

The Pub Quiz

The set for your quiz night

Twenty questions on the decline of the German pub, in four rounds, with two bar rounds in between. Everything for the night is here: questions, answers, and answer sheets for the tables.

How the evening runs

1 Print in advance

Print this booklet once, for behind the bar. Print the answer sheet as many times as you have tables playing — it comes on two separate sheets, ready to copy.

2 Read out the question

For multiple-choice questions, read out all four options. For guessing questions, the order of magnitude is what counts: the tolerance band is printed with every question, and anyone who guesses inside it gets the point.

3 Read out the answer

The answers are written to be read aloud — they are the best part of the evening. Don't skip them, even if everyone got it right.

4 Keep score

One point for each correct answer, half a point in the bar rounds — so the main questions decide the evening. Twenty-seven points are possible; call out the score once after every round.

5 Hand out the lines

The last sheet carries the twenty lines from the main rounds. Copy it and put it on the tables at the end — that way the evening goes home with everyone.

Three things that make the evening better

- For a short evening, Round 1 and the first bar round are enough.
- The figures surprise people — leave a pause after the answer, a story from the table almost always follows.
- Every claim has a source; it's printed under the answer. If someone asks, you can name it.

What's in this booklet

- Four rounds of five questions each, with answers and sources
- Two bar rounds of pub lore — fourteen questions, half points
- The answer sheet to copy, two sheets
- One sheet with the twenty lines from the main rounds

Round 1 · The state of play

How bad is it really?

1 GUESSING QUESTION

In 2002 there were around 46,500 pubs in Germany. How many are there today?

Regler von 5,000 bis 50,000 pubs

Point for a guess between 18,000 and 25,000.

Answer: around 21,000

More than half of all pubs have disappeared since the turn of the millennium — the VAT statistics record around 21,000 licensed drinking establishments for 2022. This is no longer a gradual shift, it is a structural break. It rarely makes headlines, because each individual closure looks small.

Worth keeping: Since 2002: more than half of all pubs gone.

Source: Destatis VAT statistics, time series (German) (2025)

One series, one source: VAT statistics from Destatis, the federal statistics office, category WZ 56.3 (German).

2 FOUR OPTIONS

How many pubs does Germany lose on average — net, meaning after all new openings are subtracted?

A) one a week

B) one a day

✓ C) three a day

D) ten a day

Answer: three a day

Calculated from the Destatis time series: around 25,500 fewer businesses in twenty years, so about 1,300 a year, or a good three a day. That is a net figure — new openings are already subtracted, so more than that actually close. In the time it takes to play this quiz, another piece of a village centre has gone.

Worth keeping: Three pubs a day.

Source: Destatis VAT statistics, time series (German) (2025)

Our own calculation from the Destatis time series (46,500 in 2002 down to around 21,000 in 2022).

3 GUESSING QUESTION

Berlin once had around 20,000 corner and neighbourhood pubs. How many are left today?

Regler von 100 bis 5,000 pubs

Point for a guess between 300 and 900.

Answer: around 500

In the very city that counts as Germany's pub capital, the classic corner pub has all but disappeared — pushed out by rents, bars and cafés. What is left is being rediscovered by a young generation.

Worth keeping: Berlin: around 500 of 20,000 corner pubs are left.

Source: DEHOGA Berlin, via Tageskarte (German) (2023)

4 TRUE OR FALSE

In Saxony-Anhalt there are municipalities without a single pub or restaurant left.

✓ **True**

False

Answer: True — 18 municipalities

Between 2010 and 2024, 841 hospitality businesses closed there; in small towns one in three disappeared. No pub means no room for the fire brigade party, the card night, the funeral reception. The village then literally has no living room left.

Worth keeping: 18 municipalities in Saxony-Anhalt: not a single pub left.

Source: Saxony-Anhalt parliamentary question (German) (2026)

5 FOUR OPTIONS

How is drinks-led hospitality — the classic pub — doing economically today compared with 2019 (in real terms, so after price rises are stripped out)?

A) about the same

B) around 10% below

C) around 25% below

✓ **D) around 40% below**

Answer: around 40% below — precisely 39.7% down

The pub is by far the weakest segment of the entire hospitality sector; the industry as a whole is 14.8% down. Covid was the accelerant, not the cause. The cause runs deeper: costs, changing consumption and a night out that has moved into the living room and onto the phone.

