

Irish Quiz League questions

2026 Cup semi-finals / Plate final — 22nd June 2026

Questions by John Nolan

All questions correct as of the above date



Individual questions

Round 1

Q1 (Team A Player 1)	Introduced in 1991, what is the umbrella name of the family of technology standards used by second-generation (2G) digital cellular networks and mobile phones? Even though it was phased out from the late 2010s, its acronym is still used as a generic term for the many mobile phone technologies evolved from it.	<u>Global System for Mobile Communications</u> / <u>GSM</u>
Q2 (Team B Player 1)	Born in 1969, which American author is the creator of the bestselling young adult fiction trilogy <i>One of Us is Lying</i> ? This trilogy began with her debut 2017 novel, also called <i>One of Us is Lying</i> , which spent more than five years on <i>The New York Times</i> Best Seller list.	Karen M. <u>McManus</u>
Q3 (Team A Player 2)	The All-Ireland Drama Festival, the high-point of the Irish amateur drama circuit, takes place each year in the Dean Crowe Theatre, located in which large midlands town ? Smaller drama festivals, at which groups compete to earn points to qualify, are referred to in AmDram as "The Road To..." this town.	<u>Athlone</u>
Q4 (Team B Player 2)	Announced in 2000, the "Millennium Prize Problems" are seven notable unsolved mathematical problems which the Clay Mathematics Institute have offered a \$1 million bounty for solving. Which of these problems asks whether every problem whose solution can be quickly verified can also be quickly solved by a computer? Here, the word "quickly" means an algorithm exists that solves the task in polynomial time (as opposed to exponential time).	<u>P versus NP</u> problem
Q5 (Team A Player 3)	Which Irish comedy double act was formed in the late 1980s by Pat Shortt and Jon Kenny? The pair performed together under this name until Kenny was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma in 2000.	<u>D'Unbelievables</u>
Q6 (Team B Player 3)	A method most often used for fish or vegetables, a dish that is "en papillote" (in French cuisine) or "al cartoccio" (in Italian) has been cooked in what specific way ?	In folded <u>paper</u> / <u>paper bag</u> / also accept in <u>foil</u>
Q7 (Team A Player 4)	From 1790 until 2020, the official title of which US state included the words "and Providence Plantations" after its commonly-used name? This state is regarded as the 13th to join the Union as it was the last of the original colonies to ratify the constitution.	<u>Rhode Island</u>
Q8 (Team B Player 4)	Aoshima, an island in Japan's Ehime Prefecture, is informally known as (BLANK) island, where the blank is the name of what animal ? As the human population of the island has diminished, these usually domestic animals have reproduced in large numbers.	<u>Cat</u>

