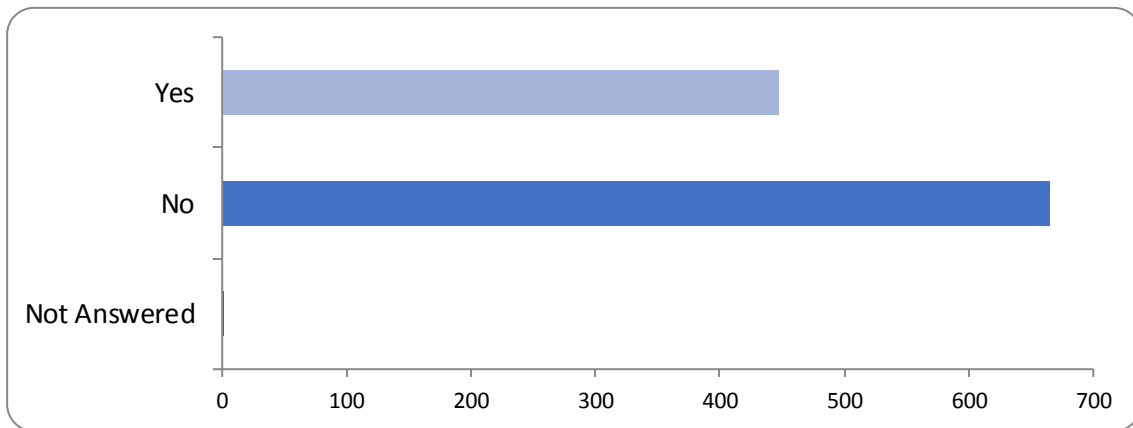Do you agree with the abolition of the test for Private Hire Drivers?

There is an argument that as the journeys require to be pre-booked that there is no need for a test for private hire drivers. As indicated above, however, the period of advance notice may be short, and a basic knowledge of the city may be beneficial in such circumstances.

Answer

There were 1112 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	447	40.16%
No	665	59.75%
Not Answered	1	0.09%

	Comments
	There were 470 responses to this part of the question.

No	As answered above. Completely removing the street knowledge is not only a ridiculous idea it would see a surge in vehicles never seen before to ridiculous levels in an already struggling trade.
No	
No	Absolutely not. As above would like some sort of amended test to help maintain standards.
No	As above
Yes	majority of drivers have or are required to use systems with gps tracking and navigation capability anyway and even yellow plate drivers more often than not are using the same systems.
No	Kept things as they are.
No	
Yes	
No	
No	
No	I believe that PH drivers should at least have an overall knowledge of the districts within the city boundaries, which would ultimately give customers a reasonable degree of confidence in there journey being fulfilled
No	
No	

No	Then other company will start operating like uber.
No	As above
No	The test ensures a minimum standard of driver.
No	
No	
No	comment as above - additionally the time and money spent by drivers who have already made the sacrifice of studying and passed the test this is a kick in the teeth to them.
No	I don't agree with this as it would open the doors for undesirable drivers
No	
No	
No	As ABOVE.
No	
No	Yet again as a taxi driver for the city. That would be extremely unfair to myself and others competing in the market that have had to follow the strict rules to gain my taxi licence, that would be completely flooding the market with untrained individuals. And thus allowing app based company's like Uber to completely flood the market. If you start letting anyone come in to the trade, you will lose taxi drivers that pay good money to the council. as the market will be ruined. It sounds like you want to sacrifice knowledge for numbers and that's ridiculous.
No	I find this a stupid question as it's repetitive of question 4. If this goes ahead it will be one of the stupidest things to be carried out.
No	
No	If full information was provided by taxi companies then maybe but this never happens.

No	
No	
No	
No	Knowledge test must be done. People know That the taxi driver knows the street how could you become a taxi driver with out knowledge test. Knowledge test and street test make the taxi driver special and make the driver love driving because hi knows the street and town by heart
No	This sounds like a move lobbied by greedy booking offices in the city. If they were to lower their subscription prices, maybe more drivers would be willing to join the trade, and bolster our numbers.
No	Because u will get people doing the job as part time and it will be come like deliver roo Uber eats it will be disaster?
No	A knowledge of the city and shire must me a prerequisite of being a taxi/private hire driver
No	See above.
No	
No	ABSOLUTELY NOT.
No	All hires are pre booked but most folk booking through an app don't put in destinations and if they do they might just stick in the area rather than the exact street name
Yes	
No	
No	Again as per previous question similar applies here. You don't always have a destination in the booking. There might be multiple drops. Also using sat navs and app base systems are a problem when drivers play with them while driving or watching them where they are going. This in turn is taking their attention off the road in front of them and causes a risk to passengers and pedestrians and other vehicle road users.
No	
No	There are still many hires that you don't know the destination to. For instance app bookings and hotel pickups.

No	
No	
No	
Yes	
No	
No	
No	Same job as drivers who pick up from the ranks
Yes	
No	No I feel we all should sit the knowledge test it does take long aberdeen is not a big city its very small,so a good knowledge should be with every driver.
No	
Yes	
No	
No	
No	
No	
No	I think abolishing the knowledge test will devalue the trade and would be a kick in the teeth for drivers who have previously committed a lot of time and money into passing this test.
No	The driver needs a basic knowledge of where they are picking up and of their destination without delays from using Sat nav. Also having a knowledge of the destination is more reassuring for the customer.
No	Private hire driver were before cahrge more for journey as they dont know basic routes

No	As notes above
No	As stated previously this has came about because there is a shortage of drivers due to the pandemic and spiralling overheads are the city licensing prepared to relax the rules on WAV vehicles Are ACC going to make PH drivers supply electric or hybrid vehicles if they are supposedly only doing short city hires after all ACC should be offering an incentive of yellow plate for drivers willing to supply hybrid or electric vehicles better for everyone instead of this need for WAV vehicles all the time
No	Who is causing the argument, the council ? Every driver must pass the full test for the sake of the public not getting ripped off or this will open the gates for crooks to make extra cash and once the gate is open you will not be able to reverse this.
No	
No	
No	As above
No	As it not fare on drivers or private hire or yellow plate and airport plated drivers who have paid full price of schooling and licenceing money to the council they have payed over the years
No	It's the same job. I cannot see how anyone can just jump in a car and be a taxi driver. I'll repeat my view. That would make a mockery of all the hard work us taxi drivers went through to obtain our badge. It's imperative that taxi drivers know where the streets are that they are going to, the quickest route to get there and where places of interest are. The argument of using an electronic aid is a non-argument. There are occasions when you cannot get a signal, your phone runs out of battery etc. Therefore it cannot be relied upon. The argument for wheelchair access taxis is that on the VERY odd occasion, when a wheelchair user turns up on a rank, he/she needs to be able to guarantee getting a wheelchair access vehicle. Following that on, on the odd occasion that technology fails, the customer should be guaranteed a high level of competency from his/her driver. This can only be guaranteed if the said driver has undergone stringent training and passed an exam (with a high bar) to prove their competency. There's no other way.

