

Not the 'X' Factor but the 'S' Factor!

Motorcycle Riding with *Sparkle*

Adapted and inspired from an original article by Peter Wood, Senior Observer with SAM

Our examiner, Doug Miners says he looks for the 4 'S's on the test, Safety, Smooth, System, Style—perhaps we could call the latter Sparkle ?

Sparkle = Ability to:

- ✓ Always put safety as your first priority.
- ✓ Know the characteristics of your machine including ABS, traction control, linked braking, etc.
- ✓ Control your motorcycle using all of the controls fully, smoothly, efficiently and effectively.
- ✓ Know your gear ratios and approximate maximum speed in each gear, and use an appropriate gear in any given situation.
- ✓ Set off, pause and stop in a smooth efficient manner—one foot down, which ever is appropriate, always right foot if gear changes are likely to be required.
- ✓ Adjust speed, and gears, in a smooth and safe manner as appropriate for any anticipated hazard.
- ✓ Signal other road users as and when necessary in a clear and precise manner.
- ✓ Comply with all speed limits and be able to make progress up to the National speed limit when and where it is safe and appropriate.
- ✓ Move smoothly into the correct position for Safety, Stability and View.
- ✓ Judge other motorists to enable a smooth passage through junctions, roundabouts, etc.
- ✓ Judge hazards and traffic controls so that where possible you can smoothly negotiate them without having to stop.
- ✓ Overtake other road users as and when safe and appropriate.
- ✓ Read the limit point and take into account the road surface and any other hazards to be able to continue to make appropriate progress through a bend.
- ✓ Maintain concentration from the beginning to the finish of every ride.
- ✓ Keep one's motorcycle in top condition and carry out regular checks.
- ✓ Always wear appropriate motorcycle protective clothing for the conditions.

Any ideas on what we could add, or change ?? 🏍️