

Irish History Quiz – Sports, Pints & Politics

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Directions: Circle the *best* answer.

1. Hurling dates back more than 2,000 years. What legendary figure is said to have defended himself from a wolfhound with nothing but a hurley and a sliotar?
a) Cormac mac Airt b) Fionn mac Cumhaill c) Cú Chulainn d) Oisín of Tír na nÓg
2. Ireland is world-renowned for its love of all things equine, with many champion thoroughbred horses born and raised here. In what county will you find the Irish National Stud?
a) Co. Galway b) Co. Down c) Co. Dublin d) Co. Kildare
3. What GAA (Gaelic Athletic Association) sport needs just a ball, a field of grass and a set of goalposts?
a) Gaelic Football b) Camogie c) Rounders d) Hurling
4. What County in Northern Ireland does golfing legend Rory McIlroy come from?
a) County Antrim b) County Down c) County Tyrone d) County Derry
5. Every September, thousands of fans decked in their county colors make their way to Croke Park for the GAA All-Ireland Football and Hurling Championship finals. In what Irish city is this iconic stadium located?
a) Dublin b) Cork c) Belfast d) Galway
6. This Irishman is on record for the longest punt in NFL history.
a) Shawn McCarthy b) John (Paddy) Driscoll
c) Pat McAfee d) Steve O'Neill
7. This Irishman has the record for most career goals for the All-Ireland Senior Hurling games.
a) Henry Shefflin b) Joe Canning c) Patrick Horgan d) T. J. Reid
8. What is the name of the All-Ireland Championship cup for Hurling?
a) Sam Maguire Cup b) Liam MacCarthy Cup c) Corn Gael Linn d) O'Duffy Cup
9. What iconic island along the Wild Atlantic Way is known for its seabird sanctuary, its sixth century monastic settlement and a certain big-screen jedi-master?
a) Fastnet Rock, County Cork b) Tory Island, County Donegal
c) Valentia Island, County Kerry d) Skellig Island, County Kerry

10. Who was appointed First Minister of the new Northern Ireland Assembly, created under the terms of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement?

- a) David Trimble b) John Hume c) Ian Paisley d) Martin McGuinness

11. This Roman Catholic man received the Nobel Peace Prize for his work bringing communities together in Northern Ireland in pursuit of peace and reconciliation.

- a) Séamus Heaney b) David Trimble c) Seán MacBride d) John Hume

12. A former Taoiseach recently passed away February 6, 2024. He was instrumental in the evolving Northern Ireland peace process along with then-UK Prime Minister John Major, with whom he launched the Anglo-Irish Framework Document in 1995. Who was this Taoiseach?

- a) Albert Reynolds b) John Bruton c) Bertie Ahern d) Brian Cowen

13. Recently, Northern Ireland's government made history by appointing their first nationalist First Minister. Who is this leader?

- a) Aisling Reilly b) Mary Lou McDonald c) Michelle O'Neill d) Gerry Adams

14. In Ireland, the fourth Sunday of lent (March 10, 2024) is known as

- a) St. Patrick's Birthday b) Mother's Day
c) St. Brigid's Feast Day d) Sheep Shearing Day

15. Guinness is the largest producer of stout made in Dublin. However, in the southern city of Cork, two smaller stout producers have enjoyed similarly passionate support. But with some predictability, one came to be known as the Catholic stout brewery and one as the Protestant brewery. Select the correct answers from the list below.

Beamish

Samuel Smith

Harp

O'Malleys

Kilkenny

Smithwicks

Murphy's

O'Hara's

Protestants prefer which kind of stout? _____

And Catholics prefer? _____

16. When the Irish Free State was established in 1922, it faced a challenge with finding the best symbol that best represented everything Irish. It has decided on the traditional Irish harp, but there was an obstacle, as Guinness had already trademarked the iconic symbol. Not willing to give up their choice of symbols, the Irish Free State (which later evolved into the Republic of Ireland) instead got by on a technicality. Today, a harp appears on Irish coins and paper money, as well as on the cover of Irish passports. But the observant stout lover will notice what change?

Answers:

1. c
2. d
3. a
4. b
5. a
6. d
7. b
8. b
9. d
10. a
11. d
12. b
13. c
14. b

15. Beamish; Murphy's

16. **O**bservant Guinness drinkers will notice the official Irish harp is facing the opposite direction as that on the Guinness label.