

General Knowledge Quiz - Department of the Taoiseach's Website

Scan the text from the Department of the Taoiseach and find the answers to these questions.

- A) In what county is Ireland's highest mountain?
- B) What is the longest distance from north to south between two points in Ireland?
- C) By what name is Arthur Wellesley better known?
- D) Why is John Tyndall famous?
- E) Who was the Irish architect who designed the residence of the US President?
- F) The world's first commuter train was between Dublin and where?
- G) What are the two most popular paintings in the National Gallery of Ireland?
- H) Who was the founder of the Sisters of Mercy?
- I) Who was the first Irish man to win the Tour de France?
- J) In what event did James Brendan Connolly win an Olympic gold medal in 1896?
- K) What was the name of Dublin's first cinema?
- L) How many letters are there in the Irish alphabet?
- M) Who gave Ireland the name Hibernia?
- N) How long is the coastline of Ireland?
- O) How many Irish people have won the Nobel Peace Prize?
- P) How many people say that their families come originally from Ireland?

Now work in small groups and write six more questions based on the information on the website.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

Language Work

1. There are a lot of examples of superlative adjectives in the text. Read through it quickly and make a list of them.
2. Compare your list with a neighbour.
3. What are the rules for making the superlative forms of adjectives?

Did you know...

- 1. Ten Irish people have won Nobel prizes:**
William Butler Yeats (Literature)
George Bernard Shaw (Literature)
Ernest Thomas Sinton Walton (joint) (Physics)
Samuel Beckett (Literature)
Sean MacBride (Peace)
Mairead Corrigan & Betty Williams (Peace)
Seamus Heaney (Literature)
John Hume & David Trimble (Peace)
- 2. Samuel Beckett wrote the worlds shortest play -*Breath* is 30 seconds long**
- 3. Ireland's highest mountain is Carrantuohill in County Kerry**
- 4. Ireland's longest river is the Shannon**
- 5. Ireland's longest lake is Lough Neagh**
- 6. Powerscourt waterfall is the highest in Ireland**
- 7. The Ceide Fields in North Mayo is the most extensive Stone Age monument in the world**
- 8. The coldest months in Ireland are January and February, July and August are the warmest, May and June are the sunniest**
- 9. Ireland is the westernmost island in Europe**
- 10. Ireland's greatest length (NS) is 302 miles (486 km) and greatest width (EW) 171 miles (275km)**
- 11. The total coastline of Ireland is 1,970 miles (3,169 km)**
- 12. The Constitution of Ireland was enacted by the People on 1st July 1937**
- 13. Ireland joined the EEC on January 1st 1973**

- 14. Traditionally, there are eighteen letters in the Irish alphabet (abcdefghijklmnopstu)**
- 15. 70 million people worldwide claim Irish ancestry**
- 16. Julius Caesar gave Ireland the Latin name Hibernia in the first Century BC**
- 17. It is alleged that St.Brendan, an Irish monk, discovered America before Christopher Columbus**
- 18. It is said that lynch-law owes its name to James Fitzstephen Lynch, mayor and warden of Galway who tried and executed his own son in 1493**
- 19. Mike Quill from County Kerry was the founder and first international president of the Transport Workers Union of America (1934)**
- 20. Arthur Wellesley, the first Duke of Wellington whose military career culminated in winning the Battle of Waterloo, was born in Dublin in 1769**
- 21. James Hoban from County Kilkenny was the architect who designed the White House in 1792**
- 22. Commodore John Barry from Wexford is referred to as the father of the US Navy**
- 23. John Philip Holland from County Clare designed the submarine, which was later used by the US Government**
- 24. John Tyndall from County Carlow (scientist) is best remembered for explaining why the sky is blue**
- 25. The first Dáil sat on 21st January 1919; the first Seanad sat on 11th December 1922**
- 26. Mary Robinson was Ireland's first female President (3/12/1990 - 12/10/1997)**

27. **Mary McAleese is the first President of Ireland from north of the border (elected 11/11/1997)**
28. **The Book of Armagh is the earliest existing specimen of a continuous narrative in Irish prose. It represents Irish of the end of the seventh, or of the beginning of the eighth century**
29. **Of the four Botanic Gardens established in Ireland between 1795 - 1827, only the Dublin gardens remain, (the Belfast Garden is now a Public Park, the Ballsbridge Garden closed, as did the one in Cork)**
30. **The first public screening of a film was made in Ireland at the Star of Erin Theatre of Varieties on April 17th 1896**
31. **South Boston born James Brendan Connolly, whose parents were from Inis Mór, Aran Islands, was the first ever modern Olympic Champion, he won Gold in the Hop, Step and Jump (Triple Jump) in 1896**
32. **James Joyce opened Ireland's first Cinema, The Volta, Mary Street, Dublin, on 20th December 1909**
33. **Trinity College Dublin was established in 1592**
34. **Temple Bar in Dublin housed the first Jewish temple built in Ireland**
35. **Radio Teilifis Éireann made its first public transmission on 31st December 1961**
36. **Radio 1 first broadcast in January 1926**
37. **Teampall Bheanain on Inis Mór, Aran Islands, County Galway is one of the smallest in the world measuring 10 feet x 7 feet**
38. **Ireland's first railway from Dublin to Kingstown (Dun Laoghaire) was built in 1834 and was the worlds first commuter line**
39. **Liam Cosgrave led the first Irish delegation to the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1956**