Worth keeping: The pub is hospitality's weakest link: 40% down in real terms since 2019.

Source: DEHOGA figures Q4/2025 (PDF, German) (2025)

Bar round 1 · Pub lore

Where does all this actually come from?

This round counts half: half a point for each correct answer.

101 FOUR OPTIONS

Where does the German word Kneipe, meaning pub, come from?

- A) from the waitress's pinch
- ✓ **B) from 18th-century student slang**
- C) from the Dutch knijp for the beer tap
- D) from Kneipp, the water-cure doctor

Answer: from 18th-century student slang

The Kneipschenke appeared in Upper Saxon German in the 18th century, and student slang shortened it to Kneipe. Probably — the dictionary puts it that cautiously — the root is kneipen, to squeeze or press together: the oppressively narrow room. What was meant first was the small, second-rate tavern. The mocking name became a badge of honour, because the tight space was never the shortcoming. It is the concept: sit shoulder to shoulder and you end up talking.

Worth keeping: The tight space is the concept.

Source: DWDS, word history of “Kneipe” (German) (2026)

The DWDS (German) calls the derivation from kneipen 'probable' — so it stands here as a conjecture, not as a fact.

102 FOUR OPTIONS

The English word pub is short for what?

- A) public bar
- ✓ **B) public house**
- C) people's union bar
- D) not short for anything

Answer: public house

Pub has been recorded as a short form of public house since 1859 — literally the house open to the public. The English wrote into the word what a pub is: a living room that belongs to everyone. That is exactly what researchers mean when they talk about the third place — the place alongside home and work.

Worth keeping: Pub means public house: the living room for everyone.

Source: Online Etymology Dictionary, “pub” (2026)

103 FOUR OPTIONS

The Reinheitsgebot of 1516, Germany's beer purity law, permits water, barley and hops. Which ingredient is missing, the one without which there is no beer?

- A) carbon dioxide
- B) sugar
- ✓ C) yeast
- D) salt

Answer: yeast

The 1516 wording names only Gersten, Hopffen und Wasser — barley, hops and water. That does not mean yeast was unknown: the Bamberg ordinance of 1489 listed it explicitly, and brewers had always used it. What was unknown was how it worked. Only around 340 years later did Pasteur show that yeast turns malt sugar into alcohol and carbon dioxide. So the carbon dioxide in the glass is the work of the yeast — not an ingredient.

Worth keeping: Yeast is missing from the Reinheitsgebot. It did the brewing anyway.

Sources: Historical Lexicon of Bavaria (German) (2026) · German Brewers' Association (German) (2026)

Two sources (German): the wording of the ordinance in the Historisches Lexikon Bayerns, and the explanation ('how it worked was not yet known') from the Deutscher Brauer-Bund.

104 GUESSING QUESTION

Eilsbrunn in Bavaria is home to what the Guinness Book of Records calls the world's oldest continuously run inn. Since when has it been serving there without a break?

- Regler von 1200 bis 1950
- Point for a guess between 1600 and 1720.

Answer: 1658

The Gaststätte Röhl has been serving since 1658, in family hands, by now in the eleventh generation; the Guinness Book of Records confirmed it in 2010. More than three and a half centuries of wars, crises and fashions — and still open. Pub closures are no law of nature. There has always been a way to carry on.

Worth keeping: Open without a break since 1658 — the decline of the pub is no law of nature.

Source: Gaststätte Röhl, Eilsbrunn (German) (2026)

105 GUESSING QUESTION

Roughly how many breweries are there in Germany today?

- Regler von 200 bis 3,000 breweries
- Point for a guess between 1,100 and 1,900.

Answer: around 1,400

Destatis, Germany's federal statistical office, counts exactly 1,415 breweries for 2025, 588 of them in Bavaria — more than in almost any other country in the world. So the decline of the pub is not down to the beer. They are down to the places where people drink it together. Although this figure points downwards too: in 2024 there were still 1,459.

Worth keeping: Around 1,400 breweries. What is missing is not the beer, but the place.

