

Awareness Driver Training

Practical Maintenance Checks 2008

The following questions and answers refer to the 'Show Me – Tell Me' aspect of the Driving Standards Agency practical driving test. These are effective from 1st July 2008. Below are the questions that may be asked by the examiner. The candidate will be asked *two* of the following questions.

Q1. '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'.

A1. Identify dipstick/oil level indicator, describe check of oil level against the minimum/maximum markers.

Q2. 'Show me/explain how you would check that the power assisted steering is working before starting a journey'.

A2. 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 wheel just after moving off will give an immediate indication that the power assistance is functioning.

Q3. 'Open the bonnet, identify where you would check the engine coolant level and tell me how you would check that the engine has the correct level'.

A3. Identify high/low markings on the header tank where fitted or radiator filler cap, and describe how to top up to the correct level.

Q4. 'Show me how you would check the parking brake for excessive wear. Make sure you keep safe control of the vehicle'.

A4. Apply footbrake firmly. Demonstrate by applying parking brake so that when it is fully applied it secures itself, and is not at the end of the working travel.

Q5. 'Identify where the windscreen washer reservoir is and tell me how you would check the windscreen washer level'.

A5. Identify reservoir and explain how to check level.

Q6. 'Show me how you would check the horn is working' (off road only).

A6. Check is carried out by using control (turning on ignition if necessary).

Q7. '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'.

A7. Identify reservoir, check level against high/low markings.

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Q8. 'Show me how you would check that the direction indicators are working'.

A8. Applying the indicators or hazard warning switch and checking functioning of all indicators. (May need to switch on ignition, but do not start engine).

Q9. 'Show me how you would check that the brake lights are working on this car. (I can assist you. If you need to switch the ignition on, please do not start the engine)'.

A9. Operate brake pedal, make use of reflections in windows, garage doors, etc, or ask someone to help. (May need to switch on ignition – do not start engine!)

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Q10. 'Tell me how you would check the brakes are working before starting a journey'.

A10. Brakes should not feel spongy or slack. Brakes should be tested as you set off. Vehicle should not pull to one side.

Q11. 'Tell me how you would check that the headlights and tail lights are working'. (No need to exit vehicle).

(Explanation) Operate switch, (turning on ignition if necessary), then walk around vehicle.

Q12. 'Tell me where you would find the recommended tyre pressures for this car and how the tyre pressures should be checked'.

A12. Manufacturer's guide, use a reliable pressure gauge, check and adjust pressures when the tyres are cold, not forgetting the spare, and remember to refit the valve caps.

Q13. 'Tell me how you would check the tyres to ensure they have sufficient tread depth and that their general condition is safe to use on the road'.

A13. No cuts or bulges. 1.6mm of tread depth across the central $\frac{3}{4}$ of the breadth of the tyre and around the entire outer circumference.

Q14. 'Show me how you would clean the windscreen using the windscreen washer and wipers'.

A14. Operate control to wash and wipe windscreen turning on the ignition if necessary.

Q15. 'Show me how you would set the demister controls to clear all the windows effectively, this should include both front and rear screens'.

A15. Set all relevant controls including; fan temperature, air direction / source and heated screen to clear windscreen and windows. Engine does not have to be started for this demonstration.

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Q16. 'Show me how you would switch on the rear fog light(s) and explain when you would use it/them.' (No need to exit vehicle).

A16. Operate switch. (Turn on dipped headlights and ignition if necessary). Check warning light is on. Explain use.

Q17. 'Show me how you would switch your headlight from dipped to main beam and explain how you would know the main beam is on whilst in the car'.

A17. Operate switch (with ignition or engine on if necessary). Check main beam warning light.

Q18. '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'.

A18. 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 is as close to the back of the head as is comfortable. N.B Some restraints might not be adjustable.

Q19. 'Tell me how you would know if there was a problem with your anti lock braking system'.

A19. Warning light should illuminate if there is a fault with the anti lock braking system.