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Disclaimer

Congratulations! You've decided to embark on the crazy journey of getting your Japanese driver's license! It's not an easy road, but fear not! This packet will guide you through everything you need to know. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Dana Anderson
Fukui-ken ALT

WHAT A LOVELY DAY.

THINGS TO DO NOW

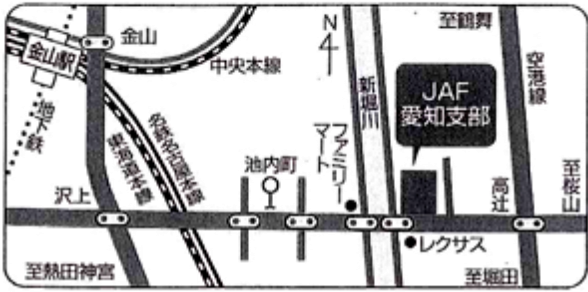
- **Apply for your driver's license translation.** You must apply for your current driver's license to be translated into Japanese. Your supervisor cannot do this for you. It has to be done through an official service. The JAF (Japanese Automobile Federation) offers a service to do that. You can do it 2 ways:
 1. Apply for the translation by mail
 - ◆ Download the application and fill it out (http://www.jaf.or.jp/inter/translation/index_e.htm)
 - ◆ Download the instructions, which are also on the website listed above, and mail the following:
 - The filled out application
 - Photocopy of your current driver's license (front + back) (Can't be expired and color photocopies are preferred)
 - Photocopy of your Japan residency card (front + back)
 - ¥3000 application fee + ¥392 return postage fee= ¥3392
 - ◆ You will need to mail this through a Registered Currency Mail envelope (Genkinkakidome irai hōhō). It's a special envelope used to safely mail cash in Japan. In 2016, the cost was ~¥533.
 2. Apply for the translation in person
 - ◆ There is a JAF Office in Fukui City. However, they no longer do driver's license translations. If you go there to get your translation, they will just hand you mailing instructions (Page 3). These instructions suggest mailing to the Aichi branch since it's the closest to Fukui and, therefore, will probably be able to receive and send your translation in the shortest time. However, you can send it to any location. Just check the online branch list to make sure license translation services offered. (Locations: http://www.jaf.or.jp/inter/entrust/index_e.htm)
 - ◆ However, if you are going to be visiting a neighboring prefecture, you can stop into the nearest office and get the license translated there. Keep in mind that it can sometimes take 20 minutes and sometimes, they might be so busy that they might ask you to come back the next day. So plan accordingly. And again, check to make sure that the translation service is offered.
- The Official JAF website states that a mailed translation can take up to 2-3 weeks to get back to you. But if they are swamped, it can sometimes take up to a month. Do it early.
- The Official JAF website also states that a translation is not always guaranteed. It's very, very rare that you wouldn't receive a translation from them. However, if you don't fill out the paperwork correctly, they might return everything to you without the translation. There are no refunds. In this case, you will just have to try again. Again, doing this early will help you, in case you need to send it again.
- **Get 2 passport photos.** They should be 2.4cm x 3cm. Some conbinis have passport photo booths near their entrances. In case you forget or didn't have time beforehand, there are photo booths at the DMV. However, getting them ahead of time will help you (Once the DMV opens, it gets a little crazy). Keep in mind, they might not accept a photo where you are smiling too much or if your photo looks too different from you when going in for your visits (like if you cut or dye your hair). They usually cost ¥600-900 per set/sheet. Why 2? One for your DMV paperwork and sometimes the second is used for your license.
- **Gather all of your personal driving history and your country/state's driving procedures, to the best of your ability.** You should know your personal driving history and your country/state's driving procedures in order to be fully prepared for the first visit. Everything that I gathered for my first visit is on pages 4-7. (Keep in mind that I overprepared!). I will explain why later on:

◆◆◆免許証翻訳文のお取り扱い拠点変更のお知らせ◆◆◆ Notification of Change store in translation.

これまで福井支部で行ってきまして翻訳文作成業務を2013年10月より愛知県(名古屋市昭和区)で行うことになりました。
遠方の方、及びお急ぎの方につきましては下記住所へ郵送にてお願いいたします。
お客様には大変ご迷惑をおかけして申し訳ありませんが何卒ご理解いただきますようお願いいたします。

The translating work we've been doing in Fukui branch will be done in Aichi (Showa-ku, Nagoya-city) from October 2013.
If you are in hurry or if you live in far, please send by mail to address below.
Sorry for the convenience and thank you for your understanding.

一般社団法人 日本自動車連盟愛知支部<Japan Automobile Federation Aichi Branch Office>
〒466-8580 名古屋市昭和区福江3丁目7番56号<3-7-56,Fukue,Showa-ku,Nagoyash-shi>
電話 052-872-3685



「金山バスターミナル」
7～8番より高辻経由のバスに乗り、
池内町にて下車。
進行方向に徒歩数分左側。

At Kanayama Bus Terminal
Please catch a bus which goes
via Takatsujicho at the bus stop from
No.7 or 8, and get off at Ikeuchi-cho
bus stop.
Left side of several minutes on foot.

◆◆◆翻訳文作成 現金書留依頼方法(Cash Registration Mail)◆◆◆

現金書留にて下記の必要書類をお送り下さい。

Please send the following required documents by cash registration mail.

- ① 外国運転免許証翻訳文発行申請書
Application form for Japanese Translation of foreign driver's license
- ② 運転免許証のコピー(両面)
The copy of a driver's license (Both sides)
- ③ 3,392円(翻訳料3,000円+送料392円)
3,392yen (Translation fee 3,000yen + Postage 392yen)
※日本免許の台湾語訳は3,786円です(翻訳料3,394円+送料392円)
※Taiwan translation of Japan's license is 3,786 yen
(Translation fee 3,394yen + Postage 392yen)

郵便切手

(太線のながだけボールペンで強くご記入ください。)

お届け先: To
おところ: Address
おなまえ: Name
でんわ: Telephone ()

ご依頼主: From
おところ: Address (郵便番号)

おなまえ: Name
でんわ: Telephone ()

お届け先: To
おところ: Address
〒466-8580 愛知県名古屋市昭和区福江3-7-56 or
〒466-8580 Aichi-ken Nagoya-shi Syowa-ku Fukue3-7-56

おなまえ: Name
JAF愛知支部 or JAF Aichi

でんわ: Telephone
052-872-3685

損害賠償額
3,392円 or 3,786円

お届け先: To
JAF愛知支部 or JAF Aichi

ご依頼主: From
Postal Code

おところ: Address
Address (It is required that you write the name of the building or apartment that you live in.)

おなまえ: Name

でんわ: Telephone (Allow mobile phone)

2014.04.01現在

Driver's License History

To get a driver's license in the state of Illinois, the age requirements are:

- > Learner's permit: 15 years old
- > Provisional license: 16 years old
- > Full driver's license: 18 years old

Date: [REDACTED] I got my Illinois State Drivers License (Total cost was \$[REDACTED] \$[REDACTED]). I was [REDACTED] years old.

- > No. [REDACTED]
- > Class D states that I am officially permitted to drive any motor vehicle with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating of 16,000 pounds or less.
- > Getting my license required:
 1. Taking a driver's education course through my high school
- > Course Outline, directly from the school class offering directory:

DRIVER EDUCATION

DRIVER EDUCATION G 161 (DEC15100 DEC15200)

DRIVER EDUCATION 161 (DEC16100 DEC16200)

GRADE: 10, 11, 12 LENGTH: 1 Sem

CREDIT: .25 (Classroom) .25 (Laboratory) GPA: All Subject

The purpose of Driver Education is to develop citizens who will be competent and responsible users of the highway transportation system. Driver Education grades are given for the classroom and laboratory phases separately, although the phases are taught concurrently. Students must be a minimum of fifteen years of age at the beginning of the semester during which they are enrolled for the laboratory phase. Students who become 16 prior to the completion of the course are given priority in enrollment. In order to become qualified for an operator's license prior to age 18, the student must pass both phases of Driver Education.

Classroom Phase: The classroom phase is required by state law. State law requires a minimum of 30 clock hours attendance in the classroom phase in order to complete the course. (To be eligible for enrollment, the student must have received a passing grade in at least eight courses during the previous two semesters.)

Laboratory Phase: State law requires a minimum of six clock hours or its equivalent of attendance in order to complete the course. The lab phase is taken concurrently with the classroom phase.

- > The class provided the following, which is required to get a driver's license:
 - ① 30 hours of classroom instruction
 - ② 6 hours of in-car driving instruction
 - ③ 50 hours of behind-the-wheel driving practice (including 10 hours at night) with my parent/guardian or a supervising licensed driver who was at least 21 years old

- > The class was taken at [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] I was [REDACTED] years old.
- > My class took place from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] I was [REDACTED] years old.

> The classroom fee for this class was free and included in tuition provided by the state of Illinois. The class itself was free but I had to pay for the \$[REDACTED] (\$[REDACTED]) laboratory fee.

2. Getting my provisional driver's permit

- > You must be enrolled in the class in order to apply for the permit, if you are under the age of 17.
- > After obtaining the permit, I could start practicing the 6 in car driving instruction hours of the driver's education course and logging the 50 hours of behind-the-wheel practice with the parent/guardian or licensed driver that was at least 21 years old.

> To apply for the permit, I had to provide/do the following:

- ① Driver's Education class enrollment certificate
 - ② Proof of written signature (refer to provided list of documents)
 - ③ Proof of social security number (refer to provided list of documents)
 - ④ Proof of birth date (refer to provided list of documents)
 - ⑤ Proof of residency (refer to provided list of documents)
 - ⑥ \$[REDACTED] fee (\$[REDACTED])
 - ⑦ Vision test
 - ⑧ Written test
 - > There were 35 questions.
 - > You needed 80% (28 questions) to pass.
 - > The questions were a combination of true/false, multiple choice and traffic sign identification.
 - > See attached practice questions for examples of questions.
 - > The test was taken at: [REDACTED]
- > I got my permit on [REDACTED] I was [REDACTED] years old.
 - > The provisional rules for the permit were:
 - ① I must have the permit at all times.
 - ② I can only have 1 person in the front passenger seat.
 - ③ I can only have as many passengers in back as how many seat belts there are.
 - ④ I cannot drive between 10 pm and 6 am Sunday through Thursday.
 - ⑤ I cannot drive between 11 pm and 6 am on Friday and Saturday.
 - ⑥ I cannot use a cell phone at any time, unless you are in an emergency.
- ### 3. Getting my provisional driver's license
- > I got my license on [REDACTED] I was [REDACTED] years old.
 - > Once I was [REDACTED] years old and had had my permit for at least 9 months prior without any traffic violations, I could apply for the provisional driver's license.

