

Quiz tests smarts on car care

Classified:
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The job of keeping your car in good mechanical shape is the responsibility of a professional. But it's up to you to know the basics involved in a regular tune-up and how your car functions.

"For instance, the carburetor is integral to the life-support system of the automobile since its chief function is to provide the engine with the correct mixture of gasoline and air," say the service experts at the Carter Carburetor Division of ACF Industries, Inc.

You can make sure your car is in proper running order by having the carburetor checked and your engine tuned up.

The following true-false test will tell you what you know about carburetors and general car care. Score yourself as a good car owner, as a mediocre one or, if you fail entirely, consider cashing in your auto for a good pair of skates.

1. Q. The air filter is something under the car body that keeps pollution from entering the interior of the car.

A. False. The air filter is located on top of the carburetor and it cleans the air that is sucked into the engine when your car's engine is running.

2. Q. The "float system" is both a lifesaving technique for swimmers and a register used to measure the amount of gas in the tank of a car.

A. False. When it comes to cars, the "float system" is part of the carburetor. It insures a constant level of gasoline in the carburetor bowl.

3. Q. An air horn is what you use to get the attention of passing cars and pedestrians.

A. False. The air horn is part of the carburetor. It serves as the bowl cover and mount for the air filter. And it is the only passageway for the air an engine needs to

produce the air-fuel mixture that passes on to the combustion chamber. And it is combustion — the igniting of the air-fuel mixture by the spark plugs — that supplies power to the engine.

4. Q. An idle mixture is something a bartender creates in his spare time and in a car is a substitute for gasoline.

A. False. An idle mixture refers to the mixture of fuel and air regulated by a carburetor so that, for example, when waiting for a red light to turn green, the engine idles according to the manufacturer's specifications.

5. Q. The "choke circuit" refers to readers of mystery novels and is a mechanism used in a car to come to a complete stop.

A. False. The "choke circuit" is the part of the carburetor that makes it possible to start the car. It is a control valve in the air horn designed to reduce the air passage when the engine is cold and needs a richer mixture of gas and air.

6. Q. A jet is both an airplane and a device found on your carburetor.

A. True. The jet is something like a screw with a tiny hole engineered to regulate the flow of gasoline in the carburetor. If your engine turns over but won't start on a cold morning, it may be that the carburetor is delivering too little gasoline. When this happens, depress the gas pedal several times, then again halfway and turn the starter. If the engine doesn't start, turn off the ignition and check the automatic choke. If it is still no go, turn the ignition off and hold the choke open and, at the same time, have someone else step on the accelerator. Gasoline should spurt out of the carburetor pump jets. If it doesn't, there may be an obstruction in your fuel filter or line or you may have a problem with your fuel pump. See your

mechanic.

7. Q. Keeping your gas tank filled year-round is a good idea.

A. True. Keeping the gas tank filled as much as possible helps prevent condensation, especially during cold weather. It lessens the danger of ice forming in the fuel line and cutting off the supply of fuel to the carburetor, causing the engine to stall.

8. Q. An engine tune-up is necessary preventive maintenance for winter driving.

A. True. Regular tune-ups help give your car more miles per gallon of gas.

Tune-ups are especially desirable during winter because methodical inspections show what adjustments are necessary. A complete tune-up includes: checking the battery, spark plugs, points and condenser, coil and ignition timing, distributor spark advance, fuel pump and carburetor, belt tension and emission control systems.

9. Q. Antifreeze is a substance that cruise directors use to promote good will. In your car, antifreeze deteriorates if it is not changed seasonally.

A. True. Antifreeze does

deteriorate over a period of time and so it is a good idea to make certain it meets certain test standards in your owner's manual and does not permit rust and scale to form. When this happens, it can keep the radiator from functioning, cause the car to overheat, and even cause the engine block to crack.

So, don't just add some antifreeze — replace it.

Scoring: 10 points for each correct answer for a total of 90 points possible.

How to Score:
90 — 80 excellent — you are a "good starter."
70 — 50 fair — you are a "middle-of-the-roader."



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The Insurance Information Institute has prepared a brochure which deals with some of the basic steps that should be taken when shopping for insurance and the kinds of questions that need to be asked in order to choose the coverage you need.

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