

Questions Before a Test Drive		
Yes	No	
		Are sills, wheel arches and door bottoms rusty or paint bubbling?
		Is the paintwork faded, blemished or excessively damaged?
		Are there oil leaks or damaged hoses/drive belts under the bonnet?
		Are the tyres worn or damaged?
		Are seatbelts showing signs of fraying?
		Do door and window seals showing signs of leaking
		Are electrics faulty (lights, washers, horn, and indicators)
		When you start the engine and before you drive away does the vehicle emit blue or black smoke from exhaust? (indicates badly worn engine)
During the Test Drive		
		Are brakes defective? (e.g. car takes a long time to stop)
		Does car pull to one side when you brake?
		Do the brakes squeal?
		Is the brake pedal soft or spongy? Do you have to put the pedal to the floor to brake?
		Park the car on an incline with the handbrake on. does the car roll backwards
		Does car pull to one side?
		Does the steering wheel vibrate? Is there a lot of free play?
		Does the car pull to one side?
		Is changing gear difficult?
		Does gear lever jump gear when you brakes or accelerate?
		Is the clutch difficult to use when moving through the gears?
		Does engine sound different if clutch pressed when car is idling?
		Is there a strong smell of petrol or oil?
After test drive		
		Does the engine make uncommon noises
		Are there water or oil leaks

		Is there excessive smoke from the exhaust
		When engine stopped, remove oil cap - do you see white liquid like mayonnaise
		Look under the bonnet and underneath the car, with a torch if necessary. Are there any leaks?
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Is it insurance write off?		
		Have body panels been repaired?
		Is colour/texture of paintwork patchy?
		Has welding been carried out on the engine/boot?
		Have repairs been carried out on the boot ?(check the carpet)
Has it been clocked?		
		Physical checks
		Are the milometer numbers out of line?
		Is wear and tear heavy, given mileage?
		Have pedal rubbers/ gear knob/ steering wheel been changed?
		Paper checks/question to ask
		Does mileage on the last MOT certificate contradict milometer reading?
		Does mileage on service documentation contradict milometer reading?
		Does mileage when car was last sold contradict milometer readings (check with previous owners - named on V5)
Is it stolen?		
		Has the vehicle identification number (VIN) been tapered with?
		Are glass areas such as windows, lights or sun roof etched with incorrect VIN (as a security measure some cars have VIN etched on these glasses)
		Have surface area of glass been scratched off windows, headlights, tail lights, sun roof?
		Do stickers conceal altered etchings?
		Are there signs that the car has been resprayed for example is there paint on the wheels or seals?
		Are there signs of forced entry?
		Has the locking petrol cap been forced or replaced?
		Do the locks differ (thieves often change locks they have damaged)

		Is the seller unable to produce the registration documents V5?
		Does the seller give adequate reason for not having V5?
		Are there spelling mistakes or alterations on the V5?
		Is watermark on V5 missing?
		Is sellers name and address different from V5?
		Is the number plate different from V5?
		Is the engine number different from V5?
		Is the vehicle identification number (VIN) different from V%?
		Is the seller unable to produce an insurance policy and up to date MOT certificate for the car?