

Irish Quiz League questions

Season 6 Round 1 — 9th February 2026

Questions by John Nolan

All questions correct as of the above date



Individual questions

Round 1

Q1 (Team A Player 1)	Which 1995 novel by Robert Harris is set amongst the cryptographers trying to break the encryption ciphers used by Germany during World War II? This book was adapted into a 2001 film starring Dougray Scott and Kate Winslet.	<u>Enigma</u>
Q2 (Team B Player 1)	Named after a famous French experimental physicist, what is the unit of radioactivity in the International System of Units (SI)? This unit measures the rate at which a material emits radiation via nuclear decay.	<u>Becquerel</u> (after Henri Becquerel)
Q3 (Team A Player 2)	With a name that translates as "tray planting", what is the Japanese art of growing and shaping miniature trees in containers?	<u>Bonsai</u>
Q4 (Team B Player 2)	Cargo ships are categorised partly by shipping capacity, partly by weight and partly by dimensions. What portmanteau word is used to describe ships which adhere to the length and width limits for travelling through the Panama Canal?	<u>Panamax / Neopanamax</u> (since 2009)
Q5 (Team A Player 3)	Which county Galway town is situated beside the point where the River Shannon enters Lough Derg from the north? The town's namesake bridge over the river was opened in 1911 and features a pivoting swing section to allow boats to pass through.	<u>Portumna</u>
Q6 (Team B Player 3)	Literally translating as "fire meat", which dish in Korean cuisine is made of thin, marinated slices of meat (most commonly beef) grilled on a barbecue or on a stove-top griddle? When prepared at home, it can also be stir-fried in a pan or wok.	<u>Bulgogi</u>
Q7 (Team A Player 4)	Launched via a Kickstarter campaign in 2011, which party game for adults sees players complete fill-in-the-blank statements using words or phrases typically deemed offensive, risqué, or politically incorrect?	<u>Cards Against Humanity</u>
Q8 (Team B Player 4)	Bobby Gillespie is the sole continuous member of which alternative rock band ? Formed in 1982, this group took its name from a type of therapy developed by American psychologist Arthur Janov.	<u>Primal Scream</u>

Round 3

Q1 (Team B Player 1)	What is the most widely spoken pre-Columbian language family of the Americas, with just under 7 million native speakers recorded in 2011? Almost 4 million Peruvians (14% of the population) speak a language belonging to this group.	<u>Quechua</u> <i>["ketch-wa"]</i>
Q2 (Team A Player 1)	Directed by Jon M. Chu, what two words complete the title of the 2025 film that was a direct sequel to the 2024 musical <i>Wicked</i> ? Please note: "Part Two" is not an acceptable answer.	<u>For Good</u>
Q3 (Team B Player 2)	In 2026, the Italian town of Cortina d'Ampezzo becomes the fourth venue to host the Winter Olympics more than once. Which city , capital of the Austrian state of Tyrol, previously achieved this, hosting the Games in 1964 and 1976?	<u>Innsbruck</u>
Q4 (Team A Player 2)	Premiering on HBO last month, which TV series starring Peter Claffey as Ser Duncan the Tall a.k.a. "Dunk", is a prequel to the massively successful <i>Game of Thrones</i> ?	A <u>Knight of the Seven Kingdoms</u>
Q5 (Team B Player 3)	In structural geology, what name is given to a rock fold that has an arch-like shape, with its oldest layers at its core?	<u>Anticline</u>
Q6 (Team A Player 3)	What surname is shared by an Irish singer-songwriter, who has scored three No. 1 albums in the Irish charts, and his politician father, who served as a TD for Dublin South between 1987 and 2011? The latter also served as a Minister of State in four different portfolios and was Government Chief Whip from 2004 to 2008.	<u>Kitt</u> (son David, father Tom)
Q7 (Team B Player 4)	Which Hawaiian-born performer , who first came to prominence as the member of a pop girl group, won the 2025 Tony Award for Best Actress in a Musical, for her performance as Norma Desmond in the revival of <i>Sunset Boulevard</i> ?	Nicole <u>Scherzinger</u>
Q8 (Team A Player 4)	Parliamentary elections were held in which European country on October 29th 2025? Not expected until 2028, a snap election was called after the cabinet of Prime Minister Dick Schoof collapsed due to Geert Wilders' Party for Freedom (PVV) withdrawing from the ruling coalition.	The <u>Netherlands</u> (accept <u>Holland</u>)