	This representation has been made by one taxi company who cannot recruit drivers (and are already using Aberdeenshire plated vehicles to work for them). They are desperate to recruit more drivers, even at the cost to Aberdeen City's taxi trades fantastic reputation for their street knowledge.
No	All yellow plate drivers need full knowledge test so red Private hire drivers should be the same
No	As answered in question 4
No	
No	The standard of driver should be kept as high as possible.
No	no they need to have street knowledge and not rely on sat nav
No	Even 50% of the journey"s are amended by the public after they proceeding the journey. Taxi industry is been protected by the council in aberdeen, opening the door for everyone is killing the taxi trade . Personally I know how many people trying to be part time drivers on weekends to make more money even though they work in oil industry. There are Some drivers working offshore, when they are here do drivers taxi There are few working in oil at the moment they do part time already. It will kill whole industry and make wealthy the company owners.
No	All well and good until the unexpected happens, e.g. RTC, Road Works, Road Closures etc This is when knowledgeable drivers really prove their worth
No	Street knowledge is necessary to provide an adequate service
No	
No	
No	
No	

Yes	
No	Still think that a reasonable knowledge of the city is required.
No	They do not stick to these rules and no one in licensing seems bothered.
No	
Yes	
No	
No	
No	Private hire drivers do exactly the same as hackney drivers so therefore they should be tested like all of a driver. To think different way is an absolute disgrace to the people of this town on the standards that have been built up over the last 40 years. It is clear to see that there is a shortage of taxi drivers. But flooding the streets with untrained drivers is a bridge too far and not in the public interest? This cannot come to pass and surely a taxi driver is the first person you will meet. Sorry
No	
No	
No	
Yes	Absolutely. A test to see if someone knows the city is ridiculous in this day and age. With the advancements of technology and accuracy of Google maps there is no need for a knowledge of Aberdeen test. If the rides are now prebooked then there will also be no need for the street knowledge test
Yes	
No	
No	

No	No Private hire drivers should have a detailed knowledge of the city just as public hire drivers do
No	
Yes	
No	Only Beneficial for rainbow, Aberdeen taxis , and com cabs . We will be flooded with cars and will kill the trade
No	
No	Private hire drivers do the same job as taxi drivers do if working for a firm,
Yes	Yes because i been in that before and most of the taxi drivers in Aberdeen was red plates without exams so now they passed the exams now
No	When drivers don't know where they are going it reflects badly on the drivers who do know where they are going and causing no thing but arguments between passengers and proper taxi drivers who have done the knowledge test.
No	As above
No	All drivers should be tested and not easy tests either.

No	A comprehensive knowledge is needed due to the fluid nature of the trade.
No	Drivers standards need to remain the same. The Council has always held the knowledge test in high regard, don't water it down now.
No	All taxi drivers require to have a good knowledge of the city.
No	As said in previous statement. In Aberdeen there is no private hire as such. Taxi and private hire offices operate as one.
No	
No	
No	I feel the driver should know where he is going as some pre booked hires can change from booking to driver turning up
No	Private hire Driver would benefit from some form of knowledge of the city
No	
No	At least 50% knowledge required
No	
No	This opens the doors to Uber type companies which will flood the market and existing taxi drivers will not be able to compete with app based firms.
No	Same reason as previous.
No	A basic knowledge of the city is a must…
No	
No	

No	What if the customers change there minds and the driver only finds out when passengers get in ???
No	
No	
No	
No	This will have a profound effect on current private hire drivers who have went through the stringent process of obtaining a taxi licence. These licenced taxi drivers should be all given a yelliw plate regardless of the vehicle they drive. More private drivers will not solve the alleged current taxi driver shortage.
No	It is essential that a private hire driver must be equally qualified to pick up fares to maintain high standards for all passengers.
No	The existing private hire drivers have had to sit the tests at their own expense. They only chose private hire so as they did not have to supply a WAV style vehicle.
No	As previously stated
No	Full knowledge is needed IMHO.
No	As above submission
No	
No	There's no way they will plan their route before picking up passengers
No	This would mean anyone driving a hire car, ask yourself if you would use a private hire driver in this circumstance to drive your child or grandchild to school.
No	

Yes	
No	Can't believe the council would be thinking along these lines,everyone should do the full street knowledge test to keep standards up.Council members and anyone one else thinking along these lines want to have a good look at themselves Why cahange a system that has been working for over 40yrs.Surly the Council should be wanting to say they are putting the best drivers out to the general public fully trained .
Yes	
Yes	
No	Keep the test
No	All taxi drivers need the knowledge
No	
No	
No	
No	
No	As above
No	Absolute not. All drivers should have a good knowledge of the quickest routes for their passengers. If they don't sit a test there's no proof they know the routes and it could cost the passengers a lot more in fares
No	
Yes	As above. If the journey is booked in advance any driver can have a quick look and see the best route. Many tools available satnav etc.
No	As above they should have a good knowledge of the streets and routes so the public doesn't get over charged, there is no difference between a private and licence driver only the type of plate they hold , at least if the test is kept the same as now it will kept convince the public has in the trade that the driver knows where he is going and they won't be over charged There would be to many drivers getting licences who don't know the city and be cheating the public with fares and the public would lose confidence in the taxi trade

No	
No	Have you tried getting the shortest route on sat nav if this is possible could learn me how to do it . Learning the shortest route takes time and once again even after 30 years if there are a couple of ways to go I will ask most people will help when asked so I find it works for me
Yes	Apps provide the journey details and info so the test is not required
No	Do you really think that every hire has the address form start to finish given to PH drivers most are as directed and that doesn't mean the customer is going to direct you to his destination. They expect the driver to know when they tell you .i
No	
Yes	Uber taxis work well in most large cities I have visited and payment is over the app makes it quick and accessable.
Yes	There should be no need for the test more tests on if there sutiable and can work and more disclosure checks
No	We all do same work whether taking orders from office or on your phone you have to be their on time don't have to plan ahead you just take booking and go and do it as it part of the knowledge that all cab drivers should have
No	Stick to the test and stop letting the public down as stated previous
Yes	
No	Same test
No	Their should be test aboltion of test will
No	
Yes	
No	GPRS basically do the same, it does not matter.

No	I don't think private hire drivers are that different to taxi drivers and the legal difference could be disputed, so it makes sense for both groups to be tested to the same level.
Yes	
No	
No	
No	No, rule states PH should return to base, and they don't.
Yes	It takes only a few seconds to set /voice activate a route via modern device. Arguably any reduction in the requirement could also be reflected in the test for taxi drivers.
No	
No	As above
No	
No	I think the current drivers will loose work as to many people will sign up for this
Yes	Basic knowledge is nescessary say for eg know the areas of Aberdeen rather than each and every street of Aberdeen
Yes	
Yes	
No	See comments in question 4.
No	
No	As I have said in the above question.they really don't know the city,all they do is ask for s post code and use their sat-nav.
No	

No	Taxi drive should be able to take direction with out the need for GPS mapping
No	
No	
Yes	
No	
No	Lowering the standards will give a poor service to the general public and effect us all.
No	
No	
No	The system does not need changing, we already have loads of Hackney drivers that don't have a clue where they are going, ie driver 2 weeks ago didn't know where Pittodrie stadium was
No	That would be totally wrong, this would make a mockery of the high standard of drivers that we have today and would be unfair on the private hire drivers that have taken the time to get through the knowledge test, they would also be unfairly targeted by many that they don't know their jobs properly
No	We need to keep standards high in the taxi trade.
No	
Yes	Pre planned and Sat nav
No	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	

Yes	
No	As above
No	Doesn't matter if you are RED/GREEN or YELLOW plate everyone does the knowledge and should have there disclosure
No	
No	Street knowledge test is for benefit to passengers so that drivers know where they are heading and what is best , quickest, cheapest way to their destination.
No	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
No	
No	As above
No	We have had the best standard of drivers in the UK for years now and see this as backwards step.
No	
No	Yes they maybe are different licences, but in Aberdeen all offices operate a mixed fleet of Taxis & PH vehicles. They do the same job, they pay the same office fees & they charge the same fare. If we are advocating drivers use Sat-Nav, then we risk Enforcement being inundated with complaints.
No	Not all pre booked fares continue with their pre booked destination. Driver can have followed a route for the destination that is given at the time of pre booking but if the customer decides to change their mind the driver is then left without a route to take if they dont have knowledge of where the customer is going.
Yes	Again it works in the shire so I can't see it being an issue. Instead of the knowledge test make them do a driving Assesmet as before from hackney office to a destination and return

Yes	Knowledge test is irrelevant at the current time given Sat Nav and directions. Remove test and allow Uber license to operate in city
No	Public will be penalised drivers not knowing where anything is
No	
No	
Yes	
No	They need to learn more places as nobody wants to explain directions to a driver. Also bad for visitors having a driver ask for directions. Sat navigation takes the longer directions and does not have new places updated.
Yes	
No	This will cause trouble when a driver does not know where certain streets are and also if they use sav nav sometimes it does not work. The test is so beneficial to the driver and the paying public
No	
No	Short thay do the same as a Hackney driver so stop macking making up stories
No	Private hire could be at a very short notice not giving time to study the route. Therefore the same knowledge is required
Yes	
Yes	Again: can plan route and use Sat nav
Yes	
Yes	
No	
No	As stated earlier PH & Yellow plates are the same ,get tested for the knowledge of the city .You dont want some new into the city asking to be taken somewhere, and the driver hasnt a clue ,unless he has a sat nav.
No	

No	No test at all would destroy the well established standards Aberdeen have in the Taxi industry.
No	
No	
No	
Yes	If there is a lessening of requirements perhaps it will encourage more people to be taxi drivers. I'd rather costs were put to ensuring vehicles are legally on the road, ie maintenance and MOTs etc.
No	I think its important that Private Hire Drivers know their way around. I have been in a number of licensed taxis where it appeared the driver didnt know where to go already as it is.
Yes	Satnav has done away with the need for Street knowledge
No	Again I do not agree all taxi drivers should have to do the full knowledge test
Yes	
No	For the above answer
No	Tourists may ask questions about places, even something as simple as "We are going into town, drop us at a good place to eat". ALL taxi drivers need to have a good knowledge of Aberdeen
No	
No	The public will lose confidence in the taxi trade if there is no knowledge test, at least they know 95% of the time the driver knows where he is going , the test should be oral as it was before taking away the memory test that most of the new drivers do to pass there tests
No	As above.