Round 3

Q1 (Team B Player 1)	From 2016 to 2018, singer Ariana Grande was in a relationship with which rapper , during which time she featured on his fourth album <i>The Divine Feminine</i> ? Four months after the ending of their relationship, this man died from an accidental drug overdose.	Mac <u>Miller</u> / Malcolm <u>McCormick</u>
Q2 (Team A Player 1)	On June 14th last, citizens of which European country took part in a referendum which, if passed, would have seen the country's population capped at 10 million? Ultimately, the proposal was rejected, with 54.8% voting against the proposal.	<u>Switzerland</u>
Q3 (Team B Player 2)	Glencree, a valley in the Wicklow Mountains, is the site of a memorial and cemetery dedicated to the war dead of which nation ? Dedicated in 1961, the cemetery contains 134 graves, 46 of whom are civilians who were lost when the SS <i>Arandora Star</i> was torpedoed by a U-boat off Tory Island in July 1940.	<u>Germany.</u>
Q4 (Team A Player 2)	Which monument , designed by the sculptor Éamonn O'Doherty, sat on Dublin's O'Connell Street from 1988 until 2001, when it was moved to make room for the Spire? In 2011, this statue, nicknamed "The Floozie in the Jacuzzi", was relocated to Croppies' Memorial Park near Heuston Station.	<u>Anna Livia</u>
Q5 (Team B Player 3)	Born in 1997 in Shenzhen, China, which professional snooker player became the sport's first world champion from Asia when he won that title in 2025? Earlier in his career, this man served a 20 month suspension for his involvement in a betting scandal.	<u>Zhao</u> Xintong
Q6 (Team A Player 3)	Nintendo's Zapper (1984) and Super Scope (1992), as well as Sony's G-Con (1997) are all examples of which type of computer gaming peripheral device ? Games played with these devices include <i>Duck Hunt</i> , <i>T2: The Arcade</i> and <i>Time Crisis</i> .	Lightgun
Q7 (Team B Player 4)	What is the commonly-used English-language nickname for the Canadian \$1 coin? This nickname, which comes from the bird featured on the coin's reverse side, has become so widely recognised that the Royal Canadian Mint secured the trademark rights to it in 2006.	<u>Loonie</u> (bird is the common loon)
Q8 (Team A Player 4)	Which Gaelic footballer became the first outfield player to reach 100 Championship appearances when he came on as a second-half substitute in Mayo's victory over Monaghan on May 31st? This was also this player's 195th inter-county game for Mayo since he made his debut in 2009.	Aidan <u>O'Shea</u>

Round 5

Q1 (Team A Player 1)	What is the commonly-used English language nickname for Canada's \$2 coin? The nickname does not originate from the animal portrayed on the coin (a polar bear) but instead is derived from the nickname for the \$1 coin.	<u>Toonie</u> / <u>twonie</u> / <u>twoonie</u> (portmanteau of "two" and "loonie")
Q2 (Team B Player 1)	While he hasn't yet reached 100 Championship appearances, which Gaelic footballer made his 200th inter-county appearance when his side Donegal faced Dublin on June 21st? This player, who made his debut in 2007, would surely have played his 100th Championship game by now, if he hadn't taken temporary retirement between 2022 and 2025.	Michael <u>Murphy</u> .
Q3 (Team A Player 2)	Born in 2003 in Lanzhou, China, which professional snooker player became the sport's second World Champion from Asia, when he succeeded his compatriot Zhao Xintong in 2026? At the age of 22, he also became the second-youngest professional world snooker champion, after Stephen Hendry.	<u>Wu</u> Yize
Q4 (Team B Player 2)	On August 29th next, citizens of which island country will vote in a referendum to decide if it should recommence negotiations on joining the European Union? This country initially applied to join the EU in 2009, but negotiations have been suspended since 2013.	<u>Iceland</u>
Q5 (Team A Player 3)	Big Major Cay ["/key"/], an uninhabited island in The Bahamas, is now known internationally as (BLANK) Beach, where the blank is the name of what animal ? No-one knows for certain how these animals were introduced to the island, but they have become a local tourist attraction, especially when they take to the water for a swim.	<u>Pig</u>
Q6 (Team B Player 3)	Which monument , designed by the artist Jeanne Rynhart, sat on Dublin's Grafton Street from 1988 until 2014, when it was moved to make room for Luas track-laying? Now located on Suffolk Street, in 2025 Dublin City Council hired stewards in a trial to discourage tourists from touching the statue.	Molly <u>Malone</u>
Q7 (Team A Player 4)	Memorials located in Ballymote (County Sligo), Donadea (County Kildare), Kinsale (County Cork) and Waterford city all remember which infamous event ?	<u>9-11</u> / <u>September 11th attacks</u> / accept obvious other wordings
Q8 (Team B Player 4)	Following the ending of D'Unbelievables, Pat Shortt went on to create and star in which Irish sitcom , set in the titular fictitious Irish village? Shortt played several characters in the show, including Dan Clancy the storyteller, corrupt politician Willie Power and B&B owner Goretti.	<u>Killinaskully</u> .

