

	✓ or ✗	Notes
Under the bonnet		
Bonnet release - smooth operation		
General engine condition - leaks anywhere they shouldn't be?		
Radiator - condition, signs of leaks, rust or worn hoses		
Coolant/fuel pipes - not perished/split		
Power steering reservoir ok?		
Wing mounting bolts ok? Accident damage?		
Oil leaks? - check around sump gasket and nut		
Coolant and brake fluid levels - normal?		
Screenwash bottle condition and level - it takes 9 litres!		
Strut brace on V6 cars - is it present? Check the condition of paint/metal		
Wiring and ECU visual check		
Electrics		
Seat memory and slide/tilt mechanism (both seats) 1, 2 & M		
Electric mirrors - folding (6 o'clock posn) and adjustment		
Heated seats working? (both sides)		
Windows working and auto dip of window when opening doors? (both sides)		
Auto dim mirror (cover front sensor on mirror nr windscreen) - it can fail		
Headlights (auto?), foglights F/R & indicators inc. hazards		
Wipers ok inc auto mode		
Screen washers work and headlight washers work if fitted		
CD Changer operation - take some CDs!		
Radio/cassette and stalk controls		
Any error messages/warning lights on dash? [ensure airbag light goes off, and no flicker on brake light - pads on way out!]		
Sunroof operation		
Lock/Deadlock from key plip		
Total closure (see threads for varying operation)		
Alarm (lock using plip, unlock using key and get in to set off!)		
Follow me home function (if specified)		
Keys in ignition/lights on warnings		
Fusebox (fuses correctly seated)		
Air conditioning and fan (hot/ice cold)		
Trip computer (operation - using right hand stalk end button)		

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Remote headlight adjust mechanism (right and down from ignition)		
Fresh/recirculated air control works and with no continuous clicking sound - faulty/broken air intake flap actuator		
Drive		
Starting ok? (from cold) check it's not been warmed up!		
Idle smooth? Any pinging or mistiming - a coil pack could be on way out		
Loud exhaust sound is because it's a sports exhaust and not a leaking exhaust!		
Drive Engine & power delivery smooth?		
Clonking from front end - anti roll bar		
Clutch operation ok?		
Gearchange ok?		
Auto transmission mode buttons working and selector lights on and not flashing		
Brakes squeal and feel?		
Suspension and engine mounts - listen for knocks or jerking on cornering and start/stop on accelerator in 1st gear		
Handbrake operation good?		
Check for "low brake fluid" warning message/beep when applying/releasing handbrake - faulty handbrake switch		
Handbrake on" warning works if trying to drive with it partially on		
ESP functional and off switch works		
ABS functional and stops in a straight line		
Cruise control functional? - setting varies depending on model		
Power steering - operation		
Fan/s working when up to temp?		
Rapid misting of windows - faulty/broken air intake flap actuator		
Exterior		
Check general paint and laquer condition		
Look for rust, particularly inside door shuts and sills		
Check door restraint straps incl. tight hinge pins - listen for creaks or cracks on door open/close		
Stone chips on front end - if none, has it been repaired/re-painted, possibly following an accident - look carefully around bumper joins and numberplate?		
Condition of all light lenses, including moisture intrusion (especially foglights)		
Condition of wing mirror casing		
Condition of wiper arms - faded or flaking?		
Condition of bodywork in general - look for dents, dings, scratches, peeling laquer		
Alloy wheel condition		
Tyres good quality brand and condition? Matching tread pattern on same axle		

	✓ or ✗	Notes
Brembos or Lucas brake callipers?		
Wheel nut covers - all present?		
Headlight wash function		
Boot badge condition		
Bumpers condition/cracks? Expensive to replace		
Panel gaps all correct particularly bonnet to front wings, doors to chassis and boot to body		
Overspray/accident damage apparent?		
Check black sills around jacking points for damage		
Towing eye covers present?		
Interior - Cabin		
Any sign of leaks? Particularly check all footwells for damp carpet		
Speaker crackling - damage or headlining interference? Speaker rumbling at bass end - damage or connectors oxidised		
Leather condition particularly driver's seat bolster		
Lumbar support operation		
Check headlining and A pillar (between the door and windscreen) for signs of poor alignment.		
Headlining condition		
Vanity mirror lights working?		
Map light working?		
Steering wheel reach/rake adjust operation		
Petrol flap release mechanism operation and filler cap missing warning if fitted		
Watch out for stress cracks in the doors under the mirror mountings.		
Floor mats present - front and rear?		
Wiggle the door card at the bottom near the door lights - if it rattles its been off		
Storage spaces and glovebox condition?		
Make sure the rear-access seat tilt releases work OK		
Check operation of all seat electrics - including auto seat forward slide when you tilt the back		
Headrest adjustment		
Rear quarterlight windows - operation and seal		
Rear headrests present		
Rear coat hooks present		
Rear seat ski hatch/armrest - condition and operation		
Check the plugs under the rear arm rests - have they been removed - work inside the panel?		
Interior - Boot		

	✓ or ✗	Notes
Bootlid operation and effectiveness of boot struts		
Check for damage to black power cable into boot (top left corner) - it can get trapped in the boot closure		
Look for missing bootliner/carpet fasteners - a sign of them having been removed		
Spare wheel alloy in good condition		
Spare wheel tyre in good condition		
Wheel jack and tools all present?		
Wheel nut cover removal tool (yellow) present?		
Locking wheel nut removal tool present?		
General condition of boot trim, lining and rubber seal		
Look for water leaks in the boot side panel, near the tail-light and CD Changer and/or evidence of water in the spare wheel well		
CD changer cassette present?		
Vehicle history and documentation		
VIN number in 3 places (1) steel plate on engine bay front sill (2) engraved plate rear engine bay sill (3) engraved plastic plate inside base of windscreen		
Last service date, including full service history (FSH) and stamps		
Mileage on MOT and service records tally with display in car and car age (approx 10-12k/yr)?		
Owner's manual		
V5 logbook		
Tax		
Current MOT - look up 'MOT status check' on direct.gov.uk		
MOT history - look up 'MOT history request' on direct.gov.uk		
Spare key present. Also test its operation		
Sat Nav: CD present in boot Satnav CD player, plus presence of remote control		
Receipts for services and/or repair work carried out		
Cambelt changed? Due around 10 years or 80,000 miles - an expensive job on V6 engines		
Radiator replaced?		
Engine mounts changed?		
Coil packs changed?		
Suspension components changed?		
Oil used - semi/fully synth?		
Automatic transmission fluid changed?		
Exhaust replaced?		