Before your car's MOT

A quick owner check. Tick when checked; write down anything needing attention.

Registration: _____ Date: _____ MOT expiry: _____

1 Check safely, before the appointment

- ☐ Park safely on level ground. Apply the parking brake and switch off the engine before walking around. Do not crawl beneath the car or use a jack for this checklist.
- ☐ Confirm the expiry date and booking. Leave time for diagnosis or repairs before the test.
- ☐ Check lights, indicators and brake lights with a helper or a safe reflection. Clean the lenses.
- ☐ Check number plates are secure, readable and unobscured.
- ☐ Inspect accessible tyre tread and sidewalls for damage, bulges or exposed cords. For cars, tread must be at least 1.6 mm across the central three-quarters, all the way round.
- ☐ Check tyre pressures against the handbook or vehicle label for the load. Investigate pressure loss.
- ☐ Check the windscreen, mirrors and view from the driver's seat. Remove avoidable obstructions.
- ☐ Try washers and wipers; top up screenwash correctly. Note smearing or damaged blades.
- ☐ Check seat belts fasten, retract and show no obvious damage. Check seats and doors are secure.
- ☐ Try the horn. Compare dashboard lamps with the handbook; note any persistent warning.
- ☐ Note leaks, unusual noises or changes in braking or steering. Do not treat topping up as a repair.

2 Get ready and record the next step

- ☐ Provide keys, any locking wheel-nut key requested, enough fuel or charge, and clear access to the seats, boot and testable items.

If the vehicle may be unsafe, ask a garage or recovery provider how to move it. This checklist is not an MOT inspection, a servicing schedule or a guarantee of a pass.

Problems / appointment / repairs to arrange:

CHECK THE CURRENT GUIDANCE

GOV.UK: car parts checked at an MOT
Full checklist and current source links: motuk.co.uk/13-things-to-check-before-you-have-your-mot/