Round 7

Q1 (Team B Player 1)	Introduced in 1993 on GSM phones, what messaging standard allows users to send and receive texts of up to 160 characters in length? Today this protocol is also used for other applications including two-factor authentication logins, televoting and mobile banking.	<u>Short Message Service</u> / <u>SMS</u>
Q2 (Team A Player 1)	In French cuisine, a dish featuring the words "Du Barry" in its name will typically feature a creamy white sauce and which vegetable? This vegetable, which is itself usually white in colour, is one of several cultivated forms of the family <i>Brassicaceae</i> ["brass-ih-kay-see-aye"].	<u>Cauliflower</u>
Q3 (Team B Player 2)	The Thrustmaster Formula T1 (1994), Microsoft's Sidewinder Force Feedback (1997) and Logitech TrueForce (2020), are all examples of which type of computer gaming peripheral device? Games played with these devices include <i>SEGA Rally</i> , <i>Gran Turismo</i> and <i>Assetto Corsa</i> .	Steering <u>wheel</u>
Q4 (Team A Player 2)	Following the end of her relationship with Mac Miller, singer Ariana Grande had a relationship with which comedian, actor, and writer? She was briefly engaged to this star of US TV show <i>Saturday Night Live</i> from May to October 2018.	Pete <u>Davidson</u>
Q5 (Team B Player 3)	After seceding from North Carolina, the "state" of Frankland, later named Franklin, applied to join the United States in 1785 but failed to gain the votes needed to be accepted. In 1795, this area did eventually join the Union but as part of which modern-day state , the 16th to join?	<u>Tennessee</u>
Q6 (Team A Player 3)	Which of the Millennium Prize Problems seeks a mathematical explanation for the physical behaviour and smoothness of fluids and gases? While used in many practical applications, theoretical understanding of the solutions to these equations is incomplete, particularly in relation to turbulence.	<u>Navier–Stokes</u> existence and smoothness
Q7 (Team B Player 4)	The Fleadh Nua, a festival of Irish culture established in 1970 by Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, has been held in which Munster county town since 1974? Unlike its older sibling, Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, this festival does not include competitive events.	<u>Ennis</u>
Q8 (Team A Player 4)	Born in the Iranian capital Tehran in 1973, which American author is the creator of the bestselling series of young adult fiction called <i>The Mortal Instruments</i> ? This series began with her debut 2004 novel <i>City of Bones</i> .	Cassandra <u>Clare</u> / Judith <u>Lewis</u> (née <u>Rumelt</u>)

Team questions

Typos

Q1	In metal typesetting, what four-letter word describes a particular size, weight, and style of a typeface? In contemporary computing, however, this term and "typeface" are often used interchangeably.	<u>Font</u>
Q2	While consumer-oriented word-processing software often uses the term "line spacing", what is the traditional name for the space between adjacent lines of type? This name comes from the thin strips of metal that were traditionally used for this purpose in hand typesetting.	<u>Leading</u>
Q3	What name is given to the process of adjusting the space between two specific characters, or letterforms, in a font? When done well, the two-dimensional blank spaces between each pair of characters all have a visually similar area. When done badly, it is jokingly called "kerning".	<u>Kerning</u>
Q4	Not to be confused with kerning, what is the traditional name for the process in which spacing is adjusted uniformly over a range of characters?	<u>Tracking</u>

