

Mini test

WINNING PRODUCT

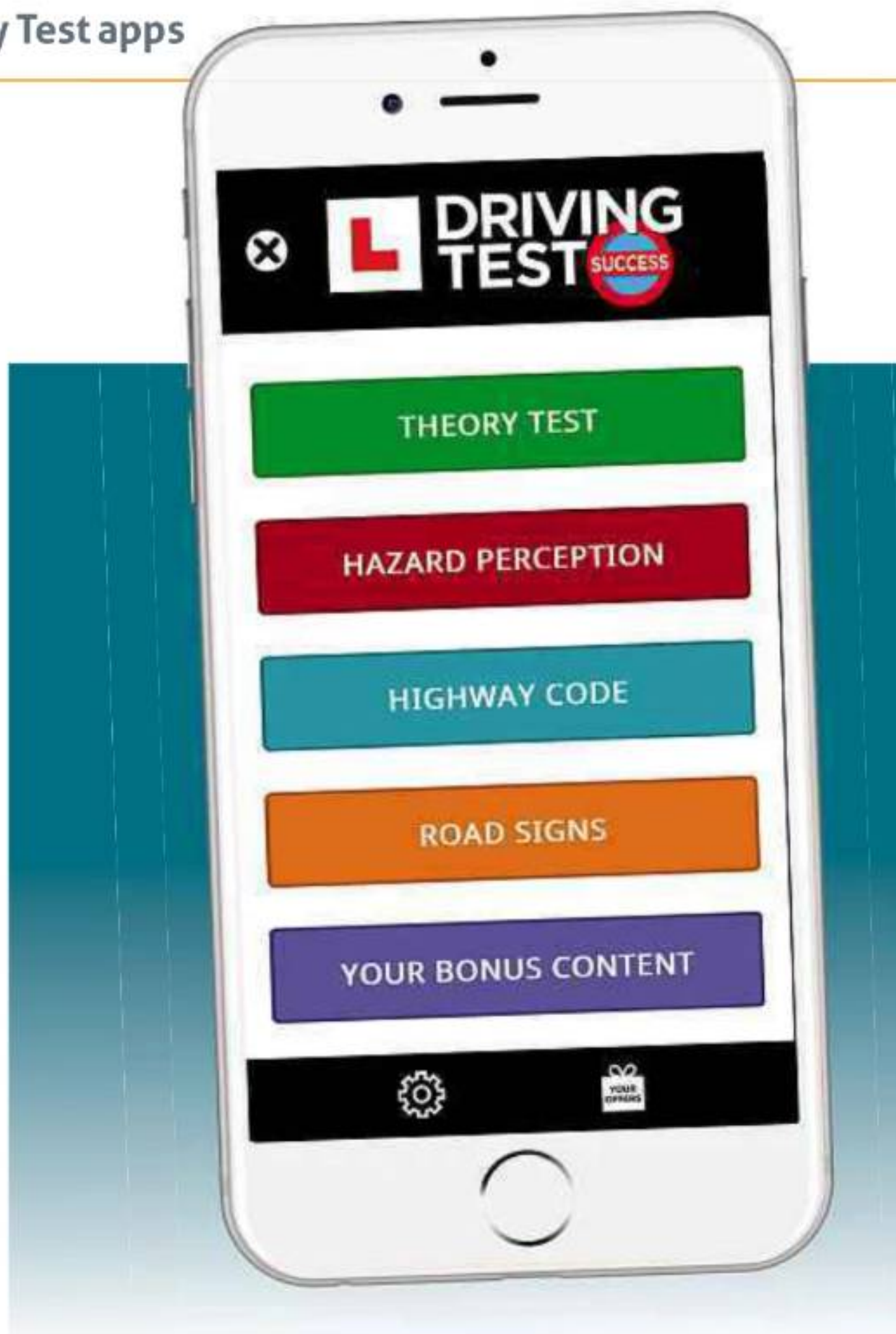
Driving Test Success: Driving Theory Test 4-in-1

Price: £4.99
 Platform requirement: iOS 8/Android 4.0.3
 Contact: www.drivingtestsuccess.com
 Rating: ★★★★★

THE DTS app feels modern and more in touch with younger drivers than the DVSA app (below), with its bright, colourful layout. It's available for Apple and Android, and it was simple to download and set up.