Source: Destatis, brewing industry 2025 (German) (2026)

106 FOUR OPTIONS**What is a Herrengedeck?**

- A) a place setting reserved for the Stammtisch, the regulars' table
- ✓ B) **beer plus Korn, a grain schnapps**
- C) the landlord's breakfast
- D) two beers at once

Answer: beer plus Korn, a grain schnapps

A beer and a schnapps, served side by side — the classic of the Eckkneipe, the corner pub. What exactly stands beside the beer is a regional matter, though: Korn in the Ruhr area, Jägermeister in Berlin, a Piccolo of Sekt, a small bottle of German sparkling wine, in eastern Germany and Hamburg. So anyone calling out 'round here it's Sekt' is right as well. The name stays a wink everywhere: Gedeck sounds like fine dining and means the opposite.

Worth keeping: Herrengedeck: a beer, a schnapps — the rest is a regional matter.

Sources: DWDS, "Herrengedeck" (German) (2026) · Wikipedia, regional variants (German) (2026)

The core — a beer and a schnapps — is in the DWDS (German). The regional variants we summarise from Wikipedia; there is no institutional source for them.

107 FOUR OPTIONS**What is the waiter called in a Cologne Brauhaus, the pub attached to a brewery?**

- A) Schängche
- ✓ B) **Köbes**
- C) Halver Hahn
- D) Zappes

Answer: Köbes

The name goes back to Jakobus, which in the Kölsch dialect becomes Köbes. With it come a blue woollen jumper, a leather apron, a leather money pouch and the metal Kranz full of Kölsch glasses — plus a gruffness that is part of the ritual: refills arrive unasked until the guest puts a beer mat on top of the glass. Ordering in a Brauhaus is not a service, it is a game.

Worth keeping: The Köbes keeps bringing refills until the beer mat goes on the glass.

Source: KölnTourismus on the Köbes (German) (2026)

108 FOUR OPTIONS**In the Ruhr region, what is a "Trinkhalle"?**

- A) a sports hall with a bar
- ✓ B) **the Būdchen, the kiosk on the corner**
- C) a style of beer tent
- D) a brewery warehouse

Answer: the Būdchen, the kiosk on the corner

Kiosk, meeting point and news exchange in one. The huts appeared from the 1870s onwards — as Trinkhallen, drinking halls for industrially bottled mineral water — and later often secured a living for disabled war veterans and miners' widows. In 2020 the state of North Rhine-Westphalia recognised them as intangible cultural heritage. Of once more than 20,000 kiosks, around 2,000 are left: the same story as the decline of the pub, only in pocket format.

Worth keeping: Of 20,000 Būdchen, around 2,000 are left.

Source: LVR Institute for Regional Studies (German) (2026)

109 FOUR OPTIONS

Altenburg in Thuringia, the birthplace of Skat, the German card game, still has an institution of its own today. Which one?

- A) a Skat ministry
- ✓ B) the International Skat Court
- C) a Skat university
- D) a monument to the jack

Answer: the International Skat Court

Founded in 1927 at the 11th Skat congress in Altenburg — initially to turn the regionally differing ways of playing into a single set of rules. To this day it rules on disputes from the pub table in writing and with reasons given; in 2011 there were more than 400 enquiries. Perhaps the most German institution there is: even the Stammtisch, the regulars' table, has a court of appeal.

Worth keeping: Even the Stammtisch has a court of appeal.

Source: German Skat Federation (German) (2026)

110 FOUR OPTIONS

Why are so many village inns in Brandenburg and northern Germany called “Krug”, the German word for jug?

- A) after the beer jug
- ✓ B) “Krug” is an old northern German word for a public house
- C) after a landlord family named Krug
- D) pure coincidence

Answer: “Krug” is an old northern German word for a public house

Middle Low German “krch” meant inn or tavern — it also gave Dutch “kroeg”; in the 16th century the word moved into standard German. With the “Krugrecht”, the jug right, the sovereign granted the licence to serve drinks commercially, often tied to the right to brew. That made the village Krug frequently older than the school and the parish office — and it was wanted by the authorities: a village needed a place to negotiate, celebrate and argue. Anyone closing the last Krug today closes an institution that was considered indispensable for centuries.

Worth keeping: The village Krug was wanted by the authorities — older than the school and the parish office.

Sources: DWDS, “Krug” (German) (2026) · German Legal Dictionary (German) (2026)

Two sources (German): the word in the DWDS dictionary, the Krugrecht in the Deutsches Rechtswörterbuch of the Heidelberg Academy. The DWDS explicitly does not cover the Krugrecht.

Round 2 · The economics

Why does nothing add up?

6 GUESSING QUESTION

A beer costs €3.00 in a village pub. How much of that is left for the pub as profit?

