

# Driving-test swindler used mobiles to help candidates cheat on theory section

THE STICKING plasters and strange hats and headscarves alerted staff in the theory section of Palmers Green driving-test centre in north London. So they called police, who uncovered one of Britain's biggest detected driving-test scams.

Yesterday the man behind the fraud was jailed for two years. Police believe Michael Babayan, 49, earned an estimated £200,000 by helping 400 people cheat their way through the theory part of the driving test. Candidates using his services came from Bradford, Manchester and Bristol.

The trick worked by Babayan, from west London, provided would-be drivers with the correct answers over a live, two-way link through a concealed mobile phone. The hands-free system was concealed underneath a headscarf or hat. When the candidate took the test they would request a "voice-over" service, which was a computer system that provided a foreign translation. To receive the service candidates would have to wear large headphones - under which

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they would hide the small mobile phone earpiece - and listen to the questions.

The con-artist had worked at the north London testing centre as an approved freelance interpreter but he was refused work in March 2001 for gross misconduct. He placed adverts for his services in community halls and employed agents to recruit candidates. But he was caught red-handed when police raided his office as he was giving answers to a cheating customer.

He pleaded guilty to nine counts of obtaining or attempting to obtain property by deception at Wood Green Crown Court, north London. Six other defendants, including a bank clerk and a housewife, pleaded guilty to obtaining licenses by deception. They were fined and given community sentences.

Suspicion arose in July 2002, when staff at the Palmers Green centre noticed that an increasing number of people



**Michael Babayan: Sacked for gross misconduct**

taking tests were wearing headwear. A police spokesman said: "The security team observed applicants enter 348B High Road, Palmers Green, a premises used by Babayan, dressed normally, and leave for the test centre wearing scarves and hats. At the test centre they were seen with wires and sometimes sticking plaster between their collar and ears. Later, these same people were seen returning to 348B High Road, and leaving without the additional clothing."

Judge Linda Stern told Babayan: "You used your knowledge gained during your employment, abusing your trust to facilitate a well-planned and sophisticated operation, corrupting others and causing danger to the public for profit"

After the case, Detective Sergeant Brian Faulkner, from Enfield CID, said: "Babayan is believed to have accumulated £200,000 and assisted 400 people in obtaining the theory test certificates. This posed an obvious risk in that unqualified drivers were on the roads."

**PART I**

*Reading comprehension:*

*Answer the following questions connected with the text:*

- 1. What are the charges against Mr. Michael Babayan?  
 .....  
 ..... 2
- 2. What was the court’s verdict?  
 a. in case of Mr. Babayan: .....  
 b. his six victims: ..... 2
- 3. What was the nature of his offence?  
 .....  
 ..... 2
- 4. What kind of evidence was presented by the police team when they started their close observation of the centre?  
 .....  
 ..... 2
- 5. What were the judicial arguments supporting the sentence?  
 .....  
 ..... 2

**PART II**

*Vocabulary. Complete the diagram by changing the word in bold into a suitable form.*

Verb	Noun	Noun Agent	Adjective
1.	Suspicion	2.	----
3.	Fraud	4.	----
Plead	5.	----	----
6.	Deception	----	----
----	7.	----	Guilty
Corrupt	8.	----	9.
10.	----	swindler	----

**PART III** *Paraphrase the following sentences.*

1. It isn't necessary to pay at once.  
We .....
2. They probably stopped to do some shopping.  
They may .....
3. A mechanic has repaired their washing machine.  
They .....
4. The plane took off although the weather was awful.  
In spite .....
5. Help me with this suitcase, please.  
Would you mind .....
6. Everybody says he is a successful businessman.  
He .....
7. You didn't warn me, so I wasn't more careful.  
If .....
8. I haven't been to the theatre for ages.  
It's .....
9. Wordsworth lived in the Lake District. Many people consider him a great poet.  
Wordsworth, whom .....
10. "Why don't we go on the roller-coaster?", I said.  
I suggested .....

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**PART IV** *Use a suitable phrasal verb in the following sentences.*

1. As the salary was too low he eventually ..... (refuse) the job offer.
2. The live concert wasn't .....(cancel) despite the cold weather.
3. If you don't pay telephone bills you may expect it will be .....(disconnect)
4. When applying for a job you have to .....(complete) an application form.
5. Mr. N. Body was accused of .....(betray) the state secrets.
6. If there is substantial evidence, the criminal cannot count on being ..... (not punish).
7. The police are ..... (investigate) the new case of baby battering in London.
8. They .....the company ..... (gain control) by illicit manipulations on the Stock Exchange.
9. It is quite likely that they will ..... the problem .....(solve) amicably.
10. Hopefully you will soon ..... (recover) the examination stress.

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**PART V** *Answer the following questions*

1. Which is the highest court of appeal in Britain?  
..... 1
2. Give examples of three crimes occasioning bodily harm:  
-  
-  
- ..... 1
3. What is the difference between slander and libel?  
.....  
.....  
..... 2
4. Which modern British party originated from:  
- the Tories - .....  
- the Whigs - ..... 2
5. What is Shadow Cabinet?  
.....  
..... 2
6. Translate the following expressions and explain whose powers are these:  
- nadawać tytuł szlachecki : .....  
- zwoływać Parlament: .....  
- rozwiązywać Parlament: .....  
- podpisywać traktaty międzynarodowe: ..... 2
7. Who can become a judge in Britain?  
.....  
..... 2
8. Which courts are inferior in Britain?  
.....  
..... 2

9. Decide if the following statements are True or False writing T or F next to it. If the sentence is false explain why or correct it.

- a. There are four appeals in civil proceedings ..... 2
- b. Only barristers can represent their clients in higher courts ..... 2
- c. Justices of the Peace are usually chosen from among people who have legal education ..... 2
- d. There are 12 peers who are called Law Lords ..... 2

10. What are the names of the crimes which the following elements are associated:

- ransom ..... 1
- counterfeit money ..... 1
- state secrets ..... 1

11. What three sentences can be passed for driving a car without due care and attention?

- ..... 1
- ..... 1
- ..... 1

12. What are the three elements which make a contract binding?

- ..... 1
- ..... 1
- ..... 1

13. Who can vote in Britain?

.....  
.....  
..... 2

14. What does bicameral parliament mean? Give an example.

.....  
.....  
..... 2

15. Explain the terms:

- precedent ..... 2
- binding case ..... 2