

## Show Me, Tell Me vehicle safety checks.

### Questions and Answers

The following are actual questions used by driving examiners at the start of your driving test. For ease of studying we have grouped them into their respective subject category. There are nineteen questions and the examiner will select two.

#### Under Bonnet

**Question 1: 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?**

A. Candidate opens the bonnet and identifies the dip stick and describes how to remove the dip stick wipe it clean, re-insert it and remove it to read the level against the minimum and maximum marks and how they would top up if necessary.

**Question 2: Open the bonnet and identify where you would check the engine coolant level and tell me how you would check that the engine has the correct level.**

A. Candidate opens the bonnet, points to the coolant expansion tank and explains that they would (check the level normally with a cold engine) look to see where the coolant was in respect to the maximum/ minimum marks and how they would top up if necessary.

**Question 3: 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?**

A. Candidate opens the bonnet and points to the brake fluid reservoir and says that they would check the fluid against the maximum and minimum marks

**Question 4: Identify where the windscreen washer reservoir is and tell me how you would check the windscreen washer level?**

A. Candidate would open the bonnet and point to the windscreen washer reservoir bottle and explain how they would check the level and adjust if required with a solution of water and windscreen washer additive.

#### Brakes

**Question 1: Tell me how you would check the brakes are working BEFORE starting a journey?**

A. Candidate would explain that they would press the brake pedal and if it moves freely and is firm to push, the brakes are working. If the pedal is spongy and travels quite a bit, the brakes require attention. If the pedal goes to the floor, the brakes are not working and the car should not be driven. Brakes should be tested as you set off and the car should not pull to one side when the brakes are applied.

**Question 2: Tell me how you would know if there was a problem with your anti-lock braking system (ABS)?**

A. The ABS warning light on the dashboard should illuminate and stay illuminated after the engine has been started if there is a fault with the anti lock braking system.

**Question 3: Show me how you would check the parking brake (Handbrake) for excessive wear: make sure you keep safe control of the car?**

A. Candidate demonstrates by applying the foot break and releasing the parking brake before applying it without pushing in the button and listening for approximately 5 clicks i.e. fully applied so that when fully applied it secures itself. Any more than 5 clicks would normally suggest excessive wear and require maintenance.

## Exterior Lights

**Question 1: Tell me how you would check the headlights and tail lights (rear lights) are working? (No need to exit the vehicle)**

A. Candidate turns on the ignition, switches on parking / headlights. This is a tell me, not show me question. Switch off all lights and ignition.

**Question 2: Show me how you would check the brake lights are working on this car? (Examiner can assist you). If you need to switch the ignition on, please don't start the engine.**

A. Candidate says that they would check switch on the ignition, press the brake pedal and someone check that all three brake lights were working. If no assistance is available, check the reflections on garage door, windows etc when operating the pedal. Then switch off ignition.

**Question 3: Show me how you would check the direction indicators are working?**

A. Candidate would switch on the ignition, switch on the left indicators, walk around the car and check all three lights are flashing at between one and two flashes per second. They would need to repeat the exercise with the right indicators. Alternatively without turning on the ignition the hazard warning switch could be operated then walk around the vehicle. They would then switch off indicators and ignition or switch off hazards.

**Question 4: 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?**

A. Candidate starts engine and turn on the headlight switch then operating the indicator stalk either forwards or backwards to change headlights from dipped to main beam. Then point to blue warning light shown on the dashboard.

## Tyres

**Question 1: Tell me where you would find the information for the recommended tyre pressures for the car and how tyre pressure should be checked?**

A. Candidate would say that the tyre pressure can be found in Owner's Handbook or chart behind fuel flap or inside drivers door. Tyres should be cold i.e. car not moved. Using a reliable pressure gauge to check the pressure, remove dust caps, check pressure, adjust if required then refit dust caps. Also check spare tyre.

**Question 2: Tell me how you would check tyres to ensure that they have sufficient tread depth and that their general condition is safe to use on the road.**

A. Candidate explains that there must be 1.6 mm of tread depth across the three quarters breadth of the tyre and at least a visible tread pattern across the outer circumference. There should be no cuts longer than 25 mm or cuts where the inner cords have been exposed or bulges on the side walls and that the tyre pressure are to manufactures recommendations (see owners handbook or chart behind fuel flap or inside drivers door).

## Minor Controls and other related items

Question 1: Tell me how you would make sure your head restraint is correctly adjusted so it provides the best protection in the event of a crash?

A. The head restraint should be adjusted so that the middle of the cushion is at the level of your eyes and as close to the back of the head as comfortable if it tilts forwards and backwards. If the middle of the cushion can't reach the height of the eyes then the cushion should be raised as high as possible without raising the cushion beyond its maximum designed height. N.B some head restraints are non adjustable e.g. Volvo/ SAAB.

Question 2: Show me/explain how you would check that the power assisted steering (PAS) is working BEFORE starting a journey?

A. Candidate says if the PAS warning light is shown on the dashboard after starting the engine or the steering is heavy to turn the system may not be working. A simple check is to see if the steering wheel moves slightly when moved it fractionally to the left or right

Question 3: Show me how you would check that the horn is working (off road exercise only)

A. Candidate would switch on the ignition and press the horn and listen for the horn sound, then switch off the ignition

Question 4: Show me how you would clean the windscreen using the windscreen washers and wipers?

A. Candidate would turn on the ignition, then operate the front (and rear if fitted) wash/wipe function(s). When the cycle has finished turn off wiper controls and ignition.

Questions 5: Show me how you would set the demister controls to clear the window effectively; this should include both front and rear windscreens?

A. Set all relevant controls including: fan temperatures, air direction/ source and heated rear screen to clear windscreen and windows. For cars with air conditioning there may be a switch that automatically operates the fan and directs the air to the front windscreen. Some cars might have a heated front windscreen e.g. Ford cars and therefore have a separate switch.