**Questions For a Mechanic & Answers**

1. Do all faults show up on the car’s dashboard?

No not all car faults will show up on a car’s dashboard. For example, the faults that don’t appear include faulty brakes, faulty gearbox, clutch gone, shocks, suspension issues etc.

1. How many faults can a car have in general? (Max number)

A car can have up to (between 10/12 faults a year) faults in general depending on car and driver.

1. How many faults can a car have at the same time?

A car can have up to 2 faults at any given time depending on car and driver.

1. What’s some of the universal faults / common faults most cars share?

Engine management, airbag, traction control, abs, braking system, dpf system (diesel new cars).

1. What’s the most common first fault a car will show?

Engine Management usually is the first fault cars show.

1. What are some of the most serious problems/faults? (Give examples)

Abs, power steering pumps stop working & braking system – harder to detect and don’t always show up.

1. What are some of the most serious faults in older cars? Especially in used cars

Dynastic fault – engine trouble, head gasket, ecu issues, immobilizer issues

1. What are some of the most serious faults in newer cars? used cars but newer in age and hybrid / electric cars

Electrical faults, dpf problems, battery issues, - expensive to fix and to get parts.

1. Are all faults worth fixing? Or is the cost sometimes too expensive i.e., comparison to the value of the car?

Most faults are worth fixing depends on the cost of car, year of car, type of car etc.

1. What’s the average cost of fixing a fault? With example.

Plug in car 35 euro - service

Sensors issues range 40-euro hour labor

Lamba sensors – price avg 50/60 all in

Brake pads cost 70 to fix averagely

Cost of fixing a fault really depends on what’s gone and were.

1. Can the fault being displayed be caused by something else? (Abs light on due to steering column)

Yes, it can – Opel Corsa Vauxhall, abs light came on when going over 90k/h. cleaned the sensor and replaced but still had the issue. The cause was the steering column being out of place and had to be changed.

1. Do newer cars (2016 on words) have more sensitive faults compared to older cars (2015 down words)?

Yes, more sensitive faults as more are sensors and electric.

1. Do electric / hybrid cars have many faults and are they more expensive to fix? are they harder to detect the fault and the cause?

Yea faults are more expensive – electrics (technician) – harder to detect as computer can’t read the faults or not be able to read all the faults or give back fault codes associated with them.

1. Will new cars display more information in relation to the fault shown? on the tablets they have now - settings built in

Sometimes they will display more out to the user on what is going on – engine oil levels – fill up, adblue injectors gives a lot of trouble in newer cars and cost more to fix.

1. More cars now have sensors built in, if one broke would it be displayed on the dashboard? What would the cost be to fit it? Are they easy to fix or require more labor?

Certain amount will – abs, airbag, anti-slip, engine management, dpf (oxygen sensor wouldn’t show up) – expensive to fix (adblue sensor 300 euro) – require more labor

1. What are the types of sensors in older cars (up to 2016)?

Airbag, Lamba, throttle control, EGR valve

1. What are the types of sensors in newer cars (2016 on words)?

Adblue injector, hybrid (pack battery – 8/9k depends on car), camera sensors

1. Are cars getting more complicated for the average consumer with the new fancy technology? and is the cost too high?

Getting more complicated and the cost is higher now due to more parts being harder to get especially if its electric related or battery related especially in hybrids and electric cars. The cost can be somethings be very large (over 2k for some of them).

1. What would happen if you accidentally put Petrol into a Diesel car and put Diesel into a Petrol car? any cost related to draining the car, any damage that can be done?

Petrol into diesel – just drain and should start without any issues

Diesel into petrol – more of an issue, change plugs, oil in petrol, harder to fix as diesel is a more oil-based fuel compared to petrol.

1. Can all faults be fixed?

Yes, all faults can be fixed.

1. What’s the average time wait for a fault to be fixed? (Getting parts, labor etc.) - time range

40 minutes to an hour or overnight depending on the fault.

1. Can some faults just never go away even after being fixed? or can the same fault be reoccurring even if fixed?

Yes, could be down to a broken wire, or lume broken.

Same fault can be a reoccurrence due to bad parts given or easily broken.

1. Can faults be turned off in cars and not be fixed?

Yes, can blank car faults with tap if the issue not fixed and can wipe faults of ecu using delphi system.

1. Does the cost of fixing a fault depend on the car, year, parts needed, labor and travel distance?

Yes, the cost would as some parts are specific to the car make and model. Some parts might need to be specially ordered etc.

1. What cars do students tend to buy for their first car and what might influence them? (Low mileage, cheaper insurance, road tax, petrol or diesel, engine size?

Small cars usually with low mileage, within the 10/8-year age bracket, usually small engine size, cheaper road tax and insurance cover.

1. Would younger people tend to know more about cars today in comparison to the older generation as they have grown up with technology?

Yes, as they are into their cars today compared to that of years ago. Younger people are also better at understanding things now with the help of technology. Some of the older generation would know a lot about cars with the interest. It varies based on their knowledge.

1. If a bulb blew for example would that appear on the dashboard? (New cars, older cars)

Yes, it would show on both.

1. What type if cars do the older generation tend to be influenced to buy (Audi, Toyota, BMW etc.)?

Bigger cars, bigger engines, 2l cars, longer cars etc.

1. What would be a fault that shows a light on the dashboard that a user could usually fix themselves? (Tyre pressure, windscreen wash, brake fluid, engine oil etc.)

Windscreen wash – top up, tyre pressure, brake fluid, engine oil – can check and top up if needed, should be able to change a tyre.

1. What are the different engine sizes for petrol cars and for diesel cars?

Petrol – 1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.6, 2.0

Diesel – 1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 2.0, 2.2, 2.4, 2.8, 3.0, 3.2

1. Does the engine size relate to any faults the car might experience?

Yes, that would influence the faults – bigger engines have more complicated faults.

1. Does the year of the car influence the manufacture of the car in relation to parts etc.?

Yes, the year would as older cars could be hard to find parts and could cost a lot to get.

1. Would a gearbox, clutch issue shows up on a dashboard and if not, how would the driver detect the fault? (Old cars, new cars) - cost associated with them

No, rumbling in gears, won’t go into gear, clutch is slipping – think on ice – car reving and going nowhere – cost higher to fix

1. How would a driver know their brakes are worn and might need replacement? (Old cars, new cars) - cost associated with them

Spongey feeling, squealing, scrapping. – usually not overall expensive but depends on car model and make.

1. How would a driver know if they needed new shocks, springs, struts etc. if these types of faults don’t show up? (Old cars, new cars) - cost associated with them

Banging, car uneven to drive, hear loud noise, car tracking out of line.

1. What are the most common faults with hybrid cars and electric cars? are they easy to fix, more expensive etc.?

Batteries, ecus – expensive to fix (6-10k in hybrids for a new battery).

1. Do manual and automatic cars experience the same faults, or do they have different faults related to the type of car?

Yea majority of the time, same faults can happen as the mechanics of the car in essence is the same.