



Irish Quiz Organisation

Irish Open Quiz 2025 – Part 1 (Media, World, Sport & Games, History)

Sunday 5th October 2025

Set by Dan O'Malley

Rules:

- **Please do not turn your paper over until instructed.**
- The overall quiz consists of eight written rounds, each of 30 questions, for a total of 240 questions.
- The quiz is split into two halves, four rounds per half and with **60 minutes** allowed per half.
- **All eight rounds** count towards a player's overall score.
- Where asked for a person's name, a **surname by itself** will suffice, unless specifically asked for given names. Remember that a correct surname with an incorrect given name is a wrong answer!
- This is **not** a spelling contest, so be reasonably lenient on spelling when marking other people's answers.

Part 1 topics:

- **Media:** Film, Language, Literature, Comic strips, Comic books, Graphic novels
- **World:** Cities, Human Geography, Physical Geography, Inventions, Space, Technology, Transport
- **Sport & Games:** Sports, Hobbies & Pastimes, Board games, Video games, Records & achievements
- **History:** Civilisations, Current Affairs, Exploration, Famous People, Ancient & Modern History

Part 2 topics:

- *Sciences: Exact sciences (Chemistry, Physics etc.), Fauna, Flora, Social sciences*
- *Entertainment: Ballet, Classical music, Film Music, Jazz & World Music, Opera, Pop music, Radio, Television, Theatre*
- *Lifestyle: Costume, Design, Fashion, Food & Drink, Handicrafts, Health & Fitness, Human Body, New Age beliefs, Products & Brands, Tourism*
- *Culture: Architecture, Fine art, Museums, Mythology, Philosophy, Religion, World cultures*

Player name: _____ Marker name: _____

Scores:	Media	World	Sport & Games	History	Part 1 Total

----- DETACH & RETURN -----

Player name: _____ Marker name: _____

Scores:	Media	World	Sport & Games	History	Part 1 Total

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Fágadh an leathanach seo folamh d'aon ghnó

Media

Q1. Credited with ushering in a new era of darker, more mature superhero stories, the 1986 comic book mini-series <i>The Dark Knight Returns</i> by Frank Miller features an aging version of what superhero who comes out of retirement to resume his fight against crime?	
Q2. “...Across the gulf of space ... intellects vast and cool and unsympathetic regarded this earth with envious eyes, and slowly and surely drew their plans against us...” – this excerpt, neatly summarising the book’s entire plot, is taken from the opening page of what classic novel, first published in 1898?	
Q3. This distinctive “mask” trophy, designed by American sculptor Mitzi Cunliffe, is presented to the winners of which annual awards, founded in 1949 and currently bestowed for excellence in film, television and video games?	
Q4. <i>Quiz Whizz</i> (1958) was one of the 190 short films released by Columbia Pictures between 1934 and 1959 starring what American comedy trio? The plot follows the trio’s misadventures after one of them wins \$15,000 on a TV quiz show – sadly the film begins after he receives his prize money, so we don’t get to see any actual quizzing on screen!	
Q5. A unique feature of the German alphabet is the so-called <i>Eszett</i> (meaning “S-Z”) or <i>scharfes S</i> (meaning “sharp S”), a character which is used in certain words to represent a double-S. Confusingly for those learning the language, this special character doesn’t look like either an S or a Z – instead it most closely resembles what other capital letter?	
Q6. A line from WB Yeats’s 1919 poem <i>The Second Coming</i> provides the three-word title of what acclaimed 1958 novel by Chinua Achebe, set in a fictional Nigerian village in the late 19th century and depicting the effects of British colonisation on traditional Igbo culture?	
Q7. <i>Beneath the [BLANK]</i> (1970) and <i>Kingdom of the [BLANK]</i> (2024) are respectively the first and most recent sequels in a long-running science-fiction movie franchise. What four words fill in the blanks in both cases – the same four words also being the title of the original 1968 film which kicked off the franchise?	
Q8. A collection of 100 short stories, told by a group of seven young women and three young men as they shelter in a secluded villa just outside Florence to escape the Black Death – this is a description of what work of literature, written in the mid-14th century by the Italian author Giovanni Boccaccio?	

