

Secret of Box 42 [Script]

Set-up

Chairs for final five, one side of the stage
Table with Box 37 on it, centre stage
Jess in overalls
Adjudicators [Jim & Meike] - Lab coats?

Props etc needed

- List of names as wildcard entries
- Boxes 37 - 42
- All the empty boxes
- Emergency filter questions
- Stopwatch
- Whistle
- Fishbowl (or similar container of names)
- Clipboards, pens, paper for adjudicators
- Box 37
 - 7+ sheets of newspaper
- Box 38
 - 7+ empty boxes
- Box 39
 - Cards for Play Your Cards Right
- Box 40
 - Locations for closest to idaho
- Box 41
 - Words to Share & Enjoy [multiple copies]
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uY3qII_-MOkWAwZpEaHc9P9aFTMW23Rp_Z60uB-J92Q/edit?usp=sharing
- Final Five
 - Game one
 - Nutrimatic Cups [two or three]
 - Tape measure
 - Game two
 - Spelling Bee word list -
https://docs.google.com/document/d/11sprAej4twmt_HaPaP34xzqIbEt-zu_CmKyINHAjQk-M/edit?usp=sharing
 - Game three
 - Ground / Whale / Towel cards [two sets]

Wildcards

The target for the filtering process is to get down to seven or fewer contestants (five being ideal). If we end up with less than five contestants we introduce wildcard entries. These are

people we have pre-picked based on their engagement with the boxes over the weekend including

- Anyone who drew a pink fairy armadillo (Box 13)
- Had a great costumes
- Earned a goal star in a particularly impressive way
- Filled in a poster
-

Hello & Welcome

[2.30pm - 2.35pm]

[Allow time for people to enter / settle down]

Talkie Bit [2 min]

CHRIS

Hello, welcome to The Secret of Box 42

There have been some boxes scattered around the convention and some of you have asked the question “What is this all about?”

It is just like life, the universe and everything. Things keep happening but no one has explained the point of it all. Today, here, in this room one person will find the answer in Box 42.

Only one person will find the answer. But how do we choose which person is the right person? How do we choose which person can carry that responsibility? How do we choose which person can handle the truth?

The answer is, of course, with a lot of silly games

We are going to have five rounds of games. One round each for boxes 37 to 41. Each round starts with everyone in the audience taking part. We whittle it down to 1 person who then gets to open the next box. And, that person takes a seat as one of the final five. Because only one of the final five will have a chance to open box 42

So let's get started

Box 37

[2.35pm - 2.40pm] (Reward)

[Filter: Willingness to participate.]

[Game: Complete arbitrary task against clock.]

Filter [4 min]

CHRIS

Everyone please stand. If you can't stand, please raise your arms or otherwise signal you are in the game.

I'm going to ask some true or false questions. If you think the answer is true, place your hands on your head. If you think the answer is false, place your hands on your arse.

Please note, that's your own arse.

[JESS + ADJUDICATORS demonstrate]

Everyone got that? Let's begin with something easy

Paris is the capital of France. True or false?

Anyone who placed their hands on their **ARSE**, please sit down

St Petersburg is the capital of Germany. True or false?

Anyone who placed their hands on their **HEAD**, please sit down

Now we get serious.

[Ask questions until we get down to seven or less contestants]

Douglas Adams was a patron of the WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature. True or false?

Anyone who placed their hands on their **HEAD**, please sit down. He was patron of Save the Rhino

The HHGTTG was first broadcast in 1978. True or false?

Anyone who placed their hands on their **ARSE**, please sit down.

The first book, HHGTTG, sold half-a-million copies in the first three months after publication. True or false?

Anyone who placed their hands on their **HEAD**, please sit down. It sold a quarter of a million copies in the first three months

At the time of its release, the HHGTTG computer game was available on eight different computer platforms. True or false?

Anyone who placed their hands on their **ARSE**, please sit down.

The running time for the film of HHGTTG was 109 minutes. True or false.

Anyone who placed their hands on their **ARSE**, please sit down.

