Was the car built or first registered at least 40 years ago (on a rolling basis) and of a type no longer in production?

For further information on MOT exemption procedures see:
List of our news items and articles on the topic index
Declaration of exemption from MOT with DVLA Form V112 link
MOT exemption for Vehicles of Historic Interest article

Yes

No

Has the car undergone substantial change in the technical characteristics of its main components in the previous 30 years?

DfT: Substantial Change Guidance

- **Chassis or monocoque bodyshell** – replacements of the same pattern as the original are not considered a substantial change.
- **Axles or running gear** – alteration of the type or method of suspension or steering constitute a substantial change.
- **Engine** – alternative engine size of the same basic engine are not considered a substantial change. If the number of cylinders in an engine is different from the original, it is likely but not necessarily the case the current engine is not alternative original equipment.

But the following are considered acceptable (not substantial) changes if they fall into these specific categories:

- Changes made to preserve a vehicle, which in all cases must be when original type parts are no longer reasonably available.
- Changes made of a type that can be demonstrated to have been made when the vehicles of the type were in production or in general use (within 10 years of the end of production).
- Changes made to axles and running gear made to improve efficiency, safety and environmental performance.

See DfT: Substantial Change Guidance & Briefing notes

No

Yes

Owner or keeper can self declare the car a Vehicle of Historic Interest (VHI)

Owner or keeper self declares the car a VHI

Owner or keeper decides not to declare the car a VHI

Vehicle is MOT exempt

Owner or keeper can have a voluntary MOT test or inspection
TABS – test and be safer

Vehicle must have an annual MOT test

Legal requirement to maintain the car in a roadworthy condition when on public roads

Insurance condition usually requires the insured to maintain the car in a roadworthy condition