Q9. The 1951 work <i>Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night</i> by Dylan Thomas is arguably the most famous example of what form of poetry, 19 lines long and consisting of five three-line stanzas followed by a final four-line stanza?	
Q10. Name this actress, who in 2018 received a Best Supporting Actress Oscar nomination for <i>The Shape of Water</i>? This came 12 months after her similar nomination for <i>Hidden Figures</i>, making her the first African-American actress to be Oscar-nominated in consecutive years. Although she was unsuccessful in both cases, she had already won an Oscar several years previously for <i>The Help</i>.	
Q11. Founded in Germany in 2014, <i>MC1R</i> is an English-language magazine which describes itself as the world's only publication for people with what physical trait? The magazine's title refers to the gene which confers this trait, present in an estimated 1-2% of people worldwide, and 10% of the Irish population (the highest percentage of any country).	
Q12. This iconic photo shows Marlene Dietrich starring as nightclub dancer Lola Lola in what 1930 German film? Considered the film that brought her international fame, it was also Dietrich's first "talkie" after several years acting in silent movies.	
Q13. The most well-known creation of French author Maurice Leblanc (1864-1941) is what fictional character, a gentleman thief and master of disguise often described as a French counterpart to Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes? The character's surname is also the title of a 2021 French TV series produced by Netflix, in which a modern-day thief uses this character's methods as inspiration.	
Q14. Based on the novella <i>Foster</i> by Claire Keegan, what critically-acclaimed 2022 coming-of-age film was the first-ever Irish-language production to be Oscar-nominated for Best International Feature Film?	
Q15. In 1717 at the age of 22, what prolific writer spent eleven months imprisoned in a windowless cell in the Bastille, for writing a satirical verse that implied the French Régent (Philippe, Duke of Orléans) was having an incestuous relationship with his daughter? The following year, the same regent awarded this man a gold medal and a substantial annuity following the success of his first play <i>Oedipus</i>, which he wrote during his time in prison.	

Q16. One of the top-grossing Indian films of all time, **what is the title** of this 2023 Bollywood action movie, starring Ranbir Kapoor as a man who takes violent revenge following an assassination attempt on his estranged father, a wealthy industrialist?



Although the film is in Hindi, its single-word title is in English: it is a word that also appears in the title of two classic American movie comedies: one starring the Marx Brothers and the other produced by *National Lampoon* magazine.

Q17. In summer 2025, the song *Golden* was a Number 1 hit in 10 different countries (including the US, UK, Germany, Australia, Malaysia and Taiwan) – joining the small list of chart-topping songs performed by fictional acts.



Please name either the non-existent Korean girl group who were credited with the song, or the 2025 animated movie from which the song was taken? The girl group are the main characters in the movie and, as its title suggests, have another more dangerous job alongside their performing career.

Q18. It's a well-known quiz fact that Kathryn Bigelow was the first female winner of Best Director at the Oscars, doing so in 2010. However, more than a quarter of a century earlier, **who** was the first female winner of Best Director at the Golden Globes?

The award was for a 1983 movie musical in which this person also played the title character.

Q19. In 1992, **what World War II-set graphic novel** by American cartoonist Art Spiegelman became the first graphic novel to win a Pulitzer Prize?



Q20. Running while leaning forward and holding both arms backwards is the namesake "run" performed by the title character of **what manga series**, one of the best-selling of all time?



Published in 700 weekly instalments between 1999 and 2014, it tells the story of a young ninja-in-training who seeks to gain the respect of his peers and ultimately become the leader of his village.

Q21. Originally published in Arabic in the 1950s and translated to English in the 1990s, *Palace Walk*, *Palace of Desire* and *Sugar Street* comprise **which trilogy of novels** by Nobel laureate Naguib Mahfouz? The trilogy is named after the capital city in which they are set – also the city in which the author was born.

Q22. What classic work of Asian literature was written in the early 11th century by the Japanese royal courtier Sei Shōnagon about her life as a lady-in-waiting to Empress Teishi?

Fans of arthouse cinema may be familiar with the 1996 Peter Greenaway movie of the same name, starring Vivian Wu and Ewan McGregor, which uses the ancient book as inspiration for a modern-day tale of erotic obsession.

Q23. Created by American cartoonist Dik Browne (1917-1989), **who is this fictional Viking**, the title character of a long-running newspaper comic strip which debuted in 1973 and still runs today in over 1,900 newspapers across 56 countries?



