Whisky Pub Quiz Questions and Answers

Team Name: _____ **Table No:** _____ **Score:** ____ / 20

ROUND 1: SCOTTISH DISTILLERIES & GEOGRAPHY

Q1. Who designed the iconic Scottish pagoda kiln roof (the Doig Ventilator), and at which distillery was it first built in 1889?

[ ] A) Thomas Telford at The Glenlivet
[ ] B) Charles Chree Doig at Dailuaine
[ ] C) Aeneas Coffey at Kilbeggan
[ ] D) Alexander Walker at Cardhu

Q2. Mortlach distillery in Dufftown is famous for its intricate, idiosyncratic distillation system. Exactly how many times is Mortlach spirit distilled on average?

[ ] A) Exactly 2.0 times (standard double distillation)
[ ] B) Exactly 3.0 times (Irish triple distillation)
[ ] C) 2.81 times (via the Wee Witchie still)
[ ] D) 4.15 times (fractional column reflux)

Q3. Campbeltown was once the Victorian whisky capital with over 30 distilleries. Which three survivors keep it legally recognized as an official Scotch region today?

[ ] A) Springbank, Glengyle (Kilkerran), and Glen Scotia
[ ] B) Highland Park, Scapa, and Tobermory
[ ] C) Oban, Talisker, and Bowmore
[ ] D) Bladnoch, Rosebank, and Glenkinchie

Q4. Edradour was long famous as Scotland's smallest distillery, but which distillery operates the tallest copper pot stills in Scotland at 5.14 metres (16 ft 10 in)?

[ ] A) Glenfiddich
[ ] B) Glenmorangie
[ ] C) Macallan
[ ] D) Ardbeg

Q5. Which Speyside distillery fought an 1884 court battle that granted it the exclusive right to use "The" in its name, forcing dozens of rivals to hyphenate their labels?

[ ] A) The Macallan
[ ] B) The Balvenie
[ ] C) The Glenlivet
[ ] D) The Glenrothes

ROUND 2: OAK CASKS, CHEMISTRY & MATURATION

Q6. What does the cooperage acronym "STR" stand for, and who pioneered this wine cask rejuvenation technique?

[ ] A) Steamed, Torched, Refilled (Richard Paterson)
[ ] B) Shaved, Toasted, Re-charred (Dr. Jim Swan)
[ ] C) Stripped, Treated, Rebuilt (Miguel Martin)
[ ] D) Smoked, Tapered, Rolled (Aeneas Coffey)

Q7. What is "Char Level #4" (the heaviest barrel burn, lasting roughly 55 seconds) commonly called in the cooperage industry?

[ ] A) Dragon Breath
[ ] B) Alligator Char
[ ] C) Black Diamond
[ ] D) Pitch Pine

Q8. Why does whisky maturing in traditional Scottish dunnage warehouses generally LOSE alcohol strength over time, while bourbon in Kentucky GAINS strength?

[ ] A) Scottish coopers use French oak, which absorbs ethanol molecules faster than American oak.

[ ] B) Scotland has a cold, humid climate where water evaporates slower than alcohol, whereas Kentucky is hot and dry, driving water out through the staves faster than ethanol.

[ ] C) Scottish law caps warehouse humidity at 95% by statute.

[ ] D) Scottish warehouses allow direct coastal wind flow that dilutes the top staves.

Q9. What microscopic feature in American White Oak (Quercus alba) plugs the wood pores and makes barrels naturally liquid-tight without requiring sealant?

[ ] A) Cellulose webbing

[ ] B) Tyloses (balloon-like vessel outgrowths)

[ ] C) Suberin resin deposits

[ ] D) Lignin crystallization

Q10. What is Baudoinia compniacensis, commonly found coating the walls, trees, and roof tiles surrounding Scottish maturation warehouses?

[ ] A) A harmless black fungus that thrives by feeding on airborne ethanol vapour (the Angel's Share)

[ ] B) A toxic lichen prohibited near food and drink production

[ ] C) A moss introduced from the Hebrides to control warehouse temperature

[ ] D) A mineral precipitate formed when peat smoke condenses on stone

ROUND 3: BLENDERS, BRANDS & HISTORIC INVENTIONS

Q11. Which Edinburgh grocer is credited with creating the first commercial "vatted malt" blend in 1853, titled "Old Vatted Glenlivet"?

[ ] A) John Walker

[ ] B) Andrew Usher

[ ] C) George Ballantine

[ ] D) Arthur Bell

Q12. Why did Johnnie Walker originally introduce square bottles for its blended Scotch in 1860?

[ ] A) Square bottles packed more tightly into shipping crates with far fewer breakages, while maximizing shelf prominence with their 20-degree slanted label.

[ ] B) Scottish glassblowers paid less tax on four-sided molds.

[ ] C) To disguise bottles inside hollowed-out book bindings for American smuggling.

[ ] D) The square profile was requested by Queen Victoria for royal carriages.

Q13. Before patenting his continuous column still in 1830, what was Aeneas Coffey's dangerous occupation?

[ ] A) A deep-sea coal miner in Fife

[ ] B) An Inspector General of Excise hunting illicit distillers in Ireland

[ ] C) A gunpowder manufacturer in Glasgow

[ ] D) A ship's surgeon in the Royal Navy

Q14. How did William Sanderson's famous blended Scotch "Vat 69" get its numerical name in 1882?

[ ] A) It was blended from exactly 69 different single malt distilleries.

[ ] B) Sanderson prepared 100 sample blend casks and invited an expert panel; cask number 69 was unanimously selected as the best.

[ ] C) It was first bottled in the year 1869.

[ ] D) It was proofed to 69% ABV for naval export.

Q15. Approximately what percentage of all Scotch whisky sold worldwide today is Blended Scotch (rather than Single Malt)?

[ ] A) Around 25%

[ ] B) Around 50%

[ ] C) Around 90%

[ ] D) Less than 10%

ROUND 4: WHISKY MYTHS & GLASS TRUTHS

Q16. What does the word "Single" legally signify on a bottle of Single Malt Scotch Whisky?

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

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

[ ] C) The whisky was produced in a single batch on a single pot still.

[ ] D) The bottle contains only a single strain of barley harvested in one year.

Q17. Under Scotch Whisky Regulations, what does an age statement (e.g., "12 Years Old") legally signify on the label?

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

[ ] B) The age of the majority (51%+) component in the blend.

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

[ ] D) The number of years the whisky spent in first-fill oak before finishing.

Q18. Which European country legally mandates that Scotch whisky labels must disclose if artificial spirit caramel colouring (E150a) has been added?

[ ] A) The United Kingdom

[ ] B) Germany

[ ] C) France

[ ] D) Italy

Q19. Why does whisky bottled at or above 46% ABV generally NOT require chill filtration?

[ ] A) At 46% ABV and above, long-chain fatty acids and esters remain naturally soluble and will not precipitate into a cloudy haze when chilled or diluted.

[ ] B) 46% ABV is the legal definition of cask-strength where filtration is prohibited.

[ ] C) Higher alcohol dissolves glass particles that cause sediment.

[ ] D) Chill filtering is only physically possible below 40% ABV.

Q20. Does Scotch whisky continue to age and improve once it has been sealed in a glass bottle?

[ ] A) Yes, it continues slow anaerobic esterification for up to 20 years.

[ ] B) No, whisky only matures through active contact with oak wood and atmospheric air; in glass, it remains essentially unchanged if properly sealed away from sunlight.

[ ] C) Yes, but only if kept upside down so the cork stays wet.

[ ] D) Yes, the alcohol slowly breaks down into complex fruit sugars.