Easy Whisky Quiz: Beginner Trivia, Truths & Myth-Busters

Team Name: _____ **Table No:** _____ **Score:** ____ / 10

Q1. What is the classic geographical rule for spelling "Whisky" vs "Whiskey"?

[ ] A) Scotland, Japan, and Canada spell it "Whisky" (no 'e'); Ireland and the United States spell it "Whiskey" (with an 'e').

[ ] B) Single malts are spelled "Whisky"; blended whiskies are spelled "Whiskey".

[ ] C) Spelling with an 'e' indicates the spirit was aged for over 10 years.

[ ] D) Spelling without an 'e' is legally restricted to bourbon only.

Q2. What does the word "Single" actually mean on a bottle of Single Malt Scotch?

[ ] A) The whisky was drawn from a single individual oak barrel.

[ ] B) The whisky was produced entirely at a single distillery from 100% malted barley.

[ ] C) The spirit was distilled in a single batch on one single pot still.

[ ] D) The bottle contains spirit made from a single harvest field.

Q3. If a bottle of Scotch states "12 Years Old" on its label, what does that number legally guarantee?

[ ] A) The average age of all whiskies blended together in that batch.

[ ] B) The age of the oldest cask included in the bottle.

[ ] C) The exact age of the youngest drop of whisky in the bottle.

[ ] D) That the bottle has spent 12 years resting in a retail shop.

Q4. Does whisky continue to age and improve once it is sealed inside a glass bottle?

[ ] A) Yes, it continues slow maturation for up to 15 years.

[ ] B) No, distilled spirits only mature through active breathing and interaction with oak wood; in inert glass, the liquid remains essentially unchanged.

[ ] C) Yes, provided it is stored on its side like fine wine.

[ ] D) Yes, but only if stored in direct sunlight.

Q5. What is the poetic term "The Angel's Share" used to describe in the whisky industry?

[ ] A) The tip given to distillery tour guides

[ ] B) The natural evaporation of spirit and water through the pores of the oak barrel during aging

[ ] C) The first cut of alcohol collected from the still

[ ] D) The tax portion collected by the government

Q6. Under United States federal law, what cereal grain must make up at least 51% of the recipe (mash bill) for a whiskey to be labelled "Bourbon"?

[ ] A) Barley

[ ] B) Rye

[ ] C) Corn (Maize)

[ ] D) Wheat

Q7. Why is spirit caramel (E150a) sometimes added to commercial Scotch whisky before bottling?

[ ] A) To add rich sweetness and vanilla flavours

[ ] B) To achieve cosmetic colour consistency between commercial batches so bottles match on the supermarket shelf

[ ] C) To increase the alcohol percentage by weight

[ ] D) To prevent bottles from freezing in winter

Q8. Why does non-chill filtered whisky at 40% to 43% ABV sometimes turn cloudy when you add ice or cold water?

[ ] A) The ice causes naturally occurring long-chain fatty acids and esters to precipitate out of solution as a cosmetic mist or haze.

[ ] B) The glass is chemically reacting with the alcohol.

[ ] C) It is an indicator that the bottle has spoiled and gone bad.

[ ] D) The distillery accidentally left barley flour in the spirit.

Q9. Where does the distinct smoky, campfire, or medicinal flavour in peated single malts originally come from?

[ ] A) Charring the inside of the oak barrels with blowtorches

[ ] B) Drying wet, germinated malted barley over smouldering peat fire smoke in the kiln

[ ] C) Filtering the finished liquid through crushed volcanic basalt rocks

[ ] D) Drawing brewing water from dark bog streams

Q10. What is a Scottish "wee dram"?

[ ] A) A formal government tax certificate

[ ] B) An affectionate Scottish colloquialism for a generous pour or glass of whisky

[ ] C) A small wooden barrel holding under 5 litres

[ ] D) The dregs left at the bottom of the still