

Irish Quiz League questions

Season 6 Round 6 — 20th April 2026

Questions by Dan O'Malley

All questions correct as of the above date



Individual questions

Round 1

Q1 (Team A Player 1)	One of three English teams to compete in this year's National Hurling League, which English county GAA team play their home games at the Old Bedians [" <i>beed-ians</i> "] Sports Centre in Didsbury, on the banks of the river Mersey?	<u>Lancashire</u>
Q2 (Team B Player 1)	What video game franchise is primarily set on the planet Sera during a conflict between humanity and a subterranean reptilian race known as the Locust Horde? The first game in the series was originally released on the Xbox 360 in 2006.	<u>Gears of War</u>
Q3 (Team A Player 2)	Released last month, one of the highest-grossing films of 2026 so far is what sci-fi movie , based on a novel by Andy Weir? It stars Ryan Gosling as an American astronaut stranded alone in space after an interstellar mission goes wrong.	<u>Project Hail Mary</u>
Q4 (Team B Player 2)	In Morse code, what letter is represented by a dash followed by three dots? This consonant is worth three points in the English version of Scrabble.	<u>B</u> (for Bravo)
Q5 (Team A Player 3)	What was the regnal number of the French King Louis who was the last king of France before the fall of the monarchy during the French Revolution? He was married to Marie Antoinette for 23 years until they were both executed by guillotine in 1793.	<u>XVI</u> (sixteenth)
Q6 (Team B Player 3)	The first person ever to win two Best Supporting Actress Oscars was what American performer , doing so for <i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i> (1959) and <i>A Patch of Blue</i> (1965)? Her other notable roles include <i>The Poseidon Adventure</i> , <i>The Night of the Hunter</i> and playing the title character's mother in Stanley Kubrick's <i>Lolita</i> .	Shelley <u>Winters</u> (born Shirley <u>Schrift</u>)
Q7 (Team A Player 4)	What word follows "Uptown" in the title of a worldwide 1983 hit by Billy Joel, covered in 2001 by Westlife?	<u>Girl</u>
Q8 (Team B Player 4)	What star is the brightest in the constellation of Lyra and the fifth-brightest star in the night sky? Its name a contraction of an Arabic phrase meaning "falling eagle", it has been called " <i>arguably the most important star in the sky after the Sun</i> " due to being traditionally used as the yardstick against which others stars' brightness is measured.	<u>Vega</u>

Round 3

Q1 (Team B Player 1)	The well-known fanfare that precedes broadcasts on the Eurovision broadcast network (most notably the Eurovision Song Contest) is taken from the prelude of which French composer's <i>Te Deum in D major</i> , composed in 1692?	Marc-Antoine <u>Charpentier</u> ["shar-pen-tee-ay"]
Q2 (Team A Player 1)	The all-time record for most points scored in the men's Six Nations rugby championship is held by what Irishman and former Leinster fly-half? By the time of his retirement in 2023, he had amassed 566 points across his 13-year international career.	Johnny <u>Sexton</u>
Q3 (Team B Player 2)	Since November 2025, which Fine Gael politician has held two portfolios in the Irish cabinet: serving as both Minister for Defence and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade?	Helen <u>McEntee</u>
Q4 (Team A Player 2)	<i>If Ever I Would Leave You</i> is a song from what musical , which debuted on Broadway in 1960 and was based on the legend of King Arthur, specifically the 1958 novel <i>The Once and Future King</i> by T. H. White?	<u>Camelot</u>
Q5 (Team B Player 3)	Name the Irish youth association , originally founded in 1952, who describe their purpose as " <i>to enable young people to involve themselves consciously and actively in their development and in the development of society</i> "? Their current name, adopted in the 1980s, is a contraction of an Irish phrase meaning "development of youth".	<u>Foróige</u> ["for-oh-i-ga"] / originally called <u>Macra na Tuaithe</u> ["mock-ra na too-ha"]
Q6 (Team A Player 3)	Which chess pieces are known in Italian by a name that translates as "soldiers", and in German by a name meaning "farmers" or "peasants"?	<u>Pawns</u>
Q7 (Team B Player 4)	What name is given to the prehistoric subcontinent and land bridge that formerly connected Siberia and Alaska, and was the route via which the original settlers of North America migrated from Asia during the Pleistocene epoch? Named after a navigator who explored this area in the 18th century, this land was permanently flooded by rising sea levels over 10,000 years ago.	<u>Beringia</u> (do NOT accept Bering Sea or Bering Strait)
Q8 (Team A Player 4)	In Japan prior to the mid-19th century, what name was given to the elite class of professional warriors noted for their mastery of martial arts and their strict code of honour?	<u>Samurai</u>

