

Show Me, Tell Me

The DVSA practical-test vehicle-safety questions, the RedLine way. 14 Tell Me + 7 Show Me — everything you need to nail your test-day intro.

TELL ME — VERBAL QUESTIONS (14)

Asked BEFORE you start the drive, engine off. Q12–14 = open the bonnet.

#	Question	Answer
01	Brakes are working before starting a journey	Brakes shouldn't feel spongy or slack. Test as you set off — the car shouldn't pull to one side.
02	Recommended tyre pressures + how to check	Manufacturer's handbook. Use a reliable pressure gauge, check & adjust when tyres are cold. Don't forget the spare. Refit valve caps.
03	Head restraint correctly adjusted	Rigid part at least as high as the eye/top of ears, as close to the back of the head as comfortable. Some restraints aren't adjustable.
04	Tyres have enough tread depth & are safe	No cuts or bulges. 1.6mm tread across the central three-quarters of the tyre, around the whole outer circumference.
05	Headlights & tail lights are working	Operate the switch (ignition on if needed), then walk around the vehicle to check.
06	Problem with the anti-lock braking system	The ABS warning light on the dashboard illuminates if there's a fault.
07	Direction indicators are working	Operate the switch (ignition on if needed) and walk around the vehicle to check.
08	Brake lights are working on this car	Press the brake pedal and use reflections in shop windows or garage doors — or ask someone to stand behind and tell you.
09	Power-assisted steering is working	(1) Gentle pressure on the wheel while starting the engine = slight movement; (2) Turning the wheel just after moving off shows assistance is on.
10	Switch on the rear fog light(s) + when	Operate the switch (dipped headlights & ignition on if needed). Use only when visibility drops below 100m. Switch off when it clears.
11	Switch headlights from dipped to main beam	Operate the dip switch (ignition/engine on if needed). Main beam warning light (blue symbol) comes on.
12	[Bonnet] Engine has enough oil	Identify the dipstick. Pull out, wipe, reinsert; check level between MIN and MAX markings.
13	[Bonnet] Engine coolant level	Identify the header tank with high/low markings (or radiator filler cap). Top up to between markings — only when cold.
14	[Bonnet] Hydraulic brake fluid	Identify the brake fluid reservoir. Check level sits between MIN and MAX markings on the side.

SHOW ME — PHYSICAL DEMONSTRATIONS (7)

Asked WHILE you're driving. Practise so you can do them without taking your eyes off the road or losing control.

#	Question	Answer
01	Wash & clean the rear windscreen	Operate the rear washer/wiper from the column stalk — push forward or twist. Brief, controlled — keep eyes on the road.
02	Wash & clean the front windscreen	Pull or press the washer control on the wiper stalk. Hold briefly to deliver fluid + wipe. Never run wipers on a dry screen.
03	Switch on dipped headlights	Rotate the light switch on the column/panel to the dipped-beam symbol. Dashboard indicator confirms.
04	Set the rear demister	Press the rear-window demist button (small rear-window symbol with arrows). Indicator light confirms. Auto-off after a few minutes.
05	Operate the horn	Press the centre of the steering wheel or horn pad. Brief honk — never to vent at other drivers.
06	Demist the front windscreen	Heat to hot, fan to high, direction to windscreen. A/C or MAX defrost dries air and clears mist faster.
07	Open and close the side window	Driver's door panel switch — press down to open, lift up to close. Auto one-touch: press fully and release.

TEST-DAY REMINDER

One Tell Me at the START (engine off). One Show Me WHILE DRIVING. Each wrong = 1 minor fault. Up to 15 minors = PASS · 16+ minors = FAIL · 1 serious or dangerous fault = FAIL.

PRE-TEST 10-MIN CHECKLIST

- ✓ Adjust the seat, steering wheel, mirrors and head restraint
- ✓ Set the demister and heating/AC if needed
- ✓ Check all lights and indicators are working
- ✓ Top up fuel — at least quarter tank to be safe
- ✓ Have your provisional licence + theory pass certificate ready
- ✓ Switch your phone to silent or do-not-disturb

Want a 1-to-1 mock session? Message us on WhatsApp.

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