



## Safety check questions for the Car Driving Test (Show Me Tell Me)

This part of the test will be after the eyesight test and before the drive.

You will be asked to describe ('tell me') how to perform a check on the condition and safety of one component and demonstrate ('show me') an actual check on the condition of another. Incorrect or incomplete answers will be marked as a fault. In the practical learner test, only one driving fault is allocated to this section of the test.

**SAFETY:** The engine must be turned off before opening the bonnet and the coolant filler cap must never be removed when the engine is hot. Concerning the driving test the examiner does not want you to touch anything under the bonnet.

Some checks may require the ignition to be on – you must check that the handbrake is on and the gear lever is in neutral before touching the key. **DO NOT start the engine except for question 2.**

You must always read your cars manufacturer's handbook before driving it. Advice and information on how to carry out vehicle safety checks can alter for each make and model of car. The source material for the following advice can be found in the Official DSA publications: 'Guide to Driving, the Essential Skills' and 'Guide to Learning to Drive'.

1. **Show:** Open the bonnet, identify where you would check the engine oil level and tell me how you would check that the engine has sufficient oil.

Identify the oil dipstick / oil level indicator, and describe how to check that the oil level is between the minimum / maximum markers

2. **Show** me and explain how you would check that the power assisted steering is working before starting a journey.

If the steering is heavy the system may not be working properly. Before starting a journey two simple checks can be made. Gentle pressure on the steering wheel, maintained while the engine is started, should result in a slight but noticeable movement as the system begins to operate. Alternatively turning the steering wheel just after moving off will give an immediate indication that the power assistance is functioning.

3. **Show:** Open the bonnet, identify where you would check the engine coolant level and tell me how you would check that the engine has the correct level.

Identify minimum/maximum level markings on header tank where fitted or radiator filler cap, and describe how to top up to correct level. With the engine COLD and ideally parked on a level surface, carefully unscrew the cap and top up with the correct coolant (see manufacturers guide) to the maximum marker.

4. **Show** me how you would check the parking brake (handbrake) for excessive wear, make sure you keep safe control of the vehicle?

Apply the foot brake firmly. Demonstrate by applying the handbrake so that when it is fully applied it secures itself, and is not at the end of its working travel.

5. **Tell:** Identify where the windscreen washer reservoir is and tell me how you would check the windscreen washer level.

Identify the reservoir and explain how to check the level. On some cars, if you can't see the level, top up with windscreen washer fluid until you can see the level.

6. **Show** me how you would check that the horn is working (off road only).

Check is carried out by using the horn. (Turn on ignition if necessary, do not start the engine)

7. **Show:** Open the bonnet, identify where the brake fluid reservoir is and tell me how you would check that you have a safe level of hydraulic brake fluid.

Identify reservoir, check that the level is between the maximum and minimum markings.

8. **Show** me how you would check that the direction indicators are working

Apply the indicators or hazard warning switch and check functioning of all indicators. (Hazard lights do not require the ignition on but using the indicator stalk does).

9. **Show** me how you would check that the brake lights are working on this car.  
(I can assist you. You will need to switch the ignition on, **please do not start the engine**)

Operate the brake pedal, make use of reflections in windows, garage doors, etc., or ask someone to help.

10. **Tell** me how you would check that the brakes are working before starting a journey.

With the engine running the brakes should not feel spongy or slack. Brakes should be tested as you set off and check that the vehicle does not pull to one side. When testing it is also better to press down the clutch as to disengage any engine braking

11. **Tell** me how you would check that the headlights & tail lights are working.

Operate switch (turn on ignition if necessary), then walk round vehicle.  
(As this is a 'Tell Me' question, there is no need to physically check the lights.)

12. **Tell** me where you would find the information for the recommended tyre pressures for this car and how tyre pressures should be checked.

In the Manufacturer's guide (driver's handbook). Use a reliable pressure gauge, check and adjust pressures when tyres are cold, don't forget the spare tyre, and remember to refit the valve caps. (**Bar** approx = Kilogram force per square centimetre. **PSI** = Pounds per square inch)

13. **Tell** me how you would check the tyres to ensure that they have sufficient tread depth and that their general condition is safe to use on the road.

Use a tread depth gauge. Some tyres have built in tread gauges in the rubber:

- There must be at least 1.6mm of tread depth across the central  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the width of the tyre and around the entire outer circumference.
- There must be no cuts or bulges on the inner or outer tyre walls.

14. **Show** me how you would clean the windscreen using the windscreen washer and wipers.

Operate control to wash and wipe windscreen (turn ignition on)

15. **Show** me how you would set the demister controls to clear all the windows effectively, this should include both front and rear screens.

Set all relevant controls, including fan, temperature, air direction / source & heated screen to clear windscreen and windows. (Turn ignition on).

16. **Show** me how you would switch on the rear fog light(s) and explain when you would use it/them. (No need to exit vehicle)

Operate switch; turn on dipped headlights (turn on ignition, if necessary, but without starting the engine). Check warning light is on. Explain use, only when the visibility is less than 100 metres.

17. **Show** me how you switch your headlights from dipped to main beam and explain how you would know the main beam is on whilst inside the car.

Operate switch (with ignition or engine on if necessary), check with main beam warning light.

18. **Tell** me how you make sure your head restraint is correctly adjusted so it provides the best protection in the event of a crash.

The head restraint should be adjusted so the rigid part of the head restraint is at least as high as the eye or top of the ears, and as close to the back of the head as is comfortable.  
NB: Some head restraints might not be adjustable.

19. **Tell** me how you would know if there was a problem with your anti lock braking system.

Warning light should illuminate if there is a fault with the anti lock braking system. (Point to the position of this Light).

Please recap and familiarize yourself with all the car controls before your Test  
It is important that you continue to carry out these routine checks once you have passed your test