

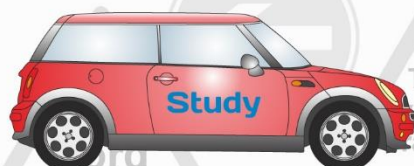


# DRIVER<sup>®</sup> ACTIVE

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## COURSE HANDOUTS



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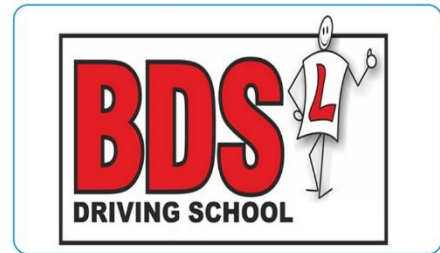
# Safety Questions: Tyres

## Question:

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

## Example answer:

Find the tyre pressures in the car's handbook and then use the tyre inflator at the garage or a tyre pressure gauge to check the pressure when the tyres are cold. Find the valve and remove the dust cap. Then adjust the pressure as necessary and refit the dust cap. Note: Also mention that you would check the spare tyre.



## Question:

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.

## Example answer:

Explain that you would use a depth gauge to check the tread depth in a couple of places across the tyre and make a visible check to ensure the tread is consistent over three-quarters of the tyre width and that you would make a visual check to ensure that there are no cuts, blisters or bulges on the tyres.

Also mention that to check side of the tyre that you can't see, you would run your hand around being especially careful because of the dangers of injury from debris that might be embedded in the tyre.



Note: it is worth mentioning that you would include the spare tyre in your checks.

**Legal note:** No cuts and bulges in the tyre wall, 1.6mm of tread depth across the central three-quarters of the breadth of the tyre and around the entire circumference

## Lesson Notes:



# Safety Questions: Brakes

[www.driveractive.com](http://www.driveractive.com)

## Question:

Tell me how you would check that the brake lights are working on this car.

## Example answer:

Explain how to operate brake pedal and make use of reflections in windows, garage doors, etc, to make a visual check of the lights.

Or ask someone to help by pressing the pedal or checking the lights. (Ask the examiner to check the lights for you while you press the brake pedal).

Note: Some vehicles have a 'bulb failed' warning light. Mention this if its relevant to your test vehicle.

## Question:

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

## Example answer:

There should be resistance felt when the brake pedal is pressed (when the car is stationary).

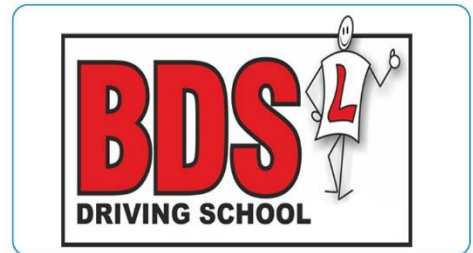
The brake pedal should not feel spongy or slack. Brakes should be tested by pressing the footbrake pedal gently as soon as the car is moving. The car should not pull to one side.

## Question:

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

## Example answer:

The warning light should illuminate if there is a fault with the anti lock braking system



## Lesson Notes:





# Safety Questions: Fluids

## Question:

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

## Example answer:

Open the bonnet and identify dipstick / oil level indicator and then describe how to check the oil level against the minimum/maximum markers.



## Question:

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

## Example answer:

Open the bonnet and identify high/low level markings on header tank where fitted or radiator filler cap, and describe how to top up to correct level.

**Important:** Under no circumstances you be asked to remove the filler cap on the tank or radiator and should not attempt to do so as part of your answer.

## Question:

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.



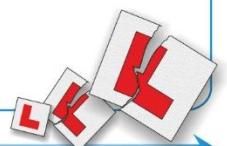
## Example answer:

Open the bonnet show the examiner the brake fluid reservoir. Explain how to check the level against high/low markings. The level is normally visible without removing the cap from the fluid reservoir. Note: In some vehicles the reservoir cap needs to be removed to check the level with a 'mini' dip stick. Examiners will normally avoid questions on vehicles where the cap has to be removed.

