



### **The Masters Standard**

For accomplished advanced drivers and riders, the IAM Masters programme provides an opportunity to attain the highest level of civilian driving standard in the country. The Masters standard embraces the full scope of the 4 hierarchical levels of the GDE (Goals for Driver Education) matrix as defined in Roadcraft, i.e.:

- At the lowest level the function and control of our vehicle or machine.
- At the next level the requirements of the situation developing around us.
- At level 3 the timing and motives for that particular journey.
- At level 4, the highest level, our attitudes, values, beliefs and goals.

A Master Driver or Rider is someone who can apply emotional intelligence to all of their driving decisions. This means being aware of the possible motivations of those around you as well as your own. It means you are proactively making allowances for the mistakes of others as well as your own.

This is modern driving. The Master Driver is someone who is wise about how the demand of an increasingly complex roadscape creates a necessity to respect the diverse agendas of other road users.

Building on your existing skills as an advanced road user the Masters programme will help enhance and develop your ability in the following areas:

- Applying cornering principles
- Assessing, planning and executing safe overtaking manoeuvres
- Recognising opportunities to make safe progress (within the speed limits)
- Improving observation, anticipation and awareness consistent with vehicle speed
- Applying sound judgement of speed and distance
- Delivering a fluent, relevant and continuous commentary
- Demonstrate continuous self-assessment regarding driving behaviour
- Develop and demonstrate self-critical thinking in relation to the context of driving and riding

It is difficult to outline precise specifications of the Masters standard as it is very much based upon the overall driver or rider excellence on the day, as assessed by the examiner during the test.

To provide advice on how the standard is determined and ensure consistency in approach the following requirements are expected to be delivered.

Masters is based upon Roadcraft, to achieve the Masters standard the driver or rider will be expected to:

- Consistently deliver a safe, legal and consistent drive or ride in line with Roadcraft techniques, adapting their style and technique to the prevailing road conditions and type of vehicle being used; delivering a safe, legal and consistent drive or ride in line with the Roadcraft techniques.
- Provide a systematic, smooth, polished and courteous drive or ride, delivered with quiet efficiency.
- Display “Sparkle”, defined as a driver or rider who is “on the ball”, “lively and spirited” whilst also always considered and safe. A drive or ride that is enjoyable to sit next to or to follow, as opposed to simply very competent.
- Have a planned and awake approach to all possibilities, to risks and opportunities presented during the journey. This will be demonstrated by a calm and controlled continuous reassessment of the drive or ride.
- Recognise what our attitude, values and beliefs are, and the effect they may have on our driving and riding, together with the behavioural adjustments required to address them.
- Demonstrate exemplary safe progress within the law