- ✧ I got my license at: [REDACTED]
- ✧ Getting my driver's license required:
 - ① Driver's Education class completion certificate
 - ② Proof of written signature (refer to provided list of documents)
 - ③ Proof of social security number (refer to provided list of documents)
 - ④ Proof of birth date (refer to provided list of documents)
 - ⑤ Proof of residency (refer to provided list of documents)
 - ⑥ Consent to drive form with my parent/guardian present
 - ⑦ Proof of completion of the 50 behind-the-wheel driving hours.
 - ⑧ \$ [REDACTED] fee (Y [REDACTED])
 - ⑨ Vision test
 - ⑩ Written test
 - > There were 35 questions.
 - > You needed 80% (28 questions) to pass.
 - > The questions were a combination of 20 true/false and multiple choice and 15 traffic sign identification.
 - > See attached practice questions for examples of questions.
 - ⑪ Driving test (5-10 minutes)
 - > You must provide a vehicle that is licensed and properly equipped for the driver's license classification you are seeking. You must show proof of vehicle insurance inside the Driver Services facility. During the driving exam, which will allow you to drive passenger vehicles, you will be graded on your ability to do the following: start the vehicle, back the vehicle, turn about, park uphill, start uphill, park downhill, start downhill, control your vehicle, proper speed usage, and proper lane usage.
- ✧ The provisional rules for my provisional driver's license was:
 - ① For the first year (or until I turn 18 years old), I can only have 1 person in the car that is under the age of 20 years old who is NOT a member of my immediate family.
 - ② I cannot drive between 10 pm and 6 am Sunday through Thursday.
 - ③ I cannot drive between 11 pm and 6 am on Friday and Saturday.
 - ④ I cannot use a cell phone at any time, unless you are in an emergency.
 - ⑤ I must be conviction free for the 6 months prior to turning 18 years old and receive your full driver's license.
- 4. Getting my full driver's license
 - ✧ I got my full driver's license on [REDACTED] I was [REDACTED] years old.
 - ✧ Once I turned 18 without any traffic violations for the 6 months prior, my provisional license automatically converted into a full driver's license.
 - ✧ I can now drive without any curfew or passenger restrictions.
 - ✧ I cannot use a handheld device while driving.
 - ✧ It will remain valid until 3 months after I turn 21 years old.

- ✧ Once I am 21 years old, I have to renew my license to receive the full driver's license in the over 21 format (vertical to horizontal).
 - ✧ I had my first car accident. I was [REDACTED] years old.
- Date: [REDACTED]
- I received a [REDACTED] ticket. I was [REDACTED] years old.
- Date: [REDACTED]
- I received my Class M motorcycle license (Total cost was \$ [REDACTED] (Y [REDACTED])). I was [REDACTED] years old.
- > Class M states that I am officially permitted to ride any size motorcycle or motor-driven vehicle.
 - > Getting my license required:
 1. Taking the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Basic Rider Course (BRC), which included:
 - ✧ 8 hours of classroom training
 - ✧ 12 hours of practical training
 - ✧ Written test
 - ① There were 30 questions.
 - ② You needed an 80% (24 questions) to pass.
 - ③ The questions were a combination of true/false and multiple choice.
 - ④ See attached practice questions for examples of questions.
 - ✧ Driving test (which was 5 mins long)
 - ✧ \$ [REDACTED] Fee (Y [REDACTED])
 - ✧ The class was taken at: [REDACTED]
 - ✧ My class took place on [REDACTED] I was [REDACTED] years old.
 - ✧ I completed the class on [REDACTED] I was [REDACTED] years old.
 2. Going to [REDACTED] with the following:
 - ✧ Certificate of completion of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Basic Rider Course (BRC)
 - ✧ Proof of written signature (refer to provided list of documents)
 - ✧ Proof of social security number (refer to provided list of documents)
 - ✧ Proof of birth date (refer to provided list of documents)

◇ Proof of residency (refer to provided list of documents)

◇ Valid driver's license

◇ Vision test

◇ \$ [redacted] Fee (M)

> Provisionary restrictions. I was not permitted to drive before I got my license. I was permitted to drive under the supervision of a certified motorcycle instructor during the IDOT class. After I received my license, I was permitted to drive any motorcycle or any motor driven vehicle immediately.

> Application process: Sign up for the class, complete to class, go to the DMV to turn in all of the paperwork and receive my license. There was no permit.

Date [redacted] I received my International Drivers Permit from [redacted] (Total cost was \$ [redacted]). I was [redacted] years old.

> No. [redacted]

Date [redacted] Valid from [redacted]

I came to Japan. I was [redacted] years old.

Passport Stamps, By Order of Date

If you are a citizen of the United States of America, the United States of America does not stamp your passport when you leave and enter the country.

Entered: [redacted] (Page [redacted])

Left: [redacted]

Entered: [redacted] (Page [redacted])

Left: [redacted]

Entered: [redacted] (Page [redacted])

Left: [redacted]

Entered: [redacted] (Page [redacted])

Left: [redacted]

Entered: [redacted] (Page [redacted])

Left: [redacted]

Entered: [redacted] (Page [redacted])

Left: [redacted]

Entered: [redacted] (Page [redacted])

Left: [redacted]

ILLINOIS

2016

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ILLINOIS Rules of the Road 2016

Illinois continues to be a national leader in traffic safety. Over the last decade, traffic fatalities in our state have declined significantly. This is due in large part to innovative efforts to combat drunk and distracted driving, as well as tougher guidelines for new teen drivers. The driving public's increased awareness and avoidance of hazardous driving behavior will be critical for Illinois.

Chapter 11 Study Questions

- The road surface of a bridge may be dangerous in winter because it may remain icy after the rest of the roadway is clear.

☐ True
 ☐ False
- If driving in fog, a driver should turn on the high beam headlights to increase the field of vision.

☐ True
 ☐ False
- Most rear-end collisions are caused by the vehicle in back following too closely.

☐ True
 ☐ False
- The three-second rule helps the driver determine a safe following distance.

☐ True
 ☐ False
- If a vehicle starts to skid on water (hydroplaning), the driver should quickly apply the brakes.

☐ True
 ☐ False
- If the front right wheel of a vehicle runs off the pavement, a driver should ease off the accelerator, brake gently and gently steer back onto the pavement.

☐ True
 ☐ False
- Drivers who become stranded in blizzard conditions should remain in their vehicles.

☐ True
 ☐ False
- When experiencing a tire blowout, the driver should apply the brakes quickly and pull off the roadway to check the tire.

☐ True
 ☐ False
- If a vehicle starts to skid, the driver should ease off the gas pedal or brakes and steer in the opposite direction of the skid.

☐ True
 ☐ False
- Illinois law requires that headlights be on when atmospheric conditions require the use of windshield wipers.

☐ True
 ☐ False
- After being pulled over by law enforcement, a driver should immediately exit the vehicle and quickly approach the officer's squad car.

☐ True
 ☐ False
- If a driver needs to obtain insurance or vehicle registration information from the glove box, the driver should inform the police officer before doing so.

☐ True
 ☐ False

Sample exam questions from the State Rules of the Road Handbook

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College transcripts

ILLINOIS

2016

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ILLINOIS Rules of the Road 2016

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☐ True
 ☐ False
- If a driver needs to obtain insurance or vehicle registration information from the glove box, the driver should inform the police officer before doing so.

☐ True
 ☐ False

Valid Over 21 Driver's Licenses/ID Cards

Valid Under 21 Driver's Licenses/ID Cards

Explanations of the variations of State IDs/Driver's Licenses

Sample exam questions from the State Motorcycle Handbook

THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOUR FIRST VISIT

- **Schedule your first visit to the DMV.** Once you get your driver's license translation from the JAF, you will need to schedule your first appointment at the DMV. Most likely, you will have to ask your supervisor to do this. There are two DMVs locations where you can get your license.
 1. Northern Fukui Center: Fukui Prefecture Driver Education Center
 福井県運転者教育センター
 58-10 Haruecho Haribara, Sakai, Fukui Prefecture 919-0476
 0776-51-2820
 2. Southern Fukui Center: Fukui Prefecture Reinan Driver Education Center
 福井県嶺南運転者教育センター
 1-51 Kurami, Wakasa, Mikatakaminaka District, Fukui Prefecture 919-1323
 0770-45-2121
- Scheduling these visits can be a huge pain because they only take foreigner driving applications on certain days (i.e. the Northern Fukui Center will only schedule your appointment on Wednesdays or Fridays). Therefore, the spaces for appointments fill up fast. So when your supervisor calls, the earliest available appointment might not be until one or two months away. Again, starting early will help you SO MUCH.
- **Get your jumin hyo from city hall.** Once you've got your first visit scheduled, plan a time and date to go get your jumin hyo. You must get official proof that you've lived in Japan for at least 3 months, before getting your Japanese driver's license. A jumin hyo will do that. The clincher with the jumin hyo is that the jumin hyo must be issued within a week before your first visit. So you have one week prior to your first visit to the DMV to get your jumin hyo. If you get it too early, they will not consider your jumin hyo as up to date. They will deny your application and ask you to come back again with a more recent one. Getting the jumin hyo costs ~¥300 (usually).

YOUR FIRST VISIT TO THE JAPANESE DMV

- Things to bring with you:

1. Passport	7. Original driver's license and your international permit (Expired licenses are a bonus)
2. Japan residency card	
3. Jumin hyo	8. Personal driving history, your country/state's driving procedures and other documents
4. Hanko/inkan	
5. Two 2.4cm x 3cm passport photos	9. ¥¥¥ (You shouldn't be paying anything on your first visit, but bring some just in case)
6. JAF license translation	

- **Interview.** Your first visit to the Japanese DMV will consist of an interview. This will be done by an ex-police officer and sometimes takes up to 2 hours. Unless your Japanese is pretty spot on, you will need to bring your supervisor with you to translate the officer's explanations and questions. He will first give you a rundown of how people in Japan get their licenses (driving schools, tests, etc), information on certain unique traffic rules that pertain specifically to Japan (stopping at railroad crossings, etc.), and other things. He will then ask you many questions and also ask you the same question in different ways. This is where your personal driving history and your country/state's driving procedures will come into play. Just answer the questions to the best of your ability. Being prepared is the best way to nail it. If you don't know the answer to a question, that's ok. Just honestly tell the officer, 'I don't know.' The key is to

be honest and consistent.

