

ARE YOU ROADWORTHY?

This lesson plan links to the following national curriculum areas:

- PHSE NC criteria: Knowledge, skills and understanding: 1a, 1c, 2a, 2b; Breadth of study: 4a, 4b, 4g
- Citizenship: Unit 09, Consumer rights and responsibilities
- English: Reading: 5a, 5c, 5d; Writing: 1e, 1f, 1g, 1h, 2, 3, 4; Breadth of study: 9b
- Key skills: Communication; Decision-making

Objectives At the end of the lesson the student will be able to:

- Become aware of what can cause accidents
- Give advice on a potentially dangerous situation
- Learn how to reduce the risk of accidents

Activity	Method	Timing	Resources / materials
<p>1</p> <p>Starter – What causes accidents?</p>	<p>Class mind map / spider diagram about ‘What causes accidents?’</p> <p>Teacher records result on the board.</p> <p>Possible answers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • driving when tired • speeding • drinking / drugs • too many people in a car • distractions (phone, stereo etc) • car too powerful for experience • inexperience on the road (introduce the Pass Plus programme currently in operation in the UK) 	10 minutes	<p>More information on what causes accidents on www.AA-Attitude.co.uk >Driving truths >Safety >What causes accidents?</p> <p>For information about Pass Plus for inexperienced drivers look on www.passplus.org.uk/about_pp.asp</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Activity 1: Safety quiz</p>	<p>Teacher introduces this activity with the following statistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nearly 11,000 passengers aged 16 to 19 were killed or injured in accidents in 2004 (<i>Brake – Young Drivers: The hard facts</i>). • 151 teenage drivers were killed on the roads in 2003 (<i>ibid</i>). • Speeding is a contributory factor in over 30% of accidents (<i>THINK! Department of Transport</i>). <p>Using <i>Activity sheet 1: Safety quiz</i></p> <p>OR logging on to www.AA-Attitude.co.uk >Driving truths >Safety >Safety quiz, students complete a quick test on their safety knowledge.</p>	15 minutes	<p>Internet access</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Use <i>Activity sheet 1: Safety quiz</i></p> <p><i>Teacher answer sheet 1: Safety quiz</i></p>

Activity	Method	Timing	Resources / materials
	<p>Differentiation Easier: Teacher led activity with help where necessary. Harder: Timed quiz, students have two or three minutes to complete the activity.</p>		
<p>3 Activity 2: Giving advice – How to avoid a potentially dangerous situation</p>	<p>Short discussion about potentially dangerous road situations students have been in. These could include situations related to problems tackled in the quiz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alcohol • fatigue • risky driving • wearing a seat belt • aggressive behaviour <p>Working in pairs and using <i>Activity sheet 2: Dear Lily...</i>, students read through the three scenarios to agony aunt Lily Falconer. Students pick one scenario and write Lily's answer. They should apply knowledge from the mind map / spider diagram and quiz.</p> <p>Differentiation Easier: Students read only one scenario and write their answer. Harder: After completing the activity, students discuss in groups a scenario relevant to their experience and compose a letter to Lily to ask a question about it.</p>	25 minutes	<i>Activity sheet 2: Dear Lily</i>
<p>4 Plenary – How cool is taking a risk?</p>	<p>Short summary of main reasons for road accidents. Final discussion: Often taking risks on the road is seen as 'cool'. Why is this? (Portrayal of risky drivers in films and media, peer pressure). What can students do to change this attitude? Being safe and responsible can be cool because it's grown up.</p>	10 minutes	

Extension or homework suggestions

1. Students design a poster to promote 'Being safe on the roads is cool'
2. Using the Internet, students could investigate a current road safety campaign (eg THINK!) and assess it. What have they achieved so far? Are they using the right methods and messages to reach out to young people? What could be improved?

Activity sheet 1

SAFETY QUIZ

Everyone agrees that safety is of primary importance on the road. How well do you really know the what, why, when, where and how of safe behaviour? Do you think you've got road safety pretty well covered? Test your knowledge with this road safety quiz.

1 Alcohol and driving don't mix because...

- a. Drivers might throw up while driving
- b. The police might catch them
- c. It slows down the driver's reaction time

2 When is the greatest risk for drivers of falling asleep behind a wheel?

- a. Between midnight and 6am and 2 to 4pm
- b. As soon as they get up
- c. After a large lunch

3 Where should drivers be most cautious when driving?

- a. Near schools
- b. At intersections
- c. Near pubs where drunks are about

4 When is it safe to read a map while driving?

- a. When the driver has stopped in traffic
- b. When the driver needs a power nap
- c. When the car is parked

5 Parked cars are a hazard because...

- a. Someone might have left their handbrake off
- b. They make it harder for you to park
- c. It's difficult to see if a driver is present or not

6 When can drivers use the hard shoulder on the motorway?

- a. When they need to read a map
- b. When they're tired
- c. When they've broken down

7 Who should wear a seat belt in your car?

- a. The driver and any kids under 14
- b. Everyone
- c. Just the driver

8 When roads are icy or slushy it's important to...

- a. Drive slower than usual
- b. Avoid harsh braking
- c. Allow your car to skid and coast

9 If someone is aggressively tailgating a car, drivers should...

- a. Drive faster to get rid of them
- b. Swear at them
- c. Maintain a speed that they're comfortable with and keep left

10 Loud music in a car can cause accidents because...

- a. It makes other drivers mad
- b. It distracts the driver
- c. It tempts you to play around with the CD

Score:

0 to 3 answers right

Ouch! Safety is an important subject to study when you're learning to drive. Try thinking through the likely outcome of each scenario: 'if I choose this option, what will happen next?' Putting yourself into the scene should help you reach the correct answer, and be sure to work on any questions you're stuck on.

