

ALFA ROMEO 156 FROM JAN 98

Owners like driving the stylish 156. However, there are lots of problems to spoil the experience, including rattles and squeaks, a lack of space inside and poor heating and ventilation.

Body styles 4-dr saloon, 5-dr estate
Engines 1.6, 2.0 or 2.4 litre ptl, 1.9 or 2.4 litre dsl
Prices new £15,362 (1.6 T Spark) to £21,447 (2.4 JTD estate)
Dimensions 4.43m x 1.7m
CO₂ (g/km) 195 to 212 (ptl), 155 to 178 (dsl)



OWNERS' VERDICTS

Driving experience	☆
Driving position and comfort	☆
Ride quality	●
Visibility/parking	●
Instrument layout	●
Space in front	○
Space in rear	●
Loading/storage	●
Appearance and design	★
Noise	●
Heating and ventilation	●

RECOMMEND TO A FRIEND 43%

TROUBLESPOTS

2000-2002 Immobiliser, engine electrics, cam belt, some non-engine electrics, braking system

RELIABILITY

Ptl/Dsl 03-05 00-02 97-99

Breakdowns	-	●	-
Faults	-	○	-
Niggles	-	○	-

EVALUATION

RUNNING COSTS

Overall	Average
Depreciation	High
Fuel	Low

SECURITY

Theft of car	6/10
Theft from car	4/10

Tested

2.0 T Spark 4-dr

SAFETY

Overall	Fair
Crash test	n/a

AUDI A4 (USED ONLY) DEC 00 TO JAN 05

The old A4 offers a pleasant drive and good safety levels. But there are some pitfalls, such as a lack of space in the back and boot. Diesel models are more reliable than petrol ones, if noisier.

Body styles 2-dr cabriolet, 4-dr saloon, 5-dr estate
Engines 1.6, 1.8, 2.0, 2.4, 3.0 or 3.2 litre petrol, 1.9, 2.5 or 3.0 litre diesel
Prices used around £9,500 to £24,125
Dimensions 4.48m x 1.95m inc mirrors
CO₂ (g/km) 175 to 274 (ptl), 149 to 238 (dsl)



OWNERS' VERDICTS

Driving experience	☆
Driving position and comfort	○
Ride quality	●
Visibility/parking	saloon ○ estate ☆
Instrument layout	☆
Space in front	☆
Space in rear	●
Loading/storage	●
Appearance and design	★
Noise	diesel ○ petrol ★
Heating and ventilation	○

RECOMMEND TO A FRIEND 76%

TROUBLESPOTS

2003-2005 None

2000-2002 Fuel system (diesel), immobiliser (petrol), ignition system (petrol), engine management system/ECU (petrol), engine electrics (petrol)

RELIABILITY

Petrol 03-05 00-02 97-99 Diesel 03-05 00-02 97-99

Breakdowns	○	●	-	Breakdowns	★	★	-
Faults	○	●	-	Faults	○	○	-
Niggles	○	○	-	Niggles	○	○	-

EVALUATION

RUNNING COSTS

Overall	High
Depreciation	Low
Fuel	Average

SECURITY

Theft of car	8/10
Theft from car	4/10

Tested

2.0 SE 4-dr

SAFETY

Overall	Good
Crash test	4/5

AUDI A4 (USED ONLY) MAR 95 TO JAN 01

The old A4 isn't as stylish as the newer model. It drives well, though it's a little uncomfortable behind the wheel. There's also a shortage of space for rear passengers.

