

Ringmeet 2016 Pubquiz Questions

Automotive

A1 Founded in 1967, the Luxembourgish engine manufacturer Comotor was a joint-venture for the production of Wankel engines. One half of the joint venture, as you may have already guessed, was NSU, who supplied the knowledge. However, they never used any of the Comotor engines. This question is about other half of the joint venture, who did use a very limited amount of the produced engines, but were ultimately driven to bankruptcy by, among others, the cost of the failed project, and the oil crisis. Name the manufacturer.

Citroën

A2 The wonderful BMW M30 engine, designed in the late 1960s and built until 1994 in sizes ranging from 2.5l to 3.5l, and featured in various BMW models, was also found in an ill-fated American-designed Italian SUV, what was its mustachioed name?

Rayton-Fissore Magnum

A3 First pioneered in 1922 in the Lancia Lambda, and then used in many upmarket vehicles like the Citroën Traction Avant and the Lincoln Zephyr, unibody construction is commonplace for all cars nowadays. But which North American car is generally considered the first mass produced, low priced car to ride this, as its brand's CEO proclaimed, "wave of the future"?

1941 Nash 600

A4 Launched in 1989 to moderate success, The Brazil-built FIAT Penny, or as the Ukianians know it, the FIAT Citivan, was a panel van based on the South American FIAT Uno-based Elba Estate. The FIAT Penny is a unique car, in a very strange way. What is that?

It is the only Brazil-built FIAT never to be sold in Brazil.

A5 Motronic was Bosch's first digital engine management system, combining ignition and injection controls in a single unit. It made its debut in 1979 in which car?

BMW 732i

A6 A Zagato design isn't a true Zagato if it doesn't have a "double bubble" roof design. No matter how iconic a design is, there's always the first car that had it. Which one was that?

1956 Fiat-Abarth 750GT Zagato

A7 In the 1950s, Alfa Romeo and Bertone made three concept cars called BAT 5, 7 and 9. They were primarily research objects into a very specific field of vehicle characteristics, which is represented in their full name. I will not be evil for once and won't ask you guys for the full name, but I do want to know what field the research was into.

Aerodynamics (drag)

A8 The Holden Astra is the shrimp barbiein' equivalent of the Opel / Vauxhall Astra down under, and has been since 1995, with the release of the European Astra F. The model name

had seen earlier use, with a model that ran from 1984 until 1989, and I'd like you to tell me on which overseas model that generation was based.

Nissan Pulsar / Cherry / Sunny

A9 In the 1970s, Michelin designed a revolutionary new wheel and tyre system, dubbed TRX. It featured lower sidewalls than the then current tyre sizes, and an advanced bead and rim design. This meant that these tyres could not be fitted to conventional wheels. Can you tell me which drastic steps Michelin took to make sure these tyres were incompatible with industry standard wheels?

By measuring the wheel diameter in millimetres, not inches.

A10 Ricardo Montalban, known for portraying KHAAAAAN in Star Trek, spent 13 years voicing TV commercials for an American brand car brand. In one of his most famous ads, for the Chrysler Cordoba, he is generally misquoted as he is praising the car's upholstery. Can you give me both the actual quote and the misquote (which he later used in the Chrysler New Yorker's ad)?

- **"Soft Corinthian Leather" (Cordoba)**
- **"Rich Corinthian Leather" (New Yorker)**

Motorsports

B1 In the 1950s, the Van Doorne brothers invented the Variomatic continuously variable transmission, or CVT for use in the DAF cars. Thirty-five years later, after very successful testing by Williams F1, in which it was rumoured that David Coulthard was clocking times more than two seconds per lap quicker than the normal Williams, they were banned by the FIA in 1994 with very specific wording. You don't have to be exact, but what was the wording they chose?

F1 cars were to have between four and seven fixed ratio forward gears.

B2 The two biggest 24 hour races, Le Mans and Nürburgring, in 2016 both had a very special final lap, what was special about it?

In both cases the lead changed in the final lap.

B3 In 1988, The Silk Cut Jaguar/TWR team managed to become the first team to beat Porsche at Le Mans since 1981 with their XJR-9. They managed to finish first, despite having a broken gearbox. The driving time in the team wasn't exactly spread equally among the drivers, with Jan Lammers putting in far more time than the other two, Andy Wallace and Johnny Dumfries. How many hours out of the possible 24 did Jan Lammers spend driving the Jaaaag?

13

B4 In 1937, five years after the death of Alfieri Maserati, the three remaining brothers sold the company to Adolfo Orsi. All signed a ten-year contract to continue to work for Maserati, developing racing and road cars. In 1947, after their ten years' tenure, they started a new brand, primarily focused on building racing cars with modified FIAT engines. With a logo that says "Fratelli Maserati", the brand name itself does not refer to the Maserati family name. What is it?

O.S.C.A.

B5 In 1985, Daihatsu joined efforts with a flamboyant Italian sports car manufacturer to take part in the 1986 Group B rally world championship for cars under 1300cc. The car featured a mid-mounted 926cc turbocharged three cylinder engine producing 120 horsepower. Sadly, the cancellation of Group B at the end of the 1985 season meant the project got cancelled, although a small homologation series of 200 cars was made, with the engine detuned to 74 horsepower, but retaining the crazy group B bodykit. In 1994, for the fourth generation Charade, they rejoined forces, but this only resulted in a roadgoing GTi model, no racecars. What is the name of the Italian manufacturer?