[Emergency questions / Wildcards if needed]

Ok, everyone still standing, please come to the front of the room

[JESS - arrange contestants into height order]

[JESS - hand each contestants sheet of newspaper]

Talkie Bit [30 sec]

CHRIS

The HHGTTG is a product of its time and its focus on the search of the meaning of life is not unique amongst programmes of that era. Think about Reggie Perrin or The Good Life and how they were about the quest for happiness and fulfilment.

Of course, as HHGTTG starts, Arthur is not worried about about the meaning of life. Instead, after a busy morning trying to save his house from demolition, Arthur finds himself in the pub with Ford who is spending money like there's no tomorrow.

Which brings us to our first game

Game [2 min XXXX]

CHRIS

This game is called A Ningi For Your Thoughts.

As we all know, the Ningi is a triangular coin, six thousand eight hundred miles along each side. In this game, the contestants must create a scale model of the Ningi using a sheet of newspaper. The contestant with the best Ningi will open box 37 and be the first to join the final five.

Adjudicators please explain the rules

ADJUDICATORS

The contestants must rip an equilateral triangle out of their sheet of newspaper in 30 seconds.

At the end they must have just two pieces of paper - a triangle and a piece of paper missing a triangle

[Wave example newspaper with missing triangle and corresponding triangle]

Anyone who ends up with more than two pieces of paper is automatically disqualified.

The contestant will be judged on the following criteria: Precision of the triangle and size of the triangle

CHRIS

Contestants, are you ready?

[JESS timing with stop-watch]

Go!

[JESS - blows whistle after 30 seconds]

Stop

Adjudicators please adjudicate.

[ADJUDICATORS Examine contestants efforts]

Adjudicators - the results please

ADJUDICATORS

The runner up is

The winner is

[Encourage Applause]

[JESS leads winner to box. All other contestants return to their seat. Winner stands behind table with box, facing the audience]

Open Box [2 min]

CHRIS

Our winner will open box 37 but there are rules to opening the box

Contestant, when I give the signal, you open the box where you'll find an item and some instructions.

Without revealing anything to the audience, take a moment to read the instructions to yourself.

If you are happy to follow the instructions, then reveal the item and carry out the instructions

If you don't want to follow the instructions, close the box and return to your seat and the runner-up will have their chance to open the box.

Is everything clear contestant

Silence please everyone.

Contestant you may open the box

[1 Minute for contestant to open box, read instructions, decide, do instructions]

Thank you, now take your seat as part of the final five

[Encourage audience to clap]

Box 38

[2.44pm - 2.52pm] (Treasure)

[Filter: Healthiness + Social Media.]

[Game: Will power / self-control]

Talkie Bit [1 min]

CHRIS

So what is the meaning of life?

In psychology, one of the most influential thinkers on this subject was Abraham Maslow who created Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs.

This is normally depicted as a triangle split into five layers and on the bottom level of the triangle is physical needs like food, water and shelter.

So when Arthur Dent lies in front of that bulldozer he is defending one of the foundations of his own happiness.

But as we all know, resistance is useless and his house, along with the rest of the planet, gets destroyed by the vogons

And so, with absolutely nothing, Arthur starts his journey to find the meaning of life

Filter [1 min 30s]

CHRIS

Everyone please stand. If you can't stand, please raise your arms or otherwise signal you are in the game.

I'm going to ask some true or false questions. If you think the answer is true, place your hands on your head. If you think the answer is false, place your hands on your arse.

You don't post to social media. True or false?

Anyone who placed their hands on their **HEAD**, please sit down.

You took part in one of the towel olympics sessions over the weekend. True or false?

Anyone who placed their hands on their **ARSE**, please sit down.

You've used the hotel pool and / or gym this weekend. True or false?

Anyone who placed their hands on their **ARSE**, please sit down.

You have blown up a balloon this weekend. True or false?

Anyone who placed their hands on their **ARSE**, please sit down.