Body styles 4-dr saloon, 5-dr estate
Engines 1.6, 1.8, 2.4, 2.6 or 2.8 litre petrol, 1.9 or 2.5 litre diesel
Prices used up to around £17,000
Dimensions 4.48m x 1.85m
CO₂ (g/km) 187 to 262 (ptl), 149 to 235 (dsl)



OWNERS' VERDICTS

Driving experience	☆
Driving position and comfort	●
Ride quality	diesel ☆ petrol ○
Visibility/parking	☆
Instrument layout	○
Space in front	☆
Space in rear	●
Loading/storage	saloon ● estate ☆
Appearance and design	☆
Noise	diesel ● petrol ☆
Heating and ventilation	○

RECOMMEND TO A FRIEND 71%

TROUBLESPOTS

2000-2002 None

1997-1999 Dashboard switches, suspension, airbags, exterior trim

RELIABILITY

Ptl/Dsl 03-05 00-02 97-99

Breakdowns	-	○	○
Faults	-	○	○
Niggles	-	○	○

EVALUATION

RUNNING COSTS

Overall	Average
Depreciation	Average
Fuel	Average

SECURITY

Theft of car	6/10
Theft from car	4/10

Tested

2.8 V6 Quattro 4-dr

SAFETY

Overall	Fair
Crash test	2.5/5

BMW 3 SERIES (USED ONLY) SEP 98 TO MAR 05

The recently replaced 3 series still holds its own against newer cars. It's a driver's delight that's secure and fairly safe. It's not perfect, though – owners criticise the lack of room in the back and the cost of servicing.

Body styles 2-dr coupé/convertible, 4-dr sal, 5-dr est
Engines 1.8, 1.9, 2.0, 2.2, 2.5, 2.8 or 3.0 litre petrol, 2.0 or 3.0 litre diesel
Prices used up to around £30,000
Dimensions 4.48m x 1.74m
CO₂ (g/km) 170 to 244 (ptl), 151 to 211 (dsl)



OWNERS' VERDICTS

Driving experience	★
Driving position and comfort	○
Ride quality	diesel ● petrol ○
Visibility/parking	★
Instrument layout	☆
Space in front	●
Space in rear	●
Loading/storage	saloon ● estate ○
Appearance and design	☆
Noise	diesel ☆ petrol ★
Heating and ventilation	○
RECOMMEND TO A FRIEND	77%

TROUBLESPOTS

2003-2005 Suspension
2000-2002 Electric windows
1997-1999 None

RELIABILITY

Petrol	03-05	00-02	97-99	Diesel	03-05	00-02	97-99
Breakdowns	○	○	○	Breakdowns	★	○	–
Faults	●	○	○	Faults	○	○	–
Niggles	○	○	○	Niggles	○	○	–

EVALUATION

RUNNING COSTS	
Overall	High
Depreciation	Average
Fuel	Very low
SECURITY	
Theft of car	8/10
Theft from car	8/10
Tested	318iSE 4-dr
SAFETY	
Overall	Fair
Crash test	4/5

BMW 3 SERIES (USED ONLY) APR 91 TO MAY 00

The enjoyable drive here pointed the way of things to come in newer 3 series models. It's a shame that it's let down by a low crash-test rating, cramped space in the rear and boot and high maintenance costs.

Body styles 2-dr coupé/convertible, 4-dr saloon, 5-dr estate
Engines 1.6, 1.8, 1.9, 2.0, 2.5 or 2.8 litre petrol, 1.7 or 2.5 litre diesel
Prices used up to £13,000
Dimensions 4.50m x 1.71m
CO₂ (g/km) 182 to 270 (ptl), 173 to 239 (dsl)



OWNERS' VERDICTS

Driving experience	★
Driving position and comfort	☆
Ride quality	○
Visibility/parking	★
Instrument layout	○
Space in front	○
Space in rear	●
Loading/storage	●
Appearance and design	☆
Noise	☆
Heating and ventilation	●
RECOMMEND TO A FRIEND	61%

TROUBLESPOTS

1997-1999 None

RELIABILITY

Ptl/Dsl	03-05	00-02	97-99
Breakdowns	–	–	○
Faults	–	–	○
Niggles	–	–	○

EVALUATION

RUNNING COSTS	
Overall	–
Depreciation	–
Fuel	–
SECURITY	
Theft of car	7/10
Theft from car	3/10
Tested	318i auto 4-dr
SAFETY	
Overall	n/a
Crash test	1.5/5

CITROEN C5 FROM APR 01

The best thing about this car is its generous interior space. But it has too many deficiencies, including poor reliability, rattles and squeaks, heavy depreciation and an unrewarding driving experience.