Regler von 0 bis 150 cents

Point for a guess between 0 and 10.

Answer: around 2 cents

First, 48 cents go on VAT — 19%, because the reduced rate does not apply to drinks. Very little of the rest survives: industry figures put the margin in drinks-led hospitality at between minus 2 and plus 3 cents per euro of turnover, which on a €3 beer comes to a few cents — or a loss. That is why every single regulars' table decides whether a pub lives or dies.

Worth keeping: A €3 beer leaves the pub around 2 cents.

Sources: DEHOGA figures Q4/2025 (PDF, German) (2025) · Gastroinsider, industry benchmarks (German) (2026)

The documented figure is the margin per euro of turnover (minus 2 to plus 3 cents). The 48 cents of VAT and the conversion to a €3 beer are our own calculation.

7 FOUR OPTIONS

Of every euro of turnover — what is a pub's biggest cost?

A) buying in the drinks

✓ **B) staff**

C) rent

D) energy

Answer: staff — around 40 cents of every euro

Buying in the drinks comes just behind at 28 to 32 cents; rent and energy follow well back. No other part of the hospitality trade earns as little turnover per worker as the pub. Many village pubs only survive because the landlady leaves her own wage out of the sums — that is not a strategy, that is the stage before closure.

Worth keeping: The biggest cost is the person behind the bar — and often they go unpaid.

Sources: DEHOGA figures Q4/2025 (PDF, German) (2025) · Federal agriculture ministry, hospitality statistics (German) (2026)

8 TRUE OR FALSE

The big VAT cut for hospitality (7% instead of 19%) helps pubs most of all.

True

✓ **False**

Answer: False

The 7% rate has applied permanently since 2026 — but only to food. Drinks stay at 19%, so the drinks-led pub gains almost nothing from the biggest tax relief hospitality has seen in years. A side effect that was easy to foresee: a pub that puts on a lunch menu has the tax system behind it.

Worth keeping: 7% only applies to the schnitzel — the beer still pays 19%.

Source: Tax Amendment Act 2025 (German) (2025)

9 GUESSING QUESTION

In 2013 every person in Germany drank an average of 106 litres of beer a year. How much was it in 2023?

Regler von 60 bis 120 litres

Point for a guess between 80 and 96.

Answer: 88 litres

The decline is not a pub trend but a social one — and it is an opportunity: landladies report that alcohol-free orders are rising, especially among young guests. The pub of the future runs on company, not on alcohol.

Worth keeping: It's about company, not alcohol — alcohol-free brings in new guests.

Source: watson.de feature (Osnabrück University, German) (2025)

10 FOUR OPTIONS

Electronic dartboard, pinball machine, pool table, jukebox: what does this kit usually cost a pub?

A) the full price of a new machine

B) a monthly rental

✓ C) **nothing — the operator supplies them free and shares the takings**

D) that doesn't exist any more

Answer: nothing — the operator supplies them free

The operator model is as old as the jukebox: the machine operator brings the equipment, services it and splits the takings with the landlord. No investment, a steady extra income. And it is darts, table football and pinball of all things that are pulling young people back into the pub.

Worth keeping: The dartboard costs the pub nothing — and brings in the young.

Sources: Hotelier.de on gaming machine contracts (German) (2026) · watson.de feature (Osnabrück University, German) (2025)

Round 3 · The human side

What does the pub do to us?

11 GUESSING QUESTION

People without a local pub have 6.0 close friends on average. How many do people with a local pub have?

Regler von 4.0 bis 10.0 close friends
Point for a guess between 6.6 and 7.8.

Answer: 7.2

More than one friend's difference — measured by the Oxford research group around Robin Dunbar. People with a local pub also trust others more and are more satisfied with their lives. In small neighbourhood pubs, conversations are demonstrably longer and more personal than in large venues.

Worth keeping: A local pub: one more close friend on average.

Sources: Dunbar et al. 2017 (peer-reviewed) (2017) · Dunbar, "Friends on Tap" (CAMRA) (2016)
Listed first is the peer-reviewed 2017 version; the original study was a commissioned report for the pub organisation CAMRA.

12 FOUR OPTIONS

Which age group in Germany most often feels severely lonely?