[Emergency questions if needed]

Ok, everyone still standing, please come to the front of the room

[JESS - arrange contestants into height order]

[JESS - hand each contestant an empty box]

Talkie Bit [30 sec]

CHRIS

Having lost everything in the destruction of Earth, Arthur is now on the Vogon spaceship.

He is no longer worried about the very basics of very human survival, the bottom layer of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs.

Now Arthur is worried about the second level of the hierarchy - security and safety - for the Vogon guards are coming.

Lacking any way to protect themselves, helpless in the face of overwhelming might, Arthur and Ford are captured, tortured with Vogon poetry and thrown out of the airlock into deep space to face certain death.

Game [2 min]

CHRIS

Contestants. You will now compete for a chance to open box 38 and a place in the final five in a game called Non-Erotic Non-Asphyxiation

Adjudicators please explain the rules

ADJUDICATORS

Contestants must hold their breath while holding their nose with one hand and a box above their head with the other hand.

[Demonstrate]

Whoever holds their breath the longest, wins. You are disqualified ...

If you breathe

If your box drops below head-height or touches any other part of your body

If you let go of your nose

If you pass out

If you die

Or if you look like you are going to pass out or die

CHRIS

So contestants, hold your breath for as long as possible and don't die.

On your marks, get set, go.

[2 minutes]

ADJUDICATORS

The runner up is

The winner is

[Encourage Applause]

[JESS leads winner to box. All other contestants return to their seat. Winner stands behind table with box, facing the audience]

Talkie Bit [30 sec]

CHRIS

Congratulations contestant. Please take a moment to get your breath back.

Security and safety are one of the keys to the meaning of life, at least according to Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. The second level of the hierarchy is safety and security. Once security is lost, our ability to gather the basics of food, water and shelter are in peril.

Luckily security and safety is something most of us can take for granted. This is of course not true for all creatures

Open Box [2 min]

CHRIS

Our winner will open box 38 but there are rules to opening the box

Contestant, when I give the signal, you open the box where you'll find an item and some instructions.

Without revealing anything to the audience, take a moment to read the instructions to yourself.

If you are happy to follow the instructions, then reveal the item and carry out the instructions

If you don't want to follow the instructions, close the box and return to your seat and the runner-up will have their chance to open the box.

Is everything clear contestant?

Silence please everyone.

Contestant you may open the box

[1 Minute for contestant to open box, read instructions, decide, do instructions]

Thank you, now take your seat as part of the final five

[Encourage audience to clap]

Box 39

[2.52pm - 2.59pm] (Activity)

[Filter: Keen box opener.]

[Game: Luck + Skill]

Filter [1 min 30s]

CHRIS

Everyone please stand. If you can't stand, please raise your arms or otherwise signal you are in the game.

This game is little bit different.

If you have your quest card on you, wave it above your head.

Anyone without their quest card please sit down.

Everyone stay standing but anyone who has completed all the quests please come to the front of the room.

[Continue until we have a maximum of seven players]

Anyone who has completed [9 / 8 / 7 / 6 etc] quests please come to the front of the room.

[If we end up with more than seven, get rid of players based on the number of gold stars they have]

[Wildcards if needed]

Talkie Bit [30 sec]

CHRIS

Arthur and Ford are rescued from certain death by the Heart of Gold. On board are Ford's friend Zaphod, and Arthur's friend Trillion. Which is a wonderful demonstration of how important friends are in the search for life, the universe and everything.

Something Maslow agrees on, as the third level of the hierarchy of needs is friendship, companionship and a sense of belonging.

Game [3 min]

[JESS organise the contestants into height order]

CHRIS

Contestants we are about to play a game of that old favourite Sudden Death Play Your Cards Right.

Adjudicators, please explain the rules

ADJUDICATORS

The contestants must take turns guessing whether the next card from the deck is higher or lower than the previous card.

If they get it wrong or if the card has the same value as the previous card, they are out of the game.

The game continues until only one contestant is left.

CHRIS

OK contestants. We will be starting with the shortest person and working our way up the line.

