

You have now moved your car off safely. It is now time to park your car up on the left. When you want to park your car up on the left, look well ahead down the road. The examiner will ask you to park up on the left perhaps many times. He wants to see you park up safely. Plan it carefully and don't just abruptly park at the first chance you get. Looking ahead down the road, make sure you avoid double yellow lines, avoid parking on a sharp bend, avoid parking next to someone's driveway blocking it and also avoid stopping directly opposite a junction on the right. Your instructor may use the phrase **SCALP** for this. **S**afe **C**onvenient **A**nd **L**egal **P**osition.

### **Mirrors Signal Manoeuvre**

First you will need to look in your **Mirrors**. Main mirror to assess how close the car behind is to you. If very close then you might need to park a little further down the road than intended and gently slow down sooner than usual. This will give the driver behind more time to react. Also look in your left mirror. This is to make sure there are no cyclists to your left that you may not have noticed. If there are any cars or cyclists behind or in front then you will need also to **Signal** to the left. Providing you have checked your mirrors, you can signal regardless. You must signal in good time to give other road users a warning of your intention. The **Manoeuvre** part is now parking up on the left.

### **Manoeuvre**

Looking ahead you have found your ideal parking spot. You have looked in your mirrors, signaled if necessary and established it is safe to park up. Gently release your gas slightly so as to slow down gradually. Gently steer to the left. Don't steer left too sharply as the chances of hitting the curb are greater, instead, gently steer left and then straighten up a little then a little left again, straighten up etc.

Your instructor will give you reference points for parking up, so making slow gradual movements over to the left will give you more time to find these. To also help you slow down, you will need to cover the brake and cover the clutch. By placing your left foot over the clutch pedal, right foot over the brake but not pressing them, the engine will help to slow the car. Progressively apply the brake. Apply gently pressure to the brake gradually increasing.

Once you are happy with your reference points that your instructor gave you then just before the car stops, press the clutch down fully to the floor. Press the clutch down around 4 meters away from where you intend to stop. If you do not do this, then the engine will stall. Keep gently increasing the pressure of the brake until the car comes to a stop. Once stopped, apply the handbrake, select neutral and cancel your signal if you applied it.

### **Assess you parking**

Take a further look at your reference points. Ensure that you are happy with them. Make sure you are not parked in front of someone's driveway or opposite a junction to the right. Assess your distance from the curb using your left mirror. Your instructor will have asked you to take a 'snap shot' of your left mirror at the start to give you an idea of what the curb, car and how much road you should see in it. This should look very similar once you have parked on the left. If during your driving test you are not happy with your parking, don't leave it bad. Say to the examiner that you haven't parked too well and that you would like to correct it. Providing you do this safely, then the examiner will be happy and hopefully you will have avoided a failed driving test.