

# Light Vehicle Automotive Technology

## Technical Handbook



Richard Hutchins

IMI Skills Competitions Manager

[RichardH@theimi.org.uk](mailto:RichardH@theimi.org.uk)

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We would like to thank all of our industry leading sponsors that are passionate about finding the top talented apprentices and make this competition possible:

# TMD FRICTION



This WorldSkills UK competition is managed by the Institute of the Motor Industry

## Overview:

Automotive Technology is a significant sector within the automotive engineering industry, Automotive Technology covers the maintenance/inspection and repair of passenger car light vans etc.

Automotive Technology includes a wide range of skills, high standards and critical thinking and process applications and problem solving.

This guide will provide you with a clear path to follow, from the initial registration to the National finals and beyond.

## Career Pathway:

### What is the job role?

Light Vehicle Service Technicians service and repair vehicles such as cars and vans up to 3.5 tonnes. Technicians are trained in all areas of vehicle mechanics and electronics, from engine and exhaust systems to air conditioning and security features.

The duties of a Light Vehicle Service Technician may include:

Servicing vehicles – carrying out maintenance checks according to the manufacturers' guidelines

Repairing and replacing faulty parts and components

Advising the Service Receptionists about required repairs

Producing time estimates

Maintaining repair and service records

### Qualifications

You will need to be trained in Light Vehicle Maintenance and Repair at Level 2 at this stage of your career and then progress to Light Vehicle Maintenance and Repair at Level 3.

There are a range of qualifications in light vehicle maintenance and repair covering the underpinning knowledge you will need to get started and the hands-on skills required to carry out the job. These qualifications can either be obtained through a full time college course or an apprenticeship. As a Light Vehicle Service Technician you will need to demonstrate excellent practical skills, good communication skills and the ability to follow written and verbal instructions. In addition you would be required to work quickly with attention to detail, able to work without supervision and have a reasonable level of fitness.

### Working hours and salary

40 hours a week

Monday to Saturday.

Some tasks may be physically demanding although you will use lifting equipment to move heavy parts.

An apprentice or a trainee Service Technician expect to earn between £7,000 and £13,000 depending on your age and stage of training.

Once you are qualified The average Car Mechanic/Light Vehicle Technician's salary in United Kingdom is £28,500 per year or £14.62 per hour. The average Diagnostic Vehicle Technician salary in United Kingdom is £31,063 per year or £15.93 per hour.

(Average salaries taken from <https://neuvoo.co.uk/salary/?job=car+mechanic>)

**Progression to:**

Light Vehicle Service Technician, Diagnostic Vehicle Technician, Light Vehicle Master Technician, Service Manager

**For more Automotive career pathway information:**

<https://www.autocity.org.uk/>

**Resources and Registration:**

For information and resources, including how to register, competition rules, and the steps to competing, visit:

<https://worldskillsuk.org/champions/national-skills-competitions/tools-and-resources>

**Pre-competition Activity:**

Pre-competition competitors should try to familiarise themselves with competition style activities even if you have a fellow student to judge a completed work task during a practical session at college/training provider.

Also familiarise yourself with current industry processes and procedures for completing a range of tasks you may need to complete.

For information and resources, including a detailed Pre-Competition activity pack please find this on the WorldSkills UK Automotive Technology webpage.

## Competition Structure:

### Registration:

Once you have completed your registration (and accepted All terms and conditions) you will be emailed a link to complete a Passive online test.

### Passive Stage:

When the passive online test has been completed you will be notified to let you know if you have scored high enough to go through to the National Qualifiers (the practical competition rounds).

### National Qualifiers Stage one:

*The National Qualifier will be an online competition, all details would be emailed to you well in advance of any of the competitions.*

Ensure you're ready to compete in your National Qualifiers by looking at both the physical and online qualifier project briefs below.

These outline the type of tasks you will be expected to carry out. Ask your lecturer/employer for help in any areas where you feel you could improve and try to gain practical experience in all the task areas of the competition.

The Online National Qualifier consists of similar tasks to the practical competition that ran in previous years however the online task will be broken down into a series of online questions for you to answer.

