



## **GUIDANCE NOTE No. 2: COCKPIT DRILL**

Even if you are the only person to drive your vehicle, it is still worth running through these checks. You will be expected to talk through this sequence during your training and on the Advanced Driving Test.

On approaching your vehicle, make a visual inspection. You probably do some of these subconsciously anyway. Are tyres still inflated and is there any new damage? Does the car appear as you left it?

Once inside the vehicle, the following checks should be made:

1. Handbrake – ensure it is engaged.
2. Doors – are they securely closed?
3. Seat – are you comfortable? Head restraints correctly set.
4. Seat belts - are they being worn by all those in the vehicle?
5. Mirrors – are they correctly adjusted?
6. Static brake test - handbrake on, depress footbrake, release handbrake, confirm footbrake does not depress further. Re-apply handbrake.
7. Gear selector in neutral (Automatic in Park, or as advised in your car’s handbook)
8. Ignition on - instrument and warning light check
9. Depress clutch and start engine. (Note: Automatic and hybrid cars have a different procedure that usually requires the footbrake to be depressed in order to start the engine. See the procedure in your car’s handbook).
10. Engine running - instrument and warning light check

These checks should take only a few seconds to perform.

Wider aspects of driver responsibility cover many facets of vehicle functionality, legal and sensible. Regular checks of driving and brake lights, tyre pressures and condition (including your spare!). Windscreen wipers and washers, fuel, oil and coolant, etc. should be maintained.

You may find mnemonics helpful:

<b>P</b>	- Power (fuel, battery status)	<b>A</b>	- All secure – doors, bonnet, tyres
<b>O</b>	- Oil	<b>S</b>	- Seats, mirrors
<b>W</b>	- Water (coolant and washer)	<b>P</b>	- Pedals and panel (warning lights)
<b>D</b>	- Damage	<b>S</b>	- Seat belts and head restraints
<b>E</b>	- Electrics		
<b>R</b>	- Rubber (tyres and wipers)		
<b>Y</b>	- You: are you fit to drive?		

*All these factors form part of the reasonable and responsible approach to driving that is expected of the GAM and IAM RoadSmart membership.*