

Irish Quiz League questions

2026 Cup final — 29th June 2026

Questions by Dan O'Malley

All questions correct as of the above date



Individual questions

Round 1

Q1 (Team A Player 1)	The first US state capital alphabetically is what city , the capital of New York?	<u>Albany</u>
Q2 (Team B Player 1)	What optical instrument uses a system of mirrors to measure angular distance between two visible objects, such as a celestial body and the horizon, and hence calculate latitude and longitude? Developed in the 1730s, it became invaluable for maritime navigation in the subsequent century and is still mandatory equipment on deep-sea vessels today as an emergency backup to GPS.	<u>Sextant</u> (accept <u>octant</u> or <u>quadrant</u>)
Q3 (Team A Player 2)	What Hollywood actor played the male lead in the 1950s Alfred Hitchcock films <i>Vertigo</i> and <i>Rear Window</i> ?	James <u>Stewart</u>
Q4 (Team B Player 2)	Name the Finnish filmmaker best known for the Hollywood action movies he directed in the 1990s, including <i>Die Hard 2</i> and <i>Cliffhanger</i> ? He also directed <i>Cutthroat Island</i> , one of the most notorious box-office bombs of the decade.	Renny <u>Harlin</u>
Q5 (Team A Player 3)	Ireland's Royal Canal stretches 145 kilometres from Dublin westwards to what Leinster county , where the canal joins the River Shannon at the village of Cloondara?	<u>Longford</u>
Q6 (Team B Player 3)	Mick and Tony are the first names of what Irish folk music duo , founded in 1975? They had an unlikely chart hit in 1982, when <i>A Bunch of Thyme</i> reached the UK Top 20, leading them to appear on <i>Top of the Pops</i> .	<u>Foster & Allen</u>
Q7 (Team A Player 4)	In the UK postcode system, Northern Ireland is treated as a single postcode area: accordingly, every postcode in Northern Ireland begins with which two letters ? (The answer is not "NI")	<u>BT</u> (representing Belfast)
Q8 (Team B Player 4)	The most recent Irish driver in Formula 1 was what man , born in England to an Irish mother who drove for Jordan in the 2003 F1 season under an Irish racing licence? Other than earning a single championship point at the 2003 Spanish Grand Prix, he had an unsuccessful tenure in Formula 1, but went on to be Super GT champion in 2007.	Ralph <u>Firman</u>

Round 3

Q1 (Team B Player 1)	What turn-of-the-century art movement , an offshoot of Art Nouveau, was formed in 1897 by a group of Austrian artists led by Gustav Klimt? Stylistically, unlike Art Nouveau's use of flowing natural forms, this movement favoured linear precision, symmetry, and repeating patterns.	<u>Vienna Secession</u> / <u>Wiener Secession</u> / <u>Union of Austrian Artists</u>
Q2 (Team A Player 1)	Broadcast since 2013 and originally a spin-off from <i>The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills</i> , what US TV reality show centres around an English entrepreneur who along with her husband runs a series of bars and restaurants in West Hollywood?	<u>Vanderpump Rules</u>
Q3 (Team B Player 2)	Name the Cork-born astronomer who wrote the bestselling 1885 book <i>A Popular History of Astronomy in the Nineteenth Century</i> ? The book was received with widespread acclaim and brought this woman an international reputation as a science writer – in 1981 NASA named a lunar crater after her, in honour of her work.	Agnes Mary <u>Clerke</u>
Q4 (Team A Player 2)	Art Blakey (1919-1990) and Tony Williams (1945-1997) are considered two of the most renowned American jazz musicians to play what musical instrument ?	<u>Drums</u>
Q5 (Team B Player 3)	Meaning "spokespersons" or "prophets", what name is given in Judaism to the second major division of the Hebrew Bible, following the Torah? It consists of narrative books such as Joshua and Judges, as well as the books of Isaiah, Ezekiel and other prophets.	<u>Nevi'im</u>
Q6 (Team A Player 3)	Set by Jackie Joyner-Kersey at Seoul 1988, 7.40 metres is the current women's Olympic record for what track and field event ?	<u>Long jump</u>
Q7 (Team B Player 4)	" <i>Had we but World enough, and Time</i> " is the opening line of the poem <i>To His Coy Mistress</i> , by what 17th-century English poet ?	Andrew <u>Marvell</u>
Q8 (Team A Player 4)	What traditional Japanese seasoning is made by fermenting soybeans with salt and a fungus known as kōji? Used in sauces and spreads, it is also mixed with stock to make a soup widely consumed as a staple of Japanese cuisine.	<u>Miso</u>

