

Show Me, Tell Me for Car Drivers:

Candidates must answer two vehicle safety questions during their driving test. Known as 'show me, tell me' questions, they cover basic maintenance and operation procedures for the vehicle being used. You may be asked to open the bonnet of the car to identify fluid reservoirs and explain how you would check fluid levels. Your trainer will advise you how to make these checks safely on your driving test vehicle. During your test you will not be asked to touch a hot engine or physically check fluid levels. Examiners might not ask the questions exactly as stated below and neither are you obliged to answer exactly as described. The most important thing is that the examiner can judge that you understand the risks and know your car.

Wear disposable gloves for under-bonnet checks and a high-visibility vest when making safety checks outside the vehicle on the public highway.

'Tell Me' questions are asked at the start of your test, before you start driving. You will be asked to explain how you'd carry out a safety task. These are the questions you may be asked with the minimum required for a correct answer.

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

A: Explain that, when you push down on the brake pedal, it should not feel spongy or slack. Brakes should be tested as you set off. The vehicle should not pull to one side when you use the brakes.

Supplementary questions to discuss with your trainer.

How should you test the brakes as you set off?
What should you do if the brakes don't seem to be working properly?

Q Tell me where you'd find the information for the recommended tyre pressures for this car and how tyre pressures should be checked.

A: Explain you'd refer to the manufacturer's guide. Use a reliable pressure gauge. Check and adjust pressures when tyres are cold. Don't forget the spare tyre! Remember to refit valve caps after checking.

Where is tyre pressure information commonly displayed?
How does vehicle loading and journey type affect recommended tyre pressures?
Why check pressures when tyres are cold?
What if you have a 'space-saver' or tyre repair kit instead of a full size spare?



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

A: Adjust so that 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 (you can demonstrate as you explain).

What is the danger of not adjusting your head restraint correctly?
Who should ensure that passenger head restraints are correctly adjusted?



Note: Some restraints might not be adjustable.

Q 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.

A: Explain that tyres should have no cuts or bulges. There should be 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.

Why is it important to have good tyres on your car?
How often should you check the condition of your tyres?
What can cause uneven tyre wear?
How can you check tread depth?
What should you do if you notice a defect in one of your tyres?



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

A: Explain that you'd operate the switch (after turning on the ignition if necessary), then walk round vehicle to check the lights.

How often should you check that your vehicle lights are working?
What should you do if a vehicle sensor indicates a fault with vehicle lights?



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

A: Explain that a warning light should illuminate if there is a fault with the anti-lock braking system.

What is the purpose of ABS?
What should you do if a vehicle sensor indicates a fault with the vehicle ABS?



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

A: Explain that you'd operate the indicator switch (after turning on the ignition if necessary) or turn on the hazard warning lights, then walk round the vehicle to check the lights.

What else might warn you that an indicator had failed?
What should you do if an indicator fails whilst you are driving?



What do these symbols mean?

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

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

What is the danger of driving with faulty brake lights?
What should you do if brake lights fail during your journey?

Q Tell me how you'd check the power-assisted steering is working before starting a journey.

A: Explain that if the steering becomes heavy, the system may not be working properly. Before starting a journey; maintaining gentle pressure on the steering wheel 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.

Why does the engine need to be running to check the power-assisted steering?
What should you do if you realise the power-assisted steering has failed during your journey?



Answers to supplementary questions and further guidance available at G6S.co.uk. Scan to connect.



DIA PROFESSIONAL APPROVED

The supplementary information and typographical arrangement of the vehicle safety questions are G6S copyright © 2017. This work may not be reproduced or copied by any means without prior written consent from the publisher. Vehicle safety questions are valid from 04/12/17 and sourced from the Driver & Vehicle Standards Agency. Check with your trainer or our website for any recent changes and make sure that you understand how the safety questions apply to the vehicle used for your driving test.

G6S
GRADE SIX SUPPLIES

Q 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.

A: Explain you'd operate the switch (after turning on dipped headlights if necessary) and check the instrument warning light comes on. Explain when fog lights should be used.

