Global History of Cryptography

Cryptography · Practice Test · 12 Questions

1. Which ancient Greek city-state utilized the 'scytale' cipher, which involved wrapping a strip of parchment around a wooden rod of a specific diameter?

A) Athens
B) Sparta
C) Thebes
D) Corinth

2. During World War I, the British naval intelligence intercepted and decrypted the 'Zimmermann Telegram,' which proposed a secret alliance between Germany and which North American country?

A) Canada
B) Mexico
C) United States
D) Cuba

3. The 'Great Cipher' was a highly complex nomenclator system developed by the Rossignols for the court of which European monarch?

A) Louis XIV of France
B) Peter the Great of Russia
C) Henry VIII of England
D) Charles V of Spain

4. The Enigma machine, famously cracked by Alan Turing and his team at Bletchley Park, was primarily used by the military forces of which nation during World War II?

A) Italy
B) Japan
C) Germany
D) Austria

5. What is the name of the undeciphered manuscript written in an unknown script, currently held at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University?

A) Voynich Manuscript
B) Codex Seraphinianus
C) Rohonc Codex
D) Book of Soyga

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6. During the American Civil War, the Union army utilized the 'Union Army Cipher Disk,' which was based on the design of a cipher first described by which Italian Renaissance polymath?

A) Leonardo da Vinci
B) Leon Battista Alberti
C) Galileo Galilei
D) Niccolò Machiavelli

7. The 'Purple' code was the codename for a diplomatic cipher machine used by the government of which nation during the 1930s and 1940s?

A) Japan
B) China
C) Thailand
D) Vietnam

8. In the 16th century, the 'Vigenère cipher' was described by Blaise de Vigenère, though it was originally conceptualized by which other French cryptographer?

A) Giovan Battista Bellaso
B) Blaise Pascal
C) Antoine Lavoisier
D) Jean-Baptiste Colbert

9. The 'Pigpen cipher,' a geometric substitution cipher, was famously used by which religious order to protect their correspondence across Europe and the Americas?

A) Jesuits
B) Franciscan Order
C) Freemasons
D) Knights Templar

10. Which famous cryptanalyst, born in England, is credited with breaking the German 'Lorenz' cipher, which was used for high-level strategic communication by the German High Command?

A) Bill Tutte
B) Gordon Welchman
C) Hugh Alexander
D) Joan Clarke

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11. The 'Playfair cipher,' used by the British in the Boer War and World War I, was invented by Charles Wheatstone but named after which British statesman?

A) Lord Playfair
B) Lord Palmerston
C) Lord Salisbury
D) Lord Gladstone

12. The 'Atbash' cipher is a simple substitution cipher that originated in which ancient Middle Eastern region?

A) Mesopotamia
B) Levant
C) Persia
D) Anatolia

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