Q24. The winners of the 1904 and 1945 Nobel Prizes for Literature both share an uncommon surname, although they are not related. This is because the 1945 winner (born Lucila Godoy in Chile in 1889) used a pen name to protect her “day job” as a teacher and picked the last name of one of her favourite poets as her pseudonymous surname. **What is this shared surname?**

Q25. Originally dismissed as a novelty, but now considered by many critics to be one of the greatest films of all time, **what experimental 1929 silent documentary** by Soviet director Dziga Vertov is notable for its extensive use of innovative cinematic techniques – including multiple exposures, fast and slow motion, freeze-frames, jump cuts, split screens and tracking shots?

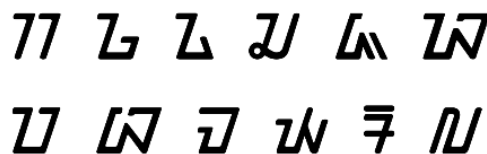


Q26. Best known for her romance novels, **who is this highly-successful American author**, born in New York in 1947?

Forbes magazine lists her as the biggest-selling living author, having sold an estimated 800 million copies of her 150+ novels. Still active at the age of 78, she continues to write 6-7 new novels every year.



Q27. This image depicts the distinctive angular script associated with **what Austronesian language?**



It is the native tongue of a namesake ethnic group of over 30 million people, primarily located in western Java.

Q28. Please name this Chinese filmmaker, born in 1950? He is one of only four directors to have won the Golden Lion twice at the Venice Film Festival: doing so in 1992 for *The Story of Qiu Ju* and seven years later for *Not One Less*.

Some of his other notable films include *Raise the Red Lantern* (1991), *House of Flying Daggers* (2004) and *The Great Wall* (2016).



Q29. The first independent film to win the Oscar for Best Animated Feature, **name this 2024 Latvian film?**

Completely dialogue-free, it follows a cat trying to survive in a post-apocalyptic world in which the water level is continually rising.



Q30. The front of the current Australian ten-dollar note depicts what **“bush poet”, journalist and author** (1864-1941), widely considered one of the greatest writers of Australia’s colonial period?

His most notable works include the 1890 poem *The Man from Snowy River* and the 1895 lyrics to Australia’s so-called “unofficial national anthem” *Waltzing Matilda*.



World

Q1. Pictured are the flags of three UN member countries.



The names of the capital cities of these three countries have **what characteristic** in common?

Q2. NASA’s first space shuttle mission occurred in April 1981 with the launch of Columbia. However, **what was the name** of the first Space Shuttle ever built, which flew several sub-orbital test flights in 1977?

Originally due to be called *Constitution*, its name was changed after a letter-writing campaign by fans of a certain TV series.

Q3. Described by one historian as *“the most important invention that came out of the Second World War”*, the cavity magnetron was developed in England in 1940 by researchers at the University of Birmingham.

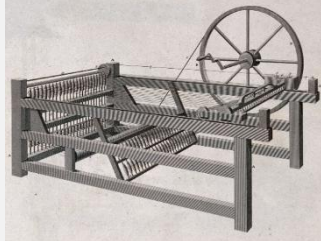
During the war, these devices were used to enable more powerful and accurate radar systems, but after the war they found an alternative use which continues to this day: as the primary component in **what domestic appliance**, found in over one billion homes around the world?

Q4. The second-largest Australian state by population and the capital of the third-largest Canadian province by population both have **what name** – one also shared with the capital of an island country in the Indian Ocean who joined the United Nations shortly after gaining independence in 1976?

This is no coincidence, as these three places (along with dozens of others worldwide) were all named in honour of the same person.