No	This has been tried and tested few years ago and it had to be changed back because there was so much complaints against the new drivers that didn't need to sit a test. Satnav hardly ever gets it right as the job requires experience on best routes at different times of day etc.
No	
Yes	
Yes	Technology with built in traffic management supercedes the knowledge using real time data and is often faster than routes known by drivers as they don't have realtime analytics of traffic flow
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	Google maps so easily available.
Yes	Again Google maps.
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	Silly idea, iv been taxing 27 years, and lots of journeys end up never going where it was booked for, or end up multi destinations, not to mention dodging traffic jams, road closures..etc

The public expect drivers to have this knowledge, |
| No | |
| No | The knowledge test is just that . You cannot walk into any other profession and be given the qualifications for doing nothing . At present there are 3 taxi schools available so how many people are doing the knowledge test today . The schools are open to everyone who wants to be a taxi driver .

The taxi trade experienced this 2/3 years ago after Aberdeen City Council lost a court ruling on this then every private hire driver was then ordered to pass the knowledge test or lose their plate so why I are we going over this again.

It was my understanding that Aberdeen City Council prides itself on all knowledge tested drivers and the condition of the taxi fleet . Any new applicants should be asked what taxi school are you currently at if the answer is none then that says it all they simply have no |

	intention trying to become a taxi driver however if it's handed on a plate the city will be overwhelmed by taxis and totally detrimental to the industry
Yes	Agreed the advancement of technology no longer necessitates the knowledge. Personal security of passengers should be the thrust of awarding a licence given the range of ages and vulnerability of people using taxis.
No	You need knowledge of the city, it's only fair on customers
Yes	See previous comment.

It is utterly pointless and of negligible benefit with the advances in technology like and prolific availability of 4G connectivity in the city and shire. |
No	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	Just the basic knowledge is alright instead of each and every street. As long as driver knows areas, it's alright.
No	

No	Somewhere along the line a PH driver may wish to operate out of Rail/Airport or indeed, work the street ranks. If the current testing remains in place, the driver can make this transition fairly easily and without the need for further testing. Also it doesn't seem right that current PH drivers may have spent considerable amounts of time and money to learn and pass the street knowledge when a new driver can just float up with a Smartphone and begin working immediately.
Yes	Doesn't take long yo type an address in to sat nav or Google maps
No	
Yes	same answer applies. you can google map locations at very short notice using a post code or landmark reference (if rural), so no real need these days ti memorise road networks and names. Drivers aquire more geographic/road knowledge with experience too.
No	
Yes	Knowledge of streets and routes is irrelevant nowadays with the access to maps and satnav, so testing it is an excercise in pointlessness.
Yes	Apps work, please allow them... save people money during this cost of living crisis.
Yes	
Yes	Knowledge of best routes through city is beneficial but with technology today one minute on google maps isn't very long on the grand scheme of things.
No	As stated above
Yes	There is so many tools to help drivers - google maps, gps there is no need to make it harder to get more drivers, make our city and shire more accessible! Get uber!
No	
Yes	
No	In this instance why have a knowledge test at all.

No	I don't think it's fully understood to the extent private hire jobs are issued on these apps. They are issued with no notice to allow for pre planning they are issued as soon as taken in so to say a driver has time to plan a route in incorrect. I've had to say no to a change in the exam for PH but I agree with a option allowing to resit one or more elements failed rather than a whole retest.
No	As I've said above, a knowledge of the city is vital to maintain the high standards we already have. Doing an investigation into why people are not wanting to be taxi, or price hire, drivers would be time better spent. With the price of fuel and cost of vehicle rising sharply, it might no longer be attractive for new people to come into the trade. If you are to lower the test standard, or get rid of it completely, would you also then lower the age and standard of vehicle they need to drive in order to get more people driving private hire vehicles? Finally, the problems seem to be late at night in the city centre taxi ranks and the Airport if two or three flights come in together. Having more private hire vehicles won't help clear the taxi rank, as private hire vehicles can't pick up from taxi ranks.
No	
No	As I state in question 4 a must to keep the test in some format Removing it would as a Taxi trade only jeopardise the great job the present drivers are doing ,public would suffer if it is removed due to poorly trained new drivers. Coming in to the industry. In fact I believe many drivers would leave the trade and look elsewhere as the chance to earn a reasonable living wage would end completely . Therefore possibility of still having a reduced fleet to service the public
No	No. I think all licenced drivers, should do the knowledge test.
No	Summed it up last question
No	
No	That will cause problems within the trade

No	
No	Although the test is hard, I'd prefer for things to be left the way they are. It's good having knowledge.
No	
No	I'm happy to keep things the way they are.
No	They should sit test and know Aberdeen. Not rely on Sat nav.
No	No sat-navs! No way!! Keep things the way they are. Being a licensed driver is earned, though the knowledge test.
No	No, no, no, no!! I don't agree with this idea at all!
No	No. All drivers should be knowledged.
Yes	I don't think a knowledge test is appropriate given the size of the city and the availability of route planning technology.
No	
Yes	
No	As a private hire driver on average 5 or 6 times a day people will book a taxi and not give details of where they want to go. You don't find out until they sit down in your car.
No	It would be good to have some form of test as this would stop potential for drivers with no knowledge or no interest in learning. Aberdeenshire don't have tests so perhaps questioning their licensing board on complaints etc would give feedback on how necessary a test is.
No	

No	
No	
No	As I already commented above journeys don't always go from A To B if a diversion on route is required basic knowledge would be useless,
No	Knowing your way around the city allows for easier journeys esp if you encounter a road closure. I had a funeral car driver take me to Portlethen instead of the crematorium. If he knew a bit about the city that wouldn't have happened.
No	
No	Aberdeen has a good reputation for its experience drivers and advance knowledge of the city due to to test system in place now
Yes	
Yes	Digital advancement
No	
No	
No	At present it is fair for all drivers
No	
No	
No	I think the existing test needs to remain as those taxis that are providing services in the city in the ranks need to know journey routes etc on very short notice therefore if the test is abolished this would need be beneficial for the taxi drivers or users as this would look very unprofessional especially if the route isn't known.

