



PARAGON DRIVING SCHOOL

“Show me, tell me” Vehicle safety questions from December 2017

The examiner will ask you one:

- ‘Tell me’ question (where you explain how you’d carry out a safety task) at the start of your test, before you start driving
- And one ‘show me’ question (where you show how you’d carry out a safety task) while you’re driving

‘Tell me’ questions - (Before you start driving)

1. Tell me how you’d check that the brakes are working before starting a journey.

Brake pedal should not feel spongy or slack. Brakes should be tested as you set off. Vehicle should not pull to one side or make any grinding noise.

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 and/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 in tyre walls, 1.6mm minimum of tread depth across the central three-quarters of the breadth of the tyre, and around the entire outer circumference of the tyre. Remove anything that has got caught in the treads as these can work their way into the tyre and cause damage. As you will not be able to see the whole of the tyre from its position you then need to drive the car forward slightly to check the remaining unseen parts of the tyres.

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 indicator switch or the hazard warning switch (turn on ignition if necessary), and then walk round vehicle checking all six indicator lights are working (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 switch on the ignition, press the brake pedal, make use of reflections in windows or doors, or ask someone to confirm they are working.

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, plus a warning light will illuminate if there is a fault!

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 that you use fog lights if visibility is less than 100 metres.

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, the dipstick will tell you the amount of oil in the engine. It needs to be checked regularly especially before a long journey. You should check the oil while the engine is cold and ensure that the vehicle is on a level area and not on a slope. Describe how you would take out the dipstick, dry it with a cloth and then put it back into the oil reservoir and remove to check the level. Then explain how the oil level needs to be in between the minimum and maximum markers for the oil level to be sufficient.

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

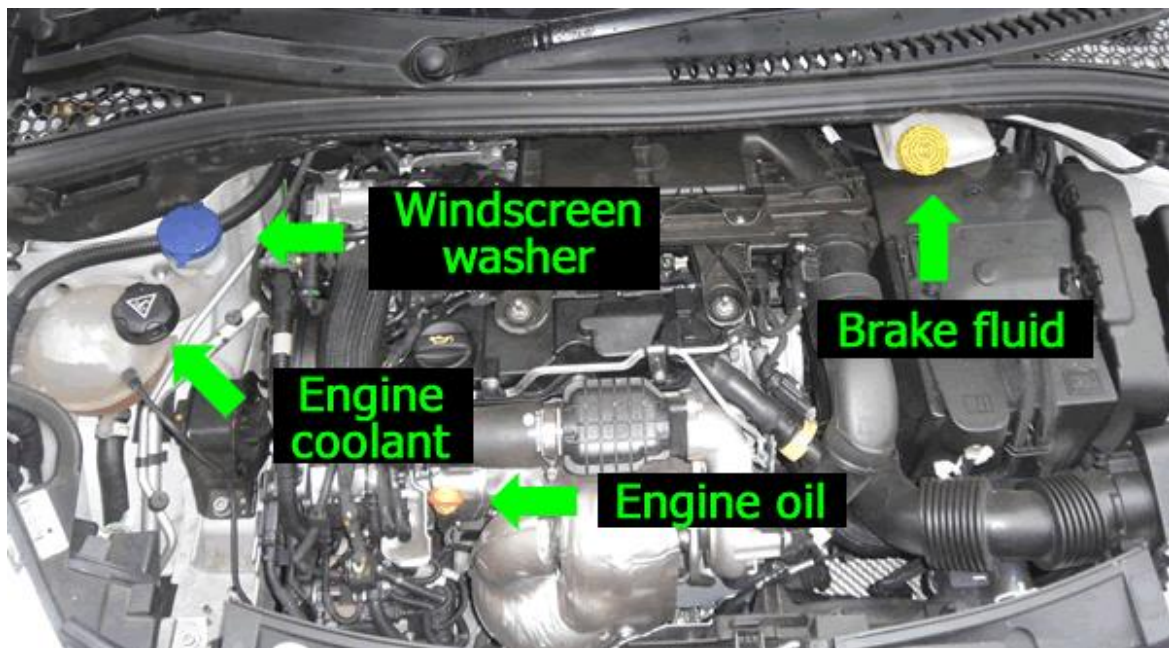
Identify high and low level markings on header tank where fitted or radiator filler cap, and describe how you would add more coolant or anti-freeze only when the engine is cold, never when it's hot. It should be checked regularly and before any long journey.

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.

15. Open the bonnet and tell me how you'd check the windscreen washer reservoir level.

Identify the windscreen washer reservoir and explain that you would look at the liquid level and if necessary top it up. Check regularly and before a long journey.



‘Show me’ questions - (While you are driving)

- 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?**

**Please also check out the
“Show me” and “Tell me” videos on
www.paragon-wakefield-driving-school.co.uk**