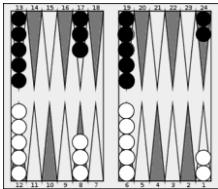
Q5. What famous neighbourhood in New York City is located in Upper Manhattan between 155th Street and the northern boundary of Central Park? It shares its name with a “river” (technically a tidal strait) which flows 13 kilometres between the Hudson and East rivers and borders this neighbourhood to the north-east.	
Q6. Believed to be the world’s heaviest building, weighing over 4 million tonnes, the People’s House or Palace of the Parliament (<i>Palatul Parlamentului</i>) can be found in what European capital city? Designed in the 1980s as a vanity project by the country’s then-ruler, an estimated 70% of its vast 365,000 m² floor space remains unused to this day.	
Q7. In the world of computing, a VPN is a service or software client that creates a secure, encrypted connection between a user’s device and the internet, masking online activity from third parties and enhancing online security. The abbreviation “VPN” stands for what three words?	
Q8. Only two capital cities have an average elevation below sea level: Amsterdam (2 metres below) and what other capital, a whopping 28 metres below sea level? With a population of 2.6 million, this city is located on the Absheron Peninsula, which juts into the Caspian Sea.	
Q9. Of the world’s five most-populated islands, four of them are in Asia: namely Java, Honshu, Luzon and Sumatra. What is the only exception? This island lies 3rd on the list with a current population of roughly 66 million – it is also the world’s 9th largest island by area.	
Q10. Unveiled in May 2024 facing the city’s main thoroughfare O’Connell Street, this public art installation in Dublin, Ireland is the fourth in a global network of identical installations known by what single-word name? Currently also located in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius, the Polish city of Lublin and the American city of Philadelphia, each installation has an Internet-connected camera and a circular viewscreen 2.4 metres in diameter, giving passers-by a real-time “window” to the other connected cities.	
Q11. Corcovado (meaning “hunchback”) is a 710-metre-tall mountain located in the Tijuca National Park, to the west of a major Southern Hemisphere city. The mountain is indirectly world-famous due to being the location of what monument, unveiled in 1931 on its summit?	
Q12. In 2024, China’s second-busiest passenger airport – slightly behind Shanghai Pudong – was Baiyun Airport, located in the namesake district of what city? The airport’s IATA code is “CAN”, which derives from the city’s historical name in English. (Please answer with the city’s <u>current</u> name)	

Q13. Comprising roughly 5% of the country's 33,000km² area and likewise 5% of its 2.4 million population, Gagauzia is one of two "autonomous territorial units" in which European country? It is home to the Gagauz people: a Turkic-speaking, primarily Orthodox Christian ethnic group.	
Q14. The Island Flyer, travelling 5 km between the Isle of Wight and Southsea in England; and a 33 km route linking the city centre and the airport in the Japanese city of Oita, are currently the world's only regular services using what mode of transport, originally invented in the 1950s?	
Q15. Its name literally meaning "four pillars" in Urdu, the Charminar is a monument and mosque constructed in the late 16th century. It is a major tourist attraction and icon of what Indian city, the country's fourth largest by population?	
Q16. Decades before ChatGPT, what software program, developed by MIT professor Joseph Weizenbaum in the mid-1960s, is the most notable early example of an AI chatbot, capable of holding text conversations with humans by mimicking the responses of a therapist or psychologist? Weizenbaum named the program after the protagonist of a famous George Bernard Shaw play.	
Q17. Located at a strategic point on the Aegean coast of Anatolia, the ancient Greek city of Smyrna has been one of the major trade ports on the Mediterranean for much of its history. Nowadays Turkey's third most populous city (with roughly 3 million inhabitants), it has been known by what name since 1930?	
Q18. The 52-metre-tall African Renaissance Monument (<i>Monument de la Renaissance Africaine</i>) is Africa's tallest statue, and sits on top of a 100-metre hilltop just outside the capital of what country? It was unveiled by then-president Abdoulaye Wade in 2010 to mark the 50th anniversary of this country's independence from France.	
Q19. Name this abandoned city in northern Ukraine, which from 1970 to 1986 housed the scientists and workers of the nearby Chernobyl power plant, along with their families? The city's entire population of 49,000 was permanently evacuated on the afternoon of 27th April 1986, 36 hours after the Chernobyl disaster.	
Q20. What is the only asteroid bright enough to be regularly visible to the naked eye from Earth? Surprisingly, the answer is <u>not</u> the largest asteroid Ceres, but rather the second-largest asteroid – roughly half the size of Ceres but with a rockier surface, making it much lighter in colour.	

Q21. Under construction since 1948 and still many decades from completion, this giant mountain carving in the Black Hills of South Dakota is intended to depict what Native American leader of the Lakota people?		
Q22. Invented by Englishman James Hargreaves in the 1760s, what is the name of this device, which revolutionised the textile industry since it greatly reduced the amount of work needed to produce cloth compared to traditional methods? A common theory about the device's name is that it refers to Hargreaves's wife or one of his daughters, although no documentary evidence has been found to support this.		
Q23. Which was the most recent US state to change its flag, doing so in May 2024 following concerns about the old flag's depiction of indigenous people being driven off their land? In the new flag (pictured), the star represents one of the state's nicknames, while the dark blue represents not just the night sky but is also an approximation of the state's shape.		
Q24. Sometimes referred to as "the slowest express train in the world", what tourist train takes 8 hours to make a 291-kilometre journey between the resort towns of Zermatt and St. Moritz in the Swiss Alps, treating the passengers to spectacular mountain views along the way?		
Q25. Having a population of 10 million and an area of 35,000 km², what island comprises the southernmost province of China? Between 1950 and 1988 it was part of Guangdong province, from which it is separated by the 20km-wide Qiongzhou Strait.		
Q26. With an area of nearly 18,000 km², what Russian lake near Saint Petersburg is the largest lake located entirely in Europe? It is also the second largest lake in Russia, after Lake Baikal (since the latter is in Siberia, it lies in Asia rather than Europe).		
Q27. Located in the North Atlantic, south-east of Florida and north of Cuba and Hispaniola, the Lucayan Archipelago contains almost 750 islands. 97% of the archipelago's land area comprises the sovereign country of the Bahamas, while the remaining 3% comprises what British Overseas Territory, with a population of 50,000?		
Q28. With a population of 2.5 million, Lubumbashi is one of the largest cities in what African country? In colonial times it was known as "Élisabethville".		

