



PRE DRIVE CHECK ADVICE CARS

Guidance for how to undergo a pre drive check can be found in Roadcraft, pages 254 - 258.

It is important to remember that a pre drive check should be carried out before every guidance session and definitely on your test. The Examiner may not ask you to do a pre check but you will be expected to do one so practise and remember to do it!

With the variety of cars on the road today, ie diesel, petrol, hybrids, mild hybrids and fully electric vehicles (EV) some of the advice below may not be relevant to everyone and may need to be adapted for your own vehicle. However please see below for a summary of what you need to consider and check before going out on a guidance session or before your test.

Firstly, the RoADAR Examiners Notes for Guidance (10/08) para 5.52 states - '*Pre driving checks should be given as in Roadcraft. It is suggested that you tell candidates that they are to regard this drive with you as the first journey of the day in that vehicle. You will therefore expect a rolling brake test as early as possible.....*'

Are YOU fit to drive?

Roadcraft page 254 explains the acronym - I AM SAFE

Are you feeling ill? How is your attitude? Are you on medication? Are you tired? Are you still affected by alcohol? Are you hungry - low blood sugar? How are your emotions?

Is your VEHICLE fit to drive?

Roadcraft page 255

This is a general roadworthy check and may be more applicable to police drivers who could find themselves driving different cars every day. However your vehicle should be roadworthy and if applicable should have an MOT certificate.

As you walk towards your vehicle look for any damage that may have

occurred and check for any leaks/fluids under the vehicle.

Ensure that your vehicle is clean and that all windows and mirrors are clear and clean.

POWDER checklist

Roadcraft page 256

External checks - you can walk round your vehicle for these or, depending on the weather you can comment on them once sat in the car. The Examiner will not expect you to raise the bonnet and check fluid levels. Do this before you attend your guidance session/test.

P = Petrol, however this could equally refer to diesel or electrical charge so we prefer to say that P = Power - the Power to propel your vehicle. Have you sufficient P?

O = Oil - ensure your oil level is appropriate - not necessary for an all EV.

W = Water. This is your radiator, washer bottles etc. Depending on how technically minded you are you can mention brake and hydraulic fluid but these are usually checked in a service and many vehicles now have warning lights for low fluid levels.

D = Damage - check this on walking toward the car.

E = Electrics - confirm that all lights are in working order.

R = Rubber - this includes tyres and wiper blades. Make sure you check your tyres regularly for their condition, tread and their pressure. Confirm to the Examiner/Tutor that you have done this and are happy that the tyres and wiper blades are in good condition. **Remember that the Tutor /Examiner can refuse to go out with you if they deem your vehicle to have unsafe tyres.**

You can also mention if your vehicle has a spare tyre, a temporary run flat tyre or a repair kit.

Internal checks

Roadcraft page 257

Introduce your car, make and model and Power method.

Auto/manual, number of gears, additional driving aids and any other special features that the Tutor/Examiner may need to be aware of.

Door closed properly - check via your side mirrors that there is a smooth line down the side of your car.

Seat belts - depending on where you are parked. If you are on the road then put seat belts on as soon as you get in the car in case you get rear ended. If in a car park then put them on later during your pre check, but obviously before you start to move. Remember to check your seat belts are functioning properly - give them a harsh tug.

State that your driving position is comfortable and that you are familiar with all of the controls.

Check mirrors are correctly positioned.

Check that everything in the car is safe and secure and that there is nothing loose that could 'fly' around if you need to brake suddenly.

If you have a diesel /petrol engine - turn on your ignition

Check the warning lights and take note of those that need to go out. Turn off your radio and mobile phone!

Start the engine.

This can vary.

If your vehicle is a manually geared car then select neutral (depress the clutch if appropriate) and turn the key/press the button.

If you have an EV press the start button.

Check the warning lights - again these will vary from car to car – look in your car's instruction manual. Ensure those that need to go out have done so.

Brake tests

Roadcraft page 258

Check your handbrake has tension - again this may vary as some cars have automatic 'holding' brakes or use a button method.

If you have a lever hand brake test it by first pressing your foot brake down to hold the car, at the same time checking you have tension on your foot brake, release your hand brake, checking that the handbrake warning light goes out. Put your hand brake back on until you are ready to move off.

If your vehicle has cruise control or a similar speed control system, then inform the Tutor/Examiner, however the Examiner does not advocate the use of cruise/speed control systems on test. You need to show that you have the ability to control your car's speed without these aids.

Ensure that the Examiner has his seat belt on and is comfortable with his seating position. Have a low flow of air in the car ensuring your passenger/s are neither too hot nor too cold!

When you are satisfied that you have checked everything you can move off as directed by the Tutor/Examiner. Remember to check your mirrors and do a shoulder check if necessary.

On test inform the Examiner whether you intend to do commentary, whether you intend to do it for a short period or for the duration of the test. If so then start by commenting on the road and weather conditions.

Remember to do your moving brake test! This is to test the efficiency of your brakes, check for any brake related noises and check that your vehicle does not pull to one side. **See separate handout on the Group's policy for performing the moving brake test.**

All done? Then you're off to a good start !!