

# RICHMOND DRIVING SCHOOL

## SAFETY QUESTIONS

***YOU WILL BE ASKED: - ONE 'SHOW ME' QUESTION & ONE 'TELL ME' QUESTION.***

***FAILURE TO ANSWER CORRECTLY WILL RESULT IN ONE DRIVING FAULT.***

**Q1.** Open the bonnet, identify where you would check the engine coolant level and **TELL ME** how you would check the engine has the correct level.

**Answer:**

- Identify the coolant tank and check the min/max markings.
  - If the coolant is below the Min mark then more coolant will need to be added.
  - The level should be between the Min/Max when the engine is cold. This is because hot coolant expands.
  - Never remove the filler cap when the engine is hot.
  - Unscrew the cap slowly, wait a moment and then open fully.
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**Q2.** 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.

**Answer:**

- Identify the brake fluid reservoir. The level of the fluid must always lie between the Min/Max marks.
  - If the level falls below Min – a warning light will illuminate on the dashboard.
  - If fluid comes into contact with skin or eyes, rinse with water and consult a Doctor.
  - If fluid comes into contact with paintwork – wipe off and rinse with water.
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**Q3. SHOW ME** how you would check that the power assisted steering is working before starting a journey.

**Answer:**

- If the power assisted steering becomes heavy the steering may be faulty. Before starting a journey, two simple checks can be made –
    - (a) *Gentle pressure on the steering wheel maintained whilst the engine is started, should result in a slight but noticeable movement as the system begins to operate.*
    - (b) *Turning the steering wheel just after moving off will give an immediate indication that the power assisted steering is functioning correctly.*
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**Q4.** Open the bonnet, identify where you would check the engine oil level and **TELL ME** how you would check that the engine has enough oil.

**Answer:**

- Identify the dipstick.
  - On level ground only.
  - Pull dipstick out and wipe clean with a dry cloth.
  - Re-insert it completely and pull it out once more.
  - Oil level should be between MIN/MAX marks on dipstick.
  - Top up only to the upper MAX mark.
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**Q5.** Open the bonnet, identify where the Windscreen Washer reservoir is and **TELL ME** how you check the level.

**Answer:**

- Identify reservoir.
  - Lift off cap and make a visual check of level as there are no external markings on reservoir.
  - If necessary add screen-wash.
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**Q6. SHOW ME** how you would check that the horn is working.

**Answer:**

- Check this off road only.
  - Press the horn and listen.
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**Q7. SHOW ME** how you would check that the brake lights are working on this car. I can assist you. If you need to switch on, please don't start the engine.

**Answer:**

- Operate brake pedal.
  - Make use of reflections in windows, garage doors, etc. OR
  - Ask someone to help.
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**Q8. TELL ME** how you would check that the brakes are working before starting a journey.

**Answer:**

- As you move off, press the brake pedal with normal pressure – vehicle should stop.
  - They should not feel spongy and the car should not pull to one side.
  - If vehicle fails to stop, pull on handbrake gently, until the vehicle stops and contact a garage mechanic.
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**Q9. TELL ME** how you would check that the headlights and tail lights are working.

**Answer:**

- Turn on lights (turn on ignition if necessary).
  - Walk around car and check that the lights are on.
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**Q10. SHOW ME** how you would check that the direction indicators are working correctly.

**Answer:**

- Activate the indicators or hazard warning lights.
  - Walk around the car to see if all the indicators are working correctly.
  - If the direction indicators on the dashboard flash at an excessive rate it will indicate that there is a fault and the need to replace a bulb.
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**Q11. TELL ME** where you would find the information for the recommended tyre pressures for this car and how tyre pressures should be checked.

**Answer:**

- Information will be found using the car manufacturer's manual.
  - Check the tyre pressures by using a reliable pressure gauge when the tyres are cold.
  - Don't forget the spare and remember to refit the valve caps.
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**Q12. SHOW ME** how you would check the parking brake/handbrake for excessive wear.

**Answer:**

- Apply the handbrake. When it is fully applied it should secure itself, and the travel is not excessive.
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**Q13. 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 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.
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**Q14. TELL ME** how you would check the tyres to show that they have sufficient tread depth and that their general condition is safe to use on the road.

**Answer:**

- Tyres should not have any cuts or bulges.
  - Tyres should be inflated to the correct pressure.
  - The tread depth should be at least **1.6mm** across the central 3/4s of the breadth of the tyre and around the entire outer circumference.
  - Don't forget – spare tyre.
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**Q15. SHOW ME** how you would clean the windscreen using the windscreen washer and wipers.

**Answer:**

- Operate control to wash and wipe windscreen (turn ignition on if necessary).
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**Q16. SHOW ME** how you would set the demister controls to clear all the windows effectively, this should include both front and rear screens.

**Answer:**

- Set all relevant controls including: fan, temperature, air direction / source and heated screen to clear windscreen and windows.
  - Engine does not have to be started for this demonstration.
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**Q17. TELL ME** how you would know if there was a problem with your anti lock braking system.

**Answer:**

- Warning light should illuminate if there is a fault with the anti lock braking system.
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**Q18. SHOW ME** how you switch your headlight from dipped to main beam and explain how you would know the main beam is on whilst inside the car.

**Answer:**

- Operate switch (with ignition or engine on if necessary), check the main beam warning light.
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**Q19. SHOW ME** how you would switch on the rear fog light(s) and explain when you would use it/them. Please do not start the engine. (No need to exit the vehicle).

**Answer:**

- Operate switch (turn on dipped headlights and ignition if necessary). Check warning light is on.
  - Use fog lights when visibility drops to within 100m.
  - Remember to switch fog lights off when visibility improves.
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