Body styles 5-dr estate, 5-dr hatchback
Engines 1.6, 1.8, 2.0 or 3.0 L ptl, 2.0 or 2.2 L dsl
Prices new £14,792 (1.8i 16v LX) to £22,492 (3.0 V6 Exclusive estate auto)
Dimensions 4.62m x 1.77m
CO₂ (g/km) 187 to 238 (ptl), 142 to 186 (dsl)



OWNERS' VERDICTS

Driving experience	●
Driving position and comfort	●
Ride quality	☆
Visibility/parking	hatchback ● estate ○
Instrument layout	○
Space in front	☆
Space in rear	★
Loading/storage	★
Appearance and design	●
Noise	diesel ○ petrol ☆
Heating and ventilation	☆
RECOMMEND TO A FRIEND	42%

TROUBLESPOTS

2003-2005 Some non-engine electrics
2000-2002 Immobiliser, electric windows, central locking, non-engine electrics, handles/locks, seat belts

RELIABILITY

Ptl/Dsl	03-05	00-02	97-99
Breakdowns	○	○	–
Faults	●	●	–
Niggles	●	●	–

EVALUATION

RUNNING COSTS	
Overall	Average
Depreciation	High
Fuel	Low
SECURITY	
Theft of car	8/10
Theft from car	3/10
Tested	1.8i LX 5-dr
SAFETY	
Overall	Fair
Crash test	5/5

CITROEN XANTIA (USED ONLY) MAY 93 TO OCT 00

The only bright spots here are the Xantia's ride comfort and its spacious interior. Dire crash-test results and a litany of poor owners' ratings make the Xantia one to avoid.

Body styles 5-dr estate, 5-dr hatchback
Engines 1.6, 1.8, 2.0 or 3.0 litre petrol, 1.9, 2.0 or 2.1 litre diesel
Prices used up to around £4,700
Dimensions 4.44m x 1.76m
CO₂ (g/km) 205 to 241 (ptl), 150 to 225 (dsl)



OWNERS' VERDICTS

Driving experience	●
Driving position and comfort	●
Ride quality	★
Visibility/parking	hatchback ● estate ○
Instrument layout	●
Space in front	☆
Space in rear	☆
Loading/storage	hatchback ● estate ★
Appearance and design	●
Noise	diesel ● petrol ○
Heating and ventilation	●

RECOMMEND TO A FRIEND 38%

TROUBLESPOTS

1997-1999 Cam belt, exhaust system, clutch, braking system, suspension

RELIABILITY

Ptl/Dsl 03-05 00-02 97-99

Breakdowns	-	-	○
Faults	-	-	●
Niggles	-	-	●

EVALUATION

RUNNING COSTS

Overall	-
Depreciation	-
Fuel	-

SECURITY

Theft of car 7/10

Theft from car 3/10

Tested 1.8i LX 5-dr

SAFETY

Overall Fair

Crash test 1.5/5

FORD MONDEO FROM OCT 00

The Mondeo offers a lot of space, especially in the estate version, but it's otherwise unremarkable. Diesels seem to be noisier and suffer from more problems than petrol versions.

Body styles 4-dr saloon, 5-dr estate, 5-dr h'back
Engines 1.8, 2.0, 2.5 or 3.0 litre ptl, 2.0 dsl
Prices new £15,492 (1.8 Silver 5-dr) to £24,997 (3.0 ST220 estate)
Dimensions 4.74m x 1.94m
CO₂ (g/km) 173 to 259 (ptl), 148 to 205 (dsl)



OWNERS' VERDICTS

Driving experience	○
Driving position and comfort	○
Ride quality	☆
Visibility/parking	saloon ● h'back ● estate ○
Instrument layout	○
Space in front	☆
Space in rear	☆
Loading/storage	saloon ☆ h'back ☆ estate ★
Appearance and design	●
Noise	diesel ● petrol ○
Heating and ventilation	●

