K53 Learner's Licence — Free Study Guide

What each section covers, the order to study in, and the facts worth memorising.

The learner's test has three sections and each is passed or failed on its own. A comfortable overall score is still a fail if the marks you dropped were all in one place. So the plan is not "do lots of questions" — it is: find your weakest section, clear it, move on.

What each section covers

Section	What is in it	The trap
Rules of the road	Right of way, speed, following distance, overtaking, turning, stopping and parking	Confidence — a lot of what "everyone knows" is a convention, or the rule for a different junction
Road signs and markings	Regulatory, warning, guidance and information signs, and the paint on the road	Studying signs one at a time. The questions turn on pairs that differ by one detail
Vehicle controls	The controls of the class you applied for — motorcycle, car and heavy vehicle differ	Treating it as the easy section. It is the shortest, so the least forgiving

The facts worth memorising

Speed limits	
Public road inside an urban area	60 km/h
Outside an urban area, not a freeway	100 km/h
Freeway	120 km/h
Goods vehicle over 9 000 kg	80 km/h
Bus, or minibus on an operating licence	100 km/h
Where a road limit and a vehicle limit both apply	The lower one governs

Right of way and markings	
Four-way stop	Order of stopping — *not* "the car on the right"
Traffic circle	Yield to traffic from your right already in the circle
Mini-circle with yield signs	The yield line decides, not who is already circling
One solid line	Three exceptions: access to land either way, or a stationary obstruction
Two solid lines	One exception: a stationary obstruction
Broken line	A warning or guidance marking — cross it when it is safe
Stop line with no sign	Still a stop. The line carries the sign's full significance

Getting the licence	
Minimum age	16 motorcycle up to 125 cc · 17 light vehicle · 18 anything else
Apply	In person at a driving licence testing centre, on form LL1
Take with you	Two identical 40 × 30 mm photographs, acceptable identification, proof of address
Eye test	At least 6/12 in each eye, with or without glasses
Valid for	24 months — from the date of the test, not the date on the card
Driving on it	Supervised in a car. A motorcycle learner rides alone, but carries nobody

The order to work in

- **Diagnose first.** Two minutes finding your weakest section saves a week revising the one you were fine at.

- **Signs next** — largest section, most visible progress. Do the road markings as part of it, because that is how they are examined.
- **Then rules**, from right of way outwards: four-way stops, circles, then speed and following distance.
- **Then controls**, scoped to the class you actually applied for.
- **Finish on full papers under time**, all three sections in one sitting. By then you are practising concentration, not recall.

Three ways people waste study time

- Grinding questions until the percentage looks good. That teaches you the questions you have already seen.
- Reading the manual front to back. It is a reference, not a course, and it gives you no feedback.
- Using a downloaded question set of unknown provenance. Much of what circulates is out of date, and some of it keys the wrong answer.

One thing nobody publishes

There is **no officially published question count and no officially published pass mark**. Not in the National Road Traffic Act, not in its regulations, and not in the three Department of Transport learner-driver manuals. The current computerised test presents **64 questions**, numbered 1 to 64 in one run. Any site that tells you the pass mark with confidence is repeating somebody's observation. Prepare to clear your weakest section comfortably and the number stops mattering.

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k53coach.co.za · Compiled from the National Road Traffic Act 93 of 1996, its regulations, and the official Department of Transport road sign chart. Practice questions on this site are K53-style questions written from those sources; they are not the official examination questions. Last updated 21 September 2026.