● Some questions ALTs have gotten before are:

- How long were you required to do classroom education/behind the wheel training? (Number of hours)
- What were the provisional driving restrictions?
- What was the application process? (ie: information you needed to provide, vision test, fingerprints, etc...)
- What was the age restriction?
- How old were you?
- How long did you need your permit for?
- How many hours of practice did you have to complete?
- How much did everything cost?
- What does this symbol on your license mean?
- Where did you take your test?
- When did you take it?
- What was the answer method? (multiple choice/true or false/etc.)
- What questions were on the test?
- How many questions?
- How many do you need to pass?
- When did you get your license?
- How long was your driving test?
- What was the order of the steps to obtaining your license? (ie: vision exam, written exam, driving, etc.)
- Have you ever been in an accident?
- What caused the accident?

So from earlier, here are the reasons why I brought the following to my interview:

Information	Why?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Personal driving history and country/state's driving procedures ● Sample exam questions from the State Rules of the Road Handbook ● Needed forms of identification when I took my driving test, way back when 	To answer questions like the ones above

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT I HAD TO OVERPREPARE.

Most of you will only need the three things above. I needed to prepare the bottom 3 because of my specific situation. Use the bottom 3 for reference if you are also in the same situation(s).

Information	Why?
✧ Explanations of the variations of State IDs/Driver's Licenses	Because my state likes to change their driver's licenses every 5 seconds. Needed to provide them with information on which kind I had.
✧ Sample exam questions from the State Motorcycle Handbook	Because I have my motorcycle license in the US, they asked me questions about it at the interview, even though I wasn't applying for a Japanese motorcycle license.
✧ College transcripts and passport stamp history	If your original driver's license was issued very close to when you left for Japan (3 months or less), the officer might have extra questions and concerns for you, particularly concerning where you were in the world right before getting your license and right before coming to Japan. College transcripts will provide proof that you were in a specific country (if not your own) for an extended period of time.

- After, they will also most likely give you two pieces of information, (1) some general driving guidelines and (2) a layout of the process of getting your license. Both are included on pages 10-13.
- After your interview, the officer will take your information into consideration. The DMV will call you within a week (usually) with their decision to move forward with your license application.

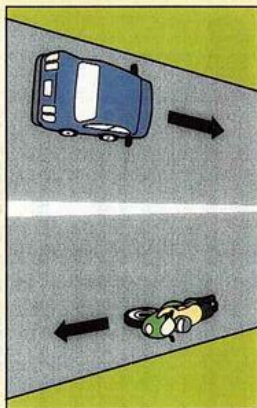
For Skill Confirmation Candidates 実技の確認を受けられる方へ

① When you get into the car 乗車後の措置

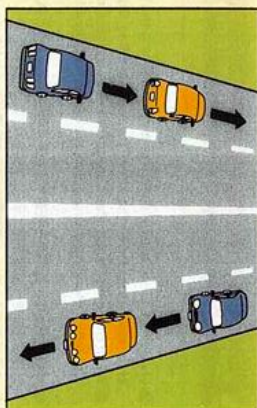


When getting into the car, adjust your seat and rearview and side mirrors, and fasten your seatbelt. 乗車したら、座席とバックミラーを調整してシートベルトを締めましょう。

② Driving lanes 通行区分



Drive in the lane to the left of the center of the road. 道路の中央から左側の部分を通行しましょう。

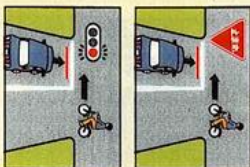


Where there are two lanes in the same direction, drive in the left-hand lane. 同一方向に2つの車線通行帯がある場合は、左側の通行帯を通行しましょう。

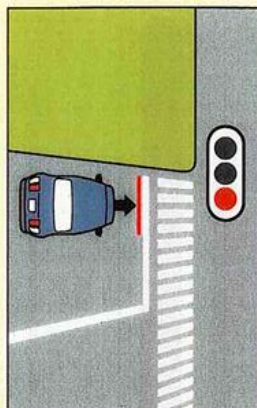
③ Following traffic signs and signals 標号、標識に従った運転

① Stop sign, flashing red signal 一時停止標識・赤の点滅信号

- Where there is a stop sign or flashing red signal, ensure that you stop ahead of the stopping line.
- After stopping, check carefully that the left and right is safe and then move forward without interfering with the progress of vehicles passing through the intersection.
- 一時停止標識がある場合や赤信号の点滅の場合には、必ず停止線の直前で一時停止しましょう。
- 一時停止した後、交差道路を通行する車両の通行を妨げないよう、左右の安全をよく確認してから発進しましょう。

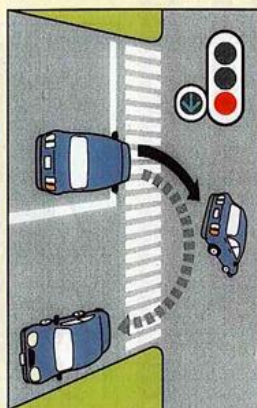


② Red signal 赤信号



- In the case of a red signal, ensure that you stop ahead of the stopping line (you cannot go in any direction).
- 赤信号の場合は、必ず停止線の直前で停止しましょう（全ての方向に進行できません）。

③ Green arrow signals 青の矢印信号

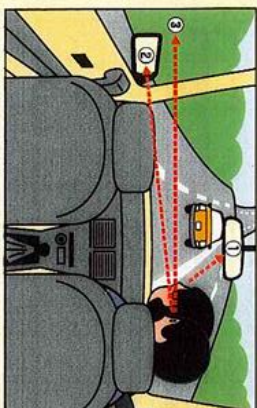


- Where there is a red signal with green arrow signals, you can proceed only in the direction of the arrow (in the case of a right arrow, you can also make a U-turn).
- 赤信号で青色の矢印が点灯している場合は、矢印の方向にだけ進行できます（右向き矢印の場合には、転回することもできます）。

④ Safety confirmation when changing course 進路変更時の安全確認の方法

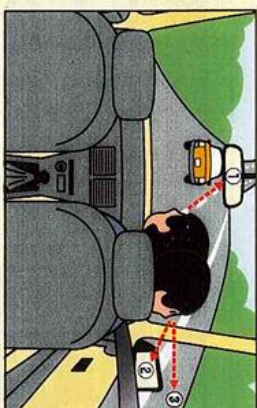
- Changing course refers to changing driving course to the left or right while driving, such as by starting from the side of the road, stopping on the side of the road, avoiding obstacles, and turning left or right at intersections etc.
- When changing course, check ahead for safety, and then confirm as below that following vehicles are not too close. Also, when changing course across the center line, pay attention to oncoming vehicles.
- 進路変更とは、路端から発進するとき、路端に停止するとき、障害物を避けるとき、交差点で右左折するときなど進行しながら左右に走行位置を変えることをいいます。
- 進路変更するときは、進路前方の安全を確認かめるとともに、次のように後続車が接近していないか確かめましょう。また、中央線を越えて進路変更する場合は、対向車にも注意しましょう。

Changing course to the left 左へ進路を変える



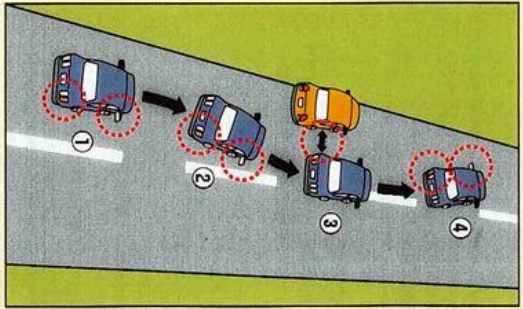
- ① Check the rearview mirror
- ② Check the side mirrors
- ③ Directly check the blind spot visually

Changing course to the right 右へ進路を変える



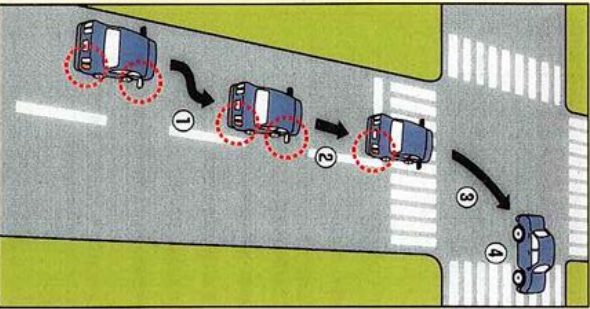
- ① ルーアミラーを見る
- ② バックミラーを見る
- ③ ミラーの死角部分を直接目視する

5 Shifting lanes around obstacles 障害物の側方通過



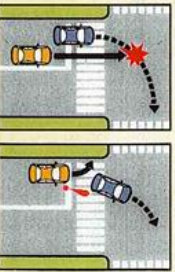
- 1 Check behind in the rearview and side mirrors, and indicate about 3 seconds prior to changing course.
- 2 Check that there is no oncoming traffic, and change course after checking in the rearview and side mirrors and with your own eyes that the right-hand side is safe.
- 3 To shift lanes around obstacle such as road construction or parked vehicles, maintain a safe gap (about 1m), or where such a gap is not possible, move slowly, checking that it is safe.
- 4 Indicate, and then check in the rearview and side mirrors and with your own eyes that the left-hand side is safe, before returning to your course.
- ① 後方を/バックミラーで確認し、進路を変更する約3秒前に合図を行います。
- ② 対向車がないことを確認し、右側の安全をバックミラーと自分自身の目でよく確認してから、進路を変更しましょう。
- ③ 道路工事、駐車車両等の障害物の側方では、安全な間隔（概ね1メートル）を保持し、間隔がとれないときには、徐行して安全を確認しながら通行しましょう。
- ④ 合図を行い、左側の安全をバックミラーと自分自身の目でよく確認してから、進路を戻しましょう。

6 Turning right 右折の方法



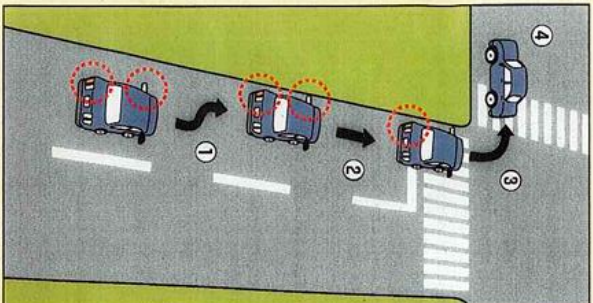
- 1 To turn right, check in the rearview and side mirrors and with your own eyes that the right-hand side is safe, and then after indicating move closer to the center of the road
- 2 Indicate again just ahead of the intersection, and drive so as to not hinder the progress of oncoming vehicles.
- 3 Turn slowly into the center of the left-hand lane.
- 4 After turning right, drive in the left-hand lane.
- ① 右折しようとする場合は、右側の安全をバックミラーと自分自身の目でよく確認し、合図をしてから、あらかじめ道路の中央に寄りましょう。
- ② 交差点の手前で再び合図を行いましょう。
- ③ 交差点の中心のすぐ内側を徐行しながら、対向車の進行を妨げないように通行しましょう。
- ④ 右折をした後は、左側通行をしましょう。

If you don't stay to the center... 中央に寄らないと...



