



DVSA Show and Tell Questions

Please also see the useful info page on
our website for show and tell videos

1. About the questions

You'll be asked 2 vehicle safety questions. These are also known as the 'show me, tell me' questions. The examiner will ask you one 'show me' question whilst driving, where you'll have to show them how to operate one of the vehicle controls. It is important to wait for a safe opportunity to use the control. You'll also be asked one 'tell me' question, where you'll have to explain to the examiner how you'd carry out the check, this is done at the test centre before the drive commences.

2. 'Tell me' questions (these will be asked at the test centre at the start of the test)

2.1 Tell me how you would check that the brakes are working before starting a journey

Press the peddle and check that it feels firm to press. If the pedal goes down very easily, there may be a problem with the brakes. When driving, the vehicle should not pull to one side when braking.

2.2 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, either a portable one, or a digital one on a garage pump.

2.3 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 that the top of it is level with the top of your head, or at least as high as the top of your ears.

2.4 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 on side wall of tyre. Minimum of 1.6mm of tread depth across the middle 3/4 of the tyre and all around. (Tread depth on the outer edges of the tyre is not so important)

2.5 Tell me how you would check that the headlights and tail lights are working (no need to exit vehicle).

Show how to turn on dipped headlights and explain that you would walk around the car to check.

2.6 Tell me how you would know if there was a problem with your anti lock braking system

Warning light should illuminate on the dash board if there is a fault with the anti lock braking system.

2.7 Tell me how you would check that the direction indicators are working (no need to exit vehicle)

Demonstrate how you would operate the indicators (switch on ignition if necessary) or turn on hazard lights, and explain that you would walk around and check that all the lights are flashing. (front, back and on mirrors)

2.8 Tell me how you would check the brake lights are working on this car

Explain that you would switch on the ignition, operate the brake pedal and look in a reflection in windows or doors to see if the brake lights come on, or asked someone else to stand behind the car and check for you.

2.9 Tell me how you would check that the power assisted steering is working before starting a journey

Explain that you would turn the wheel slightly as you start the engine, and feel the steering become easier to turn. Also when you first move off turn the wheel to check that the power assisted steering is operating normally. If the powered steering is not working properly the steering wheel will feel heavy to turn. **PTO**

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'Tell me' questions contd.

2.10 Tell me how you would switch on the rear fog light(s) and explain when you would use it/them
Turn on ignition and dipped headlights. Push button to right of headlight switch to turn fog lights on. An orange light will show on dashboard. Use rear fog lights when visibility is reduced to below 100 metres.

2.11 Tell me how you switch your headlight from dipped to main beam and explain how you would know the main beam is on.

Switch on dipped headlights (two clicks to right) then pull indicator stalk towards you until it clicks. A blue light will show on dashboard. Pull stalk towards you again to cancel main beam.

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

Explain that you would take out dip stick, wipe clean, dip back into engine, then pull back out and check oil level on stick. Should be on the yellow marker area. Check oil when car is parked on flat surface.

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

Larger tank containing orange liquid on left side. Check that fluid level is between max and min on bottle side.

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

Smaller tank containing yellow fluid. Check that fluid level is between max and min on bottle side.

3. 'Show me' questions (these will be asked whilst on the move, during the test)

When asked to demonstrate a control by the examiner, it is important that you wait for a safe opportunity to use the control. Do not try and use when negotiating a hazard.

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

Pull wiper stalk towards you until water squirts onto rear screen and wiper operates. Remember to turn off afterwards

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

Press in the button on the end of the wiper control stalk, and hold. Wipers will stop after a few wipes

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

Switch on dipped headlights (two clicks to right) then pull indicator stalk towards you until it clicks. A blue light will show on dashboard. Pull stalk towards you again to cancel main beam. Turn lights back off.

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

Press button in the middle of the temperature control knob

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

Press horn control in the centre of the steering wheel. Don't hold for too long.

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

Increase fan control, set air direction control to windscreen, and select temperature. Press button in middle of fan control. If possible switch back to previous settings afterwards.

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

Operate window control until the driver's side window comes down, then close again.