Round 5

Q1 (Team A Player 1)	Named after a famous English physicist, what is the unit of electrical capacitance in the International System of Units (SI)? This unit measures the ability of material to store an electrical charge.	<u>Farad</u> (after Michael Faraday)
Q2 (Team B Player 1)	In which family game do players have to find symbols in common between two cards? This game uses a deck of 55 circular cards, each printed with eight different symbols, designed so that any two randomly-chosen cards always share one, and only one, matching symbol.	<u>Dobble</u> / <u>Spot It!</u> (name in US market)
Q3 (Team A Player 2)	Sounding worryingly like a disaster at sea, what portmanteau word describes cargo ships that are too large to transit the Suez Canal (Suezmax) or Panama Canal (Neopanamax), and so have to traverse between oceans using traditional southern routes?	<u>Capesize</u>
Q4 (Team B Player 2)	With its goal being to transform a flat square sheet of paper into a finished sculpture, what is the Japanese art of paper folding?	<u>Origami</u>
Q5 (Team A Player 3)	Found in cuisines from the Balkans through South Asia, what dish consists of balls of minced meat (usually beef, chicken, lamb or camel) mixed with spices and sometimes other ingredients? Its name comes from Hindi-Urdu and means "pounded meat".	<u>Kofta</u>
Q6 (Team B Player 3)	Parliamentary elections were held in which European country on September 8th 2025? This election resulted in a victory for the Labour Party, lead by incumbent Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre ["stuh-ruh"].	<u>Norway</u>
Q7 (Team A Player 4)	Which Australian-born actress , who had a breakout success as Shiv Roy in the HBO drama series <i>Succession</i> , won the 2025 Tony Award for Best Lead Actress in a Play, for her performance in <i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i> ?	Sarah <u>Snook</u>
Q8 (Team B Player 4)	Name either of the towns located at the point where the River Shannon exits Lough Derg to the south? The 17th century stone bridge that connects these twin towns was pedestrianised in 2025, following the opening of the new Brian Boru bridge 1km to the south.	<u>Killaloe</u> / <u>Ballina</u>

Round 7

Q1 (Team B Player 1)	What surname is shared by an Irish comedian/actor and his politician father, who served as a TD for Cavan-Monaghan from 1977 to 2011? The latter also served as Minister for Health between 1987 and 1991 and was Ceann Comhairle [" <i>kyann cor-luh</i> "] from 2002 to 2007.	<u>O'Hanlon</u> (son Ardal, father Rory)
Q2 (Team A Player 1)	In structural geology, what name is given to a rock fold that has a trough-like shape, with its youngest layers at its core (the inverse of an anticline)?	<u>Syncline</u>
Q3 (Team B Player 2)	Which 2017 novel by Robert Harris is set over four days in 1938, during the negotiations of a famous agreement between Neville Chamberlain and Adolf Hitler? This book was adapted for Netflix in 2022, starring Jeremy Irons and George MacKay.	<u>Munich</u> (The film was <i>Munich - The Edge of War</i>)
Q4 (Team A Player 2)	Four years after Innsbruck hosted the Winter Olympics for a second time, which American town equalled its achievement? As well as those 1980 Games, this town in the Adirondack Mountains had previously hosted in 1932.	<u>Lake Placid</u>
Q5 (Team B Player 3)	Which successful 2025 TV series , originally released on streaming service HBO Max, follows two rival professional ice hockey players, one Canadian and one Russian, whose public animosity conceals a passionate, secret romance?	<u>Heated Rivalry</u>
Q6 (Team A Player 3)	What Native American language is one of two official languages of Paraguay, where it is spoken by the majority of the population? Also spoken in northeastern Argentina, southeastern Bolivia and southwestern Brazil, this is one of three official languages recognised by South American trading bloc Mercosur.	<u>Guarani</u> [" <i>gwa-ranee</i> "]
Q7 (Team B Player 4)	Directed by James Cameron, what three words complete the title of the 2025 film that is the second sequel to the 2009 film <i>Avatar</i> ?	<u>Fire and Ash</u>
Q8 (Team A Player 4)	Roland Orzabal and Curt Smith formed which new wave musical act in 1982? This group took their three-word name from a phrase in American psychologist Arthur Janov's 1980 book <i>Prisoners of Pain</i> .	<u>Tears For Fears</u>

