

Railway Fundamentals - An introduction to Train Braking Systems

Self-test Questions

1. Which two types of continuous braking system are used on the West Somerset Railway?

A: Vacuum and Air.

2. Which braking system do all trains on the West Somerset Railway have?

A: Hand brakes.

3. Which system provides more powerful brakes, vacuum or air?

A: Air.

4. Which braking system is more commonly used on the national network today, vacuum or air?

A: Air.

5. Where would you find a 'brake standard'?

A: In a guard's van.

6. Do you need to pin a wheel hand brake?

A: No.

7. Does a 'piped wagon' have a working continuous brake?

A: No.

8. What is a collection of wagons with working continuous brakes marshalled behind a locomotive called?

A: A fitted head.

9. What does a steam loco's 'ejector' use to draw air out of a train vacuum pipe?

A: Steam

10. What device does a steam loco use to pressurise an air brake system?

A: An air pump.

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