

The Smart Way

To Prepare for your test

Show me/Tell me vehicle checks

There are 19 questions. You will be asked 2 of them. **You cannot fail for getting either one or both of these wrong, but you will score 1 minor mark if this happens.** If the examiner asks you to SHOW he/she requires you to demonstrate the test, if he/she says TELL, then only an explanation is required. You will not be required to SHOW anything that might get you dirty, or run a risk of you injuring yourself.

The purpose of the questions is to check your understanding of the operation of the minor controls, and basic maintenance of the car to help prevent you getting into difficulty on the road.

All illustrations in this document are specific to the Ford Fiesta Diesel engine vehicle that the school uses for tuition. If you are learning or using any other vehicle for your test you should verify how any switches work, and where any of the items mentioned can be found in that car. **The Smart Way** instructors cannot be responsible for differences between different cars or models.

Show me how you would check the engine oil on this vehicle.

- Open the bonnet and point out the dipstick. (Item 1 on the diagram that follows). Explain that you would:-
 - Take out the dipstick and wipe it clean.
 - Put it back fully, then take it out again.
 - Check the oil level sits between the high and low levels marked on the stick

Show me how you would check the coolant level on this vehicle.

- Open the bonnet and point out the coolant tank (Item 2 on the diagram that follows).
- Explain that you can see the coolant through the tank and you check that it is between the high and low level marks

Show me how you would check the screen wash level on this vehicle.

- Open the bonnet and point out the screen wash tank (Item 3 on the diagram that follows).
- Explain that you can see the screen wash through the tank.
- Check that the tank is reasonably full, there are no full or low level marks.

Show me how you would check the Brake fluid level on this vehicle.

- Open the bonnet and point out the Brake fluid tank (Item 4 on the diagram that follows - it is hidden near the engine bulkhead).
- Explain that you can see the brake fluid through the tank and you check that it is between the high and low level marks



Tell me how you would check the headlights and Taillights on this vehicle.

This question is now reduced to a tell me, you will NOT be required to perform this check, merely to explain how you would carry it out.

The head lights cut out to their minimum setting (side lights only) once the ignition is switched off to save battery power as they can drain it quite quickly. Therefore, the first thing is to put the key in the ignition and turn it so that the dashboard lights come on.

- Turn the headlights on (The switch is to the right of the steering wheel) by turning the switch two clicks right, until the white dot lines up with the dipped light position. See photo.
- Then you would walk around the vehicle and check each light in turn.



It is a moving traffic violation to knowingly drive with faulty lights during darkness.

Tell me how you would switch from dipped beam to high (main) beam lights in this car and tell me how you can tell that the main beam is on.

This will be done in the car, the examiner will NOT check that the high beams are working, but be aware **that it is an offence to drive at night with a faulty high beam light**. To operate the high beams:



- The headlights need to be on (see previous question) to put the dipped beam on.
- Then pull the indicator light stalk switch towards the steering wheel once. The high beams will click on and a blue light will show on the dash (between the main dials). Demonstrate this for the examiner and point out the light,

indicated on the diagram left.

- Pull the indicator stalk towards the steering wheel again to switch the high beams off.

Turn the lights off again if the lighting conditions for your test are good and you do not need lights on.

Show me how you would switch the fog lights on in this car and tell me under what conditions you would switch them on.

This will be done in the car, the examiner will NOT check that the fog lights are working. If the weather is so foggy that fog lights are required it is almost certain that the test will be cancelled.

To operate the fog lights:

- The side lights need to be on.
- The fog light switches will be pointed out to you by your instructor, but they have picture in them like a letter D with 3 dashed lines coming from it. Some cars have only a rear fog light. In the smart Ford Fiesta they are located next to the light switch.
- When the fog lights are on an orange light will show on the dash.



Fog lights should only be used when visibility is less than 100 metres (roughly the length of a football pitch), or you cannot see from one lamp post to the next. It is a moving traffic violation to use fog lights at other times. Although UNLIKELY to result in a prosecution it will draw police attention to your vehicle and can result in you being delayed while a traffic officer reminds you of the correct use.

Show me how you would check the indicators on this vehicle.

- The indicators can be tested by switching on the hazard lights.
- Walk around the vehicle and check each light in turn.
- It is a moving traffic violation to knowingly drive with faulty indicators including side repeaters.

Be aware that if any of these lights are faulty then the examiner is within his rights to refuse to take you on test, as technically the car is not roadworthy,



Tell me how you would check the brake lights on this vehicle.

