Scotch Whisky Quiz: Test Your Scottish Single Malt Knowledge

Team Name: _____ **Table No:** _____ **Score:** ____ / 12

Q1. Which of the following lists the five officially recognized, legally protected Scotch Whisky regions defined under the Scotch Whisky Regulations 2009?

[ ] A) Highlands, Lowlands, Speyside, Islay, and Campbeltown

[ ] B) Highlands, Lowlands, Speyside, Hebrides, and Orkney

[ ] C) Speyside, Islay, Skye, Jura, and Mull

[ ] D) Northern, Southern, Eastern, Western, and Central Scotland

Q2. What single grain must be used exclusively to produce Single Malt Scotch Whisky?

[ ] A) Unmalted cereal rye

[ ] B) 100% malted barley

[ ] C) A 51% blend of barley and maize

[ ] D) Scottish winter wheat

Q3. What is the absolute statutory minimum time Scotch spirit must mature in oak casks in Scotland before it can legally be called "whisky"?

[ ] A) At least 1 year

[ ] B) At least 2 years

[ ] C) At least 3 years

[ ] D) At least 5 years

Q4. What is the statutory minimum alcoholic strength by volume (ABV) at which Scotch whisky can legally be bottled?

[ ] A) 37.5% ABV

[ ] B) 40.0% ABV

[ ] C) 43.0% ABV

[ ] D) 46.0% ABV

Q5. What is the maximum legal cask capacity permitted for maturing Scotch whisky in Scotland?

[ ] A) 250 litres

[ ] B) 500 litres

[ ] C) 700 litres

[ ] D) 1,000 litres

Q6. What is the legal definition of a "Blended Malt Scotch Whisky" (formerly referred to as a "vatted malt")?

[ ] A) A vatting of single malt whiskies from two or more different distilleries, with no grain whisky added

[ ] B) A blend of malted barley whisky and continuous column-distilled wheat whisky

[ ] C) A single malt finished in two different types of oak cask

[ ] D) Whisky distilled from equal parts barley, rye, and wheat

Q7. Which progressive Islay distillery produces the celebrated "Octomore" series, renowned for producing the most heavily peated single malts in the world (often exceeding 100 to 300+ PPM)?

[ ] A) Ardbeg

[ ] B) Laphroaig

[ ] C) Bruichladdich

[ ] D) Lagavulin

Q8. Why is copper universally required for the construction of Scottish pot stills?

[ ] A) Copper conducts heat 10 times faster than iron and requires less fuel.

[ ] B) Copper is malleable and can be beaten into decorative shapes.

[ ] C) Copper chemically reacts with volatile sulfur compounds (like dimethyl trisulfide) during distillation, stripping out vegetal and eggy off-notes.

[ ] D) Scottish law banned stainless steel in 1823 to protect local coppersmith guilds.

Q9. Where is the phenol "PPM" (parts per million) level officially measured when distilleries describe the smoke level of a peated whisky?

[ ] A) In the smoke escaping from the pagoda kiln stack

[ ] B) On the kilned malted barley grist, prior to mashing and distillation

[ ] C) In the low wines collected from the wash still

[ ] D) In the finished bottled whisky after cask maturation

Q10. Which Scottish region contains more than half of all operational malt distilleries in the country, clustered along the River Spey and its tributaries?

[ ] A) The Highlands

[ ] B) The Lowlands

[ ] C) Speyside

[ ] D) Campbeltown

Q11. What is an "Independent Bottler" (such as Gordon & MacPhail, Cadenhead's, or Signatory Vintage) in the Scotch whisky trade?

[ ] A) A retailer that blends discarded leftovers from supermarket shelves

[ ] B) A company that purchases casks directly from distilleries, ages them in independent warehouses, and bottles them under its own label without corporate chill filtration or colouring

[ ] C) A foreign company prohibited from selling single malts in Scotland

[ ] D) A bottler that only sells miniature 5cl tasting drams

Q12. Why do Scottish single malts undergo batch distillation in copper pot stills, whereas grain whisky is distilled continuously in Coffey column stills?

[ ] A) Pot stills retain a high concentration of aromatic congeners and heavy esters from barley, while column stills distill to 94%+ ABV, creating a light, smooth spirit ideal for balancing blends.

[ ] B) Pot stills are only capable of running wheat wash.

[ ] C) Column stills cannot operate in cold Scottish weather.

[ ] D) Scotch Whisky Regulations outlaw pot stills for anything except corn.