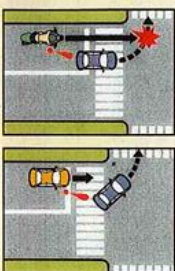
- You may collide with vehicles in the right lane
- Vehicles driving straight or turning left cannot pass
- 右側を通過する車と衝突
- 直進車や左折車が通れない

7 Turning left 左折の方法



- 1 To turn left, check in the rearview and side mirrors and with your own eyes that the left-hand side is safe, and then after indicating move closer to the left-hand side of the road
- 2 Indicate again just ahead of the intersection.
- 3 At the intersection, follow the edge of the intersection and turn slowly.
- 4 After turning left, drive in the left-hand lane.
- ① 左折しようとする場合は、左側の安全をバックミラーと自分自身の目でよく確認し、合図をしてから、あらかじめ道路の左側に寄りましょう。
- ② 交差点の手前で再び合図を行いましょう。
- ③ 交差点では、交差点の隅隅に沿って徐行しながら通行しましょう。
- ④ 左折をした後は、左側通行をしましょう。

If you don't move to the left-hand side... 左側に寄らないと...



- You may collide with vehicles in the left lane
- Vehicles driving straight or turning right cannot pass
- 左側を通過する車と衝突
- 直進車や右折車が通れない

8 Acts leading to the termination of the confirmation 確認の中止行為

Confirmation will be terminated on the spot in the event of any of the following dangerous behaviors.

(Examples)

- Driving in the right-hand lane
- Ignoring traffic signals
- Failure to stop at a stopping location (or stopping over the stopping line)
- Disturbing the progress of other vehicles
- Failure to follow the instructions of the official in charge
- Deviating from the course, and failing to stop
- Coming into contact with an obstacle, and failing to stop
- When you may deviate from your course or when you may come into contact with an obstacle, check your surroundings, reverse, and try again.
- 右側通行をしたとき
- 信号無視をしたとき
- 一時停止場所で停止しなかったとき（停止したがり停止線を越えたとき）
- 他の自動車の進行を妨害したとき
- 警官の指示に従わなかったとき
- コースから逸脱したとき
- コースから逸脱しそのまま進出したとき
- 障害物に接触しそのまま進出したとき
- ※ コースから逸脱しそうとき、障害物に接触しそうときは、周囲をよく確認し、後退してやり直しましょう。

以下のような危険な行為がみられた場合、その場で確認を中止します。

(例)

外国の運転免許を日本の運転免許に切替える試験のご案内

①書類審査

(1) 現在有効な外国等の免許証を所持している (2) 外国等の免許証を取得後、その国又は地域に通算して3ヶ月以上滞在している (3) 福井県内に住民登録をしている 等の条件がそろっている方のみ、手続きをとることができます。

事前の予約が必要です。次の持ち物をそろえた後に、予約して下さい（電話で可、土、日祝祭日以外の平日 8:30～17:15）。

《持ち物》

- ・ 外国等の運転免許証
- ・ 外国等の免許証の翻訳文（領事機関又は日本自動車連盟（JAF）愛知支部（TEL 052-872-3685）等が発行したもの）
- ・ パスポート等（出入国が確認できるもの）
- ・ 外国人登録証明証又は在留カード及び住民票（国籍又は本籍が記載されているもの）
- ・ 日本の運転免許を所持している方は、その免許証（現在有効な免許証をお持ちの方は、住民票は不要）
- ・ 経歴証明書（以前有効期限が切れていたことがある方、初回取得日が不明な方、再交付された方、その他必要と認められる場合等）

※日本語の話せない方は、通訳できる方と一緒に来て下さい。

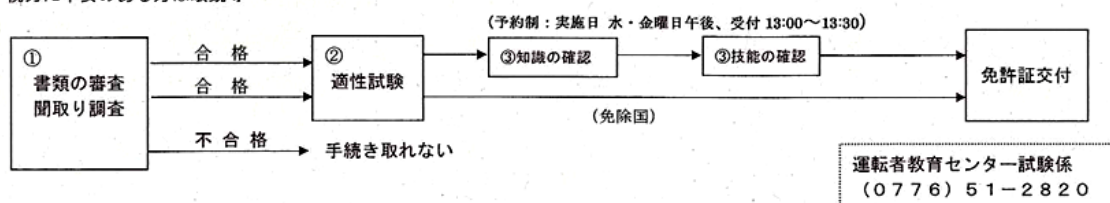
②書類審査に合格した方

書類審査に合格した方のみ、知識・技能の確認、適性試験を行います。運転しやすい格好で来て下さい。

事前の予約が必要です（電話でも可、土、日祝祭日以外の平日 8:30～17:15）。

《持ちもの》

- ・ 外国等の免許証の翻訳文（領事機関又は日本自動車連盟（JAF）等が発行したもの）
- ・ 写真1枚（6ヶ月以内に撮影した証明写真 大きさ3cm×2.4cm）
- ・ 外国人登録証明証又は在留カード及び住民票（国籍又は本籍が記載されているもの）
- ・ 試験手数料2,200円（普通免許の場合）
- ・ 交付手数料2,050円
- ・ 視力に不安のある方は眼鏡等



Information on Examinations to Switch Foreign Driver's License to Japanese Driver's License

① Document Examination

(1) You possess a valid foreign license (2) You have stayed for more than 3 months in the current country or region after acquiring your foreign license (3) You are a registered Fukui resident. Only those who meet these requirements can register to get a Japanese license. You must make a reservation. Please make a reservation after preparing the items below. (Please call on weekdays between 8:30 ~ 17:15, do not call on weekends or holidays.)

<<Belongings>>

- Foreign driver's license
- Translation texts of foreign license (Issued by a consulate official or Japan Automobile Federation (JAF) Aichi Branch (TEL 052-872-3685))
- Passport (items that can confirm that you left your home country and entered this one)
- Residence card and foreigner resident card (one with nationality or domicile registered)
- Those who possess a driver's license in Japan, their license (those who currently have a valid driver's license do not need to bring a resident card)
- Certificate of biographies (those who have expired, those who do not know the date of first acquisition, those who have been reissued, others are deemed necessary)

※ If you cannot speak Japanese, please come with those who can interpret.

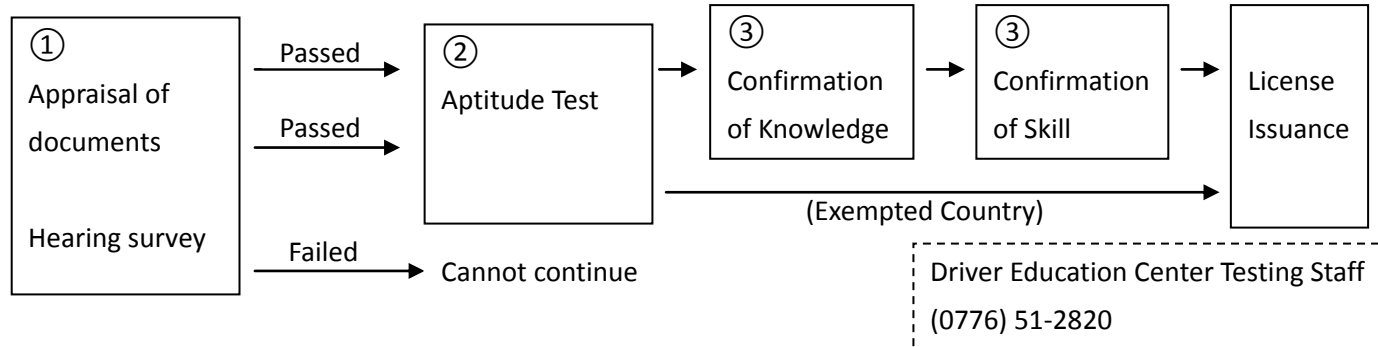
② One who passed the document examination

Only those who passed the document examination will perform knowledge/skill check and aptitude test. Please come in easy-to-drive form. Advance reservation is necessary (It's possible to call by phone, weekdays, except weekends and public holidays 8:30 ~ 17:15).

<<Belongings>>

- Translation of foreign license (Issued by consulting organization or Japan Automobile Federation (JAF))
- 1 photo (certification photo taken within 6 months, size 3 cm x 2.4 cm)
- Residence card and foreigner resident card (one with nationality or domicile registered)
- Test fee 2,200 yen (in the case of ordinary license)
- Grant fee 2,050 yen
- If you are uneasy about your eyesight, glasses

(Reservation system: Wednesday/Friday afternoon, reception 13:00 ~ 13:30)



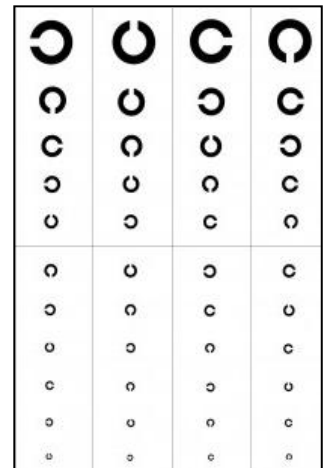
THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOUR SECOND VISIT

- **Schedule your second visit to the DMV.** When the DMV calls you with their decision to move forward with your driver's license application, you will need to make your second appointment. Again, they can only take foreigners on certain days and they fill up quickly. So from the time the DMV calls, you might not be able to get a date for your second visit until a month from then. Can't stress it enough, the earlier you start this process, the better off you are.
- **Start memorizing and practicing the road test course.** When taking the road test, they will expect you to have the entire course memorized. The course is the same every time. However, the course at the Northern center is different from the course at the Southern center. Maps of both centers are attached at the end of this packet (the Northern center is on pg 28, the Southern center is on pg 29). Practice the course often.

