence brings. Pupils should evaluate their behaviour and recognise how it can influence their risk of being involved in a crash.

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UNIT 5: Safe Driving Behaviour (post-test module).

This unit will consolidate the knowledge and skills developed so far.

The **BTEC** driving instructor will address the potentially inappropriate over confidence that may have developed post-test and ensure the student not only recognises these behavioural issues, but addresses them as a priority.

Course duration

Unit 1 would be completed in the first 10 hours of lessons

Unit 2 between 10-20 hours

Unit 3 between 20-30 hours

Unit 4 between 30-40 hours

Unit 5 is completed after the pupil has passed the DSA practical test

E-learning

The in-car sessions are supported by state of the art e-learning:

a²om[®] mind: Has been designed to accelerate executive brain function development. This interactive programme will improve eye scanning, hazard awareness, risk management in turn improve decision making skills. It is **PROVEN** to accelerate the maturation of the frontal lobe. This programme consists of 4 pre-test and 1 post-test modules. It also includes mock **DVA** theory and hazard perception tests, so there is no need to buy any further driver training books/guides.

a²om[®] highway: Is a fully interactive, on-line learning environment that develops knowledge and challenges attitudes in relation to driver behaviour. It makes the theory of driving fun, modern and stimulating

About us

Our science and new educational methods provide a better understanding of the road and its dangers and ensure our graduates are the safest on the road.

For demonstrations of each of the above products, please go to the education section of our website, www.a2om.com/demo.

The cost of the **a²om BTEC in Driving Science** is **£175.00**.

Northern Bank has partnered with **a²om** to sponsor the **BTEC in Driving Science**. The Bank's support will enable **every 16 year old** (via their school) to have full access to both **a²om[®] mind** and **a²om[®] highway** free of charge. **Northern Bank** is also offering its **Freedom** and **Discovery** account holders a **£100** discount off the normal price of **£175** for the **BTEC in Driving Science**.

Contact information

For driving school/instructor enquiries, insurance or car purchase offers, please contact:

Driving Science Northern Ireland

www.drivingscienceni.com

Tel: 0845 6045560

For general enquiries about the BTEC, or to purchase the BTEC online contact:

a²om international limited

www.a2om.com/btec

Tel: +44 (0) 7000 123400

For more information about the BTEC offer for Northern Bank Freedom and Discovery customers please contact:

Northern Bank Limited

www.northernbank.co.uk

Tel: 0800 660033

Please note: You can start the BTEC at any stage of your driving development pre/post test (ie accredited with prior learning towards the completion of the BTEC)

a²om[®] is aiming to change the way the young of today are taught, and ultimately save lives.