Members of the audience, remember that Maslow's third level is all about companionship. Please don't let the contestant feel alone. Let them know you are here by shouting unsolicited advice.

Adjudicators, please draw the first card

It's a

Contestant number 1 will the next card be higher or lower

[Encourage audience to shout]

Correct! / Wrong! You are out. Please return to your seat

Next contestant will it higher or lower than a

[Repeat, looping through the contestants until we have one left]

Open Box [2 min]

CHRIS

Our winner will open box 39 but there are rules to opening the box

Contestant, when I give the signal, you open the box where you'll find an item and some instructions.

Without revealing anything to the audience, take a moment to read the instructions to yourself.

If you are happy to follow the instructions, then reveal the item and carry out the instructions

If you don't want to follow the instructions, close the box and return to your seat and the runner-up will have their chance to open the box.

Is everything clear contestant

Silence please everyone.

Contestant you may open the box

[1 Minute for contestant to open box, read instructions, decide, do instructions]

Thank you, now take your seat as part of the final five

[Encourage audience to clap]

Box 40

[2.59pm - 3.10pm] (Quest)

[Filter: Aware of esteem needs / challenges]

[Game: Geographic awareness]

CHRIS

Everyone please stand. If you can't stand, please raise your arms or otherwise signal you are in the game.

I'm going to ask some true or false question. If you think the answer is true, place your hands on your head. If you think the answer is false, place your hands on your arse.

At some point this weekend, you have made someone else laugh. True or false.

Anyone who placed their hands on their **ARSE**, please sit down.

At some point this weekend, you have taken the time to thank either the con-committee or someone running a program item for their hard work.

Anyone who placed their hands on their **ARSE**, please sit down.

You have organised or run a program item. True or false?

Anyone who placed their hands on their **ARSE**, please sit down.

[Emergency questions / Wildcards if needed]

Ok, everyone still standing, please come to the front of the room

[JESS - arrange contestants into height order]

Talkie Bit [1 min]

After being rescued from certain death, Arthur travels to Magrathea where he and his friends once again face certain death, this time from Magrathea's planetary defence system.

But who saves the day? Arthur by activating the improbability drive.

This totally impresses Zaphod and he actually praises Arthur.

Of course, Arthur modestly says it was nothing and then is deeply hurt when Zaphod accepts that modesty at face value and promptly forgets how Arthur just saved everyone's life.

Which brings us onto the fourth level of Maslow's hierarchy of needs - the need for recognition by our friends and peers. What Maslow calls Esteem Needs.

Game [5 min]

CHRIS

Contestants. We are going to play a game called Closest to Idaho. Adjudicators, what are the rules?

ADJUDICATORS

While playing this game you must remain inside this room [playing area].

A geographical location will be given and the contestants have 30 seconds to stand closest to that location.

Whoever is furthest away from the geographic location will be knocked out.

Then we repeat the process with a new location until we have a winner

CHRIS

OK, let's play Closest to Idaho.

The first location is the Turnhill room

[ADJUDICATORS adjudicate. One contestant sent back to their chair]

[Repeat process until we get down to four contestants - Other potential locations are the towns which make up Stoke]

[Final three locations: Sognefjord (largest fjord in Norway), Guildford, Betelgeuse]

Open Box [2 min]

CHRIS

Our winner will open box 40 but there are rules to opening the box

Contestant, when I give the signal, you open the box where you'll find an item and some instructions.

Without revealing anything to the audience, take a moment to read the instruction to yourself.

If you are happy to follow the instructions, then reveal the item and carry out the instructions

If you don't want to follow the instructions, close the box and return to your seat and the runner-up will have their chance to open the box.

Is everything clear contestant

Silence please everyone.

Contestant you may open the box

[1 Minute for contestant to open box, read instructions, decide, do instructions]

Thank you, now take your seat as part of the final five

[Encourage audience to clap]

Box 41

[3.10pm - 3.17pm] (Meta)

*[Filter: Willingness to make a tit of themselves in public]
[Game: Ability to make a tit of themselves well]*

Talkie Bit [1 min]

CHRIS

After Magrathea, Arthur eventually ends up on the Golgafrinchan B-Ark. A spaceship of people considered worthless by their society - middle management and telephone sanitisers. Though, none of the people on the B-Ark seems particularly unhappy with their place in society.