Round 5

Q1 (Team A Player 1)	Meaning "writings", what name is given in Judaism to the third and final major division of the Hebrew Bible, following the Torah and the Nevi'im? It consists of, among others, the Books of Psalms and Proverbs, the Song of Songs, and the Books of Job, Esther and Ecclesiastes.	<u>Ketuvim</u>
Q2 (Team B Player 1)	What Hollywood actor played the male lead in the 1950s Alfred Hitchcock films <i>North By Northwest</i> and <i>To Catch a Thief</i> ?	Cary <u>Grant</u>
Q3 (Team A Player 2)	The only other Irishwoman to have a lunar crater named after her is what astronomer , born in 1868 in Strabane, County Tyrone? One of the leading astronomers of her day, along with her husband Edward she made important discoveries regarding sunspots and the 11-year solar cycle.	Annie S. D. <u>Maunder</u> (born Annie Scott Dill <u>Russell</u>)
Q4 (Team B Player 2)	The last US state capital alphabetically is what city , the capital of New Jersey?	<u>Trenton</u>
Q5 (Team A Player 3)	Tommy and Liam are the first names of what Irish folk music duo , popular in the 1970s and 80s? The pair had previously been part of a larger 60s group along with Liam's brothers, credited with popularising Irish music in the US and memorably wearing their trademark Aran jumpers during performances. (Due to the commonalities in their names, you may answer with the name of the duo or the earlier group)	<u>Makem & Clancy</u> / The <u>Clancy Brothers</u> & Tommy Makem
Q6 (Team B Player 3)	What traditional Japanese condiment is made from a namesake plant, also known as Japanese horseradish? This pungent green paste is most commonly served as an accompaniment to sushi.	<u>Wasabi</u>
Q7 (Team A Player 4)	Often described as the Germanic counterpart of Art Nouveau, which decorative art style flourished in Germany and Austria between roughly 1895 and 1910? Deriving its name from a Munich-based art magazine, unlike Art Nouveau this art style progressively simplified over time, becoming an important bridge towards the later Modernism and Art Deco movements.	<u>Jugendstil</u>
Q8 (Team B Player 4)	In the UK telephone network, Northern Ireland is treated as a single dialling code area: accordingly, every landline number in Northern Ireland begins with what three digits ? (The answer is not "+44")	<u>028</u> (accept <u>048</u> , the equivalent code when dialling NI from the Republic)