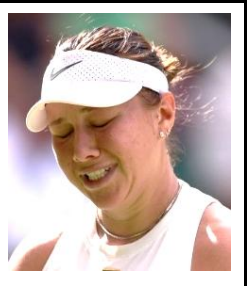
Q29. In what New Zealand mountain range would you find over a dozen peaks named after notable scientists, including Mount Einstein, Mount Curie and Mount Galileo? It is believed that this mountain range was the first part of New Zealand ever sighted by a European, during Abel Tasman's 1642 voyage.	
Q30. While Venezuela's 979-metre Angel Falls are usually cited as the world's tallest waterfall, recent survey data suggests that which waterfall in South Africa may be slightly taller? Situated in the Royal Natal National Park, these seasonal falls are fed by a namesake river, which is the longest in KwaZulu-Natal Province.	

Sport & Games

Q1. On a regulation dartboard, what is the highest number of points that can be scored by throwing <u>one</u> single dart?	
Q2. A grizzled middle-aged man named Joel and a teenage girl named Ellie are the two main characters in what video game series, set in a post-apocalyptic United States? Pedro Pascal and Bella Ramsey play the two roles in the acclaimed TV adaptation of the game series, which debuted in 2023.	
Q3. Less common nowadays since many events mandate the wearing of helmets, a "casquette" is a type of cotton cap with a small peak traditionally worn by participants in what sport?	
Q4. Born in County Down, Northern Ireland in 1965, who is this retired motor racing driver, the most successful Irish competitor in the history of Formula 1? While racing for Ferrari in the late 1990s, he was runner-up in the 1999 World Drivers' Championship, finishing a mere 2 points behind McLaren's Mika Hakkinen.	
Q5. This diagram illustrates the starting positions of the playing pieces in what traditional board game, first documented in 17th century England?	
Q6. On July 5th this year, Kenyan athlete Beatrice Chebet ran a time of 13:58.06 at what race distance, making her the first woman to break the 14-minute barrier on the track at this distance?	
Q7. "Twitching" (in British English) and "chasing" (in American English) are slang terms for seeking out rare specimens in what hobby or activity?	

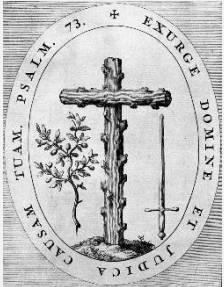
Q8. The Summer Olympics have been cancelled outright three times in its history, in each case due to war: In 1916 during World War I, and in both 1940 and 1944 during World War II. Name <u>any</u> of the four cities which had been due to host those games? (Two cities had at various times been selected to host in 1940) All four cities subsequently went on to host the Summer Games within 30 years of their respective cancellations.	
Q9. What notable annual tournament was first held on 8th May 1970, when seven players participated in a one-day invitational event at Binion's Horseshoe Casino in Las Vegas? Now greatly expanded, the most recent such tournament was held over a 3-month period in two different Las Vegas casinos between May and July 2025, with 100 separate events and over 200,000 participants.	
Q10. Coming from the Woiwurrung language of the Kulin people, where it means "ball game", Marn Grook is the popular collective name for traditional games played at gatherings and celebrations by the indigenous people of what country? It has been theorised that this traditional activity helped inspire a similar modern-day sport invented in this country.	
Q11. The Spanish word for "blue". A bioregion located in the Pacific Northwest. A chart-topping 1965 song by The Beatles. A hilltop town in the Languedoc area of Southern France. These clues describe four of the 47 (to date) winners of what annual award, first presented in 1979?	
Q12. What country is by far the most successful in Olympic speed skating? In the 100-year history of the event, they have won a total of 133 Olympic medals (including 48 gold) – far ahead of Norway, in second place with 87.	
Q13. Name this South African-born cricketer (1931-2011) whose selection for England in a planned 1968 tour of South Africa caused a political storm due to apartheid laws forbidding sporting events involving mixed-race teams? Although the tour was subsequently cancelled, the controversy raised international awareness of the unjust apartheid regime and helped pave the way for South African cricket to become racially integrated in the 1970s.	
Q14. One of the closest sprint finishes in Olympic history was seen at the Paris 2024 men's 100 metres final, where Noah Lyles clinched the gold medal by a mere five-thousandths of a second over what 23-year-old Jamaican sprinter, participating in his first Olympics?	
Q15. In Formula 1, what colour flag is shown to a driver to alert them that a faster car is about to lap them and they should let the car pass at the earliest opportunity?	

