

# **INTRODUCTION OF VEHICLE SAFETY CHECKS** **SEPTEMBER 2003**

***Advice and information on how to carry out vehicle safety checks will be found in the manufacturer's handbook and the appropriate DSA driving skills publication.***

***Vehicle Safety Checks have always been part of the officially recommended syllabus for learning to drive the categories covered.***

## **COMBINATIONS OF QUESTIONS TO BE USED ON TEST**

### **CAR TESTS**

***Safety check questions for car tests***

#### **Combination 1**

- **Open the bonnet, identify where you would check the engine oil level and tell me how you would check that the engine has sufficient oil.**

*Identify dipstick / oil level indicator, describe checking of oil level against the minimum/maximum markers.*

***Source: Driving the essential skills. Part 5 page 65. Part 14 pages 268-269.***

***NB: The manufacturer's handbook should also be consulted.***

- **Show me / 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.*

***Source: Driving the essential skills. Part 3 page 35. Part 14 page 271 & 278.***

***NB: The manufacture's handbook should also be consulted.***

## Combination 2

- **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.*

**Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 5 page 65. Part 14 page 270.***

**NB: *The manufacture's handbook should also be consulted.***

- **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.*

**Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 14 page 272 & 278.***

**NB: *The manufacture's vehicle handbook should also be consulted.***

## Combination 3

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

*Identify reservoir and explain how to check level.*

**Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 5 page 65. Part 14 page 272 & 278.***

**NB: *The manufacture's handbook should also be consulted.***

- **Show me how you would check that the horn is working**

*Check is carried out by using control.*

**Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 14 page 276.***

## Combination 4

- **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.*

**Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 5 page 65.***

**NB: *The manufacture's handbook should also be consulted.***

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

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

**Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 14 page 276.***

### **Combination 5**

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

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

**Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 14 page 276.***

- **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.*

**Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 14 page 272 & 278.***

**NB: *The manufacture's handbook should also be consulted.***

### **Combination 6**

- **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.*

**Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 14 pages 272 & 278.***

**NB: *The manufacture's handbook should also be consulted.***

- **Show me how you would check that the headlights & tail lights are working.**

*Operate switch (turn on ignition if necessary), walk round vehicle.*

**Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 5 page 65. Part 14 page 276***

### **Combination 7**

- **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.*

**Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 14 pages 272, 274 & 275.***

**NB: *The manufacture's handbook should also be consulted.***

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

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

**Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 14 page 276.***

### **Combination 8**

- **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  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the breadth of the tyre and around the entire outer circumference.*

**Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 14 pages 272, 274 & 275.***

**NB: *The manufacture's handbook should also be consulted.***

- **Show me how you would check that the headlights & tail lights are working.**

*Operate switch (turn on ignition if necessary), walk round vehicle.*

**Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 5 page 65. Part 14 page 276***

**NB: *The manufacture's handbook should also be consulted.***

## Combination 9

- **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  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the breadth of the tyre and around the entire outer circumference.*

**Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 14 pages 272, 274 & 275.***

**NB: *The manufacture's handbook should also be consulted.***

- **Show me how you would check that the horn is working**

*Check is carried out by using control.*

**Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 14 page 276.***

## Combination 10

- **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.*

**Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 5 page 65.***

**NB: *The manufacture's handbook should also be consulted.***

- **Show me / 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.*

**Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 3 page 35. Part 14 page 271 & 278.***

**NB: *The manufacture's handbook should also be consulted.***

## Combination 11

- **Open the bonnet, identify where you would check the engine oil level and tell me how you would check that the engine has sufficient oil.**

*Identify dipstick / oil level indicator, describe checking of oil level against the minimum/maximum marker.*

**Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 5 page 65. Part 14 pages 268-269.***

**NB: *The manufacture's handbook should also be consulted.***

- **Show me how you would check that the headlights & tail lights are working.**

*Operate switch (turn on ignition if necessary), walk round vehicle.*

**Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 5 page 65. Part 14 page 276***

**NB: *The manufacture's vehicle handbook should also be consulted.***

## Combination 12

- **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.*

**Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 5 page 65. Part 14 page 270.***

**NB: *The manufacture's handbook should also be consulted.***

- **Show me how you would check that the headlights & tail lights are working.**

*Operate switch (turn on ignition if necessary), walk round vehicle.*

**Source: *Driving the essential skills. Part 5 page 65. Part 14 page 276***

**NB: *The manufacture's handbook should also be consulted.***

Document No: DVT 677

Issue 01

Origin: DVT

Review Date: 01/06/05

Document No: DVT 677

Issue 01

Origin: DVT

Review Date: 01/06/05