Round 7

Q1 (Team B Player 1)	Ireland's Grand Canal stretches 132 kilometres from Dublin westwards to what Leinster county , where the canal joins the River Shannon at the village of Shannon Harbour?	<u>Offaly</u>
Q2 (Team A Player 1)	What ancient astronomical instrument served as the precursor to the sextant? Originating in Ancient Greece but heavily refined by medieval Islamic astronomers, the device featured a rotating star map which allowed the observer's latitude to be calculated.	<u>Astrolabe</u>
Q3 (Team B Player 2)	Broadcast since 2019, what US TV reality show centres around the Oppenheim Group, a high-end real estate brokerage based in Los Angeles and San Diego?	<u>Selling Sunset</u>
Q4 (Team A Player 2)	" <i>They also serve who only stand and wait</i> " is the final line of the poem <i>When I Consider How My Light is Spent</i> , by what 17th-century English poet?	John <u>Milton</u>
Q5 (Team B Player 3)	While they occasionally played other instruments such as drums and piano respectively, Lionel Hampton (1908-2002) and Milt "Bags" Jackson (1923-1999) are considered two of the most renowned American jazz musicians to play what musical instrument?	<u>Vibraphone</u> / <u>Vibes</u> / <u>Vibraharp</u> (accept <u>Xylophone</u> or <u>Marimba</u>)
Q6 (Team A Player 3)	Name the Dutch filmmaker best known for the Hollywood action movies he directed in the 1990s, including <i>Speed</i> and <i>Twister</i> ? He also directed <i>Speed 2: Cruise Control</i> , one of the most notorious box-office bombs of the decade.	Jan <u>de Bont</u>
Q7 (Team B Player 4)	Set by Yelena Isinbayeva at Beijing 2008, 5.05 metres is the current women's Olympic record for what track and field event?	<u>Pole vault</u>
Q8 (Team A Player 4)	Prior to Eddie Irvine, who was the next-most-recent Northern Irish driver to compete in Formula 1? This Belfast native raced in 13 Grands Prix in 1989 and 1990 for Arrows and Lotus, until a serious crash at the 1990 Spanish Grand Prix curtailed his promising Formula 1 career – this incident inspired Brad Pitt's character backstory in the 2025 <i>F1</i> movie, with actual footage of the crash being used in the film.	Martin <u>Donnelly</u>

Team questions

Your Answer Must Contain A Number

Q1	The song <i>On Our Own</i> by Bobby Brown was used as the theme tune to what 1989 movie? Although the song was a worldwide hit, reaching the top 5 in the Irish, UK and US charts, it failed to achieve the same iconic status as the equivalent song from the movie's predecessor.	<u>Ghostbusters 2</u>
Q2	In German football, the Revierderby or "Ruhr Derby" is contested between Borussia Dortmund and what other German club , from the city of Gelsenkirchen?	FC <u>Schalke 04</u>
Q3	In November 1971, what unmanned NASA space probe became the first spacecraft to orbit another planet, when it entered orbit around Mars? Over the remaining 11 months of its mission, it beamed back thousands of photos to Earth, enabling 85% of the Martian surface to be mapped.	<u>Mariner 9</u>
Q4	For what novel did Sri Lankan author Shehan Karunatilaka win the 2022 Booker Prize? Set in war-torn 1980s Colombo, the book's title character is a deceased photojournalist who is allowed to remain in purgatory for a week to solve the mystery of his own murder.	The <u>Seven Moons of Maali Almeida</u>

Disputed Territories

Q1	For decades, which tiny uninhabited North Atlantic island , 400 km north-west of Ireland, has been the subject of various territorial disputes between Ireland, the UK, Iceland and Denmark, all of whom either claim the island itself or part of the surrounding seabed, due to its access to abundant fishing grounds and potentially vast oil and gas deposits?	<u>Rockall</u>
Q2	Named after the country's largest river, the Essequibo region currently makes up two-thirds of the area of what South American country? Heavily forested and rich in natural resources, for over a century ownership of the region has been repeatedly claimed by this country's larger western neighbour.	<u>Guyana</u> (the dispute is with Venezuela)
Q3	A rare present-day example of a territorial dispute in continental Europe concerns the Gulf of Piran, on the border between which two EU countries? The accession of one of these countries to the EU was for a time blocked by the other over this border dispute, before UN arbitrators became involved. Nevertheless, the matter still remains officially unresolved.	<u>Croatia</u> and <u>Slovenia</u> (need both)
Q4	At the end of World War II, the Soviet Union and Japan never signed a formal peace treaty – and Russia and Japan have never done so to this day – primarily due to a dispute over what archipelago of 56 islands north of Hokkaido, seized by the Soviets in 1945? Japan still claims sovereignty over the four southernmost islands, which it refers to as Japan's "Northern Territories".	<u>Kuril</u> Islands