No	NO, as I have stated above not all office jobs have destinations so all drivers should have the required knowledge to do the job without having to pre plan their route, and any attempt to drop the knowledge test would have a serious impact not only on the standard of service from taxis and private hires in the city but with no knowledge test there would be a large amount of new drivers entering the trade which would have a devastating impact on the existing drivers who have put the work in to pass the knowledge tests ability to earn a living, which would force many knowledgeable drivers out of the trade.
No	
Yes	
Yes	
No	same reason as previous question.
No	
Yes	
No	This will open the door for anyone who has little knowledge of the city chancing their luck. Private hire do most of the same jobs as a taxi, minus street pick ups. They should know where they are going.
No	
No	
No	In my opinion, for the current taxi drivers is not fair. It would be helpful if the PHD were able to help the customers from the rank after certain hours or during the weekend to help reduce the queues, just like airport taxis are allowed to pick up customers during the weekend.
No	
No	As previous comment

No	I think it is very bad idea to abolish knowledge test. It should equal to all the drivers regardless.
No	
No	
No	There was a previous loophole that allowed private hire drivers to gain a licence to operate, this created great discontent amongst drivers that had been tested and customers who had drivers that didn't know where they were going.
No	
No	
Yes	Everyone has and used Sat nav anyway. There is no need for drives to know each and every street in the city.
No	There will still be times that a Driver will need to use their knowledge due to, but not limited to, short notice changes due to emergency works or Road Traffic Collisions.
No	All drivers need basic knowledge as it is required to take customers to their destinations and often destinations are changed by passenger.
Yes	
No	
No	Do the public get discounts with these drivers not being qualified to the highest standards currently set by the council...no is the answer
No	Absolutely not. This would ruin the standards of the Aberdeen Taxi Trade.
No	What if a passenger then changes their mind and said driver has to stop.. enter postcode if the customer know it! then set satellite navigation code. We should all know where we are going and the quickest way possible. This in my mind will cost the customer more money and it lacks fluidity in service.
No	The destination could be changed and data connection can be lost so driver will have no knowledge as where to go
No	As previously stated a Private Hire Driver working from an office does not necessarily have time to research the route to his pick up point or from his pick up point to his destination. Introduction of a basic test or abandoning the test altogether will attract more drivers, but will they truly be fulfilling their duty? The

	holders of taxi drivers licences are in the upper age bracket, who invariably will at some point retire, which means less tax is available for rank work or flag. The nighttime economy relies on a good supply of taxis on the ranks and any reduction here will see the city centre taking longer to clear, which could result in more anti social activity and more pressure of police.
Yes	
No	See the above comment, the should be at least a test to show the driver can find an address via sat nav or Google maps and give an example of route for the trip.
Yes	Only bad things brought this test - NOT ENOUGH CARS IN ABERDEEN, NOT ENOUGH DRIVERS, a lot of people who can work staied on benefits, a lot of people tried to pass this test in the last 3-4 years...I don't think is fair for this society in 2022.... Instead of simplifying things, we complicate them to the maximum !!!! HOPEFULLY SOMEONE WILL DO SOMETHING FOR US, POOR PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN ABERDEEN !! Thank you!!
No	i think that the 1 year , allowance scheme was a good idea, in which they had to pass the hackney test ,or wait for another year before reapplying ,
No	
Yes	Test is pointless sat nav used by all drivers
Yes	
No	
No	Abolishing test will only have a negative affect on standards that we have today
Yes	
Yes	The current test is extremely overwhelming and time consuming especially if you are already employed elsewhere .
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	

No	Some passengers would be annoyed if you didn't know where you were going. Satnavs don't always go the best way.
Yes	Most drivers can access GPS or Google Maps so I do not see this as an issue of they are not familiar with the route.
No	
Yes	
Yes	
No	
No	Surely they require some knowledge of potential routes, road closures and how potential routes may be impacted. Drivers need more knowledge not less.
No	
No	Just to avoid anyone improvising at becoming a private hire driver, minimum general testing should remain.
No	
Yes	Journeys get altered mid journey so the driver would have to stop to re-enter into a device so therefore an added time to do so
Yes	They all have sat navs
No	
No	
Yes	The drivers can just use maps apps/gps to get around, there is zero need for a test. Get with the times and move on from this system. Prioritise giving citizens a safe way to travel, especially in the late evenings rather than walking for hours to get back home to further afield parts or the city from the centre.
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	Most drivers in other big cities use the Satnav
No	See comments above
No	
No	

No	it makes the journey a lot easier if you know where you are going - and sat navs don't always take you the shortest route
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	Why is it necessary when modern gps will take you exactly where you need to go
No	Basic knowledge is required but not in depth
Yes	
Yes	
No	
No	
No	PH drivers have had to sit test for as long as I can remember. I have passed since 1998 & my late father was a taxi driver too starting in early 1970's, so I have a great understanding how important it is for drivers to have the best knowledge of transporting public around the city the shortest and most practicable routes. By having untested drivers puts all the previous work in jeopardy and will make the trade look unprofessional. Some pre booking dont have destinations, just "as directed" or just to area i.e. Tillydrone or Town centre. How can they plan that route if they don't know what street??
No	
No	
No	
No	
No	

No	
Yes	
Yes	
No	
Yes	
No	
Yes	I think it's bit easier
No	This will only serve to intice more drivers to become private hire, why should they not fulfil the same training as their colleagues?
No	
No	
No	All drivers charging for service should all have to meet same high standard and that includes exams.
No	There must be a certain level of knowledge as would be expected from a licence driver
No	
No	
No	I want to keep things the way they are.
No	Leave as is.
No	
No	They still need to have a general level of knowledge of the city and understand the best, and quickest, route that should be taken. Say the technology wasn't working, or as can sometimes happen, GPS doesn't provide the best route available or in the case of new developments which are not yet updated to Google maps etc, the driver should have knowledge to navigate themselves to the destination
Yes	

Yes	
Yes	
Yes	There is no need for an extensive understanding of Aberdeen if a sat-nav is in use. Sat-nav provides day by day, minute by minute updated of the trafic situation. This also makes the service more transparent, convenient, quicker and potentially greener
Yes	
No	With the modern on line booking systems, there is very rarely a destination address, so the Private hire drivers need the same level of knowledge. Also passengers tend to change their destination or add extra locations while on route, on a regular basis.
No	
No	Without street knowledge drivers will face difficulties which will lead to complaints and unhappy customers.
No	
No	
No	You need good street knowledge do do the job to a high standard .
Yes	It's 2022 Uber drivers work fine on knowledge in much bigger complex cities. The mentality of needing a test is pointless in this day and age of tech
No	As above with taxi apps commonly used the public are able to book a taxi without fully completing the hire information with detours e.t.c. Private hire drivers need to have the same level of knowledge as a taxi driver
No	I disagree. If we all had to endure this test, so the future drivers they should all endure same.
No	
No	The basic knowledge are needed to the PhD or taxi drivers, because there are always road works, road closures that not always show on sat navigation so knowledge is required.
No	Absolutely not. As an Aberdeen taxi driver since 1992 it would deeply sadden me to see standards slip so low. Many of us take great pride in our industry, and whether Hackney/private hire, we all represent our city doing the same job. A industry should not be ruined for short term gain.

No	As a driver I know destinations can change mid hire or traffic avoidance, road closed etc. A driver must know multiple routes and destinations.
Yes	
No	Everyone should have to sit the same test. If the council are saying not enough taxi drivers then stop there ridiculous rule on wheelchair taxi's and you will find that by letting the private hire drivers would change there plates to Hackney plates adding to more taxis in ranks ar weekend nights .
No	If this happened private hire drivers should then not have a meter in their vehicle
No	
No	As a private hire driver for sixteen years I still have to put up with the unreasonable prejudice that exists throughout the taxi trade that somehow private hire drivers are inferior. All the drivers have passed the same test, and should therefore be treated equally. Even the wording of this survey reinforces and encourages the view within the trade and even worse amongst the general public that private hire drivers are inferior. I would like to add that most of the pre booked hires I get these days are destination unknown until the passenger gets into the car, which of course is dealt with easily by all drivers who have passed the knowledge test.
Yes	even in short notice . you can use google maps on phone or sat nav in your car.

