Show Me Tell Me Questions

DRIVE 4 PASS | DRIVING TEST PREPARATION

Tell Me Questions

You will be asked one tell me question before driving and one show me question while driving. One or both answers wrong means one driving fault. Dangerous or potentially dangerous driving during a show me answer means you will fail.

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

   The brake pedal should not feel spongy or slack. Test the brakes gently as you set off. The car should slow down without pulling to one side.

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

   Check the manufacturer's guide. Use a reliable pressure gauge when the tyres are cold, and adjust to the recommended pressures. Check the spare tyre if fitted and refit the valve caps.

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 firm part should be at least as high as your eyes or the top of your ears, and as close to the back of your head as is comfortable. Some head restraints cannot be adjusted.

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.**

   Check for cuts or bulges. Tread depth must be at least **1.6 mm across the central three-quarters** of the tyre's width and **around its entire circumference**.

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

   Explain that you would switch the lights on, with the ignition on if needed, then walk around the car to check them. You do not need to get out for this answer.

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

   The ABS warning light would indicate a fault, for example by staying on after the normal start-up check or coming on while driving.

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

   Explain that you would operate the indicators, with the ignition on if needed, then walk around the car to check them. You do not need to get out for this answer.

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

   Press the brake pedal and use reflections in windows or doors to check the lights, or ask someone to stand safely behind the car and check.

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

   If the steering feels unusually heavy, the assistance may not be working. Maintain gentle pressure on the wheel as the engine starts: a slight movement should show the assistance working. Alternatively, check that the steering is assisted as you move off.

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.**

    Operate the rear fog-light switch, with ignition and dipped headlights on if needed. Check the warning light. Use rear fog lights only when visibility is seriously reduced, generally when you cannot see beyond 100 metres. Switch them off when visibility improves.

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

    Operate the main-beam control, with ignition or engine on if needed. Check the main-beam warning light on the dashboard, normally blue.

Tell Me Questions under the bonnet

Open the bonnet, identify the correct part and explain how you would carry out the check.

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

Identify the dipstick or oil-level indicator. Explain how you would check that the oil is between the minimum and maximum marks. With a dipstick, on level ground and with the engine off, follow the manufacturer's waiting time, remove and wipe it, reinsert fully, then remove and read.

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

Identify the coolant expansion tank and its high and low marks. With the engine cold, check the level is between the marks. Explain that you would top up with the correct coolant to the recommended level, following the manufacturer's instructions. **Never remove a coolant cap while the engine is hot.**

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

Identify the brake-fluid reservoir. Check that the fluid is between its minimum and maximum marks. You normally read the level through the reservoir without removing the cap.

Show Me Questions

Driving safely comes first. Wait until it is safe, keep watching the road and maintain safe control. Do not rush or stare down at the controls. Practise in your training car with your instructor.

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

Operate the rear washer and wiper so that washer fluid sprays onto the rear screen and the wiper clears it.

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

Operate the front washer and wipers so that washer fluid sprays onto the front screen and the wipers clear it.

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

Select dipped headlights using your car's light control. Make sure you have selected dipped headlights, rather than only sidelights or daytime running lights.

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

Switch on the heated rear window using the rear-demister button or control. Check its indicator light if fitted.

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

Press the horn control briefly when it is safe to do so, while keeping full control of the steering.

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

Select the front-demist setting or direct airflow onto the windscreen. Adjust the fan and temperature as needed; use air conditioning if fitted to help remove moisture. Follow your car's controls.

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

Use the side-window switch to open and then close the window while maintaining safe control of the car.

Controls vary between cars. Follow the manufacturer's instructions and practise the exact controls and bonnet checks in your test car.

Source: DVSA car show me tell me vehicle safety questions; Highway Code rules 226 and 236. Checked 27 September 2026. Applies to England, Scotland and Wales. Answers adapted for revision; show me notes are Drive 4 Pass practice guidance. Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.