RECOMMEND TO A FRIEND 63%

TROUBLESPOTS

2003-2005 Fuel system (diesel), washers/wipers, paintwork chipped/lost shine

2000-2002 Fuel system (diesel), air conditioning, braking system, rainwater seals

RELIABILITY

Petrol 03-05 00-02 97-99 Diesel 03-05 00-02 97-99

Breakdowns	○	★	-	Breakdowns	○	○	-
Faults	○	○	-	Faults	○	○	-
Niggles	○	○	-	Niggles	●	○	-

EVALUATION

RUNNING COSTS

Overall	Average
Depreciation	V high
Fuel	Low

SECURITY

Theft of car 7/10

Theft from car 5/10

Tested 1.8 LX 5-dr

SAFETY

Overall Fair

Crash test 4/5

FORD MONDEO (USED ONLY) FEB 93 TO OCT 00

Outmoded design – and performance to match – mean you're probably best avoiding this old workhorse.

Body styles 4-dr saloon, 5-dr estate, 5-dr hatchback
Engines 1.6, 1.8, 2.0 or 2.5 litre petrol, 1.8 litre diesel
Prices used up to around £7,000
Dimensions 4.48m x 1.93m
CO₂ (g/km) 185 to 247 (ptl), 156 to 159 (dsl)



OWNERS' VERDICTS

Driving experience	diesel ● petrol ○
Driving position and comfort	●
Ride quality	diesel ○ petrol ●
Visibility/parking	saloon ● h'back ○ estate ☆
Instrument layout	○
Space in front	○
Space in rear	○
Loading/storage	saloon ○ h'back ○ estate ★
Appearance and design	●
Noise	diesel ● petrol ●
Heating and ventilation	●

RECOMMEND TO A FRIEND 45%

TROUBLESPOTS

2000-2002 Air conditioning, gear/clutch components, suspension, rainwater seals

1997-1999 Fuel system, central locking, washer/wipers, air conditioning, other heating/ventilation components, steering, suspension, seat belts, rainwater seals

RELIABILITY

Ptl/Dsl 03-05 00-02 97-99

Breakdowns	-	○	○
Faults	-	●	●
Niggles	-	●	○

EVALUATION

RUNNING COSTS

Overall	-
Depreciation	-
Fuel	-

SECURITY

Theft of car 6/10

Theft from car 3/10

Tested 1.8 LX 5-dr

SAFETY

Overall Fair

Crash test 2.5/5

HONDA ACCORD FROM DEC 02

This car is well liked by owners and cheap to run. It's good to drive and we've seen an improvement in its reliability over the past year. However, the ride is a bit lumpy, and the saloon is let down by limited boot space.

Body styles 4-dr saloon, 5-dr estate
Engines 2.0 or 2.4 litre petrol, 2.2 litre diesel
Prices new £16,417 (2.0 i-VTEC SE) to £24,002 (2.4 Executive estate auto)
Dimensions 4.67m x 1.76m
CO₂ (g/km) 176 to 237 (ptl), 143 to 153 (dsl)



OWNERS' VERDICTS

Driving experience	diesel ★ petrol ☆
Driving position and comfort	☆
Ride quality	●
Visibility/parking	●
Instrument layout	☆
Space in front	○
Space in rear	☆
Loading/storage	saloon ● estate ★
Appearance and design	☆
Noise	☆
Heating and ventilation	☆
RECOMMEND TO A FRIEND	81%

TROUBLESPOTS

2003-2005 None

RELIABILITY

Petrol	03-05	00-02	97-99	Diesel	03-05	00-02	97-99
Breakdowns	★	-	-	Breakdowns	○	-	-
Faults	○	-	-	Faults	○	-	-
Niggles	○	-	-	Niggles	★	-	-

EVALUATION

RUNNING COSTS

Overall	Low
Depreciation	Average
Fuel	High

SECURITY

Theft of car	7/10
Theft from car	3/10
Tested	2.0 i-VTEC SE

SAFETY

Overall	Good
Crash test	4/5

HONDA ACCORD (USED ONLY) JUL 98 TO MAY 03

This Best Buy used-only car continues to hold its own against the latest Accord and has an impressive reliability record. However, safety is only fair.