Q16. Please name this Korean-born New Zealand golfer? When she reached the top of the LPGA rankings in 2015 aged 17, she became the youngest-ever player of either gender to be ranked No. 1 in professional golf. More recently, she won the gold in women’s golf at the Paris 2024 Olympics.		
Q17. If chess is 8, Snakes and Ladders is 10, and Scrabble is 15, the ancient board game Go is usually what number?		
Q18. While baseball had the “Curse of the Bambino”, the closest equivalent in American football is the “Curse of Bobby Layne” which has seen which team have the worst postseason record in the NFL since they traded quarterback Bobby Layne to the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1958? They are also one of only two pre-1966 NFL teams never to have made it to the Super Bowl (the other being the Cleveland Browns). You may answer with city <u>or</u> franchise name.		
Q19. Sometimes known as “junior heavyweight”, what weight class in men’s boxing is situated between light heavyweight and heavyweight, with an upper limit of 200 lbs (90.7 kg)? After this weight class was established in the late 1970s, Evander Holyfield became its first undisputed champion in 1988, before he moved upwards to heavyweight later that year.		
Q20. Having evolved several times over the last century, the modern pentathlon is due to change again at the Los Angeles 2028 Games, with the showjumping event replaced by what type of non-equestrian race? This will be the first time such an event has featured at the Olympics.		
Q21. This is a screenshot from what classic video game, first released to arcades in 1982? In the game, the title character is tasked with jumping around a pyramid of isometric cubes, trying to change the colour of each cube while avoiding an array of obstacles and enemies.		
Q22. The Alberto José Armando Stadium, nicknamed <i>La Bombonera</i> (meaning “The Chocolate Box”) is a 57,200-capacity stadium which hosts home matches for what South American football club? This club was founded in 1905 and has won 35 national league championships.		
Q23. Mistral One Design (1996-2004), RS:X (2008-2020) and iQFoil (2024) are the three most recent classes used for what specific Olympic event, first featured at the Los Angeles 1984 Summer Games?		

Q24. The European Nations Cup (2000-2016) and the Rugby Europe International Championships (since 2016) is the name given to the annual competition for tier 2 and tier 3 national rugby union teams in Europe – i.e. those who do <u>not</u> participate in the Six Nations. What country has dominated this tournament in recent years, winning all but two of the competitions held since 2008? On both of the occasions where they did <u>not</u> win, they finished as runners-up to Romania.	
Q25. American sports have spawned some of the world’s longest-running video game franchises: the <i>Madden NFL</i> series for American football, the <i>NBA 2K</i> series for basketball, and what series of video games for baseball? Developed by the Sony subsidiary San Diego Studio, the first game in this series was released in 2006 (replacing the earlier <i>MLB</i> series by 989 Sports) and has seen a new edition every year since, most recently in March 2025.	
Q26. Currently on loan from Yokohama FC to JFL team Atletico Suzuka, which Japanese striker is the world’s oldest active professional soccer player, aged 58? With 55 goals, he is also the all-time second-highest scorer for the Japan national team.	
Q27. Iga Świątek won her first Wimbledon title in emphatic fashion in July 2025, beating which American player 6-0, 6-0, the first time since 1911 that this “double bagel” scoreline had occurred in a Wimbledon singles final? Born in New Jersey in 2001 to Russian parents, this unlucky player was competing in her first Grand Slam final.	
Q28. These competitors are playing what winter sport, first formalised in 19th century England? Superficially similar to ice hockey, the main differences are a much larger playing area (similar in size to a soccer pitch), larger teams (11 players each), the curved shape of the sticks and the use of a ball instead of a puck.	
Q29. Jokers are a relatively modern addition to the standard deck of playing cards: first appearing in 1850s America as part of which card game? Like bridge, this is a trick-taking game with two pairs of players competing against each other, however this game is much simpler than bridge: usually played with a deck of 32 cards, with each pair of players aiming to be the first to reach a target score (usually 10 or 11 points).	
Q30. Name this basketball player, born in South Carolina in 1996 and currently a centre for the Las Vegas Aces? A three-time WNBA MVP winner and two-time Olympic gold medallist for Team USA, in 2024 she became the first ever WNBA player to score 1,000 points in a single season.	

