

“Show me, tell me” Questions and Answers

‘Tell me’ questions and answers

Out of the 14 possible tell me questions, there are 3 questions that will require you to open the bonnet as well as telling the examiner how you’d carry out the check.

In most cars you’ll need to reach under the dash and pull the lever, this will pop open the bonnet. Then walk round to the front of the car, lift the bonnet slightly until you feel the release catch, then slide it out, lift the bonnet fully and prop it up safely with the strut.

Open the bonnet and tell me how you’d check you have a safe level of hydraulic brake fluid

Open the bonnet and make sure it’s safely secured. Point to the brake fluid reservoir and tell the examiner that you’d check the oil level is between the min and max lines on the side of the bottle. If the oil level was below the minimum line, you would take your car to a mechanic to fill it up because brake fluid is toxic.

Open the bonnet and tell me how you’d check the engine has sufficient coolant

Open the bonnet and make sure it’s safely secured. Find and point to where the engine coolant tank is. Tell the examiner that you’d check the coolant level is between the min and max lines on the side of the expansion tank. If it’s below the minimum required level, you would top it up with anti-freeze solution and water, following the instructions on the bottle of anti-freeze to make sure you use the right ratio of solution to water.

Open the bonnet and tell me how you’d check the engine has sufficient oil

Open the bonnet and make sure it’s safely secured. Identify the oil dipstick (it usually has a brightly coloured hoop on the top). Tell the examiner that you’d pull out the dipstick and wipe away any excess oil on it with a tissue. You’d then put the dipstick back into the tube and pull it out again. You would check where the oil line is against the minimum and maximum markers. If the oil was below the minimum indicator, then you’d fill up with oil.

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

Tell the examiner that you’d switch on the ignition, turn on your headlights and then push the left stick towards the dashboard to switch from dipped to main beam. Explain that you’d know the main beam is on because the blue symbol on your dashboard would turn on.



Tell me how to switch on the rear fog lights and when you'd use them

Tell the examiner that you'd switch on the ignition and turn the headlights to dipped. Then you'd turn on the fog lights by pressing the switch on the centre console and check the warning light is on. Explain that you'd only use the fog lights when visibility is reduced to 100m or less.

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

Tell the examiner that to check the power-assisted steering is working you'd put light pressure on the steering wheel as you start the engine. The steering wheel should move slightly and be light to turn if the power assistance is working properly. If this doesn't happen, you'd take the car to a mechanic to get it checked.

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

Tell the examiner that you'd ask someone to stand by your car in view of your brake lights while you operate the brake pedal. If you didn't have someone to help you check, you'd park near somewhere reflective like a window and check in your mirrors as you apply pressure to the brake pedal.

Tell me how you'd check the direction indicators are working

Tell the examiner that you'd switch on the ignition and turn the hazard lights on. Then you'd exit the car and check that all six lights are working, there are two at the front and the rear and one on each side.

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

Tell the examiner that you'd know if there was a problem with your anti-lock braking system because a warning light would show up on the dashboard when you switch on the ignition.

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

Tell the examiner that you'd first check that there aren't any cuts or bulges on the tyre wall. You'd then check the tyre tread depth using a tread depth gauge. You'd check the tyre tread is no less than 1.6mm across the central three quarters breadth of the tyre and all the way round the tyre.



Tell me how you'd check that the headlights and tail lights are working

Tell the examiner that you'd power up the car, turn on the dipped headlights with the switch and then walk around the car to check the headlights and tail lights are working.

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

Tell the examiner that you would adjust the head restraint so the rigid part of the head restraint is at least as high as the eye or top of your ears, and as close to the back of your head as is comfortable.

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

Tell the examiner that you'd find the correct tyre pressures for your car in the manufacturers guide. In some cars this information will also be in the fuel filler lid or inside one of the inside door frames. You would then use a pressure gauge to check the pressures when the tyres are cold.

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

Tell the examiner that before starting the journey you would press the brake pedal and make sure it does not feel spongy or slack. You would then start the car and press the brake pedal to make sure the car does not pull up to one side.