Team questions

Nuclear Power

Q1	There are currently nine sovereign states generally understood to possess nuclear weapons, though only eight formally acknowledge doing so. It's not Iran, but which Middle Eastern country is the outlier? Believed to be the sixth country to develop nuclear weapons in 1966, this country has followed a policy of strategic ambiguity since, never confirming nor denying its nuclear capability.	<u>Israel</u>
Q2	First signed in 1968, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) currently has 191 countries as signatories. Which nation , that acceded in 1985, announced its withdrawal from the NPT in 2003, the only state to do so, and carried out its first nuclear test in 2006?	<u>North Korea / Democratic People's Republic of Korea / DPRK</u> (prompt on "Korea", do NOT accept "South Korea")
Q3	Which country produced six nuclear weapons in the 1970s before publicly dismantling them in 1989? It is believed these weapons were developed for political leverage rather than actual battlefield use. After the destruction of the weapons, this country then signed the NPT in 1991.	<u>South Africa</u>
Q4	Signed into law by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, 28th May is a public holiday in Pakistan called <i>Youm-e-Takbir</i> ("Day of Greatness"), to commemorate the date of the country's first successful nuclear test. In what year did that test take place? Its timing was a direct response to a series of nuclear tests by India earlier that same year.	<u>1998</u>

Face the Music

Q1	Which American singer topped the Irish, UK and US charts in 2008, with their second single <i>Poker Face</i> ?	<u>Lady Gaga</u> (accept Stefani Germanotta)
Q2	In 2015, which Canadian performer scored his second US Billboard No. 1 with the song <i>Can't Feel My Face</i> ? This artist's most recent US chart-topper was <i>Save Your Tears</i> , a 2021 duet with Ariana Grande.	The <u>Weeknd</u> (accept Abel Tesfaye)
Q3	Which English rock singer had a top 20 hit in both Ireland and the UK in 1984 with a single that shared its name with the English-language title of 1960 French horror film <i>Les yeux sans visage</i> ? <i>["layz yuh sonn viz-adge"]</i>	Billy <u>Idol</u> (accept William Broad) - the song was <i>Eyes Without a Face</i>
Q4	In 1957, which British songwriter composed the song <i>The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face</i> ? It became a major international hit for Roberta Flack in 1972, winning Grammy Awards for Record of the Year and Song of the Year.	Ewan <u>MacColl</u>

Queens Regnant

(A queen regnant is one who reigns in her own right - as opposed to a queen consort, who is married to a reigning king.)

Q1	Who was the first undisputed queen regnant of England, ruling from July 1553 until her death in November 1558 at the age of 42? The plantation of the modern counties of Laois and Offaly took place during her relatively short reign.	<u>Mary</u> Tudor / <u>Mary</u> I (the First)
Q2	Lili'uokalani was the only queen regnant and the last sovereign monarch of which kingdom , ruling from 1891 until overthrown by an 1893 coup led by the 'Committee of Safety', a group whose goal was to achieve annexation by the United States?	<u>Hawaii</u>
Q3	In Hellenistic Egypt, there were several queens (both regnant and consort) named Cleopatra. What was the regnal number of the last such queen, famous in history and literature for, amongst other things, her relationships with Julius Caesar and Mark Antony?	<u>VII</u> / <u>Seventh</u>
Q4	Upon the death of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II in 2022, which queen became the only remaining female monarch of a sovereign state in the world, until her 2024 abdication in favour of her son Frederik X? Name and regnal number required.	<u>Margrethe II</u> of Denmark

Hair Today...

Q1	Which hairstyle , named after a mythical creature in British folklore, was first popularised in the 1950s, when Audrey Hepburn wore the style in the film <i>Roman Holiday</i> ? This style features short hair on the back and sides of the head, with slightly longer hair on top and very short bangs.	<u>Pixie</u> cut
Q2	Which hairstyle , named after a mistress of King Louis XV of France, features a large volume of hair swept upwards from the face and worn high over the forehead, and sometimes also upswept around the sides and back?	<u>Pompadour</u> (Madame de Pompadour, 1721–1764)
Q3	A traditional hairstyle of Africa and amongst the African diaspora, in which style is the hair braided very close to the scalp, using an underhand, upward motion to make continuous, raised lines? The name refers to the layout of crops in fields where enslaved Africans were displaced during the Atlantic slave trade.	<u>Cornrows</u>
Q4	Originally used to hold a helmet on during battle, the Chonmage ["chon-ma-gey"] reached the height of its popularity during the 17th and 18th centuries. Today it is only seen on the heads of competitors in which sport , where it is considered so important that the governing body employs specialist hairdressers?	<u>Sumo</u> wrestling