- 40. Chaim Herzog, sixth President of the State of Israel, was born in Belfast in 1918**
- 41. The paintings that attract most attention at the National Gallery, Dublin are The Taking of Christ by Caravaggio (1571-1610) and Lady Writing a Letter with her Maid by Vermeer (1632-1675)**
- 42. Stephen Roche became the first Irishman to win the Tour de France and the World Professional Road Championship, he is the second rider in history to win the Giro d'Italia, Tour de France and the World Professional Championship in the same year**
- 43. Bill King was the first Irishman to sail alone around the world (1970/1973)**
- 44. Pat Falvey from Cork was the first Irishman to climb all the great mountains of the world, including Everest, Kilimanjaro, Mount Vinson and Mount Aconcagua**
- 45. Alan Humphries was the first Irishman to reach the North Pole (April 26th 1999 in the Aspirations 99 Dog sled and Ski Expedition)**
- 46. Michael Collins was the first Irishman in space, he remained in lunar orbit while his Apollo 11 colleagues, Edwin Aldrin and Neil Armstrong walked on the moon(21st July 1969)**
- 47. John Robert Gregg from County Monaghan invented the internationally used Gregg Shorthand System**
- 48. Catherine Elizabeth McAuley from Dublin established the congregation of the Sisters of Mercy in 1831**

Information from Department of the Taoiseach
(www.taoiseach.gov.ie)

MODULE: Ireland/Intercultural Awareness

Time: 2 hours	Focus: Skim reading; question formation
Class organisation: Individual, pairs, small groups	Type of activity: Reading, writing, speaking based on download from the Website of the Department of the Taoiseach
ELP: B1	

For this activity you need...

1 worksheet per learner.

In Class Procedure at a Glance

The information is taken from the Youth Zone of the Department of the Taoiseach. In introducing the subject you could take the opportunity to teach "Youth" by getting learners to check it in the dictionary. Be ready to illustrate the difference between the countable and uncountable senses "Two youths were seen leaving the scene" "Youth is too precious to be wasted on the young!" "The youth of the country is gone to the dogs" "The cosmetics industry is based on the pursuit of eternal youth" etc.

1. Distribute the worksheet with the 16 questions.
2. Explain that you are going to give them a fact sheet with all the information.
3. Tell them that they will not have time to read the four pages in detail and that they should skim through the text to find the relevant information.
4. If learners are not familiar with the concept of skimming help them to understand by analogy with how they would read a bus timetable or page of advertisements or the Golden Pages.
5. Set a time limit you think is realistic - say 15 minutes
6. As learners finish let them get into pairs to compare and discuss their answers.
7. When everybody or most people have finished check the answers as a whole class by asking individual learners in turn.
8. Encourage them to just give the key information required for the answer rather than reading the whole entry.

9. However, once they have given the answer ask them which number they found the answer in and read the entry as a class. This will give the learners who didn't get the answer a chance to note the right answer.
10. Check understanding of vocabulary as you go along
11. Put learners in pairs or small group and tell them they must now devise their own questions based on the fact sheet. (They should not repeat the questions that were already asked)
12. Go around to the pairs/groups helping with the question formation where necessary.
13. When they are ready get one person from each pair or group to come to the top of the class and to act as "quizmaster". He/she asks a question and the other pairs/groups compete to be the fastest to find the answer.
14. Keep score. When the first pair/group has finished call on the second but tell them that they are not allowed to repeat any of the questions already asked.
15. Continue until all the questions have been used up.
16. If learners are already familiar with the term superlative go straight into the exercise. Otherwise illustrate with a few simple questions related to the group – Who is the tallest in the class? Who lives the farthest from the school etc. Once they have the idea get to list all the examples from the fact sheet and then compare the lists in pairs.
17. See if they can formulate the rules. (It's often a good idea in this kind of exercise to excuse yourself from the room briefly as they may feel more at ease discussing it among themselves, but don't forget to come back!)