SEVENOAKS
DRIVING
LESSONS

SHOW ME, TELL ME · VW POLO

Safety Questions

The answers for Penny, my manual VW Polo



Kent's Best Local Driving Instructor

AUTOMOTIVE AWARDS 2025

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YOUR DRIVING TEST

“Tell me” questions

At the start of the test, you’ll be asked one “Tell Me” question. You don’t need to do anything physically — just explain your answer. (For some questions, you might need to open the bonnet.)

General

“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.

“Tell me how you would check that the power assisted steering is working before starting a journey.”

> Before starting apply a gentle pressure on the steering wheel, maintained while the engine is started. This should result in a slight but noticeable movement as the system begins to operate.

Brakes

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

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

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

> Warning light should illuminate if there is a fault with the anti-lock braking system.

Tyres

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

> Check the 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.

"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."

> There should be no cuts and bulges, 1.6mm of tread depth across the central 3/4 of the breadth of the tyre and around the entire outer circumference of the tyre.

Lights

"Tell me how you would check that the HEADLIGHTS and TAIL LIGHTS are working." No need to exit the vehicle

> With the ignition on, I would turn on the dipped headlights then walk round vehicle.

"Tell me how you would check the BRAKE lights are working."
No need to exit the vehicle

> With the ignition on, I would operate the brake pedal and make use of reflections in windows or doors, or ask someone to help.

"Tell me how you'd check the DIRECTION INDICATORS are working."
No need to exit the vehicle

> I would turn on the HAZARD LIGHTS then walk round the vehicle.

"Tell me how you switch your HEADLIGHTS from DIPPED to MAIN/FULL BEAM and explain how you would know the main beam is on."
No need to exit the vehicle

> With the ignition on I would turn the lights from 'Auto' to 'Dipped' and push the left stalk fully forwards. I would know the main beam is on because a blue light symbol will be shown on the instrument cluster.

"Tell me how you would switch on the REAR FOG LIGHTS and explain when you would use it/them." No need to exit the vehicle

> Operate switch. Check fog warning light is on. I'd use them when visibility is below 100 metres.

Bonnet

> **OPENING THE BONNET**
> Open the driver's door and pull the bonnet release catch, at the front of the bonnet (just above the VW symbol) move the safety release catch to the left, and hold the bonnet open with the prop.

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

> Identify dipstick / oil level indicator, describe check of oil level against the minimum and maximum markers.

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

> Identify the high and low level markings on header tank.

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

> Identify reservoir, check level against high and low markings.

“Show me” questions

You’ll be asked one of these questions while you’re driving.

OPERATING THE CONTROLS SAFELY

The examiner will always start by saying “When it’s safe to do so…” and this generally means they have found a ‘safe’ place for you to operate the car controls. When operating the controls, glance at them, don’t stare, or you could inadvertently steer off the road! If you do not operate the car controls safely, you could receive a serious driving fault and the driving test would be unsuccessful.

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

Right stalk – push fully forwards.

Tip: Please turn off afterwards.

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

Right stalk – pull fully forwards until water comes out.

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

Turn light panel switch fully clockwise from ‘Auto’ to ‘Dipped’.

Tip: Return to ‘Auto’ afterwards.

“When it’s safe to do so, can you show me how you’d set the rear demister?”

Push button in heating controls with rectangle symbol.

“When it’s safe to do so, can you show me how you’d demist the front windscreen?”

Turn heat to max, turn air flow to max, ensure air direction is on front windscreen.

Tip: Please turn off afterwards.

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

> Push centre of steering wheel.

Tip: Don’t operate the horn near any pedestrians or road users.

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

> Select any window button and push down to open, then pull up to close.

Tip: You can use any side window – it doesn’t matter which one. You only need to open the window partially and then close it again; there’s no need to open it all the way.