No	Private Hire Drivers are limited to working for a Taxi Company. The company I subscribe to has various methods of making "Automated Prebookings" All of which have no destinations. The Taxi Butler, is a button plugged into a phone line that, when pressed, creates a "booking" from the registered address, usually Hotels, bars, educational facilities, and also Business premises. when The button is pressed the customer is given a three digit refrence number, the Driver recieves the booking with the pick up address, the reference number and a destination of "As Directed". There is no way any driver can pre plan a route for such a booking. The Automated booking System, this works along with your phone number, once you have made an initial booking, the system recognises your phone number, upon calling a second time, the automated service asks you if you want to picked up from the same place as your initial booking, the more times you use this system, the more options of pick up addresses are given to you when calling. This system NEVER asks for a destination, so again no pre planning can be done prior to picking up the passenger. The Standard Booking. ok, so you do get bookings where the passenger has managed to speak to a person, and they've managed to make a booking, It may say on my screen, "Jurys Inn, Aberdeen Airport, Going to City Centre. again this journey cannot in any way be pre planned. All of these types of Pre Bookings are to vague for there not to be a Knowledge test. The Standard Booking Type 2. lets take the same booking, Jurys Inn, Aberdeen Airport, and lets say its going to Lane 7 on Shi prow, one would think that a journey like that could be pre planned. Incorrect, I guarantee that 30% of bookings like that, the passenger will enter the car and ask "is it ok if we pick some people up on the way?" then proceed to give you a further 3 addresses. Again this journey cannot be pre planned.
Yes	I REALLY HOPE SOMEONE FROM COUNCIL WHO CARE ABOUT US TO ELIMINATE THIS TEST OR TO SIMPLIFY LIKE IN EDINBURG!!
Yes	Because a lot of people want to work straight, not to stay few years to learn toundsans of Streets in Aberdeen….. Unbelieveble !!
No	As above . The sat nav doesn't always take you the shortest route !!! What happens when unexpectedly a road is closed ? That happens quite a lot in this city !!
No	

Yes	I totally recommend to be eliminate this " test "..... If people will start to work straight, will be a win-win situation for all of us : drivers (they have a job, no benefits anymore !!!!!), council (they will receive a lot of taxes from the drivers), and people who live in Aberdeen (sometimes when you call a taxi they give you 2 3 hours time to wait - always they said: SORRY, NOT ENOUGH DRIVERS !!!) Shame....
Yes	When we call taxi Companies they Said minimum 1 hour. ITS not fair !!
No	There should still be a test of individuals that covers topography; customer service; driving laws; hazard perception; safeguarding
Yes	So easy to Sat nav on your phone any location
Yes	
No	I think every driver whether Hackney or private should sit the full test as happens just now. Pre booked hires can very often change their destination
No	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
No	There can be no guarantee that the driver has working technology to assist in working out quicker/cheaper routes. The public will end up paying more for their fares
No	A general knowledge of the area is a nice to have, but not necessary. Again, modern sat nav eliminates this need.
No	
No	No this is something that has been tested in Aberdeen previously and failed. The removal of testing would have a detrimental effect on the standard of service offered to the consumer and the safety there of.

No	It is important that the high standards and expertise of all drivers including private hire drivers is maintained. It would appear very unprofessional for drivers to continually be entering addresses into sat nav systems in order for them to reach the required destination. Never forgetting that sat nav is by no means fail safe and also that the details and way the device is set up will also affect the out come from it.
No	
No	All taxi and private hire drivers should sit the same test. Privaye hire go private hire to skip having to drive a wav. Again its taxis you need for the ranks not private hire
No	As above.
No	
No	There needs to be some vetting process
No	
Yes	
No	As above
No	Unless you offer current private hire drivers a yellow plate.
No	No that is totally unfair on the currrent drivers in the city who have had to do the knowledge tests, all this will achieve is flooding the market with untrained individuals, and thus letting ride app company's like Uber to completely ruin the market for drivers who have worked for this city a long time. I think it's pathetic you would even consider this as a topic of discussion. Sacrificing knowledge for numbers.
No	
No	

No	If they have no or very little knowledge of the city it could lead to them going the wrong way and arguments starting.
No	As above they should be trained to existing standards.
No	
No	
No	
No	As above
No	
No	My comment before states my reasons.
No	A knowledge of the streets should be known, as previously stated, Google/ other isn't always best practical route
No	All badge holders should sit the test - when working for a taxi office whether we are private hire or Hackney jobs are pre booked. What if a passenger changes their mind on destination or adds stop offs, I personally think it looks unprofessional tapping away at a GPS system for directions.
Yes	Test give the driver good knowledge of the city and confidence.
No	As a private hire driver a vast knowledge of the city is still required. For example app bookings are often vague with no accurate address or destination. Also passengers change their minds ask to go via another location daily even hourly.
No	See Comments above at No.4 Same apples.
No	

No	
No	
No	
No	
No	What happens if there are road repairs, accidents, blocked roads, etc. Does the customer have to wait for the driver to read a map, or wait until the sat nav or phone resets? Many bookings involve picking up or dropping off other passengers and the customer hasn't informed the booking office. Drivers have to deal with the changes enroute. This cannot be completed legally by having to enter the new address into their GPS equipment whilst driving.!
No	
No	As stated above several reasons including the fact as we now have a large international community within the city which often needs help understanding their instructions as they unsure of places of interest and so on.
No	
No	
No	Pathetic idea
No	
No	
No	As above
No	
Yes	I feel a street knowledge test is not required for PH Drivers, however perhaps it would be beneficial for drivers to be made aware of landmarks etc in the city
No	In aberdeen we have a great fleet of drivers who know the city.
No	

No	As comments above and the neccisity to have a detailed knowledge of the city.
No	
No	
No	Same as above
Yes	
No	
No	It's a trade which should be learned,I passed my knowledge test 1991 when it was strict.I managed to pass after studying for 4 months. There's no reason why someone who really wants to be a taxi driver can't pass the test if the put the effort into learning the test.it should be easily achieved in 6 months for a small city like Aberdeen compared to London 5 years or Edinburgh 3 years.
No	
No	
Yes	
No	
No	
No	As you have stated in the question advance notice may be short. I think this particular point could become a safety issue. Lead times are quite often ASAP, or at busy times the job may already be past the booked time. Knowledge tested drivers are equipped with the knowledge of routes and traffic conditions at certain times of day. If a non tested driver is relying on sat-nav he/she is then likely to be programming routes whilst driving to the job, taking their attention from focusing on the road whilst driving. As a knowledge tested driver I never have this to think of, I accept the job, read the pick up and drop off locations and almost immediately have the routes in my head meaning my focus is on driving the while time.
No	For this answer I would refer to the same reasons I've given as the previous question as well as other factors. I've sat a knowledge test but worked as a private hire for over 17 years and it's not always as straightforward as that. A lot of the time you're not given a destination and you have to think fast and plan the route that in order to get the customer to their destination in the fairest and most cost effective manner. You can do that without having completed the knowledge test. Sat nav is always completely effective either. Yes it will get you there but not always the cheapest way even with preset criteria.

No	
No	
Yes	
Yes	
No	
Yes	They can keep this test, but not so hard !!!!! People want to work, to make money and pay taxes !!! It's unbelievable what's happend in 2022 !!!
Yes	
Yes	1. Aberdeen Don t have enough taxi cars - when I call they give me 1 2 hours…it's not possible!! 2. People wants to work !! 3. If People work, they will pay taxes - so win win situation for all !!!
No	Drivers should have knowledge of the city they are driving in
No	The customer may be a visitor to the city and be uncertain of destination.
Yes	For same reasons as above
No	All taxi drivers that work in an office should have to sit the same test as the ones already working there.
Yes	
No	Almost daily you get multiple passengers that change destination, how would someone who hasn't done the test cope then!
Yes	
No	They are taxi drivers and they should know the streets, nothing worse than a driver looking at sat nav while driving, too many distractions as it is, unsafe practice.

No	The driver should be able to know where they are going... Basic knowledge of the city and good communication with the driver is always a good thing.
No	Why should they not have to sit a test.All drivers should red or yellow plate. Not very fair to change it now.Why just red plates then just let anybody be a driver then.Then watch the standard drop
No	
No	Sat nav drivers is not the way to go,unless you want a second rate taxi fleet.there is no substitute for proper knowledge of the city its streets.yes sat naf will get you from a to be but not always the shortest or best route.whereas a experienced driver knows the correct route depending on traffic and time of day
Yes	Every driver should have a smart phone with map app.
Yes	
No	Same comments as above. If you want a shambles across the city then yes abolish it but if you want to uphold some level of professionalism then the test is a must.
No	
No	Local knowledge is priceless
Yes	
Yes	At list for private hire taxi drivers this test have to be eliminate! Please allow people to work, please understand that after this very hard pandemic period is very hard to find a job !!!! Hopefully someone will do something for us 😭
No	
No	
Yes	
No	