- A) people over 75
- B) people aged 55 to 65
- ✓ C) young adults
- D) all of them about equally

Answer: young adults — 14.1%

The figure comes from the 2024 Einsamkeitsbarometer, the federal loneliness report, using data from 2021. Loneliness is not an old people's issue — and that is exactly what explains one of the most surprising trends of the moment: the generation that grew up with the smartphone is rediscovering the pub. A dartboard instead of a screen, a real round instead of a group chat.

Worth keeping: The loneliest are the young — and they are rediscovering the pub right now.

Source: Loneliness Barometer 2024, federal family ministry (PDF, German) (2024)

13 TRUE OR FALSE

People in eastern Germany feel lonelier than people in the west.

- True
- ✓ False

Answer: False

The data show no east-west difference in loneliness; the biggest risk factor is a low income. What is disappearing disproportionately in the east are the places: in the Uckermark district, half of all licensed drinking establishments closed between 2010 and 2023. The problem is not how people feel — it is the infrastructure for meeting each other.

Worth keeping: The east is not lonelier — it is missing the places.

Sources: DIW Weekly Report 5/2025 (German) (2025) · Tagesspiegel on the Uckermark (German) (2025)

14 FOUR OPTIONS

Being socially well connected affects life expectancy about as much as ...

- A) an apple a day
- B) a gym membership
- ✓ C) giving up smoking
- D) not measurable at all

Answer: giving up smoking

An analysis of 148 studies shows that people with strong social relationships have a roughly 50% higher likelihood of survival — an effect as large as that of giving up smoking. Keeping up friendships is preventive health care. So are the places where friendships form along the way.

Worth keeping: Community works like giving up smoking — it just tastes better.

Source: Holt-Lunstad et al. 2010, PLOS Medicine (2010)

15 FOUR OPTIONS

Chicago, heatwave of 1995, more than 700 dead. Two almost identical, equally poor neighbourhoods had completely different death rates. What made the difference?

- A) more money
- B) more hospitals
- C) more air conditioning
- ✓ D) busy streets, shops and meeting places

Answer: busy streets, shops and meeting places

The finding comes from Eric Klinenberg's study of the heatwave, "Heat Wave" (2002): the neighbourhood with intact everyday places was among the safest in the whole city, because people who know each other by sight look out for one another. Klinenberg coined the term "social infrastructure" later, in "Palaces for the People" (2018) — meaning places as vital to survival as the power and water networks. The pub is one of them.

Worth keeping: Places where people know each other save lives when it matters.

Source: Klinenberg, "Heat Wave" / "Palaces for the People" (2018)

Two works, one source: the Chicago finding from "Heat Wave" (2002), the term from "Palaces for the People" (2018).

Bar round 2 · Myths at the bar

Which of them are actually true?

This round counts half: half a point for each correct answer.

111 TRUE OR FALSE

A good Pils takes seven minutes to pour.

True

✓ False

Answer: False — two to three minutes are enough

The trade view: the whole pouring process takes two to at most three minutes, after which the glass belongs empty in two or three goes. The seven-minute rule dates from the era of old beer taps, when a Pils also had considerably more carbonation than it does today. After seven minutes the beer is not better but flat and too warm — and pouring in advance counts as an absolute no-no in the craft of pulling a beer.

Worth keeping: Seven minutes make no better Pils, only a warmer one.

Source: HOGAPAGE on pouring time (German) (2026)

112 TRUE OR FALSE

Clinking glasses comes from the Middle Ages: a hearty clink made beer slop over into the other glass, ruling out poisoning.

True

✓ False

Answer: False — a fine legend

The poison explanation cannot be clearly documented — that is the honest state of things. There is even a competing explanation: in the 16th century, loudly clinking glasses counted as audible proof that the host could put a glass of their own in front of every guest. Drinking a toast in its present form can be traced in the German-speaking world from the 18th century onwards. The poison story keeps being told all the same, and that too is pub culture: at the bar, the best story is often more important than the true one. Now you know both.

Worth keeping: The poison story is not documented. It gets told anyway.

Source: Wikipedia, "Zutrinken" (German) (2026)

A deliberate exception for Wikipedia (German article): there is no institutional source for the legend or its counter-explanation. What is documented here is mainly what is not documented.

113 TRUE OR FALSE

The Bierdeckel, the German beer mat, was invented as a coaster.