4 to 7 answers right

There's some room for improvement here – don't forget to think of other road users as well as what's happening in and around your own car. Have a look through your answers to see which areas you need work on.

8 to 10 answers right

Well done, your road safety knowledge is top notch!

Teacher answer sheet 1

SAFETY QUIZ

Question 1

Answer C is correct.

Booze and driving don't go together, as alcohol slows down your reaction time and leads to: a loss of coordination, poor judgment, slowed reflexes, distorted vision, and memory lapses – all of which seriously increase your chances of an accident.

Question 2

Answer A is correct.

The greatest risk is late at night or mid-afternoon when your 'body clock' hits a sleep trough and natural alertness is low.

Question 3

Answer B is correct.

Intersections are the biggest danger zone and can be risky because there are a lot of distractions, including turning cars, pedestrians and red-light runners.

Question 4

Answer C is correct.

Talking on a mobile phone, reading a map, or even changing CDs when you're driving or have stopped in traffic, will distract you and possibly lead to an accident.

Question 5

Answer C is correct.

Always be alert when driving near parked cars and keep your distance, as someone may be about to open a car door or pull out in front of you.

Question 6

Answer C is correct.

Only use the hard shoulder when you've broken down. Turn on your hazard lights and walk away from the road onto the embankment. Emergency phones are every 1,500m along the motorway. The hard shoulder is not a totally safe place to be. If you have any other reason to stop aside from breaking down, you should pull into a service station.

Question 7

Answer B is correct.

Everyone needs to belt-up for their safety and yours.

Question 8

Answer A is correct.

It can take ten times longer to stop in icy conditions than on a dry road. Drive slowly, allowing extra room to slow down and stop.

Question 9

Answer C is correct.

Show up rude drivers by being extra-polite – keep as far left as possible so that they have a clear view to allow them to pass, and make sure you leave a big enough gap in front of you so that they can easily get back in after passing. Tailgaters put you in danger and you want to get rid of them as quickly as possible, so make it easy for them to get away.

Question 10

Answer B is correct.

Loud music is dangerous because it's distracting and masks traffic sounds and approaching emergency vehicles.

Activity sheet **2****DEAR LILY**

Read the three letters to agony Aunt Lily Falconer from *Sparks* magazine and pick one you would like to answer. Write Lily's answer and try to give advice on the best way to keep safe and take responsibility on the road.

BOOZE BLUES

Dear Lily,

Two months ago I met this great guy Oliver at a party. He is really cute and we make a fantastic couple. Oliver is three years older than me, and my mates at school are all jealous because he has his driver's licence and a car.

It's cool to have a boyfriend who can drive. He picks me up and we go shopping together or to the cinema. It's so much easier than taking the bus. The other day though, he had been to the pub before coming to see me. We were going to see a film. I could smell the beer on his breath and he seemed to react really slowly on the road. We got to the cinema OK but I really didn't feel comfortable or safe driving with him.

Now I don't know what to do. Should I say something to him? I don't want to seem boring and petty. After all it's his car and he can drink whenever he wants. I don't have the right to tell him what to do and I don't want him to dump me

Sharna

RUSHIN' ROULETTE

Dear Lily,

I had a huge fight with my best friend, Jack, the other day, and I'm totally gutted because this has never happened before.

We were driving to a friend's house for a party. I was kind of angry because Jack couldn't make up his mind what to wear, so we were really late. There was this girl at the party who I'm really keen on and I started to drive pretty fast to get there quicker. I guess I was doing about 85 or 90 on a country road.

Jack got nervous and asked me to slow down but I didn't. It was his fault that we were late, and who's he to tell me how to drive my own car? I'm a good driver. I passed my test the first time around and I know the road like the back of my hand.

When we got to the party Jack stormed off and he hasn't spoken to me since. I haven't approached him either because I think it was his fault. How should I patch things up?

Dave

TRAFFIC FIGHT

Dear Lily,

I go on my bike to school every day. Last month my friend Judy from next door got a new bicycle for her birthday and now we cycle together which is great.

The only problem is that Judy gets really aggressive when she cycles. It's almost like she is a different person. She runs red lights, shouts at drivers, and the other day she even kicked someone's car because they apparently got too close to her.

I really like Judy but I don't want to get into trouble because of her. It's true that drivers often don't care about cyclists. Judy says that if you don't fight your way through traffic you won't get anywhere. Does she have a point? Maybe I should be more aggressive? What do you think? And who could I talk to about this?

Monica

TEACHER EVALUATION

Use this sheet to evaluate how the lesson went and how you would look to improve it. You may like to post any suggestions on the Contact us page of the teacher zone.

ARE YOU ROADWORTHY?

Comments

a) What worked well?

b) What didn't work well?

c) How would you improve this lesson the next time?

60-SECOND STUDENT EVALUATION

Name: _____

Name or number of lesson: _____

During this lesson the **three** most important things I learned were:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

The things I **enjoyed most** about this lesson were:

The things I **least enjoyed** about this lesson were:

Finally, **give the lesson a rating** on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 as the best.

(Please circle your answer)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10