## Windscreen washer fluid:

Although not asked about in the test, you should also be able to identify where the windscreen washer reservoir is and know how to fill it. Apart from the dangers of a dirty windscreen an empty washer bottle could lead to a fine.

## Lesson Notes:



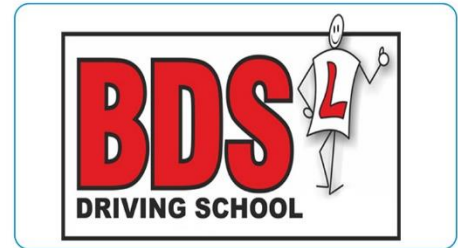
# Safety Questions: Lights

## Question:

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

## Example answer:

Explain that 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).



## Question:

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

## Example answer:

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



## Question:

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.

## Example answer:

Operate switch (turn on dipped headlights and ignition if necessary). Check warning light is on. Explain when you would use the fog lights. (No need to exit vehicle) Legal note: Use rear fog lights when visibility is less than 100 metres.

## Question:

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

## Example answer:

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

## Lesson Notes:

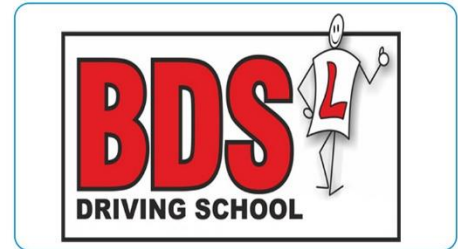


# Safety Questions: Horn/Steering

## Horn

### Question on the move:

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



Normally you should not use the horn unless you are warning of danger or alerting another road user to your

presence - however, it's OK to demonstrate that you can use it for the purpose

of the test. If you feel that it is not safe to demonstrate the horn or any other control when asked, tell the examiner that you will do it as soon as an opportunity arises - and then remind him/her just before you do it.

## Steering

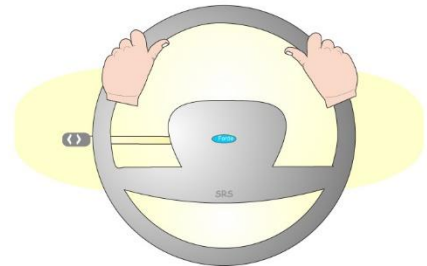
### Question:

Explain how you would check that the power assisted steering is working before starting a journey.

### Example answer:

Explain the symptoms of power steering loss by stating that the steering becomes heavy. The two simple checks that can be made to check power steering.

1. Gentle pressure on the steering wheel, maintained while the engine is started, should result in a slight but noticeable movement of the wheel as the system begins to operate.
2. Turning the steering wheel just after moving off will give an immediate indication that the power assistance is functioning.



## Lesson Notes:



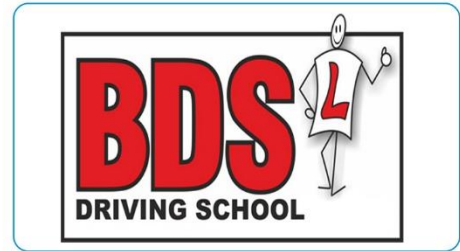


# Safety Questions: Vision/Safety

## Question on the move:

**When it's safe to do so, can you show me how you wash and clean the front windscreen? Or: "... the rear windscreen?**

For these questions you will need to demonstrate either the operation of the front or rear washers and wipers. Make sure that you can locate and operate the controls for each function.



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

The headlight switch is usually on the same stalk as the indicators. You need to switch on the headlights taking care not to confuse other drivers - this is best done when the road is clear ahead.

**When it's safe to do so, can you show me how you'd set the rear demister? Or: "... demist the front windscreen?"**

To answer these question you simply have to switch on the relevant demister - rear demisters will usually switch off automatically, however, you may have to switch off the front demister, especially if it is a noisy fan.



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

Virtually all cars now have electric window, at least in the front. Simply open and close the window.

**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.

## Lesson Notes:

