Topic Color Guide: Red: Lights & Signals | Blue: Tyres & Wheels | Amber: Under the Bonnet | Teal: Controls & Safety

Part 1: 'Show Me' Questions (Carried out WHILE DRIVING)

The examiner will ask you **1 question** on the move. You must operate the control safely without losing full vehicle control or eyes off the road for prolonged moments.

Show Me 1 • Rear Windscreen Wash & Wipe — CONTROLS

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

Action: Operate the rear window washer control (typically by twisting the outer ring on the wiper stalk or pushing the stalk forward toward the dashboard). Hold until the washer fluid sprays and the wiper operates cleanly, then return to normal position.

Examiner Tip: Keep your primary attention looking ahead on the road; check your rear mirror only once the wiper activates.

Show Me 2 • Front Windscreen Wash & Wipe — CONTROLS

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

Action: Pull the right-hand wiper stalk towards you and hold it. Washer fluid will spray onto the front windscreen and the wipers will complete several sweeps automatically.

Show Me 3 • Dipped Headlights — LIGHTS

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

Action: Turn the lighting master switch (on the stalk or dashboard dial) from the 'OFF' or 'AUTO' position past sidelights to the **dipped headlights icon**. The green dipped headlights indicator will illuminate on the dashboard.

Key reminder: This is the ONLY 'Show Me' driving question related to lighting controls!

Show Me 4 • Rear Heated Demister — CONTROLS

"When it's safe to do so, can you show me how you'd set the rear demister?"

Action: Locate and press the **rear demister button** (indicated by a rectangular window symbol with three wavy upward arrows). The orange/amber confirmation light on the button will illuminate.

Show Me 5 • Horn Operation — CONTROLS

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

Action: Press firmly on the centre of the steering wheel hub with your hand/thumb until a brief, audible beep sounds. (Only sound it when no pedestrians or animals are startled nearby).

Show Me 6 • Front Windscreen Demister

CONTROLS

"When it's safe to do so, can you show me how you'd demist the front windscreen?"

Action: Press the dedicated **front windscreen demist button** (curved windscreen symbol with three wavy heat lines) or set the air distribution dial to the windscreen icon, turning the fan speed up and switching on A/C for rapid clearing.

Show Me 7 • Driver / Side Window

CONTROLS

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

Action: Locate the electric window switch on the driver's door armrest. Push down on the switch to lower the window slightly, then pull up on the switch to fully close the window.

Top Tip: Do not look down at the switch while driving! Keep eyes ahead and operate by touch.

Part 2: 'Tell Me' Questions (BEFORE DRIVING at Test Centre)

The examiner will ask you **1 question** at the start of your test. You simply explain the safety check verbally (or point under the bonnet for questions 12–14).

Tell Me 1 • Service Brakes Check

SAFETY

"Tell me how you'd check that the brakes are working before starting a journey."

Answer: Explain that brakes should **not feel spongy or slack**. Brakes should be tested gently as you set off. The vehicle **should not pull to one side** when braking.

Tell Me 2 • Recommended Tyre Pressures

TYRES

"Tell me where you'd find the information for the recommended tyre pressures for this car and how tyre pressures should be checked."

Answer: Information is found in the **manufacturer's guide/vehicle manual** (or the tyre sticker on the driver's door pillar/fuel filler flap). Check pressures using a **reliable pressure gauge** when the **tyres are cold**. Remember to check all 4 tyres plus the spare (if equipped), and always refit the valve caps securely.

Tell Me 3 • Head Restraint Adjustment

SAFETY

"Tell me how you make sure your head restraint is correctly adjusted so it provides the best protection in the event of a crash."

Answer: The head restraint should be adjusted so the **rigid centre part** is at least as high as the **eye level or top of the ears**, and positioned as close to the back of the head as comfortably possible. *(Note: some vehicle head restraints are fixed/non-adjustable).*

Tell Me 4 • Tyre Tread Depth & Condition

TYRES

"Tell me how you'd check the tyres to ensure that they have sufficient tread depth and that their general condition is safe to use on the road."

Answer: Check that there are **no cuts, tears, or bulges** on the tyre sidewall. The legal minimum tread depth is **1.6mm** across the central three-quarters of the breadth of the tyre, and around the entire outer circumference.

Tell Me 5 • Headlights & Tail Lights Check

LIGHTS

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

Answer: Explain that you would turn on the ignition switch if necessary, turn on the master light switch to activate headlights and tail lights, then **walk around the vehicle** to physically inspect that all lights are lit. *(Because this is a 'Tell Me' question, you do not need to exit).*

Tell Me 6 • Anti-Lock Braking System (ABS) Fault

SAFETY

"Tell me how you'd know if there was a problem with your anti-lock braking system."

Answer: An amber **ABS warning light** will illuminate and remain on the instrument cluster if there is a malfunction in the system.

Tell Me 7 • Direction Indicators Check

LIGHTS

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

Answer: Explain you would switch on the hazard warning lights switch (or ignition and indicator stalk), and then **walk round the vehicle** to verify that all front, rear, and side repeater indicators are flashing clearly.

Tell Me 8 • Brake Lights Function Check

LIGHTS

"Tell me how you'd check the brake lights are working on this car."

Answer: Explain you would operate the brake pedal, make use of **reflections in windows, doors, or garage walls**, or ask someone to stand behind the vehicle and confirm they illuminate.

Tell Me 9 • Power-Assisted Steering (PAS) Check

STEERING

"Tell me how you'd check the power-assisted steering is working before starting a journey."

Answer: If the steering feels heavy, the system may not be working properly. Two simple checks can be made:

1. Apply gentle turning pressure on the steering wheel while starting the engine; as the power assistance kicks in, there should be a slight but noticeable movement.

2. Alternatively, turning the steering wheel immediately just after moving off will give an immediate indication of effortless, light steering.

Tell Me 10 • Rear Fog Light(s) Operation

LIGHTS

"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."

Answer: Turn on dipped headlights and ignition, then operate the rear fog light switch. Confirm the amber/yellow fog warning symbol illuminates on the dash. Explain you must **only use them when visibility drops below 100 metres (approx. 328 feet)**, and switch them off when visibility improves.

Tell Me 11 • Dipped to Main Beam Headlights

LIGHTS

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

Answer: Turn on dipped headlights (with ignition/engine on), then push the indicator stalk away from you (or pull, depending on the model). Verify that the **blue main beam warning light** illuminates on the dashboard display.

Under the Bonnet Questions (Tell Me 12, 13 & 14)

The examiner will ask you to open the bonnet and point out **ONE** of the following three reservoirs/checkpoints. Always secure the bonnet prop rod firmly before pointing!

Safety Rule: Never open a hot coolant tank or oil cap. For the driving test, you only need to **identify the reservoir and describe** how to check it against minimum/maximum markings.

Tell Me 12 • Engine Oil Level Check

BONNET

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

Answer: Point out the **dipstick** (usually with a brightly colored yellow or orange pull handle). Explain that with the car on level ground and a cold engine, you would withdraw the dipstick, wipe it clean with a cloth, re-insert it fully, withdraw it once more, and check that the oil level sits **between the MIN and MAX markers**.

Tell Me 13 • Engine Coolant Level Check

BONNET

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

Answer: Point out the **coolant expansion tank** (header tank). Identify the **MIN and MAX level markings** molded on the side of the translucent tank. Explain that when the engine is cold, the coolant fluid level must sit between those two marks. To top up, unscrew the cap when completely cool and add correct antifreeze/water mix.

Tell Me 14 • Hydraulic Brake Fluid Reservoir Check

BONNET

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

Answer: Point out the **brake fluid reservoir** (located near the bulkhead on the driver's side). Check that the clear fluid level sits safely **between the MIN and MAX markings** on the side of the reservoir.