Podcast Producers

Q1	British podcast production company Goalhanger is behind some of the world's most successful podcasts. The title of the majority of these, including those ending in words such as "Politics", "Entertainment", "Money" and "History" all begin with what three words ?	<u>The Rest is....</u>
Q2	Which American company was founded in 1995 as a distributor of audiobooks? Amazon purchased this company in 2008 and, from 2015, it aggressively entered the world of podcasts with its 'Originals' marque. One of its early hits under this brand was <i>West Cork</i> , a true crime podcast investigating the unsolved 1996 murder of Sophie Toscan du Plantier.	<u>Audible</u>
Q3	Pushkin Industries, a US-based publisher of podcasts and audiobooks, was started in 2018 by political journalist Jacob Weisberg and which Canadian author and journalist ? This man's own <i>Revisionist History</i> is one of the main shows produced by the company, alongside others like <i>Cautionary Tales</i> by economist Tim Harford.	Malcolm <u>Gladwell</u>
Q4	<i>WTF with Marc Maron</i> , along with home-grown Irish productions such as <i>The Blindboy Podcast</i> and <i>Crime World with Nicola Tallant</i> are published by which Swedish podcast provider ? This company, founded by Karl Rosander and Måns Ulvestam in 2013 now hosts over 140,000 podcasts, collectively enjoying over 330 million listens every month.	<u>Acast</u>

One Man's Band Name

(Identify these bands from their list of members, excluding the person the band is named after)

Q1	In 1983, the founding members of which rock group included David Bryan, Tico Torres, Alec John Such and Richie Sambora? Their biggest hit on the Irish charts was their chart-topping 1994 single <i>Always</i> .	Bon Jovi (the missing member being Jon Bon Jovi)
Q2	Which rock band were originally called Mammoth, when formed in 1972 by a pair of brothers? One year later, with the addition of Michael Anthony and David Lee Roth, they changed their name to the surname of the brothers. Their biggest hit in Ireland was 1984's <i>Jump</i> , which reached No. 2.	Van Halen (brothers Eddie and Alex)
Q3	At their peak in the second half of the 1960s, the membership of which group included Paul Jones, Tom McGuinness, Jack Bruce and Mike Hugg? It was this lineup that recorded their second and final No. 1 on the Irish charts, the 1966 single <i>Pretty Flamingo</i> .	Manfred Mann
Q4	Which American rock group included members such as Dan Hartman, Ronnie Montrose and Chuck Ruff? While never big sellers here in Ireland, their classic 1972 debut album <i>They Only Come Out at Night</i> did produce two Top 20 singles in their native US: <i>Free Ride</i> and <i>Frankenstein</i> .	The Edgar Winter Group

It's Not Rocket Science

(Four questions on the universally-panned 2016 ITV series *It's Not Rocket Science*)

Q1	Which mathematician and TV presenter , best known as the co-host of Channel 4 TV show <i>Countdown</i> , was one of the hosts of <i>It's Not Rocket Science</i> ? Since 2012, she has also performed her <i>Countdown</i> role on the comedy crossover spin-off version, <i>8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown</i> .	Rachel Riley .
Q2	Which British astronaut appeared in episode 3 of <i>It's Not Rocket Science</i> ? This former British Army Air Corps officer lived on the International Space Station between December 2015 and June 2016.	Tim Peake
Q3	The main guest on episode 2 of <i>It's Not Rocket Science</i> was which Welsh rally driver ? A regular competitor in the World Rally Championship since 2011, this man has finished runner-up in the drivers' championship on five occasions between 2020 and 2025.	Elfyn Evans
Q4	Which British doctor served as the "resident scientist" on <i>It's Not Rocket Science</i> ? A consultant anaesthetist and professor at University College London, this man presented the Royal Institution Christmas Lectures in 2015. He is also known for his media work, such as appearances on the BBC series <i>Horizon</i> and his 2019 podcast series <i>13 Minutes to the Moon</i> .	Kevin Fong