The tasks outline the type of questions you will be expected to answer. Ask your lecturer/employer for help in any areas where you feel you could improve and try to use your practical experience in all the task areas to think about the different processes etc. that you could be questioned on for competition.

### National Qualifier Stage two:

Compete in your online National Qualifier. Details on how to join will be sent to you once you have passed the passive stage.

### WorldSkills UK Live Final Stage one:

The 6 highest scoring competitors across each National Qualifiers will be invited to compete at the finals - WorldSkills UK Live in November.

### WorldSkills UK Live Final Stage two:

Ensure you're ready to compete in your WorldSkills UK Live Final by looking at the project brief below.

This outlines the type of tasks you will be expected to carry out. Ask your lecturer/employer for help in any areas where you feel you could improve and try to gain practical experience in all the task areas of the competition.

Attend Pre final training arranged by IMI Skills Competitions (budget depending) and virtual online training.

### **WorldSkills UK Live Final Stage three:**

Attend and compete in your allocated WorldSkills UK Live Final.

## **Specification of the Practical Tasks:**

Tasks will be designed to test the competitors technical ability to;

- Set up and use diagnostic equipment
- Follow correct procedures
- Work efficiently
- Inspect vehicles ready for use
- Efficiently complete systems repairs
- Follow technical procedures
- Following manufacturer's procedures to repair the faults
- Carry out a diagnostic procedure
- Accurately use scan tools, multimeters, DTI gauges
- Accurately assess vehicle systems
- Engine electrical systems
- Engine mechanical systems
- Steering and suspension
- Wheels and Tyres
- Vehicle electrical/electronic systems
- Transmission systems
- Braking systems
- Hybrid and Electric vehicle systems
- Vehicle Inspection

## **Specification of the Online Tasks:**

Tasks will be designed to test the competitors technical ability to;

- How to set up and use diagnostic equipment
- The importance of following correct procedures
- How to work efficiently
- Correct methods of inspecting vehicles ready for use
- Knowledge in efficiently completing systems repairs
- How to follow technical procedures
- Procedures for following manufacturer's procedures to repair the faults
- How to carry out a diagnostic procedure
- Knowledge in accurately using scan tools, multimeters, DTI gauges
- How to accurately assess vehicle systems
- Engine electrical systems
- Engine mechanical systems
- Steering and suspension
- Wheels and Tyres
- Vehicle electrical/electronic systems
- Transmission systems
- Braking systems
- Hybrid and Electric vehicle systems
- Vehicle Inspections

## Task Overview:

### National Qualifiers- Automotive Technology

#### Task A – Vehicle Inspection:

This task requires competitors to use a methodical approach carry out an inspection on the selected areas of the vehicle and record your findings on the Vehicle Inspection Sheet, once the faults have been identified the competitor will need to complete a number of additional inspection related questions on a separate question paper. The competitor is not required to rectify any of the defects/faults found during the inspection.

#### Task B – Engine Mechanical:

Competitors will be required to check and correctly set up and use a vernier caliper to measure the dimensions indicated for each of the bushes, to check and correctly set up and use the micrometer to measure the dimensions indicated for each of the castings and to check and correctly set up and use the dial test indicator to measure each of the camshaft lobes identified.

The competitor will then be required to record all of the results found on a sheet provided

### **Task C – Braking System:**

The competitors will need to diagnose a reported fault in the braking system, they will need to complete an inspection of the braking system and complete any repairs needed to the system and then recheck the system to ensure the correct operation.

### **Task D – Transmission:**

The competitors are required to remove gear train accurately take measurements and record results, set up refit gears control and test to see if gearbox is serviceable. The competitor will need to complete related questions on a separate question paper as they progress through the task.

### **Task E – Body Electrical:**

The competitors are required to use a multimeter to test each circuit and diagnose the faults to see why it is not functioning correctly. The competitor will be required to test a number of circuits in the correct order to enable them to complete the task. All findings will need to be record on the report sheet provided. Include any readings taken and recommended action to correct the fault.

