BASIC DRIVING TECHNIQUES

81 The control of both the clutch and the accelerator pedals will pose some problems to learner drivers at the initial stage. Proficiency will come with practice. Listed below are common problems learner drivers have in moving off.

PROBLEM	CAUSES
(a) Engine vibrates violently	The accelerator pedal is insufficiently depressed and/ or is in the incorrect half-clutch position (clutch pedal over-released).
(b) Vehicle jumps and jerks or surges forward	The accelerator pedal is depressed excessively and/or the clutch pedal is released suddenly.
(c) Engine stops suddenly	The accelerator pedal is insufficiently depressed and / or the clutch pedal is released too suddenly.

- 82 When stopping, you must consider the speed of your vehicle and the distance ahead. Always depress the brake pedal early and prepare to stop slightly before the targeted stopping position. Continue practising until you can stop exactly where you want to.
- 83 You must always bear in mind the following when stopping:
 - (a) Look out for other road users in front of you;
 - (b) Use the rear view mirror to check the traffic behind;
 - (c) Signal your intention;
 - (d) Check your left blind spot;
 - (e) Release the accelerator pedal;
 - (f) Move to the left edge of the road;
 - (g) Gently depress the brake pedal;
 - (h) Fully depress the clutch pedal when the vehicle is about to stop;
 - (i) Keep both the clutch and brake pedals depressed;
 - (j) Pull up the handbrake and shift the gear lever to the Neutral position.
- 84 If the clutch pedal is depressed too late when stopping the vehicle, the engine will stall. As a result of this, learner drivers tend to depress the clutch pedal too early to overcome this problem. Depressing the clutch pedal too soon will cause the vehicle to be 'free-wheeling'. This is especially dangerous when you are stopping your vehicle at high speeds and when cornering at a high speed.
- 85 The clutch pedal should be depressed at the precise moment just before the engine begins to vibrate. Experience will enable you to decide the appropriate moment.