

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

A. The pedal should not feel spongy or slack when pushed down. Brakes should be tested for effective operation as soon as you set off. Vehicle should not pull to one side when brakes are applied.

Note: Engine needs to be running for power assistance to brakes to operate.

*Q. Show me how you would check the **parking brake** for excessive wear.*

A. Demonstrate, by applying parking brake, that when it is fully applied it secures itself, and is not at the end of the working travel (that is it could still be pulled up further).

Note: Don't forget to operate the handbrake in the correct manner, by pressing in the lock button, lifting the lever and then releasing the button – not running the lever up on the ratchet.

*Q. Show me/explain how you would check that the **power assisted steering** (PAS) is working before starting a journey.*

A. Before starting a journey two simple checks can be made. Gentle pressure downwards with the left hand on the steering wheel, maintained while the engine is started, will result in a slight but noticeable movement as the system begins to operate. Alternatively turning the steering wheel just after moving off will give an immediate indication that the power assistance is functioning. If the steering is heavy the system is not working properly.

Note: Do not move the steering more than a small amount as you start the engine - the examiner will not be impressed with a demonstration of "dry steering".