CHECKLIST:

Things to check before a long journey

To reduce the chance of a break down or to keep yourself safe if something goes wrong, it is important to make some basic checks before you set off on a long journey.

O Condition of spare tyre

Looking out for lumps, bulges and tears. Also check the tread by inserting a 20p coin into the tread. If you can see the outer band of the coin when you do this then you need to change your tyre.

O Hazard lights

Simply press the button and then step out of your car and walk around it to ensure all your indicator lights are flashing.

O General condition of vehicle

Take an overall look at your car to work out whether or not it'll be able to handle the treacherous conditions that winter brings.

O Antifreeze levels

Make sure there is a mix of half water and half antifreeze in the system so that it can withstand temperatures dropping below zero degrees C.

O Lights

Try each level of lighting by switching it on and then walking around the car to see that each bulb is lit up.

O Engine oil levels

Open the bonnet, take the dipstick out and look for where the line of oil is. If it is low then refill the tank.

Check your manufacturers handbook before carrying out any of the above.

