

Core Principle

THE HIERARCHY OF ROAD USERS

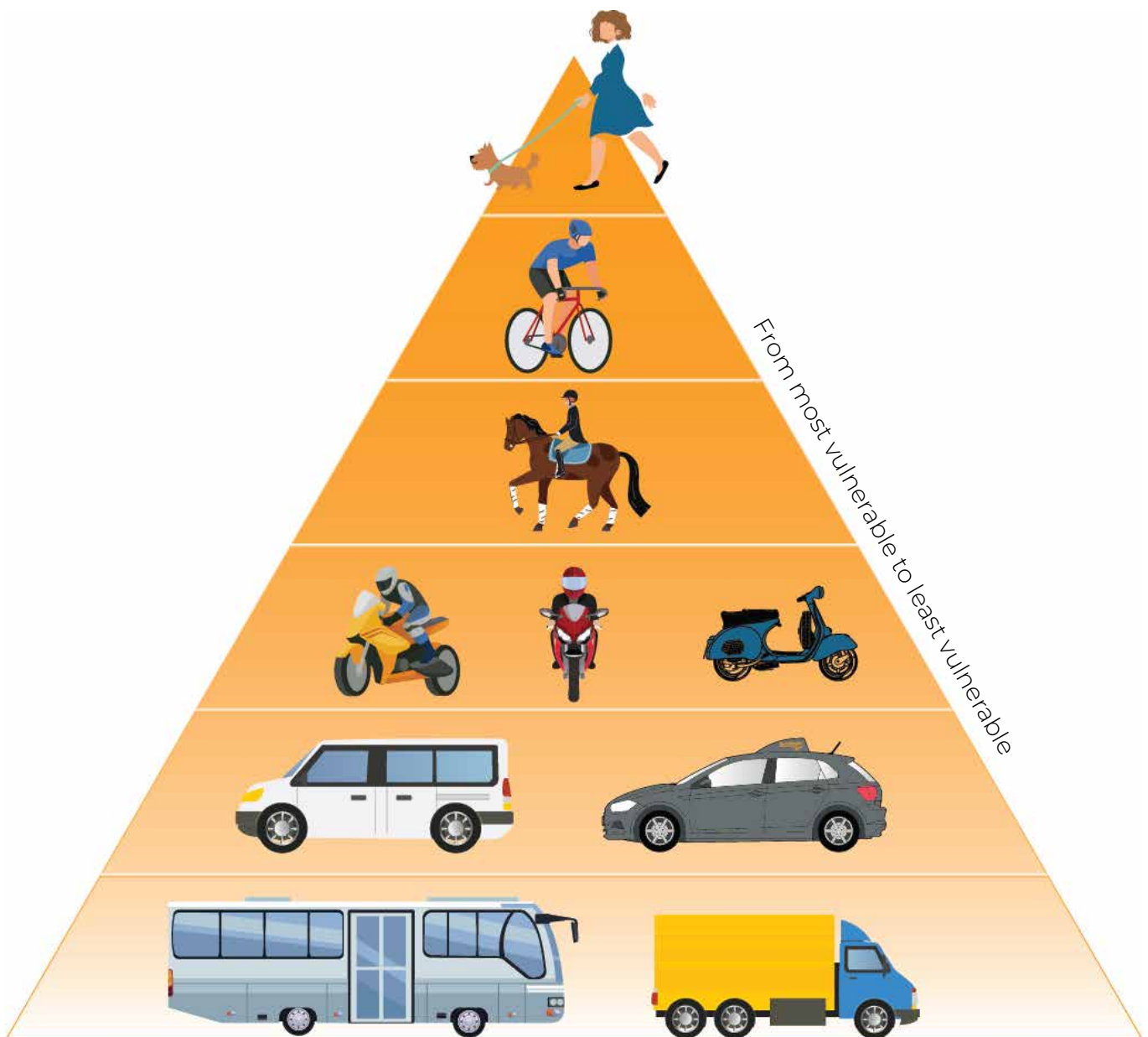
What this principle is

The hierarchy of road users recognises that some people are more vulnerable on the road than others and need greater care and protection.

It doesn't remove responsibility from drivers.

Instead, it helps guide anticipation, positioning, and decision-making in everyday driving situations.

Understanding this principle supports safer, calmer choices — especially where space is limited or situations feel busy.



The more vulnerable the road user, the greater the care and space required.

What This Means in Practice

Using the hierarchy helps you decide when to:

slow down earlier

leave more space

wait rather than squeeze through

adjust your position

show patience and consideration

This applies particularly in:

meeting situations

narrow roads

near parked vehicles

at crossings and junctions

around cyclists and horse riders

Good judgement often means protecting others before prioritising progress.

What the Hierarchy Is Not

It is not about giving up your right of way unnecessarily

It is not about hesitating or causing confusion

It does not replace road signs, signals, or the Highway Code

The hierarchy supports good judgement — it doesn't override the rules of the road.

Keep in Mind

More vulnerable road users have less protection

They may be harder to see or less predictable

Giving space reduces risk for everyone

Waiting is often the safest choice

Choosing patience is a sign of awareness, not uncertainty.

Final Thought

The hierarchy of road users encourages care, cooperation, and responsibility.

By considering who is most at risk, you make calmer decisions that lead to safer driving — not just for your test, but for everyday driving beyond it.

Notes / Questions

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