Round 5

Q1 (Team A Player 1)	What video game franchise is set in the distant future where humanity is in conflict with a malevolent race of sentient machines known as the Reapers? The first game in the series was originally released on the Xbox 360 in 2007.	<u>Mass Effect</u>
Q2 (Team B Player 1)	What word follows "Uptown" in the title of a worldwide 2014 hit by Mark Ronson featuring Bruno Mars?	<u>Funk</u>
Q3 (Team A Player 2)	In Morse code, what letter is represented by three dots followed by a dash? This consonant is worth four points in the English version of Scrabble.	<u>V</u> (for Victor)
Q4 (Team B Player 2)	<i>Project Hail Mary</i> is the second sci-fi movie adapted from a novel by Andy Weir – what was the first? This 2015 film starred Matt Damon as an American astronaut stranded alone in space after an interplanetary mission goes wrong.	The <u>Martian</u>
Q5 (Team A Player 3)	Other than Shelley Winters, the only other person ever to win two Best Supporting Actress Oscars was what performer , doing so for the Woody Allen films <i>Hannah and Her Sisters</i> (1986) and <i>Bullets Over Broadway</i> (1994)? Her other notable roles include <i>Parenthood</i> , <i>The Birdcage</i> and playing the title character's adoptive mother in <i>Edward Scissorhands</i> .	Dianne <u>Wiest</u> ["weest"]
Q6 (Team B Player 3)	In Japan prior to the 17th century, what name was given to black-clad warriors trained in martial arts and stealth and often employed by feudal lords to work in secrecy? Despite their frequent depiction as assassins in popular culture, in reality they were primarily spies and saboteurs.	<u>Ninja</u>
Q7 (Team A Player 4)	What name is given to the prehistoric subcontinent and land bridge that formerly connected Great Britain to mainland Europe? Named after an underwater section of the North Sea which is one of its last vestiges, this land was permanently flooded by a massive tsunami over 8,000 years ago.	<u>Doggerland</u> (do NOT accept Dogger Bank)
Q8 (Team B Player 4)	What was the regnal number of the French King Louis nicknamed "the Sun King"? His reign of 72 years (1643-1715) was the longest of any monarch in history.	<u>XIV</u> (fourteenth)

Round 7

Q1 (Team B Player 1)	Which chess pieces are known in French by a name that translates as "jesters", and in Russian by a name meaning "elephants"?	<u>Bishops</u>
Q2 (Team A Player 1)	Founded in 1985 under President Patrick Hillery, what is the name of the Irish President's Award for young people, intended to contribute to youth development through the achievement of personal challenges? Open to young people between the age of 14 and 25, this award's name roughly means "achievement" in Irish.	<u>Gaisce</u> <i>["gosh-ka"]</i>
Q3 (Team B Player 2)	Along with Lancashire and London, the only other English team to compete in this year's National Hurling League is which English county GAA team , who play their home games at Páirc na hÉireann <i>["park nah hair-in"]</i> near the West Midlands town of Solihull?	<u>Warwickshire</u>
Q4 (Team A Player 2)	Since January 2025, which Fianna Fáil politician has held two portfolios in the Irish cabinet: serving as both Minister for Transport and Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment?	Darragh <u>O'Brien</u>
Q5 (Team B Player 3)	<i>The Impossible Dream</i> is a song from what musical , which debuted on Broadway in 1965 and was inspired by the Spanish author Miguel de Cervantes and his 17th-century novel <i>Don Quixote</i> ?	<u>Man of La Mancha</u>
Q6 (Team A Player 3)	The well-known musical phrase used as the default ringtone for most Nokia mobile phones since the 1990s was taken from <i>Gran Vals</i> , a solo guitar piece written in 1902 by what Spanish classical guitarist and composer ?	Francisco <u>Tárrega</u>
Q7 (Team B Player 4)	Johnny Sexton took the men's Six Nations rugby championship scoring record from what fellow Irishman and former Munster fly-half? This man scored 557 points in the tournament between 2000 and 2013.	Ronan <u>O'Gara</u>
Q8 (Team A Player 4)	What orange giant star is the brightest star in the constellation of Boötes <i>["boh-oh-teez"]</i> and the fourth-brightest in the night sky? Its name meaning "guardian of the bear" in Greek, it is one of the few stars specifically mentioned in the Bible.	<u>Arcturus</u>