Why might it cause danger to keep fog lights on in good conditions?
What other precautions might you take in conditions of poor visibility?
What do these symbols mean?



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

A: Explain how to operate the switch (ignition or engine on if necessary) and check that the main beam warning light comes on. If safe, you can demonstrate as you explain - remember to switch off the headlights when no longer needed.

When should you use your main beam headlights?
What dangers can be caused by incorrect use of main beam headlights?
How do 'automatic dim/dip' headlights work?

What do these symbols mean?



The following 'Tell me' questions require you to open the bonnet. You need to know where the bonnet release catch is and how to operate it. If your car has a bonnet prop, be sure to locate it correctly before making any checks. After making under bonnet checks, take care to stow any prop correctly and close the bonnet securely.

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

A: Open the bonnet and secure it as necessary. Identify dipstick/oil level indicator, describe check of oil level against minimum and maximum markers. Close the bonnet securely before driving.

Why does the engine need oil?
Why must you not overfill the engine oil?



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

A: Open the bonnet and secure it as necessary. Identify high and low level markings on the header tank where fitted or radiator filler cap and describe how to top up to correct level.

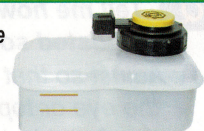
What is engine coolant a mixture of?
What dangers do you need to be aware of when checking or topping up the engine coolant?



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

A: Open the bonnet and secure it as necessary. Identify the brake fluid reservoir and describe how to top up to correct level.

How would you find out what was the correct brake fluid to use?
Why must you be careful not to contaminate the fluid?



'Show Me' questions are asked whilst you are driving. These are the questions you may be asked with the minimum required for a correct answer. You should only perform the requested safety task when it safe to do so. The examiner will want you to show how you would carry out one of these tasks by asking:

Q When it's safe to do so, can you show me how you wash and clean the rear windscreen?

A: Operate the rear washer and wiper control. Remember to switch off the wiper when it is no longer needed.

Supplementary questions to discuss with your trainer.

Why is it important to keep washer reservoirs topped up?
How can you ensure washers will not freeze up in winter?
Why is it best not to use wipers on a dry screen?

Q When it's safe to do so, can you show me how you wash and clean the front windscreen?

A: Operate the front washer and wiper control. Remember to switch off the wiper(s) when no longer needed.

In addition to questions above:
What should you do if washers and wipers can't clear the windscreen?
How would you know it was time to replace wiper blades?

Q When it's safe to do so, can you show me how you'd switch on your dipped headlights?

A: Operate the switch. Check that the relevant instrument panel warning light illuminates. Remember to switch off the dipped headlights when no longer needed.

When should/must you use dipped headlights?
What should you do if one of your headlights fails?
Why is it important to keep headlight lenses clean?

What do these symbols mean?



Q When it's safe to do so, can you show me how you'd set the rear demister?

A: Operate the switch and check that it or the relevant instrument panel light illuminates. Remember to switch off the demister when it is no longer needed.

Why is it important to keep the rear screen demisted?
How can you help reduce windscreen misting?
How can 'air conditioning' affect demisting?



Q When it's safe to do so, can you show me how you'd operate the horn?

A: Check that you will not cause alarm or confusion to other road users. Operate the horn briefly.

What is the purpose of the horn?
When might you need to use the horn?
When is it unlawful to use the horn?
What could you do as an alternate to using the horn?



Q When it's safe to do so, can you show me how you'd demist the front windscreen?

A: Set the controls to maximise warm air flow to the windscreen. Remember to reset the controls when no longer needed.

Why is it important to keep the windscreen demisted?
When should you operate a heated front windscreen?
How can an open window help?



Q When it's safe to do so, can you show me how you'd open and close the side window?

A: Operate the switch or mechanism as appropriate to open and then close the window.

Why would it be important to know how to open a window?
Why is it important to 'know your vehicle?'
When should you familiarise yourself with the controls of a new/hire/replacement vehicle?