

None Of The Above
by Tom Crawshaw

Lights up on CHRIS and ANDY. CHRIS has a copy of the Highway Code Sample Questions and is testing ANDY.

CHRIS Okay, question 37: (*Reads*) “You are driving in the morning and see a school bus ahead. Should you: (a) Slow down and be aware that children may unexpectedly run into the road; (b) Brake suddenly and dangerously; (c) Speed up to twice the speed limit and lower all your windows; or (d) sound your horn?”

ANDY (*Thinks*) Er... A.

CHRIS Correct. Question 38: “You are driving on a cold night and notice your car start to skid. Should you: (a) Slow down, select an appropriate gear and consider pulling over; (b) Speed up, select an inappropriate gear and consider ways to reduce road safety; (c) Remove your seatbelt and crash immediately into the nearest tree; or (d) Sound your horn?”

ANDY Er... A again.

CHRIS Correct. “Question 39: You are driving down a country road when a deer runs across your path. You brake to avoid hitting it but then find your car will not restart. You exit the car to look for help and enter the woods by the side of the road. (*Continues with a small hint of surprise / confusion*) After many miles you stop to rest on a tree stump. Just then, a creature like a small man approaches. He has the legs of a goat and introduces himself as a fawn. He tells you his people live in a nearby village and he will let you sleep there for the night. Do you: (a) Thank him for his generosity but decline and walk away; (b) Accept and follow him (c) Accept, but remove the penknife from your pocket in readiness; or (d) Sound your horn.”

ANDY Erm... I don't know... I guess, B?

CHRIS (*Reads, confused:*) “Go to page 86” (*He accepts and does so*) Okay... “You follow the fawn to a clearing. A large fawn on a wooden throne is surrounded by others wearing armour. Suddenly, the fawn grabs you, announcing “Great Banlax, I have captured one of the men-folk!” The soldiers drag you to a small cave with bars across the front. They remove your shirt, bind your hands and throw you inside. That night you are awoken by an old fawn entering the cave with some berries for you to eat. Do you (a) Eat the berries and keep quiet; (b) Plead with him to free you; (c) Draw your penknife and threaten him; or (d) Explain that you are not a man but a very rough-looking elf.”

ANDY Goodness, I don't know. C. Yeah, C.

CHRIS “Go to page 90” (*He does, and reads:*) “You draw your knife. The peaceful creature is unarmed but slashes your face with his claws in fear. Enraged, you thrust the knife into his chest. Thick red blood pours out as he staggers backwards. Stepping over his body, you run out through the village. The fawns see you and make chase. You scramble up a steep rise and see light coming from a cottage in the distance. Reaching the door, you find it unlocked and hurriedly stumble inside.”

Suddenly, MAN stumbles on stage, shirtless, dishevelled and bleeding. He is breathless and stares terrified at CHRIS and ANDY. They look back. Good pause. Unsure what else to do, CHRIS picks up the book and continues reading.

CHRIS “In front of you are two men with a copy of Driving Theory Sample Questions. They appear surprised and confused.”

MAN (*Desperate*) Help me! I’m being chased!

CHRIS (*Still reading*) “You cry desperately.”

ANDY (*To CHRIS*) What’s going on?

CHRIS “Cries the shorter, uglier of the two.”

Pause. ANDY looks at CHRIS. CHRIS continues reading.

CHRIS ““That’s just what it says’ protests the other, clearly in charge. He explains that they will hide you if you but answer one riddle. Otherwise you must face the fawns alone.”

MAN I accept the challenge

CHRIS “The man with the book then reads: ‘An unbroken white line down the middle of the road, on your side of the carriageway, means (a) No overtaking; (b) No stopping; (c) No stabbing; or (d) Sound your horn.’”

ANDY Er... I think it’s B.

MAN The answer is B!

CHRIS “You state, proudly. The handsome man turns the page and says. (*Turning the page*) ‘Sorry, it’s (a) I’m afraid – no overtaking.’ At that point the fawns break down the door of the cottage with hand axes. You fight them bravely but are brutally hacked to death.”

There is a pause as they all look at each other. Then there is a crashing noise from off-stage and they all turn in fear. MAN runs towards the noise and the sound of a battle ensues. ANDY watches, traumatised. CHRIS looks back at the book. The noise dies away and ANDY steps forwards and falls to his knees.

ANDY Oh God. Oh God. They, they... Sweet Jesus...

CHRIS (*Reading*) "Sorry, you would not have passed your driving theory on this attempt. Please return to Page 1 and try again."

CHRIS waits a moment then turns back to page 1. He starts reading again but is interrupted by ANDY who throws himself at him.

CHRIS Question –

ANDY No!!

Snap blackout.