No	As i said above , That would be criminal to open up it after all those years, and i would be extremely disappointed
No	In today's world, where everyone relies so much on their electronic devices, making people less aware of their surroundings. If a driver that does not know the way to go very well, might pay too much attention to his/her electronic device showing the map/route, resulting in less attention being paid to the road and the other users in traffic. Furthermore if he/she needs to interact with the device while driving, this can lead to traffic incidents.
No	
No	
No	
No	As q4 a high proportion of pre booked journeys have no destination provided but state "as advised"
Not Answered	Not Answered
No	
No	As I've said before same job same test.
No	
Yes	
No	Even the pre booked hire, street knowledge and the city knowledge is important to do the job most professional way. I am a taxi driver and I know how much apps and navigations can do.
No	
Yes	The test is not necessary as it will be nice to have what Aberdeenshire currently have. Simplicity and make the business more competitive
No	Every driver should be tested
Yes	
Yes	

Yes	I don't mind the abolition of the test but I think there are two provisos: - one their understanding of the English language is good enough to take alternative instructions if the hirers request it - two, their knowledge of the streets is reasonable enough that traffic diversions won't leave them completely stumped.
Yes	
No	Absolutely do not agree, it is not fair to other drivers who have spent a lot of time and money to learn all this to become professional drivers.
No	Considering P/H drivers go through an office for work I totally disagree with this. Example the Saturday just passed I started work at 7pm right through to 5am Sunday Morning. I didn't have time to stop for even a 5 minute break so no idea where Non Tested PH drivers will have the time to sit and work out their best routes before each job. All I can see is the trade is really struggling at the moment for 4hrs on a Sat night/Sunday morning between 12am and 4am. Rest of the 164hrs in the week we deal with pretty well and can't get my head around what the push is for getting untested drivers into Private Hires as they still won't be able to pick up from taxi ranks at the busiest times anyway. Surely more focus and priority should be getting the ranks cleared as quick as possible unless I'm missing something and it's a case of financial gain for the council to get anyone in a PH car?
Yes	
No	
No	
No	
No	As Above

No	All taxi drivers, and PH drivers should be knowledgeable in their own city and should not have to rely on sat/nav. Although sat/nav will get the driver to the destination, it is not always the direct route, and a PH driver should be able to think on the move and change route at a moment's notice if the come across heavy traffic, obstructions and the passenger changing pick ups on route, and destination.
No	
No	
No	This will flood the industry with PH cars diluting the available work for taxis / yellow plate cars and existing PH cars that have passed the relevant tests to become a taxi driver.
Yes	
No	Many of the passengers change their mind regarding the destination in the middle of the journey or they don't give exact address while booking the taxi. As a taxi/ Private hire driver I know that passengers expect us to know the city very well as they do get annoyed if we ask them directions when they are a bit drunk on Friday and Saturday nights.

Drivers who went through street knowledge test are managing to use alternative routes in busy hours which is always appreciated by the passengers. Passengers will not be happy paying more for the journey when driver without knowledge will sit in traffic while using the navigation only. |
| No | |
| Yes | See above |

No	Customer service is absolutely appauling in Aberdeen taxi companies. As a doctor, we hear often of the struggle patients and relatives have around Aberdeen with taxi costs and cars not turning up. The duopoly that the taxi companies enjoy here must not be allowed to continue. Get UBER to Aberdeen.
Yes	
No	Pre-booking is no guarantee that the driver will be prepared. There may also be local temporary restrictions which require a deeper understanding of alternative routes
No	
Yes	
Yes	With a clause stating a form of Sat nav with live traffic updates is installed in the car, is voice activated, and so on.
Yes	The basic level of knowledge will I expect be met by the fact that drivers operating in the city are, more than likely, FROM the city.
Yes	
Yes	We use SatNav to get places without issue. It's even part of the driving test now. Knowledge is less important than the courtesy and nature of the driver. Integrity over knowledge please.
No	
No	
No	
No	Even those hires are pre booked, there are still chances of changing destinations in place, so private hire drivers still need certain know about where they are working!
No	Most of them don't know where there going anyway
Yes	

Yes	
Yes	As above
Yes	Some level of general knowledge may still be beneficial in order to maintain quality service and attract local talent with some degree of courtesy toward Aberdeen. However, if the test is to remain, it should be competitive or zero cost to individuals to reflect self-funded and self-directed learning and support competitive entry to trade.
No	Private hires don't always get the destination on the app, so that can lead to problems with the private hire driver and the passenger if the driver or passenger don't know where there going !
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	Most people use Google Maps to navigate, and certainly in every modern city that I have visited, Provate Hire drivers such as Uber do so, and it works well.
Yes	Satnav is available
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
No	One knowledge based test for everyone
No	
Yes	Absolutely, with google maps and GPS today I would argue that minimal testing is required

No	Think drivers should have a basic knowledge of the city, which roads are one way, bus gates etc but don't think the test should be over complicated, members of the public manage to drive around the city without a knowledge test
No	I do not agree with the abolishment of any test or assessment. private hire drivers must still operate at a level of competence in keeping with the standard across the city. However No level of knowledge is retainable in comparison with modern technology. I would suggest at this stage a test that is more relative to the industry instead of relative to a repetitive memory test on retainable topography knowledge. It is fair to say that modern drivers have a range of tools at there disposal to be able to navigate a city effectively, but it is not fair to say all people will be a fit and proper person to drive a taxi or private hire vehicle. Again it is not for a local authority to Taylor a legislation to suit any one type of operation ie apps, because simply put what happens when a server goes down or an app stops working? Ultimately in a scenario like that people go to the tried and tested method of calling a cab company. Again the market should facilitate entry to both options and not look to create barriers or restrict entry to the trade unless at an upper cap type level which is already in legislation
No	
Yes	
Yes	I want this test to be eeliminated asap !!! We want more taxi cars in Aberdeen!!
No	As above at question 4.
No	
No	
No	

No	I definitely don't agree with the abolition of a test, for private hire drivers.
No	Why would anyone want that?
No	
No	
No	
No	
No	
No	
No	Just because the trip is pre-planned there should not be any different qualifications
Yes	I just explained…. Honestly, we don't want this test anymore !!!
No	I believe it should remain as it is
No	
No	Absolutely not. This is a fairly well income position where the public are paying for a professional service which deserves some form of minimum testing.
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
No	
Yes	We must get more taxis change all the rules
Yes	

Yes	
Yes	It is impossible to get a taxi in Aberdeen in peak time. Anything to increase driver availability. As a young female, I've walked over 2 hours home in the dark by myself due to inadequate taxi availability, despite pre booking.
No	
Yes	
No	Again sat nav.
Yes	
No	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
No	
Yes	
Yes	Although I would say there will have to be some sort of regulation of people becoming taxi drivers. As it stands taxis have a number on display for passenger/s to take note should there be any issues while being a fare paying passenger, especially females on their own and alcohol involved.
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	As per previous answer
No	

No	But as noted above, if drivers are equipped with Sat nav / Google maps, this is less vital.
Yes	
Yes	
No	It is important that all drivers have an idea of the layout of the city
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
No	
Yes	
Yes	LET UBER IN!!!!! it works so well everywhere else. Aberdeen has the worst taxi service of any city I've ever been to. Its all on the App so they do not need any knowledge of Aberdeen roads and therefore don't need any test!!
Yes	Detailed street knowledge is no longer required with the use of navigation aids that Taxis use anyway. The emphasis should be that a licence holder is fit and proper, with a suitable well serviced and maintained vehicle.
No	
Yes	In all honesty, what does a taxi driver need to know about Aberdeen. It's not like much people come to visit such a dull place for them to be handing out their city knowledge to visitors.
No	A degree of test is required to ensure the customer is getting value , safety and comfort of knowledge from a driver
No	
No	
Yes	
No	Private Hire Drivers are required to take the most direct route to get their passengers to their destination as are all taxi drivers, if the test is stopped you will have drivers taking any route

Yes	
No	Private hire drivers need to be assessed on their knowledge of the city
No	
Yes	
Yes	In a world where you can just use Google maps there should be no need for tests if the taxi has pre warning. Many other cities operate only on apps that require little to no knowledge
Yes	Yes basic knowledge would be beneficial bit it's not essential
Yes	Way should they have to have extra knowledge, when they are pre booked & already know there destination
No	
Yes	Everyone has a smart phone or sat nav. These have updated maps and routes so no need for this test.
No	
Yes	
No	
No	
Yes	As above.
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	As someone who travels extensively for work, I am often required to drive in new cities with zero prior knowledge of the layout and have yet to be let down by a live map service provided via my phone. As stated above, these services often update with traffic and will divert based on quickest route meaning that they can be more reliable than simple local knowledge
No	
Yes	
Yes	