Born Rebels

(Four questions on notable people born in Cork, a.k.a. the "Rebel County")

Q1	Born in the rural Cork parish of Kilbrin in 1824, which Catholic clergyman served as Archbishop of Cashel in the 1870s and 1880s, and was an important figure in the Irish nationalist movement? He was also one of the GAA's first patrons, which led to a prominent Irish sporting venue being named after him.	Archbishop Thomas <u>Croke</u>
Q2	Still active today, the American trade union Industrial Workers of the World was co-founded in 1905 by what trade union activist , best known for her ardent opposition to child labour and being a frequent organiser of strikes, which led to her being dubbed "the most dangerous woman in America"? Born in Cork circa 1837, she and her family emigrated to North America during the Famine.	Mother <u>Jones</u> (born Mary <u>Harris</u>)
Q3	At the 2006 World Indoor Championships in Moscow, which Cork-born athlete became the first Irishwoman to be an indoor athletics world champion, when she took gold at the 60 metres hurdles ? Although she never won an Olympic medal, she did manage silver in the 100 metres hurdles at two consecutive European Championships (2006 and 2010).	Derval <u>O'Rourke</u>
Q4	The terms "open source software" and "Web 2.0" were popularised by what American author and publisher , born in Cork in 1954 but whose family moved to California when he was a baby? In the early 1980s he founded a successful publisher of computer programming reference books: the company, named after himself, is recognisable from its distinctively-designed books, whose covers usually feature a woodcut picture of an animal.	Tim <u>O'Reilly</u> .

Actinides

(Four questions on the series of radioactive elements on the periodic table known as actinides)

Q1	It's not plutonium, but which element , atomic number 90, is along with uranium the only other actinide to occur in nature in more than trace amounts? This element was discovered in 1828 by Swedish chemist Jöns Jacob Berzelius, who named it after a figure from Norse mythology.	<u>Thorium</u>
Q2	The one actinide element you're guaranteed to find in most homes is americium, due to its use in which everyday household device(s) ? In a typical example of these devices, a trace amount of americium emits alpha particles which ionise nearby air, enabling this device to perform its key safety-related function.	<u>Smoke detector</u> / <u>smoke alarm</u>
Q3	What element , named after the inventor of the cyclotron, is usually considered as the last of the actinides despite technically being a d-block transition metal, due to the many properties it shares with the actinides?	<u>Lawrencium</u>
Q4	The actinides are of course named after actinium, the first element in the series. Actinium in turn took its name from the Greek word <i>aktinos</i> , meaning what ?	<u>Beam</u> / <u>ray</u> .

Self-Titled Albums

Q1	The Beatles' self-titled 1968 album is universally referred to by what nickname , referring to its minimalist cover design?	The <u>White Album</u>
Q2	What English singer , who made headlines in 1975 by quitting the band he co-founded, began a highly successful solo career by releasing four self-titled albums between 1977 and 1982? For ease of identification, fans often nickname these albums <i>Car</i> , <i>Scratch</i> , <i>Melt</i> and <i>Security</i> based on their cover photos.	Peter <u>Gabriel</u>
Q3	What legendary singer (1942-2018) released three albums during her career whose title was simply her first name: in 1961, 1980 and 1986? The 1986 album is particularly notable, as the cover art by Andy Warhol is cited by some sources as the last artwork he completed before his death.	Aretha <u>Franklin</u>
Q4	American band Weezer hold the record for self-titled albums with 6 to date, each one nicknamed by fans based on the predominant colour on the cover: Blue, Green, Red, White, Teal and Black. Due for release in August, what is the nickname already given to their upcoming 7th self-titled album?	The <u>Gold</u> Album

