



## 'Show me - Tell me' Questions for the practical driving test

You will be asked two questions about carrying out vehicle safety checks – one 'show me' question (where you'll show the examiner specific areas within the vehicle) and one 'tell me' question. Failure on one or both questions will only result in a minor fault.

### Under the bonnet

Open the bonnet and show me how you would check the engine oil level.

Identify and remove the dipstick, wipe the dipstick with a cloth and then reinsert, remove again and check between the minimum and maximum markers. This should be done on a cold engine on level ground.

Open the bonnet and tell me how you would check there is sufficient engine coolant.

Identify the coolant tank and check on the side if the level is between the minimum and maximum markings. If the coolant is below the minimum mark then more coolant will need to be added. Unscrew the cap and pour in coolant until the maximum mark is reached. This should be done on a cold engine on level ground.

Open the bonnet and show me how you would check the brake fluid level.

Identify brake fluid reservoir and check there is sufficient brake fluid using the minimum/maximum markings. This should be done on a cold engine on level ground.

Open the bonnet and show me how you would check there is sufficient windscreen washer fluid.

Identify windscreen washer fluid reservoir and look for minimum and maximum markings or a warning light might show on the dashboard. Some reservoirs have floats or dipsticks, other need to be topped up regularly as there is no way of telling how much fluid is in the reservoir. It is illegal to run out of windscreen washer fluid.

### Other

Show me how you would check that the brake lights are working on this vehicle.

Turn the ignition on. Operate the brake pedal, make use of a reflective surface (such as a window or garage door) or ask someone to stand at the back and check.

Show me how you would check the indicators are working on this vehicle.

Apply the hazard warning lights and walk around the vehicle checking all indicator lights.

Show me how to operate the sidelights on this vehicle.

Turn the ignition on. Identify light switch and turn it to the sidelight position (ask your driving instructor to show you before the test)

Show me how you would operate dipped headlights.

Turn the ignition on. Identify light switch and turn to dipped position (ask your driving instructor to show you before the test)

Show me how you would switch between main beam and dipped headlights and how you would know when the main beam was on.

Turn the ignition on. Identify light switch (usually the indicator switch). Turn on dipped headlights and then toggle the main beam switch (instructor to show you where it is). You know when the main beam is on because you get a blue warning light on the dashboard.

Show me how you would check that the headlights and taillights are working on this vehicle.

Turn the ignition on. Switch on dipped headlights (or main beam) and walk around the vehicle to check they are working.



### 'Show me - Tell me' Questions for the practical driving test (cont.)

Show me how you would apply the fog lights and when to use them.

Turn the ignition on. Put the headlights on and then switch on the fog lights (ask instructor for switch location). We would use them when visibility is less than 100 metres.

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

Start the engine and turn the steering wheel. If it is light and easy to turn then it is working, however, if it is heavy and difficult to turn then the steering may be faulty. If it is not working restart the engine and check again. Turning the steering wheel just after moving off will also give an immediate indication that the power assisted steering is operating correctly.

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 and heated screen to clear windscreen and windows. The engine does not need to be started for this demonstration.

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

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

Show me how you would check the brakes are working before starting a journey.

Start the engine and apply the brakes. They should not feel spongy or move all the way to the floor. When moving, the vehicle should not pull to one side.

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

Press the horn and listen (turn on ignition if necessary).

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

The warning light should illuminate if there is a fault with the anti-lock braking system.

Tell me how to make sure your head restraint is correctly adjusted so that 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. Remember that some restraints might not be adjustable.

Tell me where you would find the information for the recommended tyre pressures for this vehicle and how would you check the pressures.

Information is provided in the manufacturer's guide. Use a reliable pressure gauge. Check and adjust pressures when tires are cold. Remember to refit valve caps. Do not forget you have a spare tire tyre!

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

A safe tyre will have no cuts or bulges in the side walls. The tread depth should be at least 1.6mm across the central three-quarters of the breadth of the tyre and around the entire outer circumference. Each illegal tyre will result in a fine and 3 penalty points on the driver's licence.