

Safety check questions for practical car tests

You will be asked one of these tell me questions at the start of your driving test:

1. Tell me how you'd check that 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.

2. Tell me where you'd find the information for the recommended tyre pressures for this car 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.

3. Tell me how you make sure your head restraint is correctly adjusted so 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. Note: Some restraints might not be adjustable.

4. Tell me how you'd check the tyres to ensure that they 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 three-quarters of the breadth of the tyre, and around the entire outer circumference of the tyre.

5. Tell me how you'd check that the headlights and tail lights are working. You don't need to exit the vehicle.

Explain you'd operate the switch (turn on ignition if necessary), then walk round vehicle (as this is a 'tell me' question, you don't need to physically check the lights).

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

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

7. Tell me how you'd check the direction indicators are working. You don't need to exit the vehicle.

Explain you'd operate the switch (turn on ignition if necessary), and then walk round vehicle (as this is a 'tell me' question, you don't need to physically check the lights).

8. Tell me how you'd check the brake lights are working on this car.

Explain you'd operate the brake pedal, make use of reflections in windows or doors, or ask someone to help.

9. Tell me how you'd check 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, 2 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.

10. Tell me how you'd switch on the rear fog light(s) and explain when you'd use it/them. You don't need to exit the vehicle.

Operate switch (turn on dipped headlights and ignition if necessary). Check warning light is on. Explain use.

11. Tell me how you switch your headlight from dipped to main beam and explain how you'd know the main beam is on.

Operate switch (with ignition or engine on if necessary), check with main beam warning light.

12. Open the bonnet and tell me how you'd check that the engine has sufficient oil.

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

13. Open the bonnet and tell me how you'd check that the engine has sufficient engine coolant.

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

14. Open the bonnet and tell me how you'd check that you have a safe level of hydraulic brake fluid.

Identify reservoir, check level against high and low markings.

You will be asked one of the following show me questions whilst on the move, if you can't do it, the examiner may pull up and park and explain how to do before setting off and then doing it. If you lose control of the car you may pick up a serious fault.

1. When it's safe to do so, can you show me how you wash and clean the rear windscreen?
2. When it's safe to do so, can you show me how you wash and clean the front windscreen?
3. When it's safe to do so, can you show me how you'd switch on your dipped headlights?
4. When it's safe to do so, can you show me how you'd set the rear demister?
5. When it's safe to do so, can you show me how you'd operate the horn?
6. When it's safe to do so, can you show me how you'd demist the front windscreen?
7. When it's safe to do so, can you show me how you'd open and close the side window?

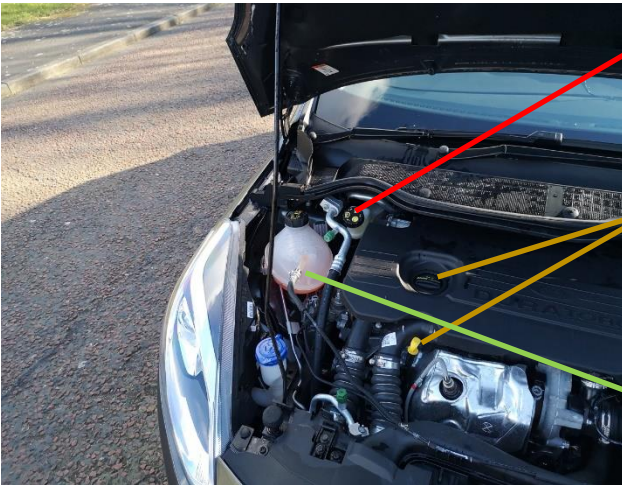


Tyre Valve.

Use when checking tyre pressures. Find recommended tyre pressures in manual. Use Pressure gauge to check pressure and make sure it is the same as pressure in manual. Decrease or increase as necessary. Check when tyres are cold, always check spare and remember to refit valve caps.

Tyre tread depth.