This may be because the peak of Maslow's hierarchy of needs is Self-Actualization.

Maslow described this as a person achieving their full potential, to be the best at whatever it is the person feels is their goal in life.

It doesn't matter how other members of society view a person's goal or a person's status in society. Self-Actualization comes from within, in picking a goal and doing it as well as you can.

And it is worth noting that the Golgafrinchans who thought the people on the B-Ark were worthless, all died from a disease caught from a dirty telephone.

Filter [1 min 30 sec]

CHRIS

Everyone please stand. If you can't stand, please raise your arms or otherwise signal you are in the game.

I'm going to ask some true or false question. If you think the answer is true, place your hands on your head. If you think the answer is false, place your hands on your arse.

You hate to look silly in public. True or false?

Anyone who placed their hands on their **HEAD**, please sit down.

You are a good singer. True or false?

Anyone who placed their hands on their **HEAD**, please sit down.

In the last year, you have worn fancy dress. True or false?

Anyone who placed their hands on their **ARSE**, please sit down.

In the last year, you have actively tried to learn a new skill. True or false?

Anyone who placed their hands on their **ARSE**, please sit down.

[Emergency questions / Wildcards if needed]

Game [3 min]

[JESS arrange contestants into height order]

[JESS hands each contestant a copy of the lyrics]

CHRIS

Ok Contestants we will now play a game of Go Big Or Go Home.

The contestants will each perform six lines of "Share & Enjoy", the theme tune to the Sirius Cybernetics Corporation Complaints Division.

The Adjudicators will be judging the contestants. However, they will not be judging on musical ability. Adjudicators, please explain your criteria.

ADJUDICATORS

We will award each contestant 0 to 5 marks for the contestant's enthusiasm and 0 to 5 marks for interpretation.

The contestant with the most points wins.

CHRIS

Ready contestants. We shall do this in descending order of height.

Contestant number one, please perform the first six lines.

[Contestant performs six lines each]

[ADJUDICATORS - write down scores in secret]

Next contestant please

[Repeat process as required]

CHRIS

Thank zarquon that's finished.

Adjudicators, please read out the scores in reverse order

[ADJUDICATORS reads out scores. Depending on time and who is taking part, "arrange" a tie for first place or not.]

[If needed, two best contestants must perform again, the whole song but doing alternate lines]

[ADJUDICATORS declare winner and runner up]

Open Box [2 min]

CHRIS

Our winner will open box 41 but there are rules to opening the box

Contestant, when I give the signal, you open the box where you'll find an item and some instructions.

Without revealing anything to the audience, take a moment to read the instructions to yourself.

If you are happy to follow the instructions, then reveal the item and carry out the instructions

If you don't want to follow the instructions, close the box and return to your seat and the runner-up will have their chance to open the box.

Is everything clear contestant

Silence please everyone.

Contestant you may open the box

[1 Minute for contestant to open box, read instructions, decide, do instructions]

Thank you, now take your seat as part of the final five

[Encourage audience to clap]

Box 42

[3.15pm - 3.32pm] (Meta-Meta)

[JESS - Arrange final five into height order]

[JESS - Names of final five in a hat]

Talkie Bit [1 min]

CHRIS

We have our final five contestants who will compete to open our final box. There is nothing penultimate about this one.

One of these five will open Box 42 and discover the secret of Life, the Universe and Everything.

All our final five are worthy of opening Box 42. They are all winners but there can be only one person opening Box 42.

To decide who that will be, we shall play four more games and just like life, they will feature chance and sudden death. One failure and a contestant is out.

Game 1 (Five contestants) [3 min]

CHRIS

Our first game is called Arthur Dent Throwing the Nutrimatic Cup. Your target is this box, the first person who misses is out and the game ends. Contestants will go in a random order.

