

The Cockermouth Christmas Quiz

Host script - sample quiz written for *The Bitter End, Cockermouth*

Format: 6 rounds x 10 questions (60 points). Suggested running time 2 hours including breaks. Teams of up to 6.

Before you start: hand out the A4 answer sheets and pens; load the projector slides; have the picture round on screen (or printed) for Round 4.

Suggested opening: "Good evening and welcome to the Cockermouth Christmas Quiz! Six rounds tonight - two about our own town, so the locals have no excuses. Phones away please - no googling. Answers in pen; the quizmaster's decision is final... unless you can prove otherwise afterwards with a mince pie."

Marking: 1 point per question. Swap sheets between teams after each round, or collect and mark at the bar. Tie-break at the end.

Round 1: Local Round - Cockermouth

Say: "Ten questions about the town we're sitting in."

1. Cockermouth takes its name from its position at the mouth of which river?

Answer: The River Cocker

2. And the Cocker flows into which larger river at Cockermouth?

Answer: The River Derwent

3. Which poet was born in Cockermouth in 1770, in a Georgian townhouse now owned by the National Trust?

Answer: William Wordsworth

4. Which leader of the 1789 mutiny on the Bounty was born at Moorland Close, near Cockermouth, in 1764?

Answer: Fletcher Christian

5. Which scientist, who introduced atomic theory into chemistry, was born in 1766 in Eaglesfield, near Cockermouth?

Answer: John Dalton

6. Which Scottish queen came to Cockermouth in 1568 after her defeat at the Battle of Langside?

Answer: Mary, Queen of Scots

7. Which England cricketer moved to Cockermouth aged 12 in 2003, attended Cockermouth School and played for Cockermouth Cricket Club?

Answer: Ben Stokes

8. Cockermouth is twinned with which town in France?

Answer: Marvejols

9. Which Cockermouth-born astronomer (born 1788) was appointed by the Admiralty as astronomer at the Cape of Good Hope?

Answer: Fearon Fallows

10. Which motorsport company, known for its Ford World Rally Championship entries, is headquartered at Dovenby Hall near Cockermouth?

Answer: M-Sport

Round 2: Pub & Street Round

Say: "Pubs, beer and the streets of the town."

1. Which brewery, founded in Lorton in 1828, moved to the Castle Brewery in Cockermouth in 1874?

Answer: Jennings (Jennings Brewery)

2. In which year did Carlsberg Marston's close the Jennings brewery in Cockermouth? (a year either way for a half point if you like)

Answer: 2022

3. The Bitter End's address is 15 ... what? It's the tree-lined street of 17th and 18th-century terraces running down towards the River Cocker.

Answer: Kirkgate

4. Which MP for Cockermouth, later Viceroy of India, is commemorated by a statue on Main Street?

Answer: Lord Mayo (Richard Bourke, 6th Earl of Mayo)

5. Cockermouth Town Hall on Market Street was converted for council use in 1934. What type of building was it originally?

Answer: A Wesleyan Methodist chapel (built 1841)

6. In the medieval town layout, the 'back lane' on the south side is known today by what name?

Answer: South Street

7. The site of Cockermouth's old railway station is now home to the fire station and which volunteer rescue team?

Answer: Cockermouth Mountain Rescue

8. Which comic duo's 1963 song 'Slow Train' namechecks Cockermouth among the railway stations it laments?

Answer: Flanders and Swann

9. In 1881 Cockermouth may have been the first town in Britain to pilot what kind of street lighting?

Answer: Electric lighting (six electric lamps)

10. In which year did the November floods see more than 200 people rescued in Cockermouth, some by RAF helicopters?

Answer: 2009

Round 3: Christmas General Knowledge

Say: "Festive facts."

1. Which author published 'A Christmas Carol' in 1843?

Answer: Charles Dickens

2. In 'A Christmas Carol', what is the name of Scrooge's late business partner?

Answer: Jacob Marley

3. If every gift in 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' is repeated in each verse, how many gifts are given in total?