Three-peats

Q1	The term "three-peat", meaning to win three back-to-back sporting championships, was coined in 1988 by coach Pat Riley as he attempted to lead what basketball team to their third consecutive NBA Championship? Ironically, the team failed in that attempt – losing in the finals to the Detroit Pistons – but did eventually manage a three-peat in 2002.	Los Angeles <u>Lakers</u>
Q2	In English football, only five clubs have won three men's top-flight league titles in a row: Manchester City, Manchester United, Liverpool, Arsenal, and what other club , the first ever to achieve this feat, doing so between 1924 and 1926? Since then, this north of England club have never been champions again (nor won the FA Cup) and currently play in League One.	<u>Huddersfield</u> Town
Q3	The most recent of the five Australian rules football teams to have achieved a three-peat of AFL Championships is what team , based in the Melbourne suburb of Dingley Village and completing their hat-trick in 2015?	<u>Hawthorn</u> (accept <u>Hawks</u>)
Q4	Since Premiership Women's Rugby was established in 2017, who are the only team to have managed a three-peat, completing theirs last year? Nicknamed "The Circus" and playing their home games at Kingsholm Stadium, this team was founded in 2014 as a merger of two previous women's rugby clubs, hence their double-barrelled name. (You may answer with either half of the name)	<u>Gloucester-Hartpury</u> (accept either half)

2026 Video Games

Q1	Assuming it doesn't get delayed again, the biggest video game launch of 2026 will be the sixth game in what bestselling video game franchise by Rockstar Games? It is currently scheduled for a November release, ending a 13-year wait since the fifth instalment.	<u>Grand Theft Auto</u> / <u>GTA</u>
Q2	Irish actor Patrick Gibson (not to be confused with noted quizzer Pat Gibson!) voices what iconic fictional hero in the video game <i>First Light</i> , released last month? Out of the 20+ previous video games featuring this character, two of the most notable were <i>Everything or Nothing</i> (2004) and <i>Blood Stone</i> (2010), as in both cases voice acting was provided by actors who have played this character on the big screen.	James <u>Bond</u> / <u>007</u>
Q3	With a score of 91, MetaCritic's highest-rated video game of 2026 so far is the sixth instalment of what open-world driving game series , published by Xbox Game Studios last month? This series is not to be confused with its sister game franchise, focusing more on racing, which includes "Motorsport" in its title.	<u>Forza Horizon</u> (the sister series is Forza Motorsport)
Q4	Last month saw the release of the first GAA-themed video game in nearly 20 years: which Gaelic football game is this, developed by Belfast-based Buck Eejit Games? You can simply answer with the Irish-language word in the game's title, which means "heroes" or "warriors".	Gaelic Football <u>Laochra</u>

What Do They Sell?

Q1	Occupying a four-storey premises on Dublin's Dawson Street, Hodges Figgis is Ireland's largest example of a store selling what product(s) ? Mentioned in James Joyce's <i>Ulysses</i> and originally founded in 1768, it is thought to be the world's third-oldest example of such a retailer.	<u>Books</u>
Q2	Founded in Dublin in 1488 and still in business today, Ireland's oldest company is Rathbornes, a manufacturer of what household items ? Everyday domestic usage of these items nowadays is less than it was centuries ago, but the business still survives: in the 1960s they acquired Lalors, another Irish company that produces these same products, albeit for use in churches.	<u>Candles</u>
Q3	Established by Swedish native Lars Edman after he moved to Ireland in the mid-1970s, the Prince August factory in rural County Cork describes itself as Europe's only factory still producing what traditional toys ? In addition to the toys themselves, the company also sells moulds and kits enabling you to make and paint these toys at home.	Toy <u>soldiers</u>
Q4	Another venerable Dublin business mentioned in <i>Ulysses</i> is Sweny's Pharmacy, near the rear entrance to Trinity College. Although it closed as a pharmacy in 2009, nowadays the premises is a volunteer-run Joycean bookshop that also sells what specific product , which in the book Leopold Bloom purchases from the pharmacy and carries in his pocket for the remainder of his odyssey as a kind of scented "talisman" reminding him of home?	<u>Lemon soap</u> (prompt on partial answer)