

Cryptography and Central Asian History

Cryptography · Practice Test · 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