It Is Rocket Science

Q1	<i>Rocketman</i> is a 2019 biographical jukebox musical drama film based on the life, music, and career of which British musician ?	Elton <u>John</u>
Q2	Which German aerospace engineer (1912-77) helped design and develop the V-2 rocket at Germany's Peenemünde Army Research Centre during World War II? Later in life, this same man was the chief architect of the Saturn V super heavy-lift launch vehicle that propelled the Apollo spacecraft to the Moon.	Wernher von <u>Braun</u>
Q3	First released in 2015, which video game by Psyonix sees players using vehicles to hit a giant ball into their opponent's goal and score points over the course of an online match? This very successful game has since been adopted as an esport, with professional players participating through ESL and MLG competitions.	<u>Rocket League</u>
Q4	Ray Bradbury's 1950 short story <i>The Rocket</i> was adapted into what 2006 film , starring Billy Bob Thornton, Virginia Madsen, Bruce Dern and Bruce Willis? In the film, Thornton plays a Texas rancher who attempts to construct a rocket in his barn and launch himself into outer space.	The <u>Astronaut Farmer</u>

Country Names

Q1	Since its April 2026 parliamentary elections, which European country 's official name in its native language also now includes the surname of its Prime Minister?	<u>Hungary</u> . (Péter Magyar - the country name is Magyarország)
Q2	Shqipëria, or more exactly Republika e Shqipërisë, is the official name of which country in southeastern Europe? This country is currently a candidate for membership in the European Union, and has been negotiating accession since 2022.	<u>Albania</u>
Q3	Since the 17th century, the official name of which country has been <i>Druk yul</i> in its native tongue? This translates as "country of the Drukpa Lineage", a reference to the country's dominant Buddhist sect. Drukpa itself translates as "Lineage of the Dragon".	<u>Bhutan</u>
Q4	Which word , most commonly six letters in length, has increasingly since the mid-19th century been used as a native name for India? Now used in variations by many Indian languages, it can also be seen in the name of the political party that has ruled the country since 2014.	<u>Bharat</u> (Bharatiya Janata Party a.k.a. BJP)

Ladies Making Bank

Q1	Sportico's list of the world's 15 top-earning female athletes in 2025 includes 10 tennis players. Which of these ladies is top of the list, having earned \$31M during last year, as well as winning the singles title at the French Open?	Cori "Coco" <u>Gauff</u>
Q2	The power of endorsements is highlighted by the athlete in fourth place on this list, who officially only won \$20,000 in prize money, but overall earned \$23M last year. Who is this winter Olympian, born in San Francisco in 2003, but representing China in international competition since 2018?	Eileen <u>Gu</u>
Q3	The seventh-ranked lady on this list is a golfer but she does have a tennis connection, through her famous father. Who is this American golfer, the winner of four majors in her career to date and also gold at the Tokyo Olympics?	Nelly <u>Korda</u>
Q4	Who is the only basketballer to make Sportico's top 15 list for 2025? This point guard with the Indiana Fever made "just" \$119,000 from salary and bonuses in 2025. However, when her various sponsorships and endorsements are added, she earned a total of \$16.1M.	Caitlin <u>Clark</u>

The Commitments

Q1	The 1991 musical comedy-drama film <i>The Commitments</i> is based on a 1987 novel of the same name by which Irish author? The book was the first in his series known as <i>The Barrytown Trilogy</i> .	Roddy <u>Doyle</u>
Q2	Which English-born filmmaker directed <i>The Commitments</i> ? Some of this man's other notable movies include <i>Fame</i> , <i>Mississippi Burning</i> and <i>Evita</i> .	Alan <u>Parker</u>
Q3	Which Irish actress played the role of Imelda Quirke, one of the band's backing singers, the Commitment-ettes? During her subsequent career, this lady's roles have included Tina Lawless in <i>The General</i> (1998), Molly in <i>Bloom</i> (2003), and DS Emer Berry in the TV series <i>Hidden Assets</i> (2021-25).	Angeline <u>Ball</u>
Q4	Who was originally cast in the role of Deco Cuffe before ultimately playing Jimmy Rabbitte, the band's manager? Despite not featuring as a singer in the film, this man did provide lead vocals for two tracks, <i>Treat Her Right</i> and <i>Slip Away</i> , on the accompanying soundtrack album.	Robert <u>Arkins</u>