Yes	I dont know what any of this means but whatever gets more taxis in the city
No	
No	
Yes	
Yes	A general knowledge should be enough.
No	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
No	
Yes	As above comments. I'm addition the ability to use satnav on any mobile device to a very high degree of accuracy takes away the argument completely.
Yes	
No	
Yes	
No	
Yes	

Yes	
Yes	
No	Good to have the knowledge of city so the most efficient routes can be taken. For example if there is road closures or delays alternative routes will be beneficial
Yes	Sat navigation ♂☐ Safety check on driver yes get with the times total joke standing on a Week day at 02:15 for an hour just wrong I am out most night and can't get home
Yes	
Yes	
No	
Yes	
No	About 50% of my hires each day have a destination of "passenger will advise".
No	
No	No private hire drivers should still take the same test as well as taxi drivers
Yes	Sat navs are provided and roadworks published on Google maps etc to allow to alternative routes
Yes	You wouldn't need any knowledge of the city streets if an UBER drive can follow the route via satnav
Yes	Yes a beneficial knowledge plus sat nav.
Yes	
No	Disagree, private hire working through an office are same as Hackney. Given a hire and expected to take shortest route . Sat nav is so unreliable regarding rush hour traffic, closed roads etc it will lead to an inferior service and the public being over charge d.
Yes	

Yes	Uber in Aberdeen / Shire is needed as public transport is shocking
Yes	Bring in UBER
Yes	As explained above
Yes	
No	
Yes	Sat nav is widely available!!!!
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
No	I have lived in Aberdeen since 2009 and there is no way I could just jump into my car and comfortably follow a GPS and get paid for it.
No	
Yes	
Yes	Yes I think it should be abolished
Yes	
Yes	Let aberdeen have Uber
Yes	
No	
No	
Yes	We need more taxi's or Uber as the taxi wait and queues are long by hours, which is unacceptable in a place like Aberdeen.

Yes	Busses are less polluting and more efficient.
No	
Yes	Majority of Aberdonians know the City themselves and normally know the routes planned.
Yes	
Yes	I don't believe that the test should apply at all. Why should it apply in Aberdeen but not in some of the biggest cities in the world?? It is a draconian test which is no longer valid with the advancements of technology such as the use of maps functionality in ride sharing apps.
Yes	You must do everything you can to assist people to enter the city. If Uber works internationally then it works in Aberdeen Your costs are simply too high for any new driver " to make money the way things stand.
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
No	No because I don't think journeys need to be pre booked
Yes	
Yes	Sat Nav are in most cars & generally people know where they are going. The amt of taxi available at airport is disgraceful, get more taxis available in Aberdeen
Yes	As I mentioned, using sat nav and maps etc would eliminate concern if the driver only had a short notice period.

Yes	As above re sat nav.
Yes	
Yes	Basic knowledge is a must but everyone have maps on the phone now.
Yes	
Yes	
No	
No	There should still be a test but relaxed grading
No	
No	This is not a good proposal.
Yes	In this day and age even a provisional driver can navigate any new city with the assistance of Google maps or by consulting the route prior to departure
Yes	In this day and age every single potential driver will have a telephone with Google maps. This is enough to find every address in the city
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
No	
Yes	Same answer as above
No	
Yes	Same as above
No	Unsure?

Yes	
No	
Yes	
No	There should be more public transport opportunities available for the public. The current opportunities by bus and hire cars (taxis) are not convenient and not competitively priced and generally discourage people from using public transport.
Yes	
Yes	
No	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
No	
No	
Yes	
No	
No	
No	
Yes	

No	
No	
No	I think the requirement for a test is necessary to keep the standard of taxi drivers high. No test would mean anybody could be a taxi driver, since this is a customer facing role and one with security of people potentially at risk there needs to be a level of commitment from those who want to be a taxi driver.
Yes	
No	
No	I think there should still be a basic test for drivers to have a general understanding/knowledge of the area they are driving in. Coupled with this, many drivers usually have sat nav or if using an app like Uber they will be given directions to the location. So whilst advanced noticed may be short, they should have the capability to get to the desired destination.
No	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	As above.
Yes	
Yes	As above
Yes	
Yes	
No	
Yes	
Yes	With modern phone technology, the advance notice period would just be the time taken for a taxi driver to type an address into their phone.

Yes	
Yes	Get Uber.
Yes	
No	
Yes	BRING ON UBER! Move into the future.
Yes	
Yes	
No	
No	
Yes	
No	
Yes	
Yes	
No	Having a test provides for credentials of knowledge but it also infers that the driver takes the role seriously which is critical to passenger safety.
Yes	Anything to get more drivers on the road
No	Strongly oppose. As a minimum there needs to be a means to determine basic competency, would agree the test is amended/modernized but definitely not abolished.
Yes	
No	absolutely not, drivers should have a knowledge to be able to navigate the fast or shortest route and as a passenger I do not feel I should have to give directions almost from the point of pick up all the way home, this is often the case at the moment. Abolishing the test would only make this worse.
Yes	

Yes	Drivers will build up their knowledge of the local area organically as they work.
Yes	
Yes	GPS systems are a thing
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	there is no need for them
Yes	
Yes	
No	
Yes	
No	Often there is road closures that are not indicated on navigation so a general knowledge of areas is good.
Yes	We should allow Uber in the City in this day and age. Aberdeen is behind the times.
No	
No	
Yes	
No	
No	
No	
Yes	
Yes	Can never get taxis
Yes	
Yes	

Yes	
Yes	Map apps are more than sufficient. Drivers will learn the roads the longer they drive. Most will already be familiar as the city is small and condensed so very familiar to most.
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	Background checks and clean licence is all that's needed. We have maps
Yes	Very basic knowledge is an advantage but not necessary when journeys are pre booked
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	I think a grasp of the English language and a general feeling for the layout of the city is far more important than knowing street names.
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	As above
Yes	As above, not necessary in modern day
Yes	
No	

Yes	
Yes	
No	No , I believe that the drivers must pass a knowledge test, I know there is a problem at the moment for a few short hours on a Saturday only and maybe at the airport sometimes to get a taxi, but that's because of Covid their was no new drivers trained. There is a shortage of bus drivers, train drivers/staff and plane ✈ staff but they are not thinking of making it easier for them to pass their test.
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
No	More knowledge can't be a bad thing.
No	not at all As Taxi Drivers with yellow plates still work through the same offices taht pH drivers do
No	
Yes	
No	
No	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
No	I believe there should still be some sort of test but one that is fit for purpose and reflective of the licence
No	Agree basic knowledge should be assessed
No	

Yes	
No	We will then be top heavy on private hire drivers. Big part of the problem we have at the moment is clearing streets and ranks. Private hire obviously can't help here.
No	
No	Abolitionion the test will let every Tom, dick and Harry on the road, which will cost the public more on fares.
No	No. Should sit existing test as everyone else has.
No	
No	The test should be left in place as having the knowledge of the city should be mandatory of being In the trade whether you are a private hire driver or a taxi driver. If you get someone getting in your car that wants some knowledge about Aberdeen and its surroundings this would be helpful if you have done the knowledge test
No	
No	Every taxi driver should sit the test regardless.
No	I believe that every driver should have a great knowledge of the streets of Aberdeen. As a Taxi driver myself and I work through a taxi company. I can tell you that probably half the jobs we get are destination as directed or we have what we call a butler app that doesn't show the destination at all. Also if someone is relying on a satnav to get them from A to B then they won't have 100 percent concentration on the road.
No	People calling a cab surely must expect and deserve standards to be as high as possible
No	All drivers whether taxi or private hire should sit the same test to protect the public.
No	

No	See above for my comment. To reiterate: The taxi street knowledge test should be of the same standard irrespective of whether it is a private hire driver or a street taxi driver. If you make it easier there is nothing stopping someone getting their badge at private hire level, then moving over to work the streets with greatly reduced knowledge of Aberdeen. I would also add that the abolition of the Knowledge Test for Private Hire drivers opens the door for unscrupulous firms like Über and Lyft, who would then flood the city with drivers, destroying the livelihoods of current members of the taxi trade.
No	As previously stated it has to remain as ph drivers in aberdeen are working thru the same offices as yellow plate drivers so should therefore have the same knowledge test.
Yes	
No	Same as above
No	
Yes	
Yes	

No	Because everyone that had went through the system are basically vetted and all their details are on the system ......if you don't have something to safeguard the passengers then you'll have a free for all and the possibly of passengers being dangerous situations with drivers that can slip through the net.
Yes	Agreed with no test 100%
Yes	
Yes	
No	Definitely no abolishing of the test in any way shape or form. From experience 5 10 or even 15 minutes warning you can not me morise the quickest route or journey you would possibly take, to safety get members of the general public to their chosen destination. Again with reference to above I would add that not all lifts that a private hire vehicle would undertake in a given shift are from an office.
Yes	
Yes	As above!
Yes	
Yes	Test should be abolished due to technological advances
Yes	
Yes	PLEASE AMENDED THIS TEST !!! PLEASE DO SOMETHING FOR US !!

