

Cryptography and Central Asian History

Cryptography · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. What is the primary purpose of cryptography?

- A) Data compression
- B) Secure communication**
- C) Hardware cooling
- D) Internet speed

2. Which famous Central Asian mathematician is often called the 'father of algebra' and lived in Baghdad?

- A) Al-Khwarizmi**
- B) Avicenna
- C) Al-Farabi
- D) Ulugh Beg

3. In a basic Caesar cipher, what is the core mechanism used to hide information?

- A) Substitution**
- B) Encryption keys
- C) Prime factorization
- D) Binary conversion

4. Which region is historically known as the Silk Road, facilitating the exchange of secret messages and goods?

- A) Central Asia**
- B) South America
- C) Scandinavia
- D) Antarctica

5. What is the term for the scrambled, unreadable version of a message?

- A) Plaintext
- B) Ciphertext**
- C) Algorithm
- D) Metadata

6. Which ancient scholar from Bukhara contributed significantly to mathematical methods used in logic and cryptography?

- A) Avicenna**
- B) Genghis Khan
- C) Tamerlane
- D) Babur

7. What is the function of a 'key' in cryptography?

A) To lock a door

B) To decipher a message

C) To power a computer

D) To display images

8. What is the original, readable message called before it is encrypted?

A) Ciphertext

B) Plaintext

C) Protocol

D) Fragment

9. Which Central Asian city was a major hub for the Islamic Golden Age, contributing to the development of early cryptanalysis?

A) Samarkand

B) Tokyo

C) London

D) Paris

10. What is the process of turning ciphertext back into readable text called?

A) Decryption

B) Hashing

C) Compression

D) Encoding

11. Which mathematical concept is essential for modern public-key cryptography?

A) Prime numbers

B) Roman numerals

C) Simple addition

D) Geometry

12. What defines a 'symmetric' encryption method?

A) Two different keys

B) The same key for encryption and decryption

C) No keys at all

D) Used only for images

13. What is the study of cracking codes called?

A) Cryptography

B) Cryptanalysis

C) Calligraphy

D) Chronology

14. Which Central Asian ruler supported the observatories that advanced mathematical precision in the 15th century?

- A) Ulugh Beg**
- B) Alexander the Great
- C) Attila the Hun
- D) Saladin

15. In digital security, what does a 'password' act as?

- A) A storage device
- B) An authentication factor**
- C) A computer virus
- D) A network cable

16. What is the most common use for cryptography on the internet today?

- A) Improving video quality
- B) Securing web traffic (HTTPS)**
- C) Reducing file sizes
- D) Deleting junk mail

17. Which early method of communication used symbols to represent letters or words?

- A) Hieroglyphs**
- B) Touchscreen
- C) Bluetooth
- D) Radio waves

18. What is a 'hash' function in cryptography designed to do?

- A) Delete all data
- B) Provide a unique digital fingerprint**
- C) Increase storage space
- D) Encrypt entire hard drives

19. The Silk Road connected Central Asia primarily with which two major regions?

- A) China and the Mediterranean**
- B) Canada and Mexico
- C) Australia and New Zealand
- D) Brazil and Chile

20. Which century saw the rise of modern digital cryptography?

- A) 20th century**
- B) 1st century
- C) 10th century
- D) 5th century