Answer: 364

4. Which reindeer was created by Robert L. May?

Answer: Rudolph (the Red-Nosed Reindeer)

5. The poinsettia is named after Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first US minister to which country?

Answer: Mexico

6. Boxing Day usually coincides with the feast day of which saint?

Answer: Saint Stephen

7. Who commissioned the first commercial Christmas card in 1843?

Answer: Sir Henry Cole

8. Tradition says which London confectioner invented the Christmas cracker in 1847?

Answer: Tom Smith

9. Which king made the first royal Christmas broadcast, on the radio in 1932?

Answer: King George V

10. The decorated Christmas tree custom developed in Central Europe, especially in which present-day country (also home of Prince Albert)?

Answer: Germany

Suggested break: 15 minutes. Remind teams the bar is open!

Round 4: Picture Round - Christmas Close-ups

Say: "Each picture is a zoomed-in close-up of a festive item. Name the item."

1. Show picture 1 on screen.

Answer: A Christmas bauble (tree ornament)

2. Show picture 2 on screen.

Answer: A Christmas pudding

3. Show picture 3 on screen.

Answer: A mince pie

4. Show picture 4 on screen.

Answer: Mistletoe

5. Show picture 5 on screen.

Answer: A Christmas cracker

6. Show picture 6 on screen.

Answer: A poinsettia

7. Show picture 7 on screen.

Answer: A candy cane

8. Show picture 8 on screen.

Answer: A nutcracker (soldier figure)

9. Show picture 9 on screen.

Answer: A snow globe

10. Show picture 10 on screen.

Answer: Holly

Round 5: Christmas Music & Film

Say: "Festive tunes and telly."

1. Which 1946 Frank Capra film follows George Bailey on Christmas Eve?

Answer: It's a Wonderful Life

2. Which duo released 'Last Christmas' in 1984?

Answer: Wham!

3. Which singer duets with Shane MacGowan on The Pogues' 'Fairytale of New York'?

Answer: Kirsty MacColl

4. What is the name of the boy played by Macaulay Culkin in 'Home Alone' (1990)?

Answer: Kevin McCallister

5. Which band released 'Merry Xmas Everybody' in December 1973?

Answer: Slade

6. Who plays Buddy in the 2003 film 'Elf'?

Answer: Will Ferrell

7. In which year was Mariah Carey's 'All I Want for Christmas Is You' first released?

Answer: 1994

8. Which actor plays Scrooge in 'The Muppet Christmas Carol' (1992)?

Answer: Michael Caine

9. Bob Geldof co-wrote Band Aid's 'Do They Know It's Christmas?' with which Ultravox singer?

Answer: Midge Ure

10. Which 1982 animated film, based on Raymond Briggs' book, features the song 'Walking in the Air'?

Answer: The Snowman

Round 6: General Knowledge

Say: "A bit of everything to finish."

1. What is the capital city of Australia?

Answer: Canberra

2. What is the highest mountain in England? (Clue: it is in the Lake District.)

Answer: Scafell Pike

3. What is the largest natural lake in England?

Answer: Windermere

4. What is the longest river in Great Britain?

Answer: The River Severn

5. What is the chemical symbol for gold?

Answer: Au

6. In which year was the Battle of Hastings?

Answer: 1066

7. How many players does each rugby union team start with on the field?

Answer: 15

8. Which planet is known as the Red Planet?

Answer: Mars

9. Who painted the Mona Lisa?

Answer: Leonardo da Vinci

10. How many sides does a hexagon have?

Answer: Six

Tie-break

Closest wins: At the 2021 census, what was the population of Cockermouth's built-up area?

Answer: 8,860 (source: Wikipedia, Cockermouth - citing ONS 2021 census).

Closing: "Thank you all for coming - Merry Christmas from everyone at The Bitter End!"