

The Lantern Test

There are around three million people in the UK (approximately 8% of males and 0.5% of females) with some kind of colour vision deficiency (CVD). Most people with CVD are able to see things as clearly as other people but they are unable to fully 'see' red, green or blue light. Colour deficiency may have an impact upon a child's performance in school or on the sports field and may also affect a person's career options.

Who needs to take the Lantern Test?

Employees in certain roles must be able to recognise and differentiate between certain colours to operate safely. This is mainly those working with signals - for example, people who work on the railways, at sea or in the air. They will be required to undertake a Lantern Test. This test imitates an actual signal system. Those taking the test will be asked to name coloured lights (principally red, green, yellow and white) of controlled brightness, colour and size, usually in a dark room.

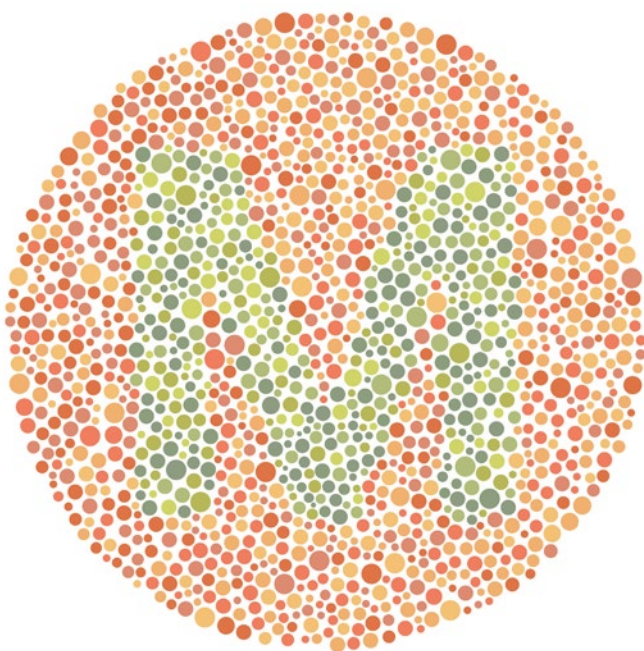


Most colour defective people are able to see things as clearly as other people but they are unable to fully 'see' red, green or blue light.

Where can I take the Lantern Test?

The Lantern Test is not usually carried out by community optometrists. If you would like to take the test, contact the universities below:

- City University Colour Vision Clinic 020 7040 0262 or email colourvision@city.ac.uk
city.ac.uk/avot/individual-tests/colour-vision-assessment-including-cad
- Glasgow Caledonian University Eye Clinic 0141 331 3377 or email colourvision@gcu.ac.uk
gcu.ac.uk/visioncentre/informationforpatients/specialistclinics/



The College is the professional body for optometry. It qualifies the profession and delivers the guidance and development to ensure optometrists provide the best possible care. Our members use MCOptom or FCOptom after their name. Membership of the College shows their commitment to the very highest clinical, ethical and professional standards. Look for the letters MCOptom or FCOptom to see if your optometrist is a member.

Visit lookafteryoureyes.org for more information

All our fact sheets are thoroughly researched and based on the most up-to-date scientific evidence and are regularly reviewed and updated. This fact sheet contains general information. It is always best to raise any specific concerns you may have with your optometrist.

