

DIAMOND

SCHOOL OF MOTORING

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Information about the “show me – tell me” part of the practical car driving test.

Vehicle safety questions are basic safety checks that a driver should carry out to ensure the vehicle is safe for use. Although some checks may involve the candidate opening the bonnet to identify where fluid levels would be checked, candidates will not be asked to touch a hot engine or physically check fluid levels. Candidates will be asked two questions, one ‘show me’ and one ‘tell me’.

Open the bonnet and identify:

- Where you would check the engine oil level and tell me how you would check that the engine has sufficient oil.
- Where you would check the engine coolant level and tell me how you would check that the engine has the correct level.
- Where the windscreen washer reservoir is and tell me how you would check the windscreen washer level.
- Where the brake fluid reservoir is and tell me how you would check that you have a safe level of hydraulic brake fluid.

Tell me how you would check that:

- The brake lights are working on this car.
- The brakes are working before starting a journey.
- The tyres have sufficient tread depth and that their general condition is safe to use on the road.
- The power assisted steering is working before starting a journey.
- Your head restraint is correctly adjusted.
- The windscreen washer and wipers are working.
- How would you know if there was a problem with the ABS

Show me how you would check:

- Headlights & taillights are working.
- Direction indicators are working.
- Horn is working (off road only).
- Handbrake for excessive wear.
- The windscreen washer and wipers are working.
- Set the demister controls to clear front and back windows effectively.
- Switch on the rear fog lights and explain when you would use them.
- Switch your headlight from dipped to main beam.

Tell me how you would check that:

- *The power assisted steering is working before starting a journey.*

If the steering becomes 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.

- *The brakes are working before starting a journey.*

Brakes should not feel spongy or slack. Brakes should be tested as you set off. Vehicle should not pull to one side.

- *The tyres have sufficient tread depth and that their general condition is safe to use on the road.*

No cuts and bulges, 1.6mm of tread depth across the central $\frac{3}{4}$ of the breadth of the tyre and around the entire circumference. Tyre pressures can be found in the manufacturers guide. Use a reliable pressure gauge and adjust pressure when tyres are cold. Remember to replace the valve caps.

Show me how you would check:

- *Handbrake for excessive wear.*

Demonstrate by applying the parking brake that when it is fully applied it secures itself, and is not at the end of the working travel.

- *Your head restraint is correctly adjusted.*

The head restraint should be adjusted so the rigid part of the head restraint is at least as high as the eye or tops of the ears, and as close to the back of the head as is comfortable.