True

✓ **False**

Answer: False — the name comes from covering

In the 19th century wealthy guests drank from Seidel tankards with a pewter or silver lid, ordinary people from jugs without one. Felt discs served as coasters — the same felt discs that people laid on top of the jug outdoors so that neither leaves nor insects fell into the beer. The name comes from that covering function: Deckel means lid. So it was a coaster as well, but it is named after the lid. From about 1880 it was made of cardboard and printed on; in 1903 industrial production started in the Murg valley — and alongside it came its career as a notepad, calculation sheet and tally list.

Worth keeping: The Bierdeckel is named after the lid, not after standing under the glass.

Sources: HOGAPAGE on the history of the beer mat (German) (2026) · Wikipedia, “Bierdeckel” (German) (2026)
The core — beer felts as coasters and as covers, the name from covering — comes from HOGAPAGE (German); Wikipedia adds the manufacturing history from 1880 onwards.

114 TRUE OR FALSE

“Prost” is a thoroughly German word.

True

✓ **False**

Answer: False — it is Latin

“Prosit” is Latin, the third person singular subjunctive of “prodesse”, to be of use — literally “may it be of benefit”. In the middle of the 16th century the word came into German, first as a wish after a sneeze, then as a toast. Anyone clinking glasses has been speaking a small Latin blessing ever since, one that originally belonged to sneezing. In that spirit: Prosit — to the pub.

Worth keeping: Prost is Latin: “may it be of benefit”.

Source: DWDS, “prosit” (German) (2026)

Round 4 · The comeback

What actually helps?

16 FOUR OPTIONS

North Rhine-Westphalia funds “third places” — venues for culture and getting together in rural areas — with up to €450,000 over three years. What happened when the funding ran out?

- A) Most of the places supported themselves
- ✓ B) The state had to add follow-up funding
- C) The municipalities took over
- D) The programme was discontinued

Answer: The state had to add follow-up funding

Even places funded this generously did not support themselves after three years — the state added stabilisation funding: €120,000 over three more years, less from year to year. The question “What does the place live on afterwards?” has to be answered from day one.

Worth keeping: After the funding comes the question: what does the place live on then?

Source: North Rhine-Westphalia culture ministry (German) (2026)

17 GUESSING QUESTION

In Britain, villages buy their pubs together — everyone holds a share. What percentage of these community-owned pubs survive?

Regler von 50 bis 100 %
Point for a guess between 88 and 100.

Answer: 92 to 99%

Almost all of them hold on — by comparison, ordinary hospitality start-ups fail in droves. Co-ownership itself is the survival factor: someone who has put €500 into it turns up on a Thursday as well, brings the neighbours along and does not let “their” pub go under. Getting there takes a long time, though — only one in nine groups manages the takeover at all.

Worth keeping: People who own a share turn up on Thursdays too.

Sources: Morning Advertiser 2026 (2026) · Plunkett UK, Community Pubs 2024 (2024)

18 FOUR OPTIONS

A British programme supports pubs with small grants plus advice from industry professionals. How much community benefit does every pound invested there create?

- A) around £1
- B) around £3
- ✓ **C) over £8**
- D) around £20

Answer: over £8

The trick is not the money but the combination: a small grant plus knowledge. Austria provided the counter-test — there, pubs received up to €10,000 with no selection and no support, and of 57 funded venues around one in five had closed again before long. Same sum, without support: gone to nothing.

Worth keeping: Advice before money — money alone saves no pub.

Sources: GOV.UK on Pub is The Hub (2025) · WKO on the Lower Austrian pub grant (German) (2026) · profil on the Lower Austrian pub grant (German) (2026)

19 GUESSING QUESTION

France is bringing village cafés back to life with its “1000 cafés” programme. What percentage of the budget goes into supporting the licensees there — selection, training, network?

- Regler von 10 bis 90 %
- Point for a guess between 55 and 85.

Answer: 71%

71% of the budget is support staff — almost three quarters of the money goes into people, not into walls. The French have understood what all successful programmes have in common: the licensee is the bottleneck — and the most important investment.

Worth keeping: People, not walls.

Source: Groupe SOS, “1000 cafés” 2024 (PDF, French) (2024)

20 FOUR OPTIONS

The political scientist Oliviero Angeli (TU Dresden) sums it up in one sentence: “What matters is not the beer, but ...”

- A) the price
- B) the opening hours
- C) the location
- ✓ **D) the people you meet**

Answer: the people you meet

Pubs are infrastructure against polarisation: they bring together people who otherwise have little to do with each other, and who talk about the missing cycle path instead of the big outrage topics. Listening corrects your own prejudices. That is exactly why the decline of the pub is more than an industry problem — and the comeback more than nostalgia.

