

INTRODUCTION OF VEHICLE SAFETY CHECKS

SEPTEMBER 2003

Advice and information on how to carry out vehicle safety checks will be found in the manufacturer's handbook and the appropriate DSA driving skills publication.

Vehicle Safety Checks have always been part of the officially recommended syllabus for learning to drive the categories covered.

COMBINATIONS OF QUESTIONS TO BE USED ON TEST

CAR TESTS

Safety check questions for car tests

Combination 1

- **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.**

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

Source: Driving the essential skills. Part 5 page 65. Part 14 pages 268-269.

NB: The manufacturer's handbook should also be consulted.

- **Show me / explain how you would check that 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 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 steering wheel just after moving off will give an immediate indication that the power assistance is functioning.

Source: Driving the essential skills. Part 3 page 35. Part 14 page 271 & 278.

NB: The manufacture's handbook should also be consulted.

Combination 2

- **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.**

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

Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 5 page 65. Part 14 page 270.*

NB: *The manufacture's handbook should also be consulted.*

- **Show me how you would check the parking brake for excessive wear.**

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

Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 14 page 272 & 278.*

NB: *The manufacture's vehicle handbook should also be consulted.*

Combination 3

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

Identify reservoir and explain how to check level.

Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 5 page 65. Part 14 page 272 & 278.*

NB: *The manufacture's handbook should also be consulted.*

- **Show me how you would check that the horn is working**

Check is carried out by using control.

Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 14 page 276.*

Combination 4

- **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.**

Identify reservoir, check level against high/low markings.

Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 5 page 65.*

NB: *The manufacture's handbook should also be consulted.*

- **Show me how you would check that the direction indicators are working.**

Applying the indicators or hazard warning switch and checking functioning of all indicators.

Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 14 page 276.*

Combination 5

- **Tell me how you would check that the brake lights are working on this car.**

Operate brake pedal, make use of reflections in windows, garage doors, etc, or ask someone to help.

Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 14 page 276.*

- **Show me how you would check the parking brake for excessive wear.**

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

Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 14 page 272 & 278.*

NB: *The manufacture's handbook should also be consulted.*

Combination 6

- **Tell me how you would check that the brakes are working before starting a journey.**

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

Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 14 pages 272 & 278.*

NB: *The manufacture's handbook should also be consulted.*

- **Show me how you would check that the headlights & tail lights are working.**

Operate switch (turn on ignition if necessary), walk round vehicle.

Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 5 page 65. Part 14 page 276*

Combination 7

- **Tell me where you would 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.

Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 14 pages 272, 274 & 275.*

NB: *The manufacture's handbook should also be consulted.*

- **Show me how you would check that the direction indicators are working.**

Applying the indicators or hazard warning switch and checking functioning of all indicators.

Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 14 page 276.*

Combination 8

- **Tell me how you would 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, 1.6mm of tread depth across the central $\frac{3}{4}$ of the breadth of the tyre and around the entire outer circumference.

Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 14 pages 272, 274 & 275.*

NB: *The manufacture's handbook should also be consulted.*

- **Show me how you would check that the headlights & tail lights are working.**

Operate switch (turn on ignition if necessary), walk round vehicle.

Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 5 page 65. Part 14 page 276*

NB: *The manufacture's handbook should also be consulted.*

Combination 9

- **Tell me how you would 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, 1.6mm of tread depth across the central $\frac{3}{4}$ of the breadth of the tyre and around the entire outer circumference.

Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 14 pages 272, 274 & 275.*

NB: *The manufacture's handbook should also be consulted.*

- **Show me how you would check that the horn is working**

Check is carried out by using control.

Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 14 page 276.*

Combination 10

- **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.**

Identify reservoir, check level against high/low markings.

Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 5 page 65.*

NB: *The manufacture's handbook should also be consulted.*

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Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 3 page 35. Part 14 page 271 & 278.*

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Combination 11

- **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.**

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- **Show me how you would check that the headlights & tail lights are working.**

Operate switch (turn on ignition if necessary), walk round vehicle.

Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 5 page 65. Part 14 page 276*

NB: *The manufacture's vehicle handbook should also be consulted.*

Combination 12

- **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.**

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

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