

VEHICLE CHECK QUESTIONS (“SHOW ME – TELL ME”) FOR CAR & TRAILER – Category B+E

At the start of the practical test, you will be required to undertake basic vehicle safety checks to ensure knowledge of safety related issues. You will not be asked to undertake tasks such as physically checking tyre pressures, engine oil or radiator water levels. Rather, a list of standard questions of the “tell me” and “show me” format will be used.

For car and trailer tests, examiners will ask five “tell me” and “show me” questions on each test. For example, “tell me how you would check the oil level” and “show me how you would check the car lights are working properly”. A driving fault will be recorded for each question answered incorrectly, but if all five are answered incorrectly then it will result in a serious fault being recorded and you will fail the test. Special provision will be made if you are a disabled driver so that you are not required to lift bonnets etc.

A list of the questions to be used on test is as follows:-

BE1 Brake Fluid - Show

- **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.

BE2 Indicators - Show

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

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

BE3 Loading - Tell

- **Tell me the main safety factors involved in loading this vehicle.**

The load should be distributed evenly throughout the trailer. Heavy items should be loaded as low as possible so that they are mainly over the axle(s). Bulkier, lighter items should be distributed to give a suitable ‘nose weight’ at the towing coupling. The nose weight should never exceed the vehicle manufacturer’s specifications.

BE4 Loading - Tell

- **Tell me the main safety factors involved in securing a load on this vehicle.**

Any load must be carried so that it does not endanger other road users. It must be securely stowed within the size and weight limits for the vehicle. The load needs to be secure so that it cannot move or fall from the vehicle when cornering or braking.

BE5 Doors - Show

- **Show me how you would check that your vehicle & trailer doors are secure.**

Physical checks should be made to ensure that windows, roof light and all doors, including cargo doors, are properly closed.

BE6 Tyres - Tell

- **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, 1mm of tread depth across the central $\frac{3}{4}$ of the breadth of the tyre and around the entire outer circumference.

BE7 Horn - Show

- **Show me how you would check that the horn is working (off road only).**

Check is carried out by using control (turn on ignition if necessary).

BE8 Engine Coolant - Show

- **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.

BE9 Handbrake - Show

- **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.

BE10 Windscreen Washers - Show

- **Show me how you would clean the windscreen using the windscreen washer and wipers.**

Operate control to wash and wipe windscreen (turn ignition on if necessary).

BE11 Windscreen Demister - Show

- **Show me how you would set the demister controls to clear all the windows effectively, this should include both front and rear screens.**

Set all relevant controls including; fan, temperature, air direction / source and heated screen to clear windscreen and windows. Engine does not have to be started for this demonstration.

BE12 Rear fog light - Show

- **Show me how you would switch on the rear fog light(s) and explain when you would use it/them. (No need to exit vehicle)**

Operate switch (turn on dipped headlights and ignition if necessary). Check warning light is on.

BE13 Headlights - Show

- **Show me how you switch your headlight from dipped to main beam and explain how you would know the main beam is on whilst inside the car.**

Operate switch (with ignition or engine on if necessary), check with main beam warning light.

BE14 Brake lights - Show

- **Show me how you would check that the brake lights are working on this vehicle. (I can assist you, if you need to switch the ignition on, please don't start the engine).**

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

BE15 Head Restraints - Tell

- **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 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.