Unlike the DVSA app, this set-up gives the Highway Code and Road Signs their own sections, with lots of options, including searching by category or term. And the quiz for both the Code and Signs is very good, offering a choice of 10, 20, 30 or 40 questions, with categories selected at random.

Unsurprisingly, the app takes a lot of memory, at around 1.2Gb, although this would be no problem for most users. All tests and quizzes give the option to track progress and highlight any weak areas. With technically the same content as the DVSA, it's significantly more instinctive to navigate – and an easy-to-operate app is far more likely to be used.



Don't pass up on these three Theory Test apps

AE Dave Pollard

THE pass rate for the new and tougher Theory Test has dropped to 47 per cent, suggesting that some learners need a little help. It costs £23, so it pays to pass first time.

A smartphone app puts the information you need to revise at your fingertips, and we tried three to find which will best help you pass. We looked for the Theory Test

questions, Hazard Perception videos and, ideally, the Highway Code with road signs.

Ease of use, good graphics and sensible menus were essential, with extra points gained for the ability to keep track of progress and highlight weak areas. The Driving Test Success app is similar to the DVSA option, but wins on several areas of practicality.

"Ease of use, good graphics and sensible menus were essential"

APPROVED PRODUCT

Official DVSA Theory Test Kit

Price: £4.99
 Platform: iOS 7/Android 4.4
 Contact: www.safedrivingforlife.info
 Rating: ★★★★★



THE app from the people who set the tests soaks up 765Mb on iOS and a mere 224Mb on Android. Its layout is reasonable but basic, although we liked the ability to study, practise or take a mock Theory Test. There's also a useful section about the practicalities of booking and taking the tests. You can practise the Hazard Perception test, but oddly there's no specific mock Theory Test. And the Highway Code is simply in book form, with no option to search directly or practise, and no road-sign section.

SPLIT PRODUCT

MJH Driver Testing

Price: £3.99 TT/£2.99 HPT
 Platform: iOS 8
 Contact: www.abellearning.com
 Rating: ★★★★★

UNIQUELY, the Hazard Perception and Theory Test apps are separate here, and cost more overall than the other apps we tested. They're also the only ones not available for Android. Their layout and interface are reasonable, but with simplistic graphics, while the Highway Code and road signs can be searched but offer no quizzes. The Hazard Perception test works like the real thing, including anti-cheating, but once started it can't be paused. Overall, the higher price and extra limitations hit MJH's score.



books, games & apps



The Range Rover Story

Giles Chapman (The History Press, www.thehistorypress.co.uk)
 Price: £9.99 Rating: ★★★★★

FROM the same stable as The Jaguar Story (reviewed in Issue 1,579), this book shows off the Range Rover's fascinating birth and rich and varied history. It's concise, interesting, easy to read and accurate. Well worth a look, especially for younger car fans.



Mini Scrapbook

Martin Port (Porter Press, www.porterpress.co.uk)
 Price: £20 Rating: ★★★★★

EVEN 60 years on, the legendary Mini still holds plenty of appeal, and this 'scrapbook' format makes for an enjoyable history lesson.

It's stuffed with period photos and literature, which add a unique dimension to the book, and the original copy is well written, too. Young readers will love it because it's colourful, packed with great pictures and straightforward. But we'd like to see it in hardback; it'd feel more like a true scrapbook.



Off-road Travel: 4WD SUVs Ride to Hill

Available for: Android
 Price: Free Rating: ★★★★★

A BAFFLING name and terrible, poorly translated menus belie the fact that this is a fun and polished game. The graphics are excellent and it's decently challenging, but due to the language barrier there's plenty of times when it's tough to tell what's going on. Needs a menu overhaul.



App of the week



BBC Sounds

Available for: iOS, Android
 Price: Free Rating: ★★★★★

THE BBC's new one-stop shop for its radio and podcasts doesn't quite feel as polished as two individual apps may have done, especially when searching. Some refinement to this new app would improve matters.