History

Q1. This is a surviving section of what ancient fortification, whose construction began in 122 CE under the reign of the Roman Emperor for whom it was named? Stretching nearly 120 km across northern England, it was built to defend the northern border of what was then the Roman province of Britannia.		
Q2. One of the 20th century's most iconic photographs was taken in Havana, Cuba on 5th March 1960, at a memorial service for victims of an explosion in the city's harbour which had happened the day before. The photo is titled <i>Guerrillero Heroico</i> ("Heroic Guerilla Fighter") and depicts what person as he attended the memorial service?		
Q3. Former French president Nicolas Sarkozy was recently sentenced for 5 years in prison for corruption, but (surprisingly?) is not the first holder of that office to be found guilty of the same crime. In 2011, what former French president was given a two-year suspended sentence for diverting public funds to pay activists working for his political party while he was mayor of Paris in the early 1990s? The ailing 79-year-old was too ill to attend his trial, nor did he attempt to appeal.		
Q4. Dating from 1912, this is issue No. 1 of what publication? Still to this day the official newspaper of the Communist Party of Russia, its single-word title means "truth" in Russian. (Obviously your answer should use the Latin alphabet rather than Cyrillic!)		
Q5. The 1945 Argentinian movie <i>La Pródiga</i> ("The Prodigal Woman") starred an aspiring actress born Maria Eva Duarte in 1919. Shortly after the film was made, she switched her career from acting to politics, marrying a man who went on to be the country's president and making her internationally famous before her untimely death aged 33. Please name her? You may answer with her married surname <u>or</u> the nickname by which she is still widely known.		
Q6. The medieval Castilian military leader Rodrigo Díaz de Vivar (1043-1099) is better known by what nickname, derived from the Arabic for "lord" or "master"? He is considered a national hero for his exploits during the Reconquista period, fighting both for and against Spanish and Moorish rulers.		
Q7. Mother Teresa (nowadays Saint Teresa of Calcutta) is without doubt the most internationally-famous person born in what European city – which at the time of her birth in 1910 was part of the Ottoman Empire, then later part of Yugoslavia, and since 1991 the capital of an independent country?		

Q8. Excluding the late 10th century Viking voyages under Leif Erickson, what Italian was the first European explorer to reach North America, doing so in 1497 when his ship <i>Matthew of Bristol</i> landed in Newfoundland? Don't be tempted to answer Christopher Columbus – who did make landfall in the Caribbean, Central America and South America during his four voyages to the New World, but never set foot in North America.	
Q9. The invention of the wheel and the development of cursive script, mathematics, astronomy, and agriculture are all believed to have occurred in what historical region in Asia, centred around the land in between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers?	
Q10. The left-wing Morena party (short for <i>Movimiento de Regeneración Nacional</i> or “National Regeneration Movement”) has been the ruling party of which country since 2018?	
Q11. Located off the coast of County Kerry and one of the westernmost points of Ireland, Valentia Island is currently on the “Tentative List” for recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, due to being a pivotal location in the development of what technology in the mid-19th century?	
Q12. Born near the Roman city of Carnuntum in what is now Austria, Theodoric the Great (454-526 CE) was the ruler of what Germanic people, who conquered Italy in 493 CE and ruled it as a kingdom for six decades?	
Q13. So called because they signed a series of 19th century treaties or “truces” with the British Empire, the Trucial States were a group of territories in the Middle East which were a British protectorate until 1971 when they declared independence under what name, by which they are still collectively known?	
Q14. One of the biggest viral news stories of 2025 was the “Coldplay kiss cam” incident, which saw a cheating couple caught on camera at a Coldplay concert in Massachusetts. The unfaithful pair were the CEO and chief HR officer at which American data infrastructure company, which saw an unprecedented surge in publicity as a result? Despite the company's name, they do not spend their time staring at far-off objects.	
Q15. Succeeding his mother Queen Margrethe II upon her abdication, who has ruled as King of Denmark since January 2024? (Name <u>and</u> number required)	
Q16. This is the coat of arms of what controversial judicial institution, established in 1478 by King Ferdinand II of Aragon and Queen Isabella I of Castile in order to enforce religious orthodoxy? The Latin inscription around the edge translates as “<i>Arise, Lord, and judge your cause</i>”, while the symbols in the middle are a cross alongside a sword (symbolising punishment) and an olive branch (symbolising reconciliation).	