YOUR SECOND VISIT TO THE JAPANESE DMV

- Bring all the materials you brought with you on your first visit. But bring more ¥¥¥. The cost is usually ~¥2200 for your second visit.
- **Take the written test.** The first thing that they will have you do is take a written driving test. It's 10 questions. You only need 7 to pass. They mix up the questions for each person. It's all true or false (maru/true- O or batsu/false- X) and usually pretty straight forward, mostly common sense. However, I recommend visiting this website to study the various Japanese road signs (<http://www.japandriverslicense.com/japanese-road-signs.asp>).

- **Take an eye exam.** Once they examine your written test and determine that you've received a passing score, they will give you an eye exam. They will ask you if you wear contacts or glasses, just so they can adjust the eye exam machine accordingly. For the first part of the exam, they will have you look at a screen like the one to the right. They will light up a specific section and then ask you which direction the open part of the C is facing. You can just point. Or you use these directions:



Right / Migi (右), Left / Hidari (左), Up / Ue (上), Down / Shita (下)

For the second part of the exam, they will test you for colorblindness. They will light up different parts of a mini traffic light and ask you what color you see. Keep in mind that for driving in Japan, they consider the light to go is blue, not green. So use the following directions:

Red / Aka (赤), Blue / Ao (青), Yellow / Kiiri (黄色)

- **If your license was issued in one of these countries:** Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Monaco, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, The United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Taiwan, South Korea, or USA (only Maryland (from Jan 2016) or Washington (from Jan 2017)), and you can prove residency in that country for a minimum of 3 months after license issuance **you are not required to take either the written test or road test** to convert your license. But please check with the Fukui DMV to make sure, as this list changes here and there. (<http://www.japandriverslicense.com/>)
- **Pat yourself on the back.** At this point in the process, you've completed all of the paperwork and all small tests needed to get your driver's license. Once you have done all of the things previously discussed, you won't need to do or take them EVER again (except for the eye exam). There's just one thing left...



● After passing the written test and the eye exam, an officer will present you with a breakdown of the road test (i.e. where to go, where to turn, what speed to go, when to signal, etc). Again, you will need to have the entire course memorized when you take the test. He will also answer any questions that you have so now is the time to ask. After that, he will give you a number and lead you to the waiting area. Wait until your number is called and then proceed to the test. For your first attempt, there might be two proctors (one who sits behind you and one that sits next to you). The proctors are ex-police officers too. The proctor will take your number and give you the keys to the car. And then the test begins. Again, the Northern testing center and the Southern testing centers have different courses. They have the same criteria, just in different orders. Since most of you will be taking the test at the Northern center and because there is not enough time to go over both, the following points are the order for the Northern Center’s driving test. But again, the following criteria work for both centers.

1. **Before you get in the car.** Get down on your hands and knees to check under the car (front, back and the side) for playing children and animals. As your going around the car, check (essentially, point at) the tires to indicate that they’re full of air. Look at both sides of the street before stepping out into the street to get to the front door. Before opening the door, look again on both sides of the street before getting in (checking to see that a car won’t zoom by and hit your open door).

2. **In the car.** Adjust your seat. Adjust the mirrors (left, right, rearview). Keep in mind, you might need to turn on the car (turn the car on, don’t start the engine) to adjust the side mirrors. Put on your seatbelt. Place your hand on the parking brake (make sure that the brake is on). Press down on the foot brake and start the car. Release the parking

Full 5 Head Check	
1. Right	
2. Left	
3. Left side mirror	
4. Rearview mirror	
5. Right side mirror	

brake. Signal to the right. Put the car in drive. Do a full 5 head check (left, passenger side mirror, rearview, driver side mirror, right) and over your shoulder. Pull out onto the road. Hug the curb at all times and pump the brakes when you can.

3. **Speed zones.** You will turn right and come to the first speed zone. You will see a sign on the left that

indicates 30 km/hr. Speed up to this speed. Try to hit it as you're passing the sign itself, but do not go over. They will deduct points if you go 1 km/hr over the limit. You will turn right again. Be careful to not go into the far left lanes. You will come to the second speed zone. This sign will indicate 50 km/hr. Again, speed up, hit it, and don't go over. Hug the curb at all times and pump the brakes when you can.

4. **The obstruction.** After finishing the second speed zone, you will turn right again and come to an obstruction on the road. Signal to the right. Look to the right, in the driver side mirror, and over your right shoulder. Merge over. Signal to the left. Look to the left, in the passenger side mirror and over your left shoulder. Merge back into your lane.
 5. **General instructions**
 - ✧ **Left turns:** Look to the right, to the left, in the passenger side mirror and over your left shoulder. Turn.
 - ✧ **Right turns:** Look to the left, to the right, in the driver side mirror and over your right shoulder. Turn.
 - ✧ **Changing lanes:** Signal. Look over shoulder. Move into the new lane.
 - ✧ **Any stops or brief pauses (stop signs, stop lights, intersections, entering/exiting the S curve and the crank):** Do a full 5 head check and look over your shoulder.
 6. **The S curve.** Drive slow. Stay close to the right side. Don't forget to signal halfway through the turn to be ready when you exit. Your signal lever may shift off as your turning so be ready for that.
 7. **The crank.** Enter it from a stop. Drive slow. Stay right until the very last moment. Again, don't forget to signal halfway through it and be ready in case it shifts off.
 - ✧ For both the crank and the S curve, they are very narrow and your tire may pop off of the course. If that happens, don't panic. You are allowed to do that 3 times before an automatic failure. If your tire pops off the course, stop immediately, reverse to pull it back on and continue. Be careful as you reverse because another tire may pop off in the back. Be sure to look in your rearview mirror and over your shoulder when you do this.
 8. **Finish.** The instructor will tell you which spot to pull into. There will be a white pole in front of each spot. Do not go past this white pole. Put on the parking brake. Put the car in park. Turn off the engine. Take off your seatbelt. Before you open your door, look both ways for oncoming cars until it is safe to open your door.
- When you finish, if the proctor says, 'Ganbatte kudasai' or something along those lines, that's usually the indicator that you didn't pass. The proctor will talk to you about the things you did incorrectly or forgot to do. They will lead you to the desk to make an appointment for your next attempt. Each time you retake the road test, you will have to take the eye test again.
 - If you passed, they will lead you to a kiosk where you will make a 4 digit pin number for yourself. This is to access your records in the future. You most likely will never need this pin again or need to go the DMV after passing the test, but keep it in a safe place, just in case. They will lead you down a hallway to take your picture (or they may use your passport photos, depending on which center you go to). They will have you wait while they print your license. When it's ready, they will call your name and ask for a final payment of ~¥2050 for printing your license. At this point, you are officially licensed to drive in Japan and your JDL journey is over.

FINAL TIPS AND ADVICE

- **Hug the curb and pump the brakes.** In Japan, you're supposed to hug the curb in order to prevent pesky imaginary bikers from trying to squeeze through. It's a little counterintuitive, since you always see people widely passing bikers and giving them plenty of space on the road. But it's what they will want you to do in the test. Stay towards the left when in left lanes or in the only lane. Stay towards the right when in right lanes or making right turns. Hug it so close that your tire is almost on the line (of whichever side you're hugging). Pump the brakes as often as possible. It makes the proctors happy.
- **Signal early and often.** In order to signal correctly, you have to signal for at least 3 seconds before turning or merging. The course looks big but the test will last for less than 5 minutes. It's likely that your blinker will be on for the majority of the test.
- **Check those mirrors. Look around and behind you.** You will need to turn your head a lot for turns, merges, stops, etc. Get used to checking many directions. You most likely won't be looking forward for the majority of the test. It's counterintuitive again but it's what the test requires.
- **Speed limits, red lights and stop signs.** When you are in the speed area, hit the limit but do not go over. Points are taken away even if you go 1 km/hr over the limit. When you're at red lights and stop signs, come up to the line on the road in front of you, but do not stop on top of it or go past it. Also, make sure that you're still checking to your left and right in these brief pauses.
- **Over exaggerate everything.** Sometimes, the proctor will deduct points for you not doing something, when you clearly have. In order to prevent this from happening, over exaggerate everything. When adjusting your mirrors, take your time and maybe do them twice. When checking your mirrors and checking your sides before a turn, count them out loud. Do whatever you need to in order make sure the proctor can't miss it.
- **When not in a speed zone, go slow.** The test goes by very quickly. In order to make sure that you don't forget anything and can exaggerate what you need to, go slow. There are no point deductions for time.
- **Switching driver centers.** For whatever reason, after going through parts of this process, you may decide that you want to switch driving centers. That's totally fine. Just call or have your supervisor call the center you want to switch to and inform them that you want to switch. The new center will call the previous one and ask for all of your paperwork to be sent over. No need to redo anything you've already done (except the eye exam for each road test attempt, of course).
- **Manual car drivers.** If you are driving a manual car or think you will ever drive or rent a manual car in Japan, you will have to take the test with a manual car. Once you get your license, you will be licensed to drive both automatic and manual cars. Only people who take the test with a manual car will be licensed to drive manual cars. As far as any different procedures for the road test goes, they will have the car shifted into reverse gear when you start the test. You need to put your foot on the clutch and gas pedal when starting the car to not lose any points. When you finish the test, they will want you to put the car in reverse gear again.
- **Go to the center when it's closed/not being used and walk the course for practice.** When the center isn't open or being used, you can walk along the track to practice. It's blocked off so you can't drive your car onto the course, but walking is fine. It helps to practice with a more hands on approach.
- **Get the official JAF Rules of the Road Handbook.** JAF does have an official Rules of the Road handbook for foreigners. The English version can be purchased on their website or on Amazon.jp for ¥1404.