The brake lights are fitted to the back of the car and only come on once the brake pedal is pressed. Therefore to test them either:-

- Press the pedal while a friend stands at the back of the car and checks if they come on.
- Reverse up to a reflective surface such as a garage door or window and press the pedal. Use the reflections to confirm all lights have come on.

The examiner may “act as your friend” and stand at the back of the car while you press the pedal. **If the brake lights are faulty it is a moving traffic violation and the examiner CANNOT allow you to take the car on the road for a test.**

Tell me how you would check that the brakes on this vehicle are working correctly.

- Explain that you would press the brake pedal and check that the pedal feels reasonably firm, not soft or spongy. This would indicate serious leak in the brake system.
- Then, you would drive the car on a quiet road, at low speeds and press the pedal, making sure that the car stopped and did not pull to one side or the other.

Tell me/Show me how you would check the handbrake on this vehicle for excessive wear.

- The handbrake should come up about 4-8 clicks.
- There should be some resistance in the cable and the lever must not reach the end of its travel.
- With the brake on, it should be capable of holding the car on a moderate slope such as a home driveway.

Tell me how you would tell if there is a problem with the ABS (Anti-Lock Braking System) on this car.



If the ABS is not functioning correctly a warning light will light up on the dashboard. It is located within the speedometer and will be a yellow/red colour. The car CAN be driven with faulty ABS but it should be corrected as soon as possible.

The light looks like the diagram on the left.

Tell me where you would find the correct information regarding the tyre pressures for this vehicle and how you would check that the tyres are correctly inflated.

- The tyre pressures are ALWAYS listed in the owners handbook, which is usually kept in the car.
- In addition, on the Fiesta range they are listed on a sticker on the inside of the passenger door frame. Some cars have a similar sticker in other places.
- To check the pressures, either use a tyre pressure gauge on the valve, or take the car to a garage with an airline and confirm that the pressure is correct.

Tell me how you would check the tyres on this vehicle for their general condition.

- The tyres should have a minimum of 1.6mm of visible tread across the middle 75% of the tyre in a CONTINUOUS band around the tyre, e.g. there can be NO bald spots.
- The treads should be checked to ensure there is nothing stuck in them, such as nails or screws.
- In addition, the sidewalls should be checked that there is no damage, such as splits, tears or bulges.

Tell me how you know your head restraint is correctly adjusted on this vehicle.

When the head restraint is in the correct position, the middle of the restraint is roughly level with the eyes of the person in the seat. The restraint is adjusted by pressing in a clip at its base and sliding it up or down.

Show me how you would clean the windscreen using the washer and wipers.

The windscreens should always be kept as clean as possible. When driving sometimes mud or dirt can be thrown onto the windows by passing cars etc. To clean this, pull the windscreen wiper switch (right side stalk switch, like the indicators but on the other side) towards the steering wheel. The “squosher” will spray water onto the window and the wipers will make 3 sweeps to clean it off. This should not be used as a replacement for cleaning the windows properly.

Show me how you would set the demister controls to demist the windows (front and back).

For the front windows the demister operates by blowing air over the inside of the windows, therefore:



1. Position the air direction setting to the window position
2. Set the fan speed as needed (left dial in picture, in this diagram this is set on low speed).
3. Adjust the temperature as required. (Right hand dial in diagram above). The central display will indicate the setting. In this picture it is in a cool setting. Generally cool air will clear the windows quickly.

Setting the air conditioning on (if fitted) will generally clear the windows quickly and effectively on especially on very wet days, but this does use a lot more fuel.

For the back window the demister is a built in electric heating element. This is switched on by pressing in the central dial picture above. A yellow LED light will glow when this is on. Do not leave this on once the window is cleared as it is not good for the window.

Tell me/Show me how you would test the power steering on this vehicle.

The power steering only operates with the engine running.

- To test it you would try to turn the steering wheel with the engine off (make sure that the steering lock is not engaged), it will feel heavy.
- Then start the engine, and try to turn the steering wheel, it should feel much lighter.
- If there is no difference then either the vehicle is not equipped with power assisted steering, or it is faulty.

Tell me/Show me how you would check that the horn on this vehicle was working correctly.

- The horn switch is the whole of the central boss for the steering wheel.
- Pressing any part of it will sound the horn, then listen for the noise.
- NOTE It is an offence to sound the horn while you are stationary at the side of the road, so this should only actually be done if you are in a car park.