Body styles 2-dr coupé, 4-dr saloon, 5-dr hatchback
Engines 1.8, 2.0, 2.2, 2.3 or 3.0 litre petrol
Prices used around £3,500 to £11,000
Dimensions 4.60m x 1.75m
CO₂ (g/km) 189 to 229



OWNERS' VERDICTS

Driving experience	☆
Driving position and comfort	☆
Ride quality	○
Visibility/parking	○
Instrument layout	○
Space in front	○
Space in rear	○
Loading/storage	saloon ● hatchback ☆
Appearance and design	●
Noise	☆
Heating and ventilation	○
RECOMMEND TO A FRIEND	70%

TROUBLESPOTS

2000-2002 Washers/wipers, air conditioning, braking system
1997-1999 None

RELIABILITY

Petrol	03-05	00-02	97-99
Breakdowns	-	★	★
Faults	-	○	○
Niggles	-	★	★

EVALUATION

RUNNING COSTS

Overall	Average
Depreciation	High
Fuel	High

SECURITY

Theft of car	8/10
Theft from car	4/10
Tested	2.0i SE

SAFETY

Overall	Fair
Crash test	4/5

JAGUAR X-TYPE FROM FEB 01

Jaguar's answer to the BMW 3 series and Mercedes C-Class is up to scratch in terms of driving experience. That said, space is at a premium and it has a real thirst for petrol.

Body styles 4-dr saloon and 5-dr estate
Engines 2.0, 2.5 or 3.0 litre petrol, 2.0 diesel
Prices new £19,797 (2.0) to £32,722 (3.0 Sovereign auto)
Dimensions 4.67m x 2.03m
CO₂ (g/km) 219 to 254 (ptl), 149 to 164 (dsl)



OWNERS' VERDICTS

Driving experience	☆
Driving position and comfort	○
Ride quality	☆
Visibility/parking	☆
Instrument layout	☆
Space in front	●
Space in rear	●
Loading/storage	●
Appearance and design	★
Noise	☆
Heating and ventilation	○
RECOMMEND TO A FRIEND	71%

TROUBLESPOTS

2003-2005 Lights
2000-2002 None

RELIABILITY

Petrol	03-05	00-02	97-99
Breakdowns	○	○	-
Faults	○	○	-
Niggles	○	○	-

EVALUATION

RUNNING COSTS

Overall	Very high
Depreciation	Low
Fuel	High

SECURITY

Theft of car	8/10
Theft from car	6/10
Tested	3.0 SE auto

SAFETY

Overall	Good
Crash test	4/5

LEXUS IS200/IS300 FROM MAR 99

The Lexus is a Best Buy for an outstanding fifth year in a row. Its winning formula combines safety and reliability with an excellent drive. The main downsides are a small boot and high petrol consumption.

Body styles 4-dr saloon, 5-dr estate
Engines 2.0 or 3.0 litre petrol
Prices new £18,709 (2.0) to £30,989 (3.0 SportCross Navigator estate)
Dimensions 4.40m x 1.72m
CO₂ (g/km) 231 to 265



OWNERS' VERDICTS

Driving experience	★
Driving position and comfort	★
Ride quality	○
Visibility/parking	☆
Instrument layout	☆
Space in front	●
Space in rear	☆
Loading/storage	●
Appearance and design	★
Noise	★
Heating and ventilation	☆

RECOMMEND TO A FRIEND 83%

TROUBLESPOTS

2003-2005 None
2000-2002 Battery, exterior trim

RELIABILITY

Petrol 03-05 00-02 97-99

Breakdowns	★	★	-
Faults	★	○	-
Niggles	★	★	-

EVALUATION

RUNNING COSTS

Overall	Average
Depreciation	Very low
Fuel	Very high

SECURITY

Theft of car	8/10
Theft from car	4/10

Tested IS200 4-dr

SAFETY

Overall	Good
Crash test	n/a

MAZDA 6 FROM MAR 02

The 6 provides a good, if noisy, drive and has loads of boot space. It's cheap to run, fairly reliable and the generous leg- and shoulder room should keep rear passengers happy. It's a clear Best Buy.