- **Schedule a lesson or go to driving school.** If the on the road test proves to be a difficult task, you can schedule a lesson. The DMV offers lessons. They run ¥10,000 for one hour. When waiting for your number to be called, there will be other foreigners waiting to take the test. Many of them have gone to driving school and will have their driving coaches with them at the test. There are various driving schools in Fukui. They run about ¥200,000 – 300,000 but they guarantee you to get your license.
- **Don't get discouraged.** The officers will fail you. A lot. Sometimes, it's because you need practice. Sometimes, it's for other reasons. The average number of times it takes to pass the road test is 2-3 times. But ALTs have done it in one attempt before! The officers also won't always be kind or polite. Don't let it get you down. Once you pass, you'll never have to do it again. Stay positive!
- **If this is your first time getting a drivers license EVER or if you got your driver's license for the first time within 3 months of arriving in Japan, you MUST go to driving school.**
- **Thank your supervisors.** If your supervisor accompanies you to the DMV, they might have to use nenkyu to do so. So give them a warm thanks for their help.
- **Remember the general rules for driving in Japan that might be different from your home country.**
 - Always treat every railroad crossing as a stop sign.
 - No left turns on red.
 - Seatbelts must be worn at all times.
 - Flashing red stop lights are treated as stop signs.
 - Flashing yellow stop lights are treated as yield signs.
 - Although, I advise you to look up the various Japanese road signs yourself online, I've included 3 important ones here. Keep an eye out for 'No Parking', 'No Parking or Stopping' and 'Stop' signs (pictured above). Also, watch out for curbs that have been painted yellow. A continuous unbroken yellow curb (———) is a no stopping or parking area. A broken yellow curb (.....) is a no parking area.
 - You cannot change lanes when the dividing lane line is solid and unbroken (———).
 - Green arrows. You are allowed to follow a green arrow that is designated for your lane, even if you also have a red light.
 - No stopping in tunnels, on railroad crossings, in pedestrian or bicycle crossing zones, at or near the top of a hill or on a very steep slope.
 - Turn on your headlights in tunnels, even during the day, even if the tunnel itself has lights.
- **Speed limits aren't always posted.** When this is the case, these are the general speed limits in Japan:
 - Divided national highways: 100 km/hr
 - Urban areas: 30 km/hr
 - Neither a divided national highway nor an urban area: 60 km/hr
 - ✧ But please keep an eye out for speed limit signs. They take precedence.
- **Don't use your cellphone while driving.** It is against the law to use your phone while driving. If caught, you can receive a traffic infraction fee of ¥6,000 and may also be subject to a separate fine of up to ¥50,000. The best way to avoid fines or fees of any kind is to not touch your phone while the car is running. If you use your phone for maps and directions, plug in the directions/start GPS, start the car, go to the location, turn off the car, and THEN stop GPS services/grab your phone.
- **Don't try to get by without getting your license.** Before 2002, you could just easily renew your IDL



No Parking



No Parking
or Stopping



Stop

through the mail. However, since 2002, that is no longer the case. If you want to get a second IDL, you have to leave the country for at least 3 months in order for it to be valid in Japan. So a friend back home can't mail you a new one. You also can't visit home for a week to pick up a new one. Your passport has to say that you've left Japan for at least 3 months. After your IDL expires, you **MUST** already have your Japanese driver's license in hand or else **YOU ARE DRIVING ILLEGALLY**. Your school also keeps track of this and will track you down if you don't. If your school catches you without a valid driver's license, they will force you to walk, bike or take the bus to work until you do get your license. But if you get caught by the police, the repercussions are: "The maximum penalty of driving without a valid license in Japan is a JPY 300,000 fine or up to 1 year imprisonment, and in extreme cases may also result in loss of employment or deportation. Driving without a license may also void your insurance coverage." Even if you get caught by the police and your penalty is small, it is in your contract to not bring shame upon Fukui. If you do get arrested, that is definitely enough cause for you to be sent home. Getting caught without a license by the police makes all ALTs look bad. Please don't put yourself or others at risk.

- **Don't drink and drive.** Please, please, please don't drink and drive. You are putting your life and others lives at risk by doing so. Also, Japan has a zero tolerance for it. In America, it is legal to drive under the influence as long as your blood alcohol content is below 0.08%. In Japan, your blood alcohol content must be at 0.00% at all times if you are driving. If you get caught drunk driving by the police, the repercussions are, "The maximum penalty of driving impaired in Japan is a JPY 1,000,000 fine or up to 5 years imprisonment, and in extreme cases may also result in loss of employment or deportation." If you provide someone who is drunk with a car, you will face the same penalty. If you encourage someone to drink and then witness them drive a car, the repercussions are, "The maximum penalty of encouraging driving impaired in Japan is a JPY 500,000 fine or up to 3 years imprisonment, and in extreme cases may also result in loss of employment or deportation." If you also get into a car with someone who is driving drunk, even if you are not drunk yourself, you will face the same penalty. Again, even if you get caught by the police and your penalty is small, it is in your contract to not bring shame upon Fukui. If you do get arrested, that is definitely enough cause for you to be sent home. Getting caught driving drunk by the police makes all ALTs look bad. Please don't put yourself or others at risk.
- **If you decide to go out, drink and need to get your car home, please call a 代行 (Daiko).** Daiko is a unique taxi-like service in Japan for people who have been drinking. A Daiko car with 2 drivers will show up at your location. Driver #1 will drive your car home with you in the passenger seat. Driver #2 will follow in the Daiko car. When you arrive, you pay them for their services and they leave. So both you and your car get home safely and you didn't drive under the influence. Win win. I've listed some Daiko phone numbers for the Fukui area. But more can be found here:
http://www.daiko-navi.com/koushinetsu_hokuriku/index.html. Keep in mind that sometimes it takes about 30 mins for your Daiko to come to you. But on busy nights, it may take 1-2 hours. Call early. I suggest making a copy of this page and keeping it in your car, just in case.

Don't Drink and Drive. DRINK AND DAIKO.

Fukui City		
名	Name	Phone Number
ヤシロ代行	Yoshiro Daiko	090-2123-0846
ラッキー運転代行	Lucky Daiko Agency	080-2956-6473
アクト運転サービス	Akuto Driving Service	0120-43-5000
M-1 運転代行	M-1 Daiko Agency	090-9447-3884
山九運転代行	Yaman 9 Daiko Agency	0776-52-5136
Echizen City		
ヒノ代行	Hino Daiko	0120-153-537
ツバメ運転代行株式会社	Tsubame Daiko Agency Co. Ltd.	0120-232-918
株式会社しきぶ運転代行	Shikku Co. Ltd. Daiko Agency	0120-927-601
Sabae		
S H I N (シン) 運転代行	Shin (Shin) Daiko Agency	090-2035-7707
有限会社グリーン代行	Green Co. Ltd. Daiko	0120-330-606
ワンコイン代行株式会社	One Coin Daiko Co. Ltd.	0120-517-011
Sakai		
有限会社とらちゃん運転代行	Tora-Chan Co. Ltd. Daiko Agency	0120-519-315
有限会社シャーク 運転代行サービス	Shark Co. Ltd. Daiko Agency Service	0776-51-6855
ミラクル福井運転代行	Miracle Fukui Daiko Agency	0776-51-8502
Awara		
Y's company.s	Y's Company.s	090-3157-0008
ゼロ運転代行	Zero Daiko Agency	0120-160-881
フェニックス代行	Phoenix Daiko	0776-77-3580
Ono		
サービス運転代行	Service Daiko Agency	0120-930-193
ダイコー運転サービス	Daiko Agency Service	0779-65-7667
有限会社シャーク 運転代行サービス	Shark Co. Ltd. Daiko Agency Service	0779-65-8642
Katsuyama		
ウサギ運転代行	Rabbit Daiko Agency	0779-87-2737
Tsuruga		
株式会社たくみ運転代行	Takumi Co. Ltd. Daiko Agency	0120-969-143
ハッピー代行	Happy Daiko	0800-200-066
エンゼル運転代行	Angel Daiko Agency	0120-789-055
Obama		
小浜運転代行	Obama Daiko Agency	0120-523-568
OK運転代行	OK Daiko Agency	0120-967-475
あおと運転代行	Aoto Daiko Agency	0120-535-639

- **Driver Identification Stickers.** There are a few different kinds in Japan. Here they are:



New Driver



**Elderly Driver
(Old Design)**



**Elderly Driver
(New Design)**



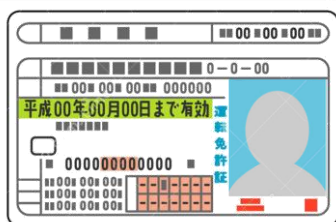
Disabled Driver



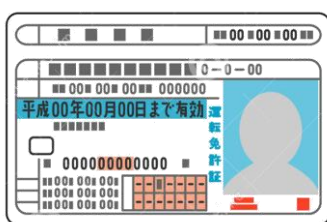
**Hearing Impaired
Driver**

When you receive your JDL, you are considered a new driver. You will be expected to display the ‘new driver’ sticker on your car, unless told otherwise by the DMV. You can be ticketed and fined if you don’t. It is unclear if you need to display the ‘new driver’ sticker while only having your IDL. But I recommend that you display it just in case. These can be found in Daiso, Yellow Hat, Autobacs or most auto shops. It is recommended to get one sticker/magnet for both the front and back of your car. However, most locals only display it on the back. Stickers are the most common form. But you might also be able to find them in magnet or window cling form. Just be careful not to brush off your magnets when brushing snow off of your car in winter.

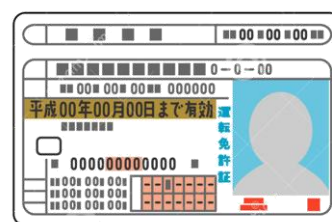
- **Types of Japanese Driver’s Licenses.** There are 3 types of licenses in Japan for passenger vehicles.



Green Label = Restricted License



Blue Label = Regular License



Gold Label = ‘Safe Driver’ License

You will get a green license when you get your Japanese driver’s license and it will be valid for about 2 years, depending on your birthday. Green restricted license drivers need to display the ‘new driver’ stickers on their cars, unless otherwise specified by the DMV. The blue regular license is what most people in Japan have and is valid for 3 years. The gold ‘safe driver’ license is given to people who had a completely clean record while they had their blue regular license. Each time you renew your license, no matter what kind you have, you must sit through an hour long lecture about safe driving.

- **Save your money for future car expenses. You’ll have at least 5 of them.** If you have a car, you should already be signed up for and paying for both the compulsory and optional **① car insurance** on your car. If you’re not, get on that immediately. You must put **② snow tires** on your car for the winter months (~October/November to ~February/March). It is illegal in Japan to drive in winter without snow tires. Remember to get an **③ oil change** every 3-4 months. Everyone has to pay the **④ car tax (jidoshazie)** each year. It’s a slip that’s mailed to your apartment that you can pay by conbini. This can cost anywhere from ¥4,000-60,000, depending on your car. Keep an eye on your **⑤ government automobile inspection (shaken)**. This must be done every two years but the date is different for each car. The date should be listed on your title or previous shaken paperwork. It’s your responsibility to get your shaken taken care of before the expiration date. This can sometimes cost anywhere from ¥90,000-200,000, depending on your car. You’ll also need to schedule that ahead of time because it can sometimes take few days for the mechanic to complete it. The earliest you can get your shaken done is one month before the

expiration date.