### **Task F – Engine Electrical:**

The competitor will be required to confirm a fault in a vehicle engine electrical system, check vehicle display and diagnose the cause of the fault and complete the appropriate repairs needed. The competitor will need to complete related questions on a separate question paper.

### **Marking and Assessment (Practical National Qualifier):**

The WorldSkills UK/IMI Skills competitions provide an opportunity for automotive technicians to demonstrate the technical skills required to be a successful modern day heavy vehicle technician.

For the physical qualifiers, competitors would have been required to work on a selection of vehicles and components carrying out various tasks, which will test the skills and abilities of a modern automotive technician.

The competition consisted mainly of carrying out a practical activity as well as an element of reporting diagnosed faults; tasks may be from (but are not limited to) any of the following:

Engine mechanical, engine electrical, steering & suspension, transmissions, vehicle inspections, vehicle electrics, braking systems.

Competitors were expected to demonstrate competence using hand tools, power tools, workshop equipment, measuring devices, specialist tools and diagnostic equipment such as multi-meters, scan tools, code readers, oscilloscopes and wheel alignment systems as well as referencing technical manuals, wiring diagrams and electronic data retrieval systems.

Judges were also looking for other skills expected of a successful technician such as time management, planning and problem solving skills, working under pressure, communication skills, attitude and behaviour.

All IMI Skills Competitions are judged by a panel of experts drawn from industry, colleges and training providers. The judges' decisions would have been independently moderated and quality assured before results are confirmed. The judges would have been briefed on assessment procedures prior to the competition.

Judges were looking for technical competency but were also briefed to look for excellence amongst competitors. Judges will therefore take into account skills such as

- Collect, analyse and organise information
- Communicate ideas and information
- Plan and organise work activities
- Use mathematical ideas and techniques
- Solve problems
- Use current technology
- Comply with H&S legislation

All task marking is objective and based on agreed criteria.

### **National Qualifiers**

Vehicle Inspection	16%
Engine Mechanical	15%
Braking Systems	16%
Transmission	18%
Body Electrical	18%
Engine Electrical	17%

## **Marking and Assessment (Online National Qualifier):**

The WorldSkills UK/IMI Skills competitions provide an opportunity for automotive technicians to demonstrate the technical Knowledge and skills required to be a successful modern day heavy vehicle technician.

Competitors are required to answer questions on a selection of virtual vehicles and components carrying out various tasks, which will test the knowledge and abilities of a modern automotive technician.

The competition consists mainly answering questions on practical activities as well as an element of virtual reporting diagnosed faults; tasks may be from (but are not limited to) any of the following: Engine mechanical, engine electrical, steering & suspension, transmissions, vehicle inspections, vehicle electrics, braking systems.

Competitors will be expected to demonstrate competent knowledge in the using hand tools, power tools, workshop equipment, measuring devices, specialist tools and diagnostic equipment such as multi-meters, scan tools, code readers, oscilloscopes and wheel alignment systems as well as referencing technical manuals, wiring diagrams and electronic data retrieval systems.

Judges will also be looking for other skills expected of a successful technician such as time management, planning and problem solving skills, working under pressure, communication skills, attitude and behaviour.

All task marking is objective and based on agreed criteria.

### **National Qualifiers**

Vehicle Inspection	16%
Engine Mechanical	15%
Braking Systems	16%
Transmission	18%
Body Electrical	18%
Engine Electrical	17%

### **National Qualifiers (Practical) What to expect:**

In the past, the Automotive Technology National Qualifiers took place at Ford's prestigious Henry Ford Academy in Daventry.

The competitors would rotate around the six tasks over a full day of competition.

The competition consisted of 6 tasks lasting approximately 45 minutes each, designed to reflect the knowledge of technicians working towards, or at, a level 3 Light vehicle automotive qualification.

The competitors would have needed to show knowledge of the processes and equipment used for these operations.

### **National Qualifiers (Online) What to expect:**

The Automotive Technology Online National Qualifiers takes place remotely in the form of online tests /virtual tasks.