Q17. At the time of writing, one of the world's newest heads of government is La'auli Leuatea Schmidt, appointed Prime Minister of what island country on September 16th? He is the eighth holder of the role since this country gained independence from New Zealand in 1962.	
Q18. These ruins near the Turkish town of Selçuk are all that remain of which of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World? It is the only one of the seven known to have been destroyed and then fully rebuilt – which in fact happened twice: after being destroyed by floods in the 7th century BCE and burned down by an arsonist in 356 BCE, each time it was rebuilt on an even larger scale.	
Q19. Marking the date in 1867 when the Dominion of Canada was created, Canada Day is the country's annual national holiday and takes place on the first day of what month?	
Q20. This statue in Ulaanbaatar depicts what ruler (1217-1294) who conquered China in the 1270s and founded the Yuan dynasty, which went on to rule China for almost 100 years? Your answer should contain more than one word.	
Q21. The climax of the classic novel <i>Les Misérables</i> by Victor Hugo – as well as its highly successful musical adaptation – is set on the streets of Paris during which uprising? Despite popular belief, the answer is <u>not</u> the 1789 French Revolution: this much smaller revolt took place decades later and was a failed attempt by anti-monarchists to overthrow King Louis-Philippe I and restore a republican government. Your answer should include the name of a month <u>or</u> a year.	
Q22. With a capacity of 40,000, the largest prison in Latin America is the Terrorism Confinement Centre (often known by its Spanish initials CECOT), located in what country? Opened in 2023 as part of a large-scale gang crackdown in this country, it has been the subject of recent controversy, following a deal struck with the Trump administration to have hundreds of Venezuelans deported from the US and indefinitely detained here, despite many of them having neither a criminal record nor any criminal charges brought against them.	
Q23. The Red Fort in Delhi was commissioned by what Mughal emperor in 1639 to serve as his main residence, after he decided to move the capital of his empire from Agra to Delhi? The architect was Ustad Ahmad Lahori, who a decade earlier had overseen the construction of an even more famous building for this emperor in the old capital.	

Q24. Although now much better known for providing a different function, what US federal law enforcement agency was founded in 1865 within the Department of the Treasury to combat counterfeiting of American currency?	
Q25. The Herero and Nama genocide occurred between 1904 and 1908, when tens of thousands of the two namesake ethnic groups were systematically killed by German troops following a rebellion against German rule in which African colony? You may answer with the former name of the colony <u>or</u> the equivalent present-day country.	
Q26. Who is this former politician, the first and so far only female Prime Minister of Canada? She succeeded Brian Mulroney in June 1993, but was ousted less than 5 months later when her Progressive Conservative Party suffered a devastating defeat in that year's general election, losing 154 of its 156 seats.	
Q27. What word, the Yiddish for “small town”, refers to any of the settlements with predominantly Ashkenazi Jewish populations which existed in Eastern Europe prior to World War II? There were over a thousand examples of such towns and villages, predominantly in Poland, Ukraine, Belarus and Lithuania.	
Q28. Name this Kenyan environmental and social activist? (1940-2011) In 2004 she became the first African woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, for her work with the Green Belt Movement: an organisation she founded in the 1970s to aid women's economic empowerment and tackle deforestation in sub-Saharan Africa.	
Q29. The ancient Jordanian city of Petra (then known as Raqmu) was the capital of what Arab people, a nomadic tribe who settled there in the 4th century BCE? Highly skilled in stonemasonry, they are responsible for the spectacular rock-cut architecture for which Petra is famous.	
Q30. Please name this Russian cosmonaut? (1927-1967) He was the commander of the 3-man Voskhod 1 mission in 1964, which was notable as the first space flight to carry multiple people. Three years later, he sadly also became the first person to die during a spaceflight when the parachute of his Soyuz 1 capsule failed during re-entry.	

END OF QUIZ



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