- **If you lose your Japanese driver's license**, you can go to any of the driver education centers in Fukui to get a new one issued. Bring a passport photo, your inkan and ~¥2100. The driver education centers in Fukui are the Northern center, the Southern center (both mentioned above in 'Things To Do Before Your First Visit') and the two branches listed below:
 - Tannan Branch (Not a testing center for foreigners)
福井県丹南運転者教育センター
2-1-1 Hagurichō, Echizen-shi, Fukui-ken 915-0891
0778-21-3613
 - Okuetsu Branch (Not a testing center for foreigners)
福井県奥越運転者教育センター
32-1-4 Minamishinzaike, Ōno-shi, Fukui-ken 912-0011
0779-66-7700
- **If you are going/visiting home and your driver's license from home expires while you're in Japan**, it's possible to get a Japan issued International Driver's License to drive in your home country while waiting to get your home country license renewed. Bring your JDL, your passport, one passport photo, your hanko/inkan and about ¥2,500 to the DMV. Ask for a 国外免許 (kokugai menkyo). Fill out the application and they will hand you your Japan issued international driver's license.
- **If you are looking to buy a car**, here are some tips. For a brand new car, the dealership will take care of the required documents and guide you through the process. But if you are buying privately (person to person), keep in mind that your car insurance agent might be able to help you with all of this for a fee. So I would advise you to contact your potential new agent first and ask them to help you.
 - Your Japan residency card and driver's license
 - Your hanko/inkan and your proof of hanko/inkan certification (印鑑証明書) (inkan shōmeisho)
 - The hanko/inkan and proof of hanko/inkan certification (印鑑証明書) (inkan shōmeisho) of the person you are buying from
 - Proof of Payment of Automobile Tax (自動車税納付証明書) (jidōshazei nōfu shōmeisho) from the person you are buying the car from
 - Car Inspection Certificate (shakenshō) from the person you are buying the car from
 - Compulsory Automobile Liability Insurance Certificate (自賠責保険書) (jibaiseiki hokensho) from the person you are buying the car from
 - If the car is a white plate, Certification of Parking Space (車庫証明) (shako shōmei) from your local police station (you must get inkan stamped proof of your parking space from your landlord and then take it to the police station for them to confirm it)
 - Vehicle transfer certificate and the residency card of the previous owner

- **Japan uses a point based system for driving violations.** Each time you are ticketed for a traffic violation, you will gain points on your license, depending on what the violation is. Here is some general information on what certain violations cost.
 - When you gain 6-14 points, your license is suspended for 30 days to 6 months.
 - When you gain 15-24 points, your license is revoked for 1 year.
 - When you gain 25-34 points, your license is revoked for 2 years.
 - When you gain 35-44 points, your license is revoked for 3 years.
 - When you gain 45+ points, your license is revoked for 5 years.
 - After the revocation period, you can reapply for a license.
 - The chart was taken directly from the 2006 Fukui Orientation Packet, so the point numbers might be slightly different now. But it's good to have for reference.

Offense		Pts .	Alcohol		Offense		Pts .	Alcohol	
			Above 0.25	0.15 to 0.25				Above 0.25	Below 0.25
Driving intoxicated or drugged		25	-	-	Parking offense	In a no parking or stopping area	2	14	7
Driving without a valid license		19	23	20		In a no stopping area	1	14	7
Driving under the influence of alcohol	Above 0.25	13	-	-	Poor vehicle mainten- ance	Braking system	2	14	7
	0.15 to 0.25	6	-	-		Tail lights	1	14	7
Driving without a valid car inspection sticker		6	16	9	Speeding in a low speed zone		2	14	7
Driving without insurance		6	16	9	Excessive noise while driving		2	14	7
Exceeding the speed limit	Above 50 km/hr	12	19	13	Use of mobile phone/device (endangering traffic)		2	14	7
	30 – 50 km/hr (highways 40 – 50)	6	16	9	Mobile phone/device (usage)		1	14	7
	25 – 30 km/hr (highways 25 – 40)	3	15	8	Faulty exhaust silencer (muffler)		2	14	7
	20 – 25 km/hr	2	14	7	Ignoring traffic devices on highway		2	14	7
	Up to 20 km/hr	1	14	7	Driving without an appropriate license		2	14	7

Exceeding the weight limit	Above 100%	3	15	8	Failure to display your number plate	2	14	7
	50% – 100%	2	14	7	Obstructing a pedestrian crossing	2	14	7
	Up to 50% of weight of passenger vehicle	1	14	7	Ignoring traffic flow or control device	1	14	7
Leaving a vehicle unattended	In a no parking or stopping area	3	-	-	Ignoring bus or other priority traffic zones	1	14	7
	In a no stopping area	2	-	-	Obstructing priority traffic intersection/road	1	14	7
Parking overnight	On roads	3	-	-	Failure to maintain safe distance	1	14	7
	For an extended period	2	-	-	Dangerous driving while being passed	1	14	7
Ignoring police instruction		2	14	7	Obstructing emergency traffic	1	14	7
Ignoring police designated no entry area		2	14	7	Disobeying a police signal	1	14	7
Ignoring traffic signal	Red light, etc.	2	14	7	Ignoring a police siren	1	14	7
	Flashing light	2	14	7	Not turning on your lights	1	14	7
Driving into a no entry road		2	14	7	Failure to dim your lights	1	14	7
Driving too close to a pedestrian		2	14	7	Exceeding the passenger limit	1	14	7
Illegal overtaking, lane change		2	14	7	Failure to display a new driver tag	1	14	7
Not stopping behind a tram		2	14	7	Opening a door without checking for safety	1	14	7
Not stopping at a train crossing		2	14	7	Driving without wearing a seatbelt	1	14	7
Stopping in a train crossing barrier		2	14	7	Failure to use a child seat	1	14	7
Obstructing a priority vehicle		2	14	7				

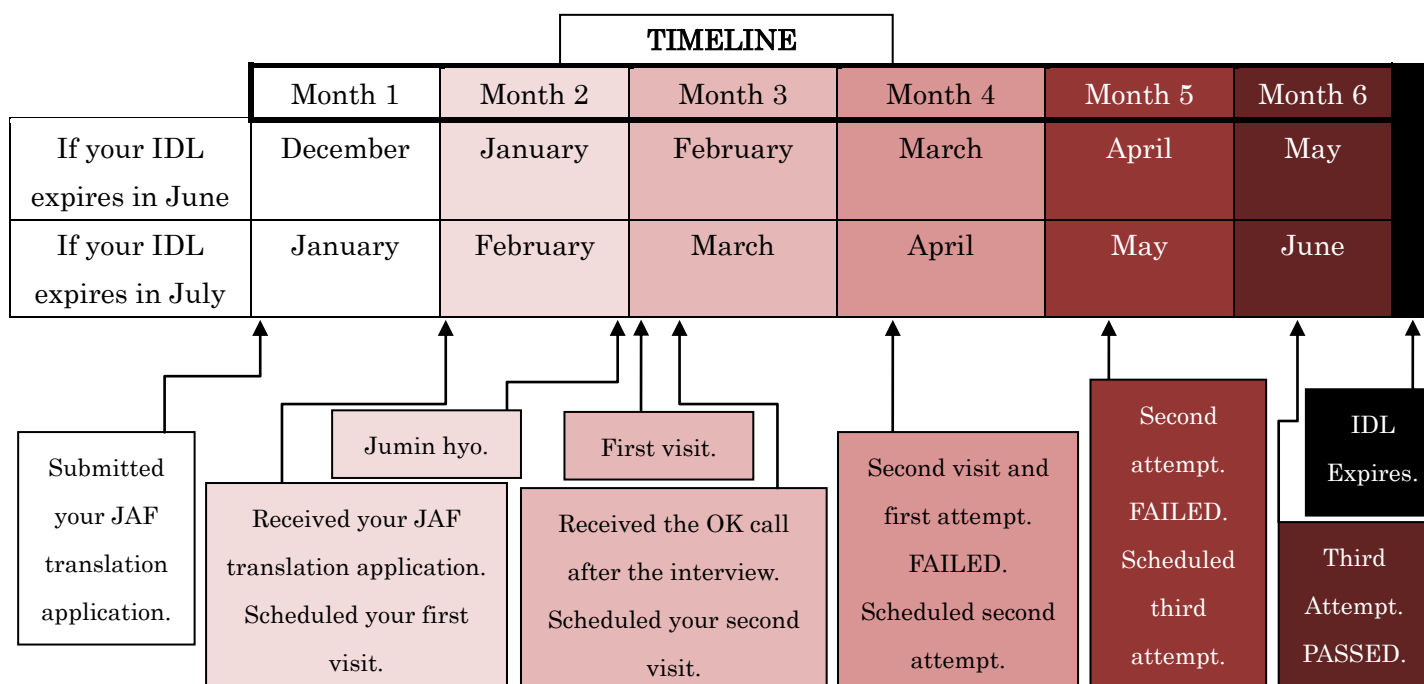
Here is an additional chart that lists the fine amounts for certain traffic violations. This also was taken from the 2006 Fukui Orientation Handbook so the prices may be slightly different now. However, it's good to have for reference. Also, keep in mind that this is just the base estimate. If your violation is deemed more of a serious offense by the police, your fine could be higher.