You will be emailed a link and given a specific time to complete your online/virtual competition.

Task duration may vary according to the complexity of the task and the number of areas to be completed.

The competition will need to be accessed via laptop or P.C, the online competition maybe invigilated remotely by IMI staff and technical support will be available during the competition.

The competitors will need to show knowledge of the processes and equipment used for these operations.

### **Task Overview:**

#### **National Final- Automotive Technology**

#### **Task A – Engine Diagnostics:**

The task consists of 3 elements. Element 1 and 2 must be completed before you commence Element 3.

This task requires competitors to diagnose and repair a three stage fault in an electric hybrid vehicle that will not start. For the first stage of the task the competitor will not be able to use a diagnostic scan tool, however you may use any other tools, test equipment and electronic service information provided for you to rectify the fault.

For the second stage the competitor can use the diagnostic scan tool to rectify the fault.

The third stage the competitor will need to use the provided oscilloscope test two different engine sensors and record the results on the sheet provided.

### **Task B – Transmissions:**

This task requires competitors to investigate a reported fault on a gearbox, they will have to use a methodical approach to dismantle and carry out an inspection on the transmission components and record your findings on the sheet provided, all faulty components will need to be correctly replaced and the transmission unit full reassembled. All finding should be recorded on the sheet provided.

### **Task C – Body Electrical Systems:**

The task consists of 3 elements. Element 1 and 2 must be completed before you commence Element 3.

This task is a three stage task the first stage the competitor will need to inspect a body electrical circuit and identify and rectify the fault found. For this stage the use of the diagnostic scan tool is not available. However, you may use any other tools, test equipment and vehicle wiring diagrams provided for you.

The second stage the competitor will need to inspect a different body electrical circuit and identify and rectify the fault found. Again the use of the diagnostic scan tool is not available. However, you may use any other tools, test equipment and vehicle wiring diagrams provided for you.

The third stage the competitor will need to complete a question paper/report sheet.

### **Task D – Braking Systems:**

The task consists of 3 elements. Element 1 and 2 must be completed before you commence Element 3.

This task is a three stage task. The first stage the competitor will need to inspect a fault in the vehicle braking system. The competitor will be able to use technical information and diagnostic tools provided to diagnose and rectify the fault.

The second stage the competitor will need to perform a full brake system and components check and record any/all defects found on the report sheet provided then and rectify all/any faults found

The third stage the competitor will need to inspect and test the condition of system fluid and complete a report sheet provided with all findings.

### **Task E – Steering & Suspension Systems:**

The task consists of 2 elements. Element 1 must be completed before you commence Element 2.

The competitors are required to carry out a full check to the steering and suspension systems as a number of faults have been reported.

The competitor will need to complete a steering geometry test on the vehicle to diagnose the faults and will need to rectify any faults found to ensure that they are fit for purpose leaving the vehicle in a safe usable condition

The second stage the competitor will need to carry out a check on the vehicle's wheels and tyres to diagnose and rectify a reported fault by the customer.

### **Task F – Engine Mechanical Systems:**

The task consists of 2 elements. Element 1 must be completed before you commence Element 2.

Stage one requires competitors to test an engine cylinder head, checking the specifications for its usability and complete a provided report sheet on the findings.

The second stage of the task the competitors will need to measure the serviceability of internal components of a vehicle engine and complete a provided report sheet on the findings.

### **Marking and Assessment:**

The marking scheme is designed to fairly compare every competitor's work.

The marking is split between specific judgement aspects throughout the task, including efficiency, health and safety and technical performance.

The IMI Skills competitions are judged by a panel of industry specialists.

The judges' decisions will be independently moderated and quality assured before being confirmed at the closing ceremony where the results are announced.

The judges are briefed on assessment procedures prior to the competition. Judges are looking for technical competency but are also briefed to look for excellence amongst competitors. Judges will therefore take into account skills such as time management, working under pressure and communication skills. All marking is objective and based on agreed criteria.

