


Vehicle Safety Check Questions

Key

 Black question

 Green answer

These are checks as a driver should know how to carry out to ensure that you're driving safely, legally and avoiding expensive repairs.

You will be asked a combination of two of these questions at the start of your practical driving assessment if you answer one question incorrectly out of the two you will receive a driving fault.

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.

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

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

Identify high/low level markings on the header tank (where fitted) or the radiator filler cap and describe how to top up to the correct level.

3. Identify where the window screen washer reservoir is and tell me how you would check the windscreen washer level.

Identify reservoir and explain how to check the level.

4. 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 the level against high/low markings.

5. Tell me how you would check that your brake lights are working on this vehicle.

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

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

The brake pedal should not feel slack or spongy when depressed. The brakes should be tested as you set off and the vehicle should not pull to one side.

7. Tell me how you would check the tyres to ensure that they have sufficient tread depth and that they're of good general condition and safe to use on the road.

There should be no cuts or bulges. The legal requirement is 1.6mm of tread depth across the central $\frac{3}{4}$ quarters of the breadth of the tyre and around the entire outer circumference.

8. Tell me where you would find the information for the recommended tyre pressure for this vehicle and how the tyre pressure should be checked.

Manufactures guide/vehicle owners manual. Use a reliable tyre pressure gauge/air line. Check and adjust pressures when the tyres are cold. Don't forget the spare tyre and remember to re-fit valve dust caps.

9. Show me (or explain) how you would check that the power assisted steering is working before starting a journey.

Two simple checks can be made before starting a journey. Apply pressure on the steering wheel, (left or right) whilst the engine is started this should result in a slight but noticeable movement as the system begins to operate. Alternatively if the steering becomes heavy after moving off the system may not be working properly.

10. Show me how you would check that the headlights and tail lights are working.

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

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

Apply the indicators separately or operate the hazard warning switch and check the function by walking around the vehicle.

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

The check is carried out by using control (horn) off road only.

13. Show me how you would check the parking brake for excessive wear.

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

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

Adjust the head restraint so that it is close to the back of your head as possible and your eyes are half way up .

15. Tell me how you would know if there was a problem with your antilock braking system.

The ABS warning light would become illuminated on the instrument panel if there was a problem.

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

Operate windscreen washer control. (turn on ignition if necessary).

17. 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 air vents at both sides to point towards the side windows , use the controls switch to direct hot air onto the windscreen, then operate the fan, press heated rear screen switch to clear rear window.

18. Show me how you would switch on the rear fog light(s) and explain when you would need to use them.

Operate the rear fog light switch after switching on the dipped headlights. Check the switch is illuminated and explain that they should only be used when visibility is reduced to 100 meters or less.

19. Show me how you would switch your headlights from dipped to main beam, and explain how you would know the main beam is on whilst in the car.

Move the stalk attached to the steering column in the direction which will illuminate a blue warning light on the instrument panel.