

# Show Me, Tell Me for Car Drivers:

Driving test candidates are required to answer two vehicle safety questions. Known as 'Show me, tell me' these questions cover basic maintenance and operation procedures for the vehicle being used in the driving test. The questions and combinations listed here are current for car driving tests taken from 1st July 2008. These checks may require you to open the bonnet of the car and identify fluid reservoirs. You are not asked to touch a hot engine, or physically check any fluid levels. There are 19 questions in all and they are asked in set combinations (listed below). As a driver you should recognise the importance of basic vehicle maintenance and safety - do not simply learn the questions and answers by rote.

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**WARNING:** It can be dangerous to perform these safety checks if you are unsure of what to do. Your instructor will advise you how to make these checks safely on your driving test vehicle. You are recommended to wear disposable vinyl gloves for under-bonnet checks and wear a high visibility vest when making safety checks outside the vehicle.

Combination No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Questions:	S8 T10	S9 T5	S2 T12	S4 T5	S1 T12	S3 T18	S7 T13	S6 T13	S14 T10	S15 T11	S16 T19	S9 T11	S17 T19

**TELL ME QUESTIONS:** These may require you to open the bonnet. Usually you need to identify the relevant part of the car or engine and describe how you would make the safety check.

These are the Questions you may be asked and the minimum required for a correct answer.

**T5** Identify where the windscreen washer reservoir is and tell me how you would check the windscreen washer level.

**To answer >** Identify the reservoir and explain how to check the level.

Supplementary information which you can discuss with your instructor.

You may need to open the bonnet to answer this question. The reservoir may display the windscreen wiper symbol. Check the reservoir regularly.



**T10** Tell me how you would check that the brakes are working before starting a journey.

**To answer >** Explain that the brakes should not feel spongy or slack. Brakes should be tested as you set off. The vehicle should not pull to one side.

To test the brakes, drive forwards slowly as you set off and when safe (mirrors!) apply the footbrake.

**T11** Tell me how you would check that the headlights & tail lights are working.

**To answer >** Explain that you would operate the switch (turning on the ignition if necessary for your vehicle), then walk round the vehicle.  
(As this is a "Tell Me" question, you don't need to exit vehicle to physically check the lights.)

Drivers must check that lights and indicators are working before using the car. Some cars have sensors which tell you when a light has failed. It is a good idea to keep a spare bulb kit in the car.

**T12** Tell me where you would find the information for the recommended tyre pressures for this car and how tyre pressures should be checked.

**To answer >** Refer to the manufacturer's guide, use a reliable pressure gauge, check and adjust pressures when tyres are cold, don't forget the spare tyre, remember to refit the valve caps.

Information on tyre pressures will be found in the vehicle handbook and is often prominently displayed on the vehicle, e.g. behind the fuel cap door.

**T13** 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.

**To answer >** There should be no cuts and bulges in the tyre. There must be 1.6mm of tread depth across the central 3/4 of the breadth of the tyre and around the entire outer circumference.

Get into the habit of checking tyre condition and pressures at least once a week. Good tyres are essential for road holding and controlled braking. Replace badly worn or damaged tyres immediately.

**T18** Tell me how you make sure your head restraint is correctly adjusted so it provides the best protection in the event of a crash.

**To answer >** The head restraint should be adjusted so the rigid part of the head restraint is at least as high as the eye or top of the ears, and as close to the back of the head as is comfortable.

N.B. Some restraints might not be adjustable.



**T19** Tell me how you would know if there was a problem with your anti lock braking system.

**To answer >** A warning light should illuminate if there is a fault with the anti lock braking system.

You should know the meaning of all warning lights on the instrument panel and the appropriate action to take if they come on. Refer to the vehicle owners handbook.



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