Competitors are required to carry out practical activities and follow diagnostic procedures on vehicles, components and training rigs to identify reported faults. The tasks will be based on the following vehicle systems: engine mechanical, engine electrical, steering & suspension, transmissions, brakes, body electrical, wheels and tyres.

The tasks for 2021 are in the final stages of development and will follow a similar format to those at the qualifiers but of a more complex nature, requiring an in depth knowledge of diagnostic procedures and a higher understanding of the operation and function of vehicle components and systems, including hybrid drive technologies.

You will be required to reference data specifications and workshop procedures and be competent using multimeters, scan tools, diagnostic equipment (including oscilloscopes), pressure gauges, measuring equipment such as micrometers, DTI's and Vernier gauges, wheel balancing and tyre changing equipment, and four wheel alignment systems.

Judges will also be looking for other skills expected of a successful technician, such as:-

- Efficiency
- Time Management
- Performance when working under pressure,
- Communication skills
- Effective Planning
- Collect, analyse and organise information
- Communicate ideas and information
- Plan and organise work activities
- Use mathematical ideas and techniques
- Solve problems
- Use current technology

All competitors will receive feedback after the competition on their performance.

The allocation of marks is dependent on the tasks chosen and their complexity.

Below is a broad outline of how marks may be distributed:

**National final:**

Braking systems	15%
Body electrical	18%
Engine mechanical	15%

Engine diagnostics	20%
Inspections	18%
Steering / suspension	14%

## Judges Top Tips:

- **Preparation and Practice**  
A successful competitor you need to be confident, calm and self-assured when competing.  
Prepare by practicing your skills and techniques to ensure you get the required standard/results you want without any surprises.
- **Time Management**  
Learn to manage your time effectively when completing tasks by working smart not fast!  
The tasks have allocated times, so practice working to time and under pressure to perfect your timing.  
If you run out of time in the competition you will lose marks.
- **Planning**  
Make your own plans for how to complete each task, work methodically and even write it down to help you prepare.
- **Organised**  
Make sure you are organised, make sure all stages of a task are completed.  
Organise all of your equipment and materials for the task.
- **Health & Safety**  
In any automotive refinishing environment Health & Safety is very important, make sure you use the appropriate PPE for the task and work safely.
- **Clean and Tidy**  
Keep your working area tidy as you can be more efficient in a tidy work area. Make sure that when you present your work to the judges it is clean and ready for final judging.
- **Understanding**  
Read the task brief thoroughly and make sure you understand what you need to do. Do not be afraid to ask questions, remember there is only one silly question.....the one you don't ask!
- **Don't Worry**  
If a part of a task hasn't gone as well as you might have wanted don't worry or dwell on it, just draw a line under that and get on with the next task. Always focus on the marks you can gain not what you might have lost.
- **Enjoy**

To get to the WorldSkills UK National Qualifiers or the WorldSkills UK Live National Finals is in its self a massive achievement that you should be extremely proud of! Make the most of the whole WorldSkills UK/IMI Skills Competitions process and enjoy it!

### **National Final- Automotive Technology What to expect:**

The competitors rotate around the six tasks above over the two days (Thursday and Friday) of competition.

Task duration varies according to the complexity of the task, during which time they will be required to apply industry recognised techniques and procedures for inspection, diagnosis and repair of complex faults on light vehicle systems.

The competitors will need to show knowledge of the equipment used in these processes and be able to follow the correct industry recognised process for each task. The tasks are designed to assess the knowledge and skills of technicians working towards, or at, a level 3 Automotive Technology vocational qualification as a minimum

A period of familiarisation and training is scheduled (Wednesday) to allow you to become acquainted with the tools, materials and equipment you will use during the competition and the tasks to be completed.

Use this time to ensure you are confident in the use of application of all the equipment you will use.

### **Saturday activity: Light Vehicle Automotive Technology**

The Saturday showcase activity gives you a chance to become the trainer and to show your skills to the public and visitors without the pressure of the competition.

On the Saturday each Light Vehicle Automotive Technology finalist will each be the trainer/judge and man the "Have a Go" on the competition stand to provide the visitors with a hands on experience of the Light Vehicle Automotive Technology industry.