Offense		Fine Amount (¥)
Exceeding the speed limit	By 35-40 km/hr	35,000
	By 30-35 km/hr	25,000
	By 25-30 km/hr	18,000
	By 20-25 km/hr	15,000
	By 15-20 km/hr	12,000
	By less than 15 km/hr	9,000
Exceeding the weight limit	By more than 100%	35,000
	By 50-100%	30,000
	By less than 50%	25,000
Running a red light		9,000
Running a flashing light		7,000
Faulty braking system		9,000
Faulty tail light		7,000
Railroad crossing violation		12,000
Traffic zone violation		Up to 9,000
Illegal overtaking		Up to 9,000
Not stopping at a train crossing		9,000
Mobile phone (endangering traffic)		9,000
Mobile phone (usage)		6,000
Obstructing priority traffic		Up to 7,000
Failure to stop at a designated area		7,000
Endangering pedestrians		Up to 7,000
Leaving vehicle unattended	In a no parking/no stopping area	18,000
	In a no parking area	15,000
Parking offense	In a no parking/no stopping area	12,000
	In a no parking area	10,000
Failure to maintain safe distance		6,000
Failure to drive safely while being passed		6,000
Failure to turn on headlights		6,000
Failure to dim headlights		6,000
Obstructing emergency vehicle		6,000
Ignoring police signal		6,000
Ignoring police siren		6,000
Opening a door without checking for safety		6,000
Ignoring a traffic control device		6,000
Cutting another driver off		6,000

Faulty silencer (muffler)	6,000
Failure to display new driver tag	4,000
Forgetting/leaving driver's license at home	3,000

- **A special thanks to Masha Chadovich and Morgan Attaway**, two wonderful ALTs from last year. They gave this presentation last year and it helped me tremendously. I used some of their information from last year in this packet and in my PowerPoint. I couldn't have done this without their help. Thank you both. ☺
- **Helpful links.**
 - Online Archive of Past JET Experiences <http://www.supermelf.com/japan/ajetdrivingbook> (2005)
 - Practice Written Test Samples <http://www.japandriverslicense.com/written-test-practice.asp>
 - Driving Manual
<http://www.supermelf.com/japan/ajetdrivingbook/DrivinginJapanandPassingtheDriversTest.pdf>

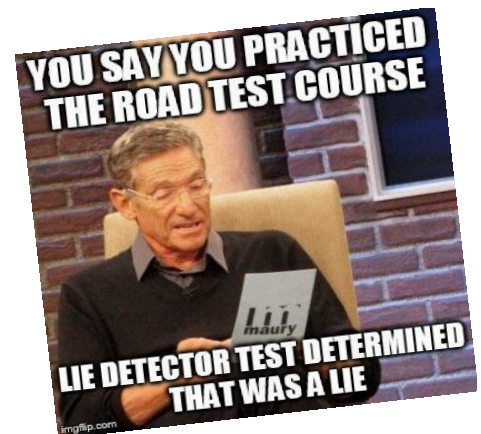
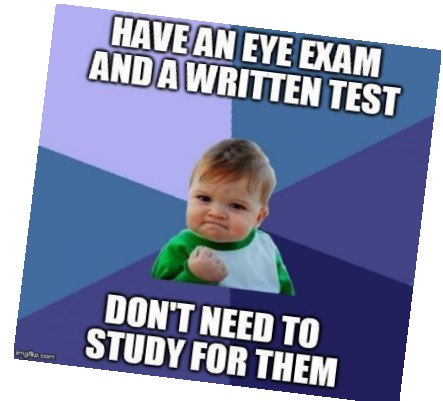
CALCULATOR		If you pass on your 1 st attempt:	If you pass on your 2 nd attempt:	If you pass on your 3 rd attempt:
JAF license translation and postage	~¥4000	~¥9,550	~¥11,750	~¥13,950
Passport photos	~¥1000			
Jumin hyo	~¥300			
First visit	¥0			
Second visit and 1 st attempt	~¥2200			
Any attempts after your first	~¥2200			
Finally getting your license	~¥2050			



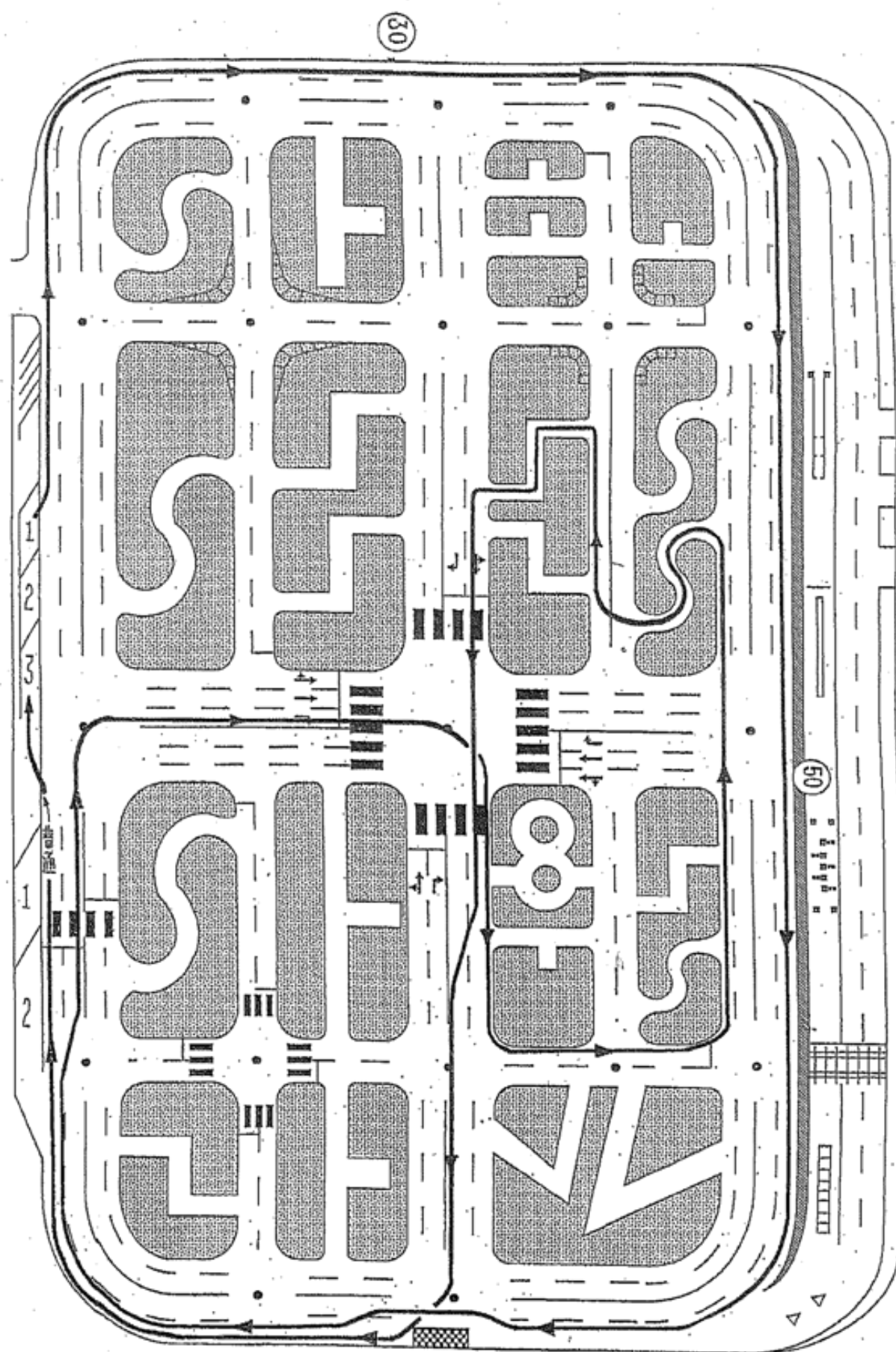
*This is assuming that there are no problems with your translation, interview, eye exam or written test and that it only takes you 3 attempts to pass the road test.

CHECKLIST

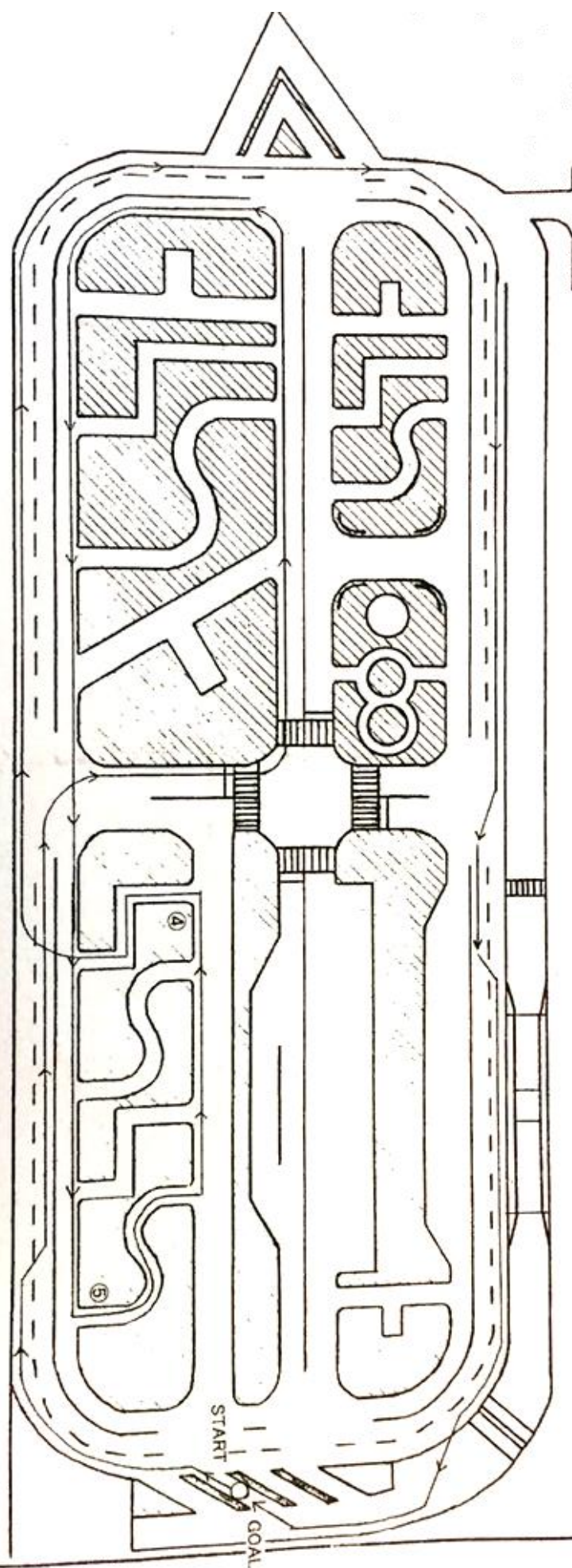
- ☐ Submitted my JAF Translation (by mail or in person)
- ☐ Gathered all of my driving history materials
- ☐ Got my passport photos
- ☐ Received my JAF License Translation
- ☐ Scheduled my first visit. Date: _____
- ☐ Got my jumin hyo (within one week before my first visit)
- ☐ First visit complete
- ☐ Scheduled my second visit. Date: _____
- ☐ Scheduled my third visit. Date: _____
- ☐ Passed my test and got my license
- ☐ Made photocopies of my license for my supervisor
- ☐ Informed/sent photocopies to my car insurance company/broker
- ☐ Celebrated because the pain is over



技能の確認Bコース（普通免許）



試験コース図



外免 普通コース