Worth keeping: What matters is not the beer, but the people you meet.

Source: Angeli (TU Dresden), dpa/ZEIT (German) (2026)

Answer sheet

Two sheets per table. Copy them as many times as there are teams playing.

Table / Team _____

ROUND 1 · THE STATE OF PLAY

1. How many pubs are left today? _____ pubs
2. How many pubs disappear each day? (A) (B) (C) (D)
3. How many corner pubs does Berlin have left? _____ pubs
4. Are there municipalities with no pub at all? ☐ true ☐ false
5. How does the pub compare with 2019? (A) (B) (C) (D)

BAR ROUND 1 · PUB LORE · × ½ POINT

101. Where does the word Kneipe come from? (A) (B) (C) (D)
102. What does pub stand for? (A) (B) (C) (D)
103. Which ingredient is missing from the Reinheitsgebot of 1516? (A) (B) (C) (D)
104. Since when has the world's oldest inn been serving? _____
105. How many breweries are there in Germany? _____ breweries
106. What is a Herrengedeck? (A) (B) (C) (D)
107. What is the waiter called in a Cologne Brauhaus? (A) (B) (C) (D)
108. What is a "Trinkhalle"? (A) (B) (C) (D)
109. Which institution is based in Altenburg? (A) (B) (C) (D)
110. Where does the village Krug get its name? (A) (B) (C) (D)

ROUND 2 · THE ECONOMICS

6. What's left from a €3 beer? _____ cents
7. What is a pub's biggest cost? (A) (B) (C) (D)
8. Does the VAT cut help pubs? ☐ true ☐ false
9. How much beer does Germany drink per head today? _____ litres
10. What does the dartboard machine cost the pub? (A) (B) (C) (D)

Table / Team _____

ROUND 3 · THE HUMAN SIDE

11. How many close friends do people with a local pub have?
12. Who is the loneliest?
13. Are people in the east lonelier?
14. How strongly does community affect life expectancy?
15. What saved lives in Chicago?

_____ close friends

☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D☐ true ☐ false☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

BAR ROUND 2 · MYTHS AT THE BAR · × ½ POINT

111. Does a good Pils take seven minutes to pour?
112. Does clinking glasses come from a poison test?
113. Was the Bierdeckel invented as a coaster?
114. Is “Prost” a German word?

☐ true ☐ false☐ true ☐ false☐ true ☐ false☐ true ☐ false

ROUND 4 · THE COMEBACK

16. What happens when the funding runs out?
17. How many community-owned pubs survive?
18. What does a pound of funding plus advice deliver?
19. What does “1000 cafés” spend its budget on?
20. What is it that matters about the pub?

☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

_____ %

☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

_____ %

☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

Total

_____ of 27

Twenty beer mat lines

The lines from the four main rounds — one per question. Copy the sheet and put it on the tables, and the evening goes home with everyone.

- 1 Since 2002: more than half of all pubs gone.
- 2 Three pubs a day.
- 3 Berlin: around 500 of 20,000 corner pubs are left.
- 4 18 municipalities in Saxony-Anhalt: not a single pub left.
- 5 The pub is hospitality's weakest link: 40% down in real terms since 2019.
- 6 A €3 beer leaves the pub around 2 cents.
- 7 The biggest cost is the person behind the bar — and often they go unpaid.
- 8 7% only applies to the schnitzel — the beer still pays 19%.
- 9 It's about company, not alcohol — alcohol-free brings in new guests.
- 10 The dartboard costs the pub nothing — and brings in the young.
- 11 A local pub: one more close friend on average.
- 12 The loneliest are the young — and they are rediscovering the pub right now.
- 13 The east is not lonelier — it is missing the places.
- 14 Community works like giving up smoking — it just tastes better.
- 15 Places where people know each other save lives when it matters.
- 16 After the funding comes the question: what does the place live on then?
- 17 People who own a share turn up on Thursdays too.
- 18 Advice before money — money alone saves no pub.
- 19 People, not walls.
- 20 What matters is not the beer, but the people you meet.

And if you're behind the bar yourself

"#KneipenKultur Comeback" is looking for twenty pubs to back with money, know-how and a network. Two minutes, four fields, no red tape.

kneipen-kultur.de/en/quiz