No	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
No	
Yes	
No	
Yes	A more practical approach comparing to what happens in bigger cities; a basic knowledge of the surroundings is key and then technology and maps do the rest of the job
Yes	
Yes	I want UBER, and an end to the terrible taxi service in Aberdeen
No	
No	
No	I don't think it really matters if the hire is pre booked or not. A good knowledge of the city for the driver makes for a much more pleasant experience for the customer. If the driver for example is relaying on sat nav that doesn't always take you the most effective route so having that knowledge is very important.
No	People should probably still have some general knowledge of the city.
Yes	
Yes	The city isn't large so it's truly difficult to get lost after a short amount of time learning the roads/area.

Yes	
No	Keep the test as it is
No	
No	
No	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	As above
No	
Yes	Basic knowledge but do this via computer based training
No	
No	
Yes	
Yes	
No	Same as above!!
No	Define the definition of pre booked to be candid Aberdeen licensing ain't got a clue
No	

Yes	
Yes	
No	
No	
No	
No	
No	
No	They should still have knowledge incase of issues on the route
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	Totally agree
No	
No	No I don't agree re above
Yes	
No	
No	
No	Same answer as above.
No	Same requirements should be applied for all drivers entrusted with the public.

No	
Yes	
No	
Yes	
No	Absolutely not. Taxi drivers have worked hard to become a driver and all new applicants should go through the same test.
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
No	
No	As per previous answer
No	
Yes	Agreed as GPS is so advanced it takes traffic into consideration and takes you on the most efficient route - same as current taxi's, who hold a monopoly at present.
No	
Yes	The likes of Uber already know how much a journey will cost based on the sat nav data so the driver will just be following that regardless, negating the need for detailed city knowledge.

No	
Yes	
No	
No	
No	
No	
No	Safety first.
No	
No	A very basic test that demonstrates knowledge of areas where app / sat nav based navigation may not give appropriate routing / drop off locations eg airport, hospital, docks, Union street.
No	Some Private hire drivers are already perceived as being of a lower Standard in many cities, they should have the same skills and knowledge as a taxi driver if they are going to transport the public, anything lower is increasing public risk.
Yes	A good knowledge of the City is a must.
Yes	But only if private hire journeys are price quoted at the time of booking and that quote remains a fixed price - regardless of traffic conditions, time taken etc
Yes	As above.
Yes	Scrap the test for both private hire and normal taxis

Yes	
Yes	
No	
No	
No	
No	
No	
No	
No	Technology isn't fail-safe. Internet fails, mobile phones lose signal/run out of charge, break, get lost/forgotten. Also, there's no guarantee that a sat-nav system will be programmed to go the shortest route. The danger is that the general public will end up paying more when things go awry.
No	
Yes	As previous, GPS systems are standard in phones and car navigation systems. As drivers work they also gain a natural knowledge of the city so I don't think there should be a requirement for testing. Which would benefit the city by bringing drivers back to the city, we seem to have a massive shortage of taxis in Aberdeen after Covid.
No	
Yes	
No	
No	Test same for both
No	
Yes	
Yes	

Yes	
Yes	
No	We will end up with all taxis just becoming private hire and a lower level of service
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
No	
No	
Yes	
No	
Yes	
No	I expect my driver to have the knowledge
No	Do not agree with the abolition, if a gps and or maps were to fail then how would the driver know where to go to pick up a hire? A knowledge test is necessary.
Yes	
No	Horrific idea
No	If there is an abolition of the test. Will all taxi drivers move to Private Hire and we will have no taxi ranks or pick up in the street. What will it be like in the early hours of the morning if people are on phones or need phones charged. Leads to people unsafely walking home.
No	See above
No	
No	

No	The answer is already in the question. Lets think about it, what is a pre-booked journey, if the driver get the message from the depot that he needs to pick up a person from point A in 5 minutes and take him to point B, then it is already pre-booked journey and the driver instead of trying to look up the maps, the apps or whatever there is available, should be building up his route in the head while using those 5 minutes to drive in point A to pick up the person. As far as I am concerned all the journeys are pre-booked unless you pick up the person from the street, if I phone the depot and say I need a taxi ASAP this is already pre-booked journey. So, I completely disagree that the test should be stopped. If you want to become a driver you should spend some time to learn how to be one and learn about the city and the place which essentially is your working area and paying your wages, otherwise anyone with a driving licence can become a taxi driver and this would be wrong.
Yes	
No	I firmly believe all Drivers, Private Hire and Taxi should have to sit a Knowledge test. They are all taxi drivers taking members of the public to and from destination so I would expect all Drivers to have undergone the same tests.
Yes	
Yes	
No	Need Street knowledge test for all drivers.
No	
Yes	
No	
No	
No	
No	Having to sit the Knowledge Test shows a commitment to their job, really want to do it. Nearly all jobs have to have qualifications and taxi drivers need to have knowledge of Aberdeen. Sat Nav directions can be unreliable and then clients end up in the wrong place and more cost and doesn't give a good impression. Test should be the same for all drivers, they are all doing the same job.

Yes	With modern technology (Sat Nav, Google Maps etc) there should be no need for any "knowledge" test either for private hire or general hire taxis. Instead of a test make it mandatory that drivers make use of such technology.
No	As stated above, there are too many that rely on Sat-nav and have zero navigational ability around the city. If there are any incidents on the road, they are unable to use common sense to avoid busy roads, road works or accidents.
No	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	GPS navigation negates the need for such tests. Unnecessary red tape that stifles competition at the expense, not benefit of consumers. Other cities have better taxi services without such a test.
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	Very basic knowledge of city required as technology can used
Yes	
No	
No	I want to be confident that my driver is fully trained. When I use other forms of public transport e.g. bus/train I am secure in the knowledge that the driver is fully trained & I expect the same from taxi drivers
No	No. I don't agree with this idea.
No	Again, the pre-booked destination is the easiest part of the job, it's having the knowledge to complete the job, which may change at various points before completing the fare.
No	
No	

Yes	
Yes	A good sat nav based system would be more beneficial that knowledge of the city which can become outdated fast compared to a sat nav or routing service which can be kept up to date and have live traffic data fed in. If it is an in app system such as Ubers system, the onus is on them to provide direction through that. Notice of the booking should have no impact on the above.
No	
Yes	
Yes	
No	As a taxi driver i know how often passengers change their kinds during a journey which could be to pick up friends from multi address miles apart or change drop off location or they give one drop off location but there could actually be 2 or more. Often i recieve jobs with drop off show AS DIRECTED or just an area. All of the above cant be planned for and passenger dont expect to direct the driver or sit while he enters each address in to a sat nav. Sat nav rarely give the best routes and having more than a general idea or the city helps to know this.
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	As above
Yes	
No	
No	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	

No	As above the term Taxi and Priavte Hire are miss represented lots of the time and as such the term Private Hire should be abolished as a true private hire vehicle is a Chauffeur driven vehicle not a taxi or a vehicle fitted with a meter
No	
No	Being prebooked does not mean that they know the route required
No	They still need to know the street knowledge of Aberdeen and shouldn't rely on tech to do there job as they are very well paid for it.
Yes	
No	A basic knowledge of the city and being able to communicate with passengers would be required
No	
No	
No	
No	No