### **Training for the National Finals:**

IMI Skills Competitions will invite the finalists to a training event at Pro Align Ltd UK training centre in Towcester\* We also have a series of modules created by competition sponsor Electude for you to complete which will help you be competition ready. You will be given a link to access these and a date to complete them by. Failure to do so may jeopardize your

place in the finals. This is an excellent opportunity for all competitors to boost their confidence using the equipment in a safe environment, while replicating the competition tasks and expectations.

The Training will cover:

- Suspension geometry
- Wheel alignment
- Road Force wheel balancing equipment
- Suspension systems
- Inspection techniques
- Open forum

*\*Live training events at Pro Align Ltd training centre are dependent on funding/budget\**

## Digital Resources:

Useful product information and “How to” guides can be gained at our sponsor suppliers websites.

- <https://www.alignmycar.co.uk/new-video-page>
- <https://pro-align.co.uk/>
- <https://www.picoauto.com/library>
- <https://g-scan.gitauto.com:6510/eng/product/list.asp>
- <https://www.youtube.com/user/GscanEZDS>
- <https://uk.autologic.com/channel#pGCqxx0rhcU>
- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVm0Xh7ajgNQDImMHpOcPVQ>
- <https://tmdfriction.com/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKxrC7xNUbKbBpviQX5vZhA>
- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKxrC7xNUbKbBpviQX5vZhA/videos>
- <https://www.youtube.com/c/Wabco-auto/videos>
- <https://www.forteuk.co.uk/>
- <https://www.electude.com/heavy-vehicles/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCffgvTwnLInJPOD1EUQ-Mhg>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TdUK6RPdIrA>
- <https://www.youtube.com/c/PicoScopeAutomotive/videos>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c9KNAIjoEYs>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UikBNF-3uOw>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O8vMFFYNIf0>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Nq2PI7q6Hk>

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vkPlzmalvN4>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LEzkoF-gAn4>
- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0j4RPLcdNCVJPdEL-Q7m9A>
- <https://www.theimi.org.uk/landing/skillauto/>
- <https://tide.theimi.org.uk/>
- <https://student.theimi.org.uk/competitions>
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## Competition Rules:

Conduct for competitors during live competitions:

- It is the competitor's responsibility to arrive on time at the event each day, late arrivals may be excluded from the competition.
- The IMI will provide accommodation for you from the Wednesday to the Sunday.
- Competitors will start and finish tasks as instructed by the judges or Competition team.
- Equipment, tools and specific safety equipment will be supplied; however competitors are required to wear the Skill Auto uniforms supplied. Please bring own safety shoes. (Without your safety shoes you may not be able to take part in the competition due to health and safety regulations)
- Any competitor who wishes to leave the area during the competition must seek the permission of the competition organisers or lead judge.
- If there is a power stoppage, breakdown of machinery or accident, the competitors must act according to the instructions of the competition organisers.
- Competitors are expected to comply with the host venue rules and regulations.
- Between tasks competitors will wait in the designated area until directed to their next task by a judge.

## Beyond the National Finals:

*Please note, the 2021 competition is not a selection year for the EuroSkills or International Competitions.*

The IMI Skills Competitions national finals sometimes form part of the selection process for WorldSkills International competitions.

WorldSkills International training managers will be onsite during the competition, monitoring the performance of those who are age eligible for Lyon and Age-eligible competitors who show the highest skills, passion, and drive to compete could be invited to train for the EuroSkills and WorldSkills international competitions.

Further details of the international competitions including eligibility criteria can be found on the WorldSkills International website [www.worldskills.org](http://www.worldskills.org) You will be notified if you are age eligible.

Those who are not eligible for international competitions may join the Champions programme, which allows continued involvement, including the opportunity to work with WorldSkills UK and visit schools, colleges, and events to inspire the next generations.

Alternatively, if training is of interest to you, you could consider supporting WorldSkills UK with organising and training, and even helping to run the National finals.

Get inspired and you could become part of Team UK!

