

CHANGING GEARS

87 To select the suitable gear, note the speed of the vehicle by the sound of the engine, the moving scenery outside and an occasional glance at the speedometer.

88 Follow the drill below when changing up:

1st Gear

- (a) Depress the clutch pedal;
- (b) Engage the 1st gear;
- (c) Release the clutch pedal half-way and depress the accelerator pedal slightly at the same time;
- (d) Release the clutch pedal further and accelerate to gain speed;
- (e) Accelerate evenly until the vehicle reaches the speed of about 15-20 km/h.

2nd Gear

- (f) Depress the clutch pedal and at the same time release the accelerator pedal;
- (g) Shift the gear lever from the 1st to 2nd position;
- (h) Release the clutch pedal half-way, then further release it slowly and at the same time depress the accelerator pedal;
- (i) Accelerate evenly to about 30-35 km/h.

3rd Gear

- (j) Depress the clutch pedal and at the same time release the accelerator pedal;
- (k) Shift the gear lever from the 2nd and 3rd position;
- (l) Release the clutch pedal continuously in one motion and at the same time depress the accelerator pedal;
- (m) Accelerate evenly to about 40-45 km/h.

4th Gear / 5th Gear

- (n) The procedure is the same as with the 3rd gear. Once the 4th gear is engaged, accelerate gradually to normal cruising speed at 5th gear.

89 Gear changing involves frequent movements of hand and feet. Learner drivers tend to look down at the gear lever, pedals and feet while trying to co-ordinate them. Once this bad habit is formed, it is difficult to correct. It is dangerous to take your eyes away from the road, even for a little while, whilst driving.

90 This chart shows the approximate speed range of each gear.