Ground Sharing

Q1	Leinster Rugby are the primary tenants of which multi-use sports facility in the Dublin suburb of Ballsbridge? Opened in 1868, this venue also plays host to the annual Dublin Horse Show.	The <u>RDS</u> / <u>RDS Arena</u> / <u>Royal Dublin Society</u> .
Q2	Which League of Ireland club are moving to the GAA's Pearse Stadium for six matches next July, due to planned drainage work being carried out at their usual home, Eamon Deacy Park?	<u>Galway</u> . United
Q3	Due to renovations being carried out on their Brandywell stadium, later this year League of Ireland club Derry City will temporarily move 400 metres up the Lone Moor Road and play their home games in which GAA ground ?	<u>Celtic</u> Park
Q4	Those redevelopments at the Brandywell will also displace which Northern Ireland Football League Championship side , who have groundshared with Derry City since 2018?	<u>Institute</u>

Your Search Engine History

Q1	Which web site , one of the first popular search engines, began as a tool to search an eponymous directory, which had been launched in 1994 by Jerry Yang and David Filo, then students at Stanford University?	<u>Yahoo!</u>
Q2	Before being rebranded as Ask.com in 2006, this search engine had been known by a two word name. What was that second word , the name of a famous "gentleman's personal gentleman", who would fetch answers to any question asked?	<u>Jeeves</u>
Q3	Created by researchers at Digital Equipment Corporation in 1995, and a huge success on its release, which innovative search engine with a Spanish-language name used a fast, multi-threaded crawler called Scooter that could cover many more Web pages than were believed to exist at the time?	<u>AltaVista</u>
Q4	Its name deriving from the Latin for "wolf spider", which search engine was launched in 1994 as a spin-off from a research project at Carnegie Mellon University? At its peak in 1999, this site was one of the world's most-visited websites, with a global presence in more than 40 countries.	<u>Lycos</u>

Strait Through

Q1	The world's narrowest international waterway, which strait connects the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmara and is straddled by the city of Istanbul?	<u>Bosporus</u> / <u>Bosphorus</u> Strait
Q2	Measuring approximately 125 km in length and between 15 and 60 km in width, the Strait of Belle Isle is a waterway that separates the two major land masses in which Canadian province ?	<u>Newfoundland and Labrador</u> (Both needed, prompt on either one)
Q3	Defined by the headlands of the San Francisco Peninsula and the Marin Peninsula, which strait on the west coast of North America connects San Francisco Bay to the Pacific Ocean?	The <u>Golden Gate</u>
Q4	Sharing its name with a city on its bank where a famous political unification was enacted, what is the name of the strait that separates the island of Öland ["uh-land"] from the Swedish mainland?	<u>Kalmar</u> (Kalmar Union)

Hands On at the Gaiety

(Multiple performers and playwrights associated with Dublin's Gaiety Theatre are commemorated by handprints cast in bronze and set in the pavement beneath the theatre's canopy.)

Q1	Which famous Italian tenor , who first performed at the Gaiety in 1963, is commemorated by one of the bronze handprints outside the theatre? This man passed away in 2007, at the age of 71.	Luciano <u>Pavarotti</u>
Q2	The handprints of which Scottish comedian were installed outside the Gaiety in 2013, following a five-night run of shows? This man had a varied career before he turned to comedy, starting as a welder in a shipyard before joining the late 1960s folk-rock band the Humblebums alongside Gerry Rafferty.	Billy <u>Connolly</u> .
Q3	Which Cork-born comedian and actor (1929-2019) had his Gaiety handprints installed in 2005? A dominant figure in Irish cabaret from the 1960s to '90s, this man also appeared in films such as <i>Ryan's Daughter</i> , <i>Far and Away</i> and <i>Veronica Guerin</i> ["geer-in"].	Niall <u>Tóibín</u> ["neel toe-been"]
Q4	In 2001, what Dublin-born actress became the first star to place their handprints on the Gaiety "walk of fame"? This lady had a long career in Irish theatre, starting as a child star in the 1930s, later best known as a comedienne and a frequent performer in panto and cabaret, as well as regular "serious" roles, including the 1967 film version of <i>Ulysses</i> .	Maureen <u>Potter</u>