Body styles 4-dr saloon, 5-dr estate, 5-dr hatchback
Engines 1.8, 2.0 or 2.3 litre petrol, 2.0 litre diesel
Prices new £13,112 (1.8 Sakata) to £20,202 (2.3 Sport saloon or 2.3 Sport4 estate auto)
Dimensions 4.68m to 1.78m
CO₂ (g/km) 185 to 257 (ptl), 172 to 177 (dsl)



OWNERS' VERDICTS

Driving experience	diesel ★ petrol ☆
Driving position and comfort	○
Ride quality	○
Visibility/parking	○
Instrument layout	☆
Space in front	○
Space in rear	★
Loading/storage	★
Appearance and design	☆
Noise	●
Heating and ventilation	○

RECOMMEND TO A FRIEND 81%

TROUBLESPOTS

2003-2005 Exhaust system (petrol), electric windows

RELIABILITY

Petrol 03-05 00-02 97-99 Diesel 03-05 00-02 97-99

Breakdowns	○	-	-	Breakdowns	○	-	-
Faults	○	-	-	Faults	○	-	-
Niggles	★	-	-	Niggles	○	-	-

EVALUATION

RUNNING COSTS

Overall	Very low
Depreciation	Average
Fuel	Average

SECURITY

Theft of car	8/10
Theft from car	6/10

Tested 2.3 Sport

SAFETY

Overall	Fair
Crash test	4/5

MAZDA 626 (USED ONLY) JUN 97 TO JUN 02

The 626 is reliable and spacious but it falls short in other areas. For example, it's easy to break into the car, the ride quality is poor and the driving position is uncomfortable.

Body styles 4-dr saloon, 5-dr hatchback, 5-dr estate
Engines 1.8 or 2.0 litre petrol, 2.0 litre diesel
Prices used around £2,000 to £5,500
Dimensions 4.70m x 1.76m
CO₂ (g/km) 184 to 214 (petrol), 152 to 158 (diesel)



OWNERS' VERDICTS

Driving experience	○
Driving position and comfort	●
Ride quality	●
Visibility/parking	●
Instrument layout	●
Space in front	☆
Space in rear	☆
Loading/storage	☆
Appearance and design	●
Noise	●
Heating and ventilation	☆

RECOMMEND TO A FRIEND 78%

TROUBLESPOTS

2000-2002 Non-engine electrics
1997-1999 Braking system

RELIABILITY

Petrol 03-05 00-02 97-99

Breakdowns	-	★	★
Faults	-	○	○
Niggles	-	○	★

EVALUATION

RUNNING COSTS

Overall	-
Depreciation	-
Fuel	-

SECURITY

Theft of car	7/10
Theft from car	1/10

Tested 2.0 GSi

SAFETY

Overall	Fair
Crash test	n/a

MERCEDES-BENZ C-CLASS FROM SEP 00

The C-Class offers a decent drive, and petrol models are quiet, but there's not much space inside. Low depreciation is offset by high servicing and parts costs, and the diesel models are especially troublesome.

