



Driving Test Safety Check Questions

As part of the UK driving test the examiner will ask 2 questions about the car being used. At the start of the test, before the driving starts there will be one 'tell me' question - where you describe how you'd carry out a safety task. Then, later on while you're driving the car there will be a 'show me' question - where you show how you'd carry out a safety task. If you get either or even both of these questions wrong they will be marked as 1 driving (or minor) fault, but since the knowledge learnt here will allow you to operate your car effectively and keep it roadworthy it is worth taking the time to learn these answers.

'TELL ME' QUESTIONS

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

Describe how you would drive slowly, and then stop the car. The brake pedal should feel firm, not spongy, and also the car should not pull to one side as it stops.

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

Describe that you would check the tyre pressure information on a sticker inside the passenger door, then use a tyre pressure gauge to check the pressures when the tyres are cool, including the spare if fitted.

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.

Describe that you would check that the head restraint is adjusted to the correct height by confirming the top of your head is approximately level with the top of the head restraint.

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.

Describe how you would use a tread depth gauge to check the tyres have at least 1.6mm tread across the central 3/4 of the tyre, all the way around the circumference. There should not be any damage, such as cuts or bulges on the side 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.

Describe that you would turn on the car's ignition, then switch on the dipped headlamps, and then walk around the car to check they are working correctly.

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

Describe that if the yellow ABS warning light stays lit after starting the car, or came on whilst driving it would indicate a fault.

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

Describe that you would turn on the hazard lights, then walk around the car to check all six indicators are working.

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

Describe that you would turn on the car's ignition, push the brake pedal to illuminate the brake lights, and then ask someone to check they are all working.

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

Describe that the steering will be very heavy with the engine turned off, but after starting the engine the steering is much lighter.

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.

Describe that you would turn on the car's ignition, then switch on the dipped headlamps, and then switch on the rear fog lamps. Check the amber warning light is lit, and explain you would only use fog lights when 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.

Describe that you would turn on the car's ignition, then switch on the dipped headlamps, and then switch on the main beam. Check the blue warning light is lit to confirm they are working.

12. Tell me how you'd check that the engine has sufficient oil.

Describe that you would open the car's bonnet, remove and clean the engine oil dipstick, then replacing and removing it again, before checking the oil level against the minimum and maximum markers.

13. Tell me how you'd check that the engine has sufficient engine coolant.

Describe that you would open the car's bonnet, and then check the coolant level against the Full and Low markings on the coolant reservoir.

14. Tell me how you'd check that you have a safe level of hydraulic brake fluid.

Describe that you would open the car's bonnet, and then check the brake fluid level against the Max and Min markings on the brake fluid reservoir.

'SHOW ME' QUESTIONS

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

Push the right stalk towards the dashboard until the rear wash/wipe works.

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

Pull the right stalk towards the steering wheel until the front wash/wipe works.

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

Rotate the light switch to the dipped headlamps position, and check the green warning light appears in the instruments.

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

Press the front demist button on the climate controls.

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

Press the rear demist button on the climate controls.

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

Check there are no other road users nearby, and then press the centre of the steering wheel until the horn sounds.

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

Press the drivers window button firmly downwards to open it fully, and then pull it up firmly to close the window fully.

Note: These answers have been based on a 2018 Ford Fiesta, so will vary slightly for other vehicles.