MEGAN MORAN QUIZZES

Christmas pub quiz

60 questions in 6 rounds, plus a tie-breaker. Read each question out and give teams a moment to write their answers. The host's answer sheet (with a fact to share for each answer) and a team answer sheet to print for every table come after the questions.

Round 1: Christmas general knowledge

1. Which of Santa's reindeer shares its name with the Roman god of love?
2. What do naughty children traditionally find in their Christmas stockings instead of presents?
3. In the carol The Twelve Days of Christmas, which birds are given on the second day?
4. What color are the berries of European mistletoe?
5. Which silent film star, creator of the Little Tramp, died at his home in Switzerland on Christmas Day 1977?
6. The winter-flowering Christmas rose isn't a true rose at all. To which genus of garden plants does it belong?
7. In 1897, which New York newspaper answered eight-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon with the editorial "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus"?
8. A Christingle, carried at many children's Christmas services, is a candle pushed into which fruit?
9. Which small glassmaking town in Thuringia, Germany, is famous as the birthplace of the glass Christmas bauble?
10. The French word Noël comes from the Latin word natalis. What does natalis mean?

Round 2: Christmas films

1. Which actor plays Buddy, the human raised by elves, in Elf (2003)?
2. Which actor plays New York cop John McClane in Die Hard (1988)?
3. In Gremlins (1984), what is the name of the cute mogwai that Billy is given as a Christmas present?
4. Which 1992 superhero sequel, set at Christmas in Gotham City, stars Danny DeVito as the Penguin?
5. Which 1983 comedy, set over Christmas and New Year, sees Dan Aykroyd and Eddie Murphy swap places as a broker and a street hustler?
6. In A Christmas Story (1983), what does Ralphie want more than anything for Christmas?
7. Which actor played Ebenezer Scrooge in Robert Zemeckis's 2009 motion-capture film A Christmas Carol?
8. In The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992), which Muppet plays the author Charles Dickens, narrating the story?
9. In Love Actually (2003), what is the name of the aging rock star, played by Bill Nighy, who releases a Christmas single?

10. In Home Alone (1990), what is the title of the black-and-white gangster movie Kevin plays to scare people away?

Round 3: Christmas music

1. Which 'King of Rock and Roll' released a Christmas album in 1957 that includes 'Blue Christmas'?
2. Which former Beatle released the 1979 single 'Wonderful Christmastime'?
3. Which British star released the festive single 'Step into Christmas' in 1973?
4. Which Puerto Rican singer-songwriter wrote and first recorded 'Feliz Navidad' in 1970?
5. Which singer-songwriter wrote and recorded 'Driving Home for Christmas', first released in 1986?
6. Which brother-and-sister duo released the festive single 'Merry Christmas Darling' in 1970?
7. Which composer's Christmas Oratorio, a set of six cantatas, was first performed in Leipzig over Christmas 1734 and New Year 1735?
8. Which singer, later famous as Catwoman on TV, was the first to record 'Santa Baby' in 1953?
9. Who wrote 'Jingle Bells', first published in Boston in 1857?
10. Which songwriter wrote both 'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer' and 'Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree'?

Round 4: Food and drink

1. Which nuts, sold hot from street carts in winter, are traditionally roasted at Christmas?
2. Gammon, a Christmas favorite in Britain and Ireland, is cured meat from which animal?
3. Which sweet fortified wine, often served with cheese and nuts after Christmas dinner, comes from Portugal's Douro Valley?
4. Which spice, often grated over eggnog, comes from the same seed as mace?
5. In the US, what is the name for a sweet sauce of butter, sugar and brandy or rum, like Britain's brandy butter?
6. The German Christmas cookies Pfeffernüsse are named after nuts and which spice?
7. The suet in traditional Christmas pudding and mincemeat is hard fat taken from around which organs?
8. Pavlova, a meringue dessert often served at Christmas in Australia and New Zealand, is named after a ballerina from which country?
9. Clementines are named after a French missionary brother who found them growing at his orphanage in which North African country?
10. Which Swedish soft drink, created in 1910 as a non-alcoholic alternative to beer, is a Christmas favorite in Sweden?

Round 5: Christmas around the world

1. In which language is Father Christmas called Père Noël?
2. Bondi Beach, famous for its Christmas Day crowds, is in which Australian city?

3. In Japan, Christmas Eve is popularly treated as a romantic night for couples, much like which other holiday?
4. Which Canadian province sends Boston its official Christmas tree each year, in thanks for help after the 1917 Halifax Explosion?
5. Spain's huge Christmas lottery prize is nicknamed 'El Gordo'. What does El Gordo literally mean?
6. In Greek tradition, which saint brings children their presents on January 1?
7. On December 7 in Guatemala, people burn effigies of which figure, along with household trash, to mark the start of the Christmas season?
8. Which city in Alsace, home to a Christmas market dating from 1570, calls itself the 'Capital of Christmas'?
9. Via San Gregorio Armeno, a street lined with workshops making nativity figures, is in which Italian city?
10. Which native tree, whose crimson flowers peak in December, is known as the New Zealand Christmas tree?

