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RTT Pre-riding Checks and Motorcycle Controls

Checking your motorcycle before every ride takes a few minutes and prevents breakdowns and accidents. The RTT asks about each check and its numbers: tyre tread of at least **1.6 mm**, chain slack of no more than **20 mm**, brake free play of **15-20 mm** and clutch free play of **10-20 mm**.

Key numbers

1.6 mm
replace tyres with less tread than this
p.16, 25

20 mm
most slack in the drive chain
p.16, 25

15-20 mm
free play: front brake lever and rear brake pedal
p.17, 26

10-20 mm
free play: clutch lever
p.18, 26

Before every ride

- **Fuel** enough for the whole trip; fuel valve on.
- **Controls** : throttle, clutch, front and rear brakes work properly.
- **Horn** works.
- **Chain** not too slack: a loose chain can lock the rear wheel.
- **Clutch** free play right, or gear changes get hard.
- **Tyres** not punctured, under-inflated, damaged or worn.
- **Lights** : headlamp, hazard lights, turn signals, tail lamp, brake lamp.
- **Engine oil** between the high and low marks.
- **Brakes** work; fluid level checked.
- **Mirrors** : the tip of your shoulder at the lower edge. Not on the main stand.

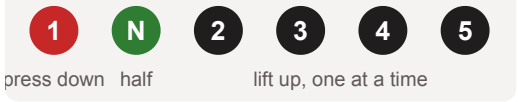
p.25-26

Weekly checks

- **Engine oil**: engine cold, motorcycle upright on flat ground; dip the stick without screwing it in. p.16
- **Brake fluid**: front above the LOWER mark; rear between LOWER and UPPER. p.17
- **Chain**: push up midway between the sprockets; about 20 mm of slack is right. p.16
- **Tyres**: pressure, damage, abnormal wear, tread depth. Wrong pressure makes the motorcycle unstable. p.14, 16

Controls and gears

Left hand	clutch lever	**Right hand**	throttle, front brake
Left foot	gear pedal	**Right foot**	rear brake



- Twist the throttle **towards you** to speed up. p.27
- 1st 0-20 km/h, 2nd 15-35, 3rd 30-45, 4th 40 and up, 5th cruising above 70 km/h. p.28
- **Neutral** is between 1st and 2nd: a half lift from 1st or half press from 2nd. p.28

Riding gear and posture

- An approved **helmet** is the law for rider and pillion. Visor or goggles; bright clothing; gloves; good boots. p.19-20
- Eyes far ahead, shoulders relaxed, elbows bent at about **120°**, knees grip the tank lightly, arches of the feet on the footrests. p.20
- Headlight on at all times, day and night. p.62

Good to know

- **Throttle stuck** in traffic: pull in the clutch, switch off the engine, brake. p.26
- **Illegal modification** (changing parts or systems without approval): fine up to $2,000 or up to 6 months' jail. p.18
- **No helmet**, or not worn securely: 3 points, $150. An extra pillion, or one not sitting astride: 3 points, $150. BTT p.6
- Plan your route, avoid peak hours, and leave plenty of time: you ride calmer. p.26

Test traps

- **Mirrors**: adjust them sitting on the motorcycle, not while it is on the main stand. p.26
- **Stuck throttle**: clutch in first, then engine off, then brake. p.26
- **Chain**: too loose is dangerous: it can slip off and lock the rear wheel. p.25
- **Neutral** is between 1st and 2nd, not below 1st. p.28
- **Engine oil**: check with the engine cold, on flat ground, dipstick not screwed in. p.16

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Based on the official *Riding Theory* handbook, pages 14-28 (and Basic Theory of Driving pages 6-7); page numbers are the handbook's. The drawings are our own simple versions. An unofficial study aid by sgdriving.net, not a Traffic Police publication: where anything differs, the official handbook prevails. The handbooks are free from the Traffic Police Online Learning Portal.