Team questions

Two Wheels Good

Q1	Originating in 1920s Australia, what specific motorsport involves four to six riders competing over four laps of an oval circuit with specially-designed motorbikes which have only one gear and no brakes?	Motorcycle speedway .
Q2	Name the cyclist who in 2025 became the first Irish rider to wear the Tour de France yellow jersey since 1987? Although born and raised in England, this man chose to ride for Ireland in honour of his Munster-born paternal grandparents.	Ben Healy .
Q3	Born in Larne, County Antrim in 1987, name the Northern Irish motorcyclist who holds the record for most Superbike World Championships, winning 6 titles in a row between 2015 and 2020?	Jonathan Rea ["ray"]
Q4	The Tour de France was founded in 1903 by what French sports newspaper in an attempt to boost circulation? This newspaper focused on cycling – not cars as its name might suggest – and was dissolved in 1944 for printing Nazi propaganda during World War II, being replaced by the still-ongoing <i>L'Équipe</i> .	L'Auto (originally L'Auto-Vélo)

First Name Required and Sufficient

(For these four questions, unlike our normal rules you should simply answer with the person's FIRST NAME – surname is optional)

Q1	Name the American actress who is the younger sister of the Olsen twins Mary-Kate and Ashley? This lady has arguably surpassed her twin sisters' fame in recent years due to her recurring role as Wanda Maximoff (a.k.a. Scarlet Witch) in the Marvel Cinematic Universe.	Elizabeth Olsen
Q2	Name the Brazilian goalkeeper who in 2021 scored the first ever competitive goal by a keeper in Liverpool's 129-year history, when he ventured up the pitch to head in a last-minute corner against West Brom?	Alisson Becker
Q3	Born in 1996, name the son of Jermaine Jackson who is portraying his famous uncle in the biopic <i>Michael</i> , out later this week? This man's first name is a homophone of a Disney animated villain.	Jaafar Jackson
Q4	Name Fred Astaire's older sister , who was his original dance partner in the 1920s when they both achieved much success in vaudeville and on Broadway? In 1932 she retired from the stage to marry Anglo-Irish nobleman Lord Charles Cavendish and moved to Lismore Castle in County Waterford, where she spent much of her life until her death in 1981.	Adele Astaire

Around Ireland by Train

(You're about to take a railway journey through the four provinces of Ireland. Bon voyage!)

Q1	Starting in Leinster, you take the train from Dublin to Belfast. What single-word name is given to this hourly cross-border service, established in 1947 and run jointly by Irish Rail and Northern Ireland Railways? It is not to be confused with a famous fictional spacecraft.	<u>Enterprise</u>
Q2	Travelling through Ulster, you change trains at Coleraine to take the branch line to Ireland's most northerly railway station, in what County Antrim seaside town , better known as the location of a famous golf club?	<u>Portrush</u>
Q3	Onwards to Connacht, and to what small County Mayo village near Castlebar, where you find a rare example of an interchange-only rail station? Passengers cannot enter or leave the station; they can only use its two platforms to transfer from mainline Dublin-Westport trains to the branch line serving Ballina and Foxford.	<u>Manulla</u> Junction
Q4	Finally to Munster, where on your journey from Cork back to Dublin you pass through Ireland's longest operational rail tunnel. Opened in 1855, it stretches 1.2 km from Kent Station to what suburb on the north side of Cork city?	<u>Blackpool</u> (accept <u>Kilnap</u>)

Simultaneous Albums

Q1	The most successful simultaneous album launch in history was on September 17th 1991, when Guns N' Roses occupied the top two spots on the UK and US charts with volumes I and II of what twin album release?	<u>Use Your Illusion</u>
Q2	The four members of KISS released four simultaneous self-titled solo albums in September 1978. While frontman Gene Simmons' album charted highest initially, which guitarist of the band ultimately had the biggest-selling album of the four? He also had the biggest hit single: <i>New York Groove</i> reaching the US Top 20.	Ace <u>Frehley</u> . ["fray-lee"]
Q3	Although later released as a triple disc box set, the initial release of <i>Shut Up 'n Play Yer Guitar</i> by what American musician was as three separate albums launched simultaneously in May 1981? This was among more than 60 albums released by this prolific musician before his death in 1993 aged 52.	Frank <u>Zappa</u>
Q4	Perhaps inspired by Guns N' Roses several months earlier, on May 31st 1992 Bruce Springsteen simultaneously released two new albums, each one named after a song on that album. Name both albums? The title track of one had been released in advance as a single and reached No. 4 on the Irish singles chart.	<u>Human Touch</u> and <u>Lucky Town</u> (need both)