De Tomaso

B6 In 1985, Volvo built 500 Evolution models of the 240 Turbo for Group A homologation purposes. These cars featured a rear spoiler, bigger turbo and intercooler, and water injection. FISA inspected 23 of the Evolution models and homologated them. But rather than sell them, they stripped the other 477 of them of all their Evolution parts and sold them as normal 240 Turbo road cars. Smelling something fishy after not being able to find any Evolution cars for sale anywhere in Europe, what action did FISA take to find out what happened to the Evolution cars before they extended the homologation?

They asked Volvo to supply them the names of all 500 owners. Volvo complied with some names, but only after the factory holiday.

B7 Nicknamed "The Great Race", the Bathurst 1000 is the number one motorsports event in Australia. In 1997 and 1998, there were two race events that both claimed to be the 'true' Bathurst 1000. One held on the 'traditional' Labour Day weekend in October, with touring cars, and one with the traditional V8s, but a few weeks later. Why was this?

Dispute over television rights.

B8 In 1993, after rule changes allowed modified road cars to compete in the GT1 class at the 24 hours of Le Mans, what race car that was converted to a road car, only to be converted back into a race car, won the race, but was subsequently banned from competing in GT1 because they closed the loophole that did not specify a minimum amount of road cars to be produced?

Dauer 962 Le Mans

B9 Mostly known for its work as a chassis constructor in IndyCar, Formula 3, GP2 and various other formula series, Dallara also had a brief adventure in F1 from 1988 until 1992. Briefly returning in 2010 as the chassis constructor for Hispania, and finally as the constructor for HAAS F1 in 2016. Little less known is that between 1992 and 2010 they were close to returning to F1 twice. Name those occasions (year, team and reason why it didn't pan out)

- **1999, Honda, project got cancelled**
- **2006, Midland F1, they decided to focus on developing the existing Jordan tech**

Top Gear (2002-2016)

C1 Top Gear's hatred for caravans ran very deep, and over the course of the series, they've destroyed more than their fair share of them, but when did they first destroy a caravan on the show, and how?

S02E01, Burned by dragster's jet engine

C2 The tame racing driver family tree of the Stig and its various cousins is extensive, and he usually has one that is apt for the challenge that is underway. How many of his cousins appeared on Top Gear challenges over the years?

- **American cousin**
- **African cousin**
- **Lorry driving cousin**
- **Communist cousin (only in DVD release of the Vietnam Special)**
- **Vegetarian cousin**
- **German cousin**
- **Italian cousin,**
- **Yorkshire cousin (in the "Top Gear Worst Car in the History of the World" Special)**
- **Chinese cousin**
- **Teenage cousin**
- **Australian cousin**
- **Leisure Stig**

C3 Neither a good man, nor a bad man, just an idiot with a box. How many Doctor Who actors were featured as the Star in a Reasonably Priced car? And of course I want you to name them, silly!

Christopher Eccleston, Billie Piper, David Tennant, Matt Smith

C4 The embodiment of the ambitious but rubbish philosophy, the Hammerhead Eagle I-Thrust was a gloriously disastrous failure, that never managed to live up to anything, despite its promising underpinnings. What car supplied its chassis?

TVR Chimaera

C5 As ambitious as the TG crew, and equally rubbish, due to the Panamera's aluminium body panels, Matt and Blake emulated the cool wall a couple years ago at Ringmeet, and almost equalised the original in entertainment value. When was the Top Gear cool wall introduced?

S01E06

C6 In the first episode of season 16, Jeremy tested the Skoda Yeti, by having someone get tattooed in the back seat, driving it through a fire and having a helicopter land on it. And to top off all of this weirdness, what was the special cargo in the glovebox?

Sienna Miller

C7 In season 8, the Reasonably Priced Liana got retired for a Chevrolet Lacetti. In order to not have to start with a too empty scoreboard, the guys held a day where every celebrity

who wanted to take part could take part. They failed to recognise one celeb who turned up, and instead referred to him as the “Well spoken man”. He remained on the scoreboard under that moniker until the Lacetti got replaced. What is his actual name?

James Hewitt

Top Gear (2016)

D1 Eddie Jordan, apart from being a successful F1 team owner, also had a racing career of his own. Despite being a relative latecomer to the world of karts, he managed to move up to open wheel racing and won several championships there. At what age did he begin his motorsport career in karts?

He first raced a kart in autumn 1970, so 22. He raced his first season in 71

D2 Before becoming a Top Gear host, Matt LeBlanc also played a guy named Joey in a small, insignificant sitcom revolving around a group of buddies. The theme song was performed by a group named after a Dutch painter. What’s that guy’s most famous painting?

The Night Watch / De Nachtwacht

D3 Back when he still owned his F1 team, Eddie Jordan was sometimes seen as part of a makeshift band made up of people in the F1 paddock, called ‘V10’. Since, he has renamed the band to ‘Eddie Jordan & the Robbers’, after a remark about him by Ecclestone, and is still touring his band. What is Eddie’s instrument?

Drums

D4 Sabine Schmitz isn’t new to Top Gear, she has had several appearances over the past decade and a half. What was the first segment she was featured in?

Trying to get Jeremy Clarkson to lap a diesel Jaaag in under 10 mins

D5 Former Formula 1 team owner Eddie Jordan was one of the hosts in the 2016 new Top Gear line-up. But what was the first episode he appeared on Top Gear?

S23E02