Body styles 3-dr coupé, 4-dr saloon, 5-dr estate
Engines 1.8, 3.2 or 5.4 litre ptl, 2.1 or 2.7 litre dsl
Prices new £19,292 (C160 Kompressor coupé) to £49,512 (C55 AMG estate auto)
Dimensions 4.54m x 1.98m
CO₂ (g/km) 183 to 293 (petrol), 167 to 214 (diesel)



OWNERS' VERDICTS

Driving experience	☆
Driving position and comfort	○
Ride quality	diesel ○ petrol ☆
Visibility/parking	★
Instrument layout	○
Space in front	○
Space in rear	●
Loading/storage	saloon ● estate ☆
Appearance and design	☆
Noise	diesel ○ petrol ★
Heating and ventilation	○
RECOMMEND TO A FRIEND	64%

TROUBLESPOTS

2003-2005 Fuel system
2000-2002 Some engine electrics (diesel), lights, some non-engine electrics, suspension, seats/seat adjusters

RELIABILITY

Petrol	03-05	00-02	97-99	Diesel	03-05	00-02	97-99
Breakdowns	○	★	–	Breakdowns	○	○	–
Faults	○	○	–	Faults	○	●	–
Niggles	○	●	–	Niggles	○	●	–

EVALUATION

RUNNING COSTS

Overall	High
Depreciation	Very low
Fuel	High

SECURITY

Theft of car	7/10
Theft from car	5/10

Tested

C200 Elegance 4-dr

SAFETY

Overall	Good
Crash test	5/5

MERCEDES-BENZ C-CLASS (USED ONLY) OCT 93 TO MAY 01

The older C-Class is a reasonable choice, though the saloon models are short on boot space, and spare parts and servicing are expensive. Crash protection isn't up to scratch compared with newer models, either.

Body styles 4-dr saloon, 5-dr estate
Engines 1.8, 2.0, 2.3, 2.4, 2.6, 3.7 or 4.3 litre petrol, 2.2 or 2.5 litre diesel
Prices used up to around £12,000
Dimensions 4.48m x 1.72m
CO₂ (g/km) 225 to 278 (petrol), 163 to 198



OWNERS' VERDICTS

Driving experience	diesel ○ petrol ●
Driving position and comfort	○
Ride quality	☆
Visibility/parking	saloon ☆ estate ★
Instrument layout	○
Space in front	○
Space in rear	○
Loading/storage	saloon ● estate ☆
Appearance and design	○
Noise	diesel ○ petrol ★
Heating and ventilation	○
RECOMMEND TO A FRIEND	61%

TROUBLESPOTS

1997-1999 Lights, air conditioning

RELIABILITY

Petrol	03-05	00-02	97-99
Breakdowns	–	–	○
Faults	–	–	○
Niggles	–	–	○

EVALUATION

RUNNING COSTS

Overall	Average
Depreciation	Very low
Fuel	High

SECURITY

Theft of car	7/10
Theft from car	4/10

Tested C200 Elegance

SAFETY

Overall	Fair
Crash test	2/5

NISSAN PRIMERA FROM FEB 02

The Primera scores fairly well for safety and security, and is cheap to run, but its owners complain of a disappointing feel to the ride.

Body styles 5-dr estate or 5-dr hatchback
Engines 1.8 or 2.0 litre petrol, 2.2 litre diesel
Prices new £14,662 (1.8S) to £21,297 (2.0 T-spec estate auto)
Dimensions 4.57m x 1.76m
CO₂ (g/km) 177 to 220 (petrol), 164 (diesel)



OWNERS' VERDICTS

Driving experience	diesel ○ petrol ●
Driving position and comfort	○
Ride quality	diesel ● petrol ●
Visibility/parking	○
Instrument layout	☆
Space in front	○
Space in rear	★
Loading/storage	○
Appearance and design	☆
Noise	diesel ○ petrol ☆
Heating and ventilation	☆
RECOMMEND TO A FRIEND	64%

TROUBLESPOTS

2003-2005 Manual gearbox
2000-2002 Interior equipment

RELIABILITY

Petrol	03-05	00-02	97-99
Breakdowns	○	○	–
Faults	○	○	–
Niggles	○	○	–

EVALUATION

RUNNING COSTS

Overall	Low
Depreciation	High
Fuel	Average

SECURITY

Theft of car	7/10
Theft from car	5/10

Tested 1.8 SE 4-dr

SAFETY

Overall	Fair
Crash test	4/5