Realm of the Four Parts

Q1	Referring to the four provinces that comprised it, <i>Tawantinsuyu</i> , meaning "Realm of the Four Parts" was the official name of what empire , the largest in pre-Columbian America, centred in present-day Peru?	<u>Inca / Incan</u> Empire
Q2	Nowadays a bustling city of 400,000 people, what city in southeastern Peru was the ancient capital of the Inca Empire?	<u>Cusco / Cuzco</u>
Q3	Unusually for a major civilisation, the Incas never developed a system of writing – instead they used quipu [ˈkee-pu], a method of encoding numerical and other information in a portable fashion using what ?	Knotted <u>string</u> (accept <u>knots</u> , <u>cords</u> , <u>yarn</u> , <u>threads</u> , etc)
Q4	Name the Portuguese explorer and conquistador who headed the first group of Europeans known to have encountered the Incas? This occurred in 1524, several years before Francisco Pizarro led the invading Spanish army that eventually overthrew the Incas.	Aleixo <u>García</u> (also known as Alejo <u>García</u>)

Their Mammy Was Irish

Q1	Born in London in 1955 to an Irish mother and Nigerian father, the musician Joe Leeway found fame in the 1980s as a member of what British band alongside Tom Bailey and Alannah Currie? He played keyboards and percussion on their biggest hits, including <i>Hold Me Now</i> and <i>Doctor! Doctor!</i>	<u>Thompson Twins</u>
Q2	Wexford-born Annie Jameson, whose grandfather John founded the Jameson whiskey distillery, was also the mother of what notable turn-of-the-century scientist ? This man shared the 1909 Nobel Prize in Physics with Ferdinand Braun " <i>in recognition of their contributions to the development of wireless telegraphy</i> ".	Guglielmo <u>Marconi</u>
Q3	Her mother hailing from County Galway, what English actress came to fame in the 1960s playing feisty Elsie Tanner on the TV soap <i>Coronation Street</i> ? This actress stayed on the soap for over 20 years, leaving in 1984 – only two years before her untimely death from cancer aged 62.	Pat <u>Phoenix</u> (born Patricia <u>Manfield</u>)
Q4	Name the British boxer born in Liverpool in 1951 to an Irish mother and Sierra Leonean father? He held the WBC light-heavyweight world title between 1974 and 1977, shortly after he achieved pop culture immortality as one of the celebrities dressed in prison gear on the cover of the 1973 Wings album <i>Band on the Run</i> .	John <u>Conteh</u>

Three Words

(The answer to each question is three words long – all three must be correct)

Q1	Its non-stop movement intended to symbolise the constant vigilance of the police, what three words appear on the famous rotating sign which since the late 1960s has stood outside the headquarters of London's Metropolitan Police?	<u>New Scotland Yard</u>
Q2	"Just shoot for the stars / If it feels right" are the opening lines to what worldwide hit single of 2011 ? Although it topped the charts in Ireland, it only reached No. 2 in the UK and currently holds the record for biggest-selling single never to have topped the UK charts (excluding streaming).	<u>Moves Like Jagger</u>
Q3	Australian author Liane Moriarty is best known for two (unrelated) novels, which were turned into two (unrelated) TV series starring Nicole Kidman: one in 2017 co-starring Reese Witherspoon and the other in 2021 co-starring Melissa McCarthy. Please name EITHER novel?	<u>Big Little Lies</u> / <u>Nine Perfect Strangers</u> (accept either)
Q4	Nowadays hanging in New York's Museum of Modern Art, what was the title of the final completed painting by Dutch abstract artist Piet Mondrian before his death in 1944? Replacing his signature black lines and large white squares with yellow lines and much smaller coloured squares, the painting's name references both a major New York thoroughfare and a style of music.	<u>Broadway Boogie Woogie</u>

Sweets for my Sweet

Q1	What Spanish name literally translating as "sweet made of milk" is given to a type of caramel made by gradually heating a mix of milk and sugar? It is particularly popular in Latin America, where it is widely used as a dessert ingredient and as a spread for pancakes or toast.	<u>Dulce de leche</u> ["dul-say de letch-ay"]
Q2	Escaping anti-Christian persecution in the Ottoman Empire, Armenian couple Harutun and Esther Batmazian moved to Cork in 1902 and established the Hadji Bey confectionery company, specialising in what traditional confection ? The brand is still available across Ireland more than 100 years later, sold in distinctive yellow circular boxes.	<u>Turkish delight</u>
Q3	In Japan, what name is given to a sweet spherical cake made from steamed rice pounded into a glutinous paste? A traditional ceremony surrounds the making of this confection, often performed at schools, shrines, and homes to welcome the New Year.	<u>Mochi</u>
Q4	What dessert in Neapolitan cuisine is made with different flavours of gelato (usually pistachio, cherry and chocolate) layered together in a mould with added candied fruits, chocolate, nuts, and nut brittle?	<u>Spumoni</u>