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[Streetwize School of Motoring](#)

Show Me Tell Me

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Show me tell me

At the start of your practical driving test you will be asked two questions, one show me and one tell me, these questions relate to the general maintenance of your vehicle. You do not need to be a qualified motor mechanic, they are walk round checks something a professional driver is expected to do every day, sadly non professionals do not get into this routine.

The questions can be grouped into four main areas:

1. Inside the car
2. Lights
3. Tyres
4. Under the bonnet

Inside the car:

- How to check the hand/parking brake is working
- How to check the horn is working
- How to check power steering is working
- How to check the foot brake is working

Lights

- How to check the direction indicators are working
- How to check headlights and tail lights are working
- How to check brake lights are working

Tyres

- How to find the correct tyre pressure
- How to check tyre pressures
- How to check tyre tread depth
- What to check on the rest of the tyre

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Preset combination of questions

The DSA have preset the question combinations, this is to ensure a fair test results, failure to answer one or both of these questions will be marked as one driver fault, although this may change in the future.

Q1

Open bonnet, identify where you would check the engine oil level and **TELL ME** how you would check the engine has sufficient oil.

SHOW ME/EXPLAIN how you would check that the power steering is working before starting a journey.

Q2

Open bonnet, identify where you would check the engine coolant level and **TELL ME** how you would check the engine has the correct level.

SHOW ME how you would check the hand /parking brake for excessive wear.

Q3

Identify where the windscreen washer reservoir is and **TELL ME** how you would check the windscreen washer level.

SHOW ME how you would check the horn is working.

Q4

Open the bonnet, identify where the brake fluid reservoir is and **TELL ME** how you would check the safe level of hydraulic brake fluid.

SHOW ME how you would check that the direction indicators are working.

Q5

TELL ME how you would check that the brake lights are working on this car.

SHOW ME how you would check the hand/parking brake for excessive ware.

Q6

TELL ME how you would check that the foot brakes are working before a journey.

SHOW ME how you would check the headlights and tail lights are working.

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Q7

TELL ME how you would find the information for the recommended tyre pressures for this vehicle.

SHOW ME how you would check the direction indicators are working.

Q8

TELL ME how you would check that the tyres to ensure they had sufficient tread depth and that their general condition is safe on the road.

SHOW ME how you would check the headlights and tail lights are working.

Q9

TELL ME how you would check the tyres to ensure they had sufficient tread depth and that their general condition is safe on the road.

SHOW ME how you would check the horn is working.

Q10

Open the bonnet, identify where the brake fluid is and **TELL ME** how you would check the safe level of hydraulic brake fluid.

SHOW ME/EXPLAIN how you would check that the power steering is working before starting a journey.

Q11

Open bonnet, identify where you would check the engine oil level and **TELL ME** how you would check the engine has sufficient oil.

SHOW ME how you would check the headlights and tail lights are working.

Q12

Open bonnet, identify where you would check the engine coolant level and **TELL ME** how you would check the engine has the correct level.

SHOW ME how you would check the headlights and tail lights are working.

The answers

The information you need to know, so that you can answer the questions, can be found in *Driving – Essential skills* and in the car manufactures handbook

The following summarises the responses the DSA will be looking for on the practical driving test.

Under the bonnet:

How to check the oil level against the minimum/maximum markers

- Identify dipstick/oil level indicator, describe checking oil level against the minimum/maximum markers

Source: *Driving – Essential skills*. Part 5 page 65. Part 14 pages 268-269 *

How to check the engine coolant level

- Identify high/low level markings on header tank where fitted or radiator filler cap, and describe how to top up to correct level

Source: *Driving – Essential skills*. Part 5 page 65. Part 14 page 270 *

How to check the windscreen washer reservoir level

- Identify reservoir; explain how to check the level

Source: *Driving – Essential skills*. Part 5 page 65. Part 14 pages 272 & 278 *

How to check the hydraulic brake fluid reservoir level

- Identify reservoir; check the level against the high/low markings

Source: *Driving – Essential skills*. Part 5 page 65. *

Inside the car:

How to 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.

Source: *Driving – Essential skills*. Part 3 page 35. Part 14 pages 272 & 278 *

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How to check the parking brake for excessive wear

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

Source: *Driving – Essential skills*. Part 14 pages 272 & 278 *

How to check the horn is working

- Check is carried out by using the control

Source: *Driving – Essential skills*. Part 14 page 276 *

How to check 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.

Source: *Driving – Essential skills*. Part 14 pages 272 & 278 *

Lights:

How to check the direction indicators are working

- Applying the indicators or hazard warning switch and checking functioning of all indicators

Source: *Driving – Essential skills*. Part 14 page 276 *

How to check the brake lights are working

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

Source: *Driving – Essential skills*. Part 14 page 276 *

How to check that the headlights and tail lights are working

- Operate switch (turn on ignition if necessary), walk around the vehicle

Source: *Driving – Essential skills*. Part 5 page 65. Part 14 page 276 *

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Tyres:

Where to find information for the recommended tyre pressures and how tyre pressures should be checked

- Manufacturer's guide, use a reliable pressure gauge, check and adjust pressures when tyres are cold, don't forget spare tyre.
- Remember to refit valve caps

Source: *Driving – Essential skills*. Part 14 pages 272, 274 & 275 *

How to check tread depth on tyres and that their general condition is safe to use on the road

- No cuts and bulges, 1.6mm tread depth across the central of the breadth of the tyre and around the entire outer circumference

Source: *Driving – Essential skills*. Part 14 pages 272, 274 & 275 *

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**Answer information obtained from Driving – Essential Skills available at Waterstone book store or any large good book store*

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