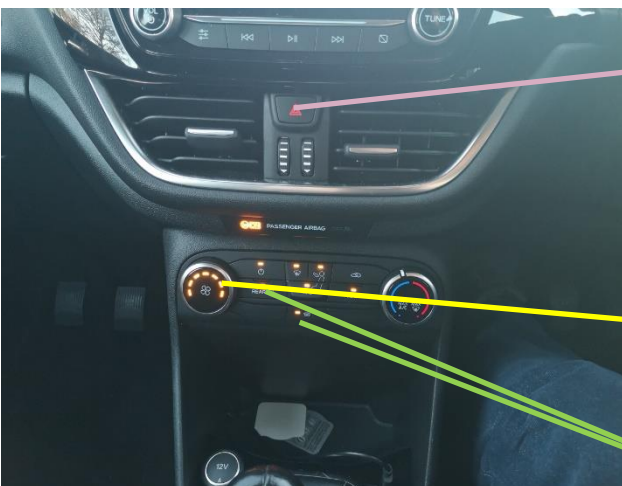
Firstly, check tyres for any damage, cuts or bulges in outer wall. Tread should be 1.6mm around entire circumference and across the central 3/4 of the tyre.



Brake Fluid. Identify and check level.

Engine oil and dipstick. Identify and explain how to check oil using dipstick. Remember to wipe dipstick before using.

Engine coolant. Identify and check level.



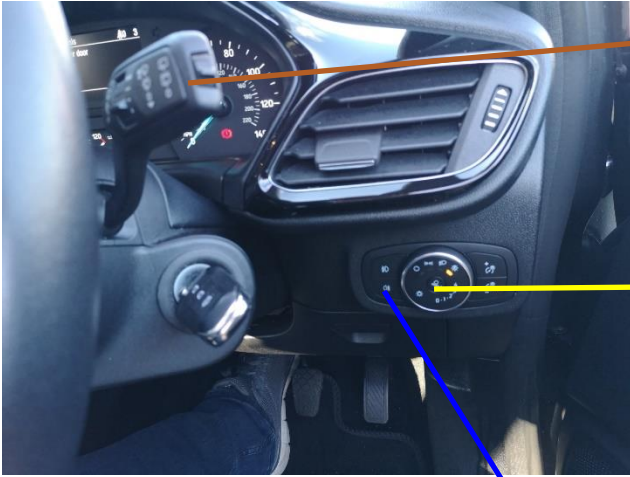
Directional indicators. All directional indicators can be turned on by pressing the hazard lights. or you can use the indicator arm as per driving. You have to have engine on to use indicator arm.

Demist windows by altering the:

air speed and temperature

direction of flow using the air con

heated front and rear windows



To wash windscreen pull the arm toward you, to wash the back window push away from you.

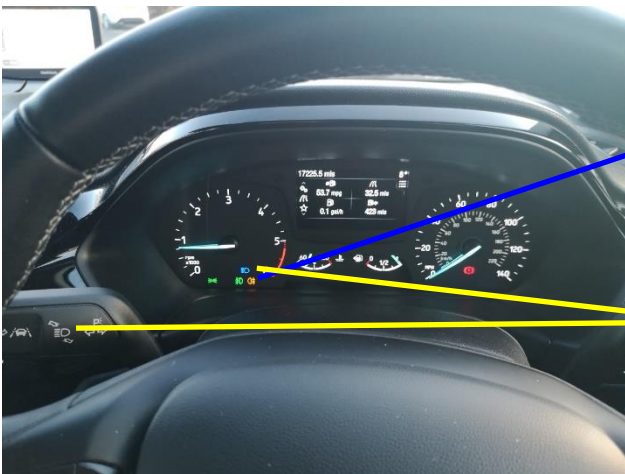
Light settings from left to right:

Off—daytime running lights

Side lights

Dipped headlights

Automatic lights—if bright day when no lights are on turn to dipped headlights to check lights



Orange and Green lights are on when fog lights are on. Turn to dipped headlights then press both the front and rear fog light buttons. Fog lights can only be used when visibility is less than 100m

Blue light is on when main beam is turned on. You turn the main beam on by turning lights to dipped headlights then pushing indicator arm away from



Make sure ABS light goes out when the engine is started