
Tell me questions

At the start of your driving test, before leaving the test centre, your examiner will check your licence. You will be asked to sign a declaration stating that the vehicle is properly insured for you to take your driving test and that you normally live or have lived in the UK for at least 185 days in the last 12 months. Your examiner will then walk outside with you taking the opportunity to explain the duration and content of the test.

Once outside, your examiner will ask you which vehicle you are going to use for your test and will then check your eyesight by asking you to read a number plate on a vehicle at a prescribed distance (20 metres for a new style number plate or 20.5 metres for an old style).



Before you start driving your examiner will ask you a vehicle safety question, sometimes referred to as a “tell me” question. You will be asked one further safety question, referred to as a “show me question”, while you’re driving.

Your BAMBOO trainer will have prepared you for all of these and they shouldn’t present you with the slightest problem. This document provides detailed information for the Tell-me questions. You should learn all of these.

Tell me questions

Before setting off from the test centre

T1 Tell me how you would check that the brakes are working before starting a journey.

Brakes should not feel spongy or slack. Brakes should be tested as you set off. Vehicle should not pull to one side.

T2 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, check and adjust pressures when tyres are cold, don't forget spare tyre, remember to refit valve caps.

T3 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. Note: Some restraints might not be adjustable.

T4 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, 1.6mm of tread depth across the central three-quarters of the breadth of the tyre and around the entire outer circumference of the tyre.

T5 Tell me how you would check that the headlights and tail lights are working You don't need to exit the vehicle.



Explain you'd operate the switch (turn on ignition if necessary), then walk round vehicle (as this is a 'tell me' question, you don't need to physically check the lights).

T6 Tell me how you would know if there was a problem with your anti-lock braking system (ABS).

Explain that if there is a fault with the anti-lock braking system (ABS), an ABS warning light should illuminate on the instrument display.

T7 Tell me how you'd check that the direction indicators are working.

You don't need to switch ignition on or start the engine. Explain that you'd operate the hazard warning switch and then you'd walk round the vehicle. to check the lights. As this is a 'tell-me' question, you don't need to physically check the lights.



T8 Tell me how you would check the brake lights are working on this car don't start the engine.

Explain you'd operate the brake pedal, and you'd make use of reflections in windows or garage doors, etc, or you'd ask someone to help.

T9 Tell me, or explain how you would check that the power-assisted steering is working before starting a journey.

If the steering becomes heavy the system may not be working properly. Before starting a journey two simple checks can be made. Gentle pressure on the steering wheel, maintained while the engine is started, should result in a slight but noticeable movement as the system begins to operate. Alternatively turning the steering wheel just after moving off will give an immediate indication that the power assistance is functioning.

T10 Show me how you would switch on the rear fog light(s) and explain when you'd use it/them. You don't need to exit vehicle.

Operate switch (turn on dipped headlights and ignition if necessary). Check warning light is on. Explain use. As you turn the fog lights on, tell your Examiner that you would use them when visibility falls below 100 metres. As you switch them off again, tell your examiner that you would remember to turn them off when visibility improves.



T11 Tell me how you switch your headlights from dipped to main beam and explain how you would know the main beam is on.

Operate switch (with ignition or engine on if necessary), Point out that the blue main beam warning light shows when the main beam is on.

T12 Open the bonnet and tell me how you would check that the engine has sufficient oil.

Explain that you would only carry out this check on level ground & with a cool engine. Identify the dipstick (orange handle), explain that you'd:

- remove the dipstick and wipe it clean
- fully re-insert the dipstick
- remove the dipstick and check that the oil level is between the minimum & maximum markers.

T13 Open the bonnet and tell me how you'd check that the engine has sufficient engine coolant.

Explain that you would only carry out this check on level ground. Identify high and low level markings on header tank (pink fluid) where fitted or radiator filler cap, and describe how to top up to correct level.



T14 Open the bonnet and tell me how you'd check that you have a safe level of hydraulic brake fluid.

Explain that you would only carry out this check on level ground. Identify the brake fluid reservoir (yellow writing), check the level against high/low markings.