[JESS marks the throwing location]

[ADJUDICATORS measure 1 metre from the throwing location and place the target box.]

[CHRIS - Draw name from hat.]

Contestant - please throw the cup. If you miss, you are out.

[Contestant throws. If they miss, they are out and the game ends]

[Repeat until all contestants have thrown once]

[Move box further away, all names in the hat and repeat until someone misses]

Game 2 (Four contestants) [3 min]

CHRIS

And now for an intellectual game which we are calling the Haggunenon Spelling Bee of Death.

We will give the contestants the names of various races, people and places from the series and they must spell them correctly.

The contestants will go in a random order and the first contestant to make a mistake is out and the game ends.

[JESS draw name from hat]

[ADJUDICATORS read out word and check spelling]

[First incorrect answer ends the game and the contestant is out]

Game 3 (Three Contestants) [3 min]

CHRIS

We are down to three contestants who will take part in a game which has a passing resemblance to the Earth game of Rock Paper Scissors but which is known elsewhere in the galaxy as Ground Whale Towel.

Adjudicators please explain

ADJUDICATORS

The contestants will take turns playing against each other.

In each game, each contestant must pick either Ground, Whale or Towel

[Hold up the Ground, Whale or Towel cards]

The Ground splatters the Whale, the Whale eats the Towel, the Towel covers the Ground.

The first person to lose or draw three games is out.

Chris

First pair of contestants please

[JESS wrangles contestants. Contestant A plays contestant B.]

Contestants, on three, please show your card

One, two, three

[Contestants show their chosen card]

[ADJUDICATORS keep score]

[Contest B plays contestant C, C then plays A]

Adjudicators what are the current scores?

[Repeat games as necessary. If there is a tie with two contestants losing/drawing three games, there is a sudden death round between the tied contestants]

Talkie Bit [1 min]

CHRIS

We are down to the final two contestants. One of these people will open Box 42 and discover the meaning of life, the universe and everything.

We have already discovered how Maslow made self-actualization - being the best you can - the pinnacle of his hierarchy.

This is certainly what you'll find in most text books. However, Maslow changed his mind later in life. He added a new top level, a capstone to his hierarchy of needs.

Maslow called this new level self-transcendence.

The differences between his old top level - self-actualisation - and his new top level - self-transcendence are subtle but come down to one thing.

Self-actualisation is about being all you can be. Self-transcendence is about helping others to be all they can be.

Game 4 (Two Contestants) [3 min]

CHRIS

So, the final game, is not a game. Instead the audience are going to vote on who gets to open the box.

But there is a twist

Each of the contestants must give a short speech, no more than 1 minute long, about why the **other** person should win.

Having heard both contestants, the audience will vote and the contestant with the most votes, wins.

The contestants will cut the deck to decide who goes first.

[JESS holds deck of cards for contestants]

[Cut cards who goes first]

[Speeches - 2 minutes]

[Show hands for contestant A then Contestant B]

[ADJUDICATORS + JESS to count / estimate / guess]

ADJUDICATORS

The winner is....

[Encourage Applause]

[JESS wrangles contestant to the box]

CHRIS

Our winner will open box 42 but there are rules to opening the box

Contestant, when I give the signal, you open the box where you'll find an item and some instructions.

Without revealing anything to the audience, take a moment to read the instruction to yourself.

If you are happy to follow the instructions, then reveal the item and carry out the instructions

If you don't want to follow the instructions, close the box and return to your seat and the runner-up will have their chance to open the box.

Is everything clear contestant

Silence please everyone.

Contestant you may open box 42.

[JESS ready with the closing music]

[Music - It's a Wonderful World]

Talkie Bit [30 sec]

Thank you Jess for being our contestant wrangler today.

Thank you Jim & Meike for being our adjudicators.

Thank you to our final five for being such good sports.

Thank you to the con-committee for letting us do this.

Thank you everyone who came up to the front and played in a game.

Thank you anyone who opened a box over the weekend

And thank you to everyone here for being such a great audience.