Round 6: History and traditions

1. In the Nativity story, baby Jesus is laid in a manger. What is a manger?
2. Which two animals are traditionally shown beside the manger in nativity scenes, even though the Gospels never mention them?
3. The word Advent comes from the Latin adventus. What does adventus mean?
4. According to Luke's Gospel, which Roman emperor ordered the census that took Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem?
5. Western tradition names the three Magi as Caspar, Melchior and who?
6. In a famous legend, St. Nicholas secretly threw bags of gold through a poor man's window to pay for what for his three daughters?
7. On Christmas Day 1991, which leader resigned as president of the Soviet Union?
8. Which saint is credited with staging the first live nativity scene, in a cave near Greccio, Italy, at Christmas 1223?
9. In 1614, which German astronomer linked the Star of Bethlehem to a series of conjunctions of Jupiter and Saturn in 7 BC?
10. The monk Bede wrote that pagan Anglo-Saxons called the night we now celebrate as Christmas 'Modranicht'. What does it mean?

Tie-breaker (closest answer wins)

TB. Santa sets off south from the North Pole. To the nearest hundred miles, how far is it along the Earth's surface from the North Pole to the equator?

Answer sheet

For the host. The facts in gray are extras to read out after each answer.

Round 1: Christmas general knowledge

1. **Cupid**
   Cupid's Greek counterpart is Eros, and he is usually shown as a winged child with a bow and arrows.
2. **A lump of coal (accept coal)**
   In Italy, the 'coal' that La Befana leaves for naughty children is often a black sugar candy called carbone dolce.
3. **Turtle doves (accept doves)**
   Turtle doves are summer visitors to Britain and spend the winter in West Africa, so you'd struggle to find any at Christmas.
4. **White**
   Mistletoe is a hemiparasite: it makes some of its own food by photosynthesis but draws water and nutrients from its host tree.
5. **Charlie Chaplin (accept Chaplin)**
   In 1978 his coffin was stolen for ransom and was found 11 weeks later buried in a cornfield.
6. **Hellebore (accept Helleborus or black hellebore)**
   It is a member of the buttercup family, and all parts of the plant are toxic if eaten.
7. **The Sun (accept The New York Sun)**
   It was written by the paper's editor Francis Pharcellus Church, who was revealed as its author only after his death in 1906.
8. **An orange**
   The custom began in the Moravian Church in Germany in 1747, at first as just a red ribbon tied around a candle.
9. **Lauscha**
   The earliest documented order for its glass Christmas balls, six dozen in assorted sizes, dates from 1848.
10. **Birth (accept birthday or natal)**
    The English word 'natal' comes from the very same Latin root.

Round 2: Christmas films

1. **Will Ferrell**
   James Caan plays Buddy's long-lost father, the children's book publisher Walter Hobbs.
2. **Bruce Willis**
   Willis was then best known for the TV comedy-drama Moonlighting, and he was paid $5 million for the role.
3. **Gizmo**
   Gizmo was voiced by comedian Howie Mandel.
4. **Batman Returns**
   It was directed by Tim Burton as the follow-up to his 1989 film Batman.
5. **Trading Places**
   A 2010 US law banning trading on misappropriated government information is nicknamed the 'Eddie Murphy rule' after its finale.
6. **A Red Ryder BB gun (accept BB gun or air rifle)**
   The Cleveland house used as the Parker family home has been restored and opened to the public as A Christmas Story House.
7. **Jim Carrey**
   Carrey also played all three of the ghosts who visit Scrooge.

8. **Gonzo (accept The Great Gonzo)**
   He narrates alongside Rizzo the Rat; director Brian Henson said Gonzo was chosen because he was the least likely choice to play Dickens.
9. **Billy Mack**
   His single, 'Christmas Is All Around,' reworks the Troggs song 'Love Is All Around,' a 15-week UK No. 1 for Wet Wet Wet in 1994.
10. **Angels with Filthy Souls**
    The film-within-a-film was shot specially for Home Alone, and its title spoofs the 1938 gangster classic Angels with Dirty Faces.

Round 3: Christmas music

1. **Elvis Presley (accept Elvis)**
   Elvis' Christmas Album became the first Presley title to be certified Diamond in the US.
2. **Paul McCartney**
   Although his band Wings appears in the music video, McCartney recorded the song on his own.
3. **Elton John**
   It was mixed to imitate the 'Wall of Sound' style of producer Phil Spector.
4. **José Feliciano (accept Feliciano)**
   His original recording was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 2010.
5. **Chris Rea**
   He began writing the lyrics in 1978 while stuck in snowy traffic as his wife drove him home from London to Middlesbrough.
6. **The Carpenters (accept Karen and Richard Carpenter)**
   Richard Carpenter wrote the melody in 1966 for old lyrics by his college choir director, Frank Pooler.
7. **Johann Sebastian Bach (accept Bach or J. S. Bach)**
   Bach reused much of its music from secular cantatas he had written earlier in praise of royalty and local dignitaries.
8. **Eartha Kitt**
   The song was written by Joan Javits and Philip Springer, and Kitt recorded it in New York City.
9. **James Lord Pierpont (accept Pierpont)**
   Pierpont was the uncle of the famous financier J. P. Morgan.
10. **Johnny Marks**
    Marks also set Longfellow's poem 'Christmas Bells' to music as 'I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day,' recorded by Bing Crosby in 1956.

Round 4: Food and drink

1. **Chestnuts**
   Unlike most nuts, chestnuts are low in fat and contain about twice as much starch as potatoes.
2. **Pig (accept pork or hog)**
   Unlike dry-cured hams such as prosciutto, gammon must be cooked before it is eaten.
3. **Port**
   Under EU rules, only wines from Portugal may be labeled 'port.'
4. **Nutmeg**
   Mace is made from the lacy red covering of the nutmeg seed, and the tree is native to Indonesia's Banda Islands.
5. **Hard sauce**
   It is served cold, often with hot desserts such as Christmas pudding and mince pies.
6. **Pepper**
   Despite the name, they don't have to contain nuts; they're simply roughly nut-sized.

7. **The kidneys (accept kidneys and loins)**
   It usually comes from beef, lamb or mutton.
8. **Russia (accept the Russian Empire)**
   Both Australia and New Zealand claim to have invented it, in honor of Anna Pavlova's tours there in the 1920s.
9. **Algeria**
   Genetic studies show the clementine is a cross between a sweet orange and a Mediterranean mandarin.
10. **Julmust**
    The same drink is sold at Easter as påskmust, and its syrup is still made only by the Roberts company in Örebro.

Round 5: Christmas around the world

1. **French**
   French children traditionally leave their shoes by the fireplace on Christmas Eve for Père Noël to fill.
2. **Sydney**
   The beach lies about 7 km (4 miles) east of Sydney's city center.
3. **Valentine's Day**
   December 25 is not a national public holiday in Japan, so most people work as usual.
4. **Nova Scotia**
   Halifax first sent a tree in 1918, and the gift became a yearly tradition in 1971.
5. **The fat one (accept the big one)**
   The winning numbers are sung out by pupils of Madrid's San Ildefonso school at the draw every December 22.
6. **St. Basil (accept Agios Vasilis)**
   Greek families also cut a New Year cake called vasilopita, with a coin hidden inside for one lucky person.
7. **The devil**
   The tradition, La Quema del Diablo, starts at 6 p.m. on the eve of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.
8. **Strasbourg**
   Its Alsatian name, Christkindelsmärik, means 'market of the Christ Child.'
9. **Naples**
   Some of its craftsmen also make figurines of people who hit the headlines that year.
10. **Pohutukawa**
    Maori regard it as a chiefly tree, or rakau rangatira.

Round 6: History and traditions

1. **A feeding trough for animals**
   The word comes from the Old French mangier, meaning 'to eat'.
2. **An ox and a donkey (accept cow and donkey, or ox and ass)**
   The tradition is linked to Isaiah 1:3, which says the ox knows its owner and the donkey its master's crib.
3. **Coming (accept arrival)**
   Early Christians used adventus to translate the Greek word parousia, which referred to the Second Coming of Christ.
4. **Caesar Augustus (accept Augustus)**
   Luke also names Quirinius as the governor of Syria at the time of the census.
5. **Balthazar (accept Balthasar)**
   The Bible never names the Magi; their names come from later tradition.
6. **Their dowries (accept so they could marry)**
   In art, Nicholas is often shown holding three purses or three gold balls in memory of the story.

7. **Mikhail Gorbachev (accept Gorbachev)**
That evening, the Soviet flag was lowered over the Kremlin for the last time and replaced by the Russian tricolor.

8. **St. Francis of Assisi (accept Francis)**
The event is described by St. Bonaventure in his Life of St. Francis, written around 1260.

9. **Johannes Kepler (accept Kepler)**
Modern calculations show the two planets stayed nearly a degree apart, so the conjunctions would not have looked very striking.

10. **Night of the mothers (accept Mothers' Night)**
Bede recorded this in his eighth-century work The Reckoning of Time, and suspected the pagans held rituals during the night.

Tie-breaker

TB. **About 6,200 miles (6,215 miles, or about 10,002 km)**
In the 1790s, France defined the meter as one ten-millionth of this distance.

Team answer sheet

Print one for each team. 60 questions plus a tie-breaker.

Team name _____

Round 1: Christmas general knowledge

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Score _____ / 10

Round 2: Christmas films

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Score _____ / 10

Round 3: Christmas music

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Score _____ / 10

Round 4: Food and drink

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Score _____ / 10

Round 5: Christmas around the world

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Score _____ / 10

Round 6: History and traditions

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Score _____ / 10

Tie-breaker

TB _____

Total score _____ / 60