

Breaking the Vigenère Cipher

Quiz, 7 questions

1
point

1.

What is the language of **secretmessage3.txt**?

- ☐ Danish
 - ☐ Dutch
 - ☐ English
 - ☒ French
 - ☐ German
 - ☐ Italian
 - ☐ Portuguese
 - ☐ Spanish
-

1
point

2.

What is the first line of the message you decrypted from **secretmessage3.txt**?

La chambre à coucher de Juliette.

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point

3.

What is the language of **secretmessage4.txt**?

☐ Danish

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☐ Dutch

☐ English

☐ French

☒ German

☐ Italian

☐ Portuguese

☐ Spanish

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point

4.

What is the first line of the message you decrypted from **secretmessage4.txt**?

Drei Hexen treten auf.

1
point

5.

Recall that the choice to test key lengths 1–100 was arbitrary, and that the longer a key is with respect to an encrypted message, the less likely this Vigenère decryption algorithm is to work.

How long would a key have to be, so that you could gain no information about an original message by analyzing the encrypted message?

☐ 1/26 the message length

☐ Half the message length

☒ Exactly the message length

☐ There is no key length that ensures an unbreakable Vigenère implementation.

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6.

The Vigenère decryption algorithm used in this lesson has limitations.

In which of the following scenarios could the program return incorrect results? (Select all that are correct.)

- ☐ The language of the original message when written in sentences has different letter frequencies than the sum of individual words in the dictionary.
- ☐ The language of the original message has multiple letters of comparable high frequency.
- ☐ The language of the original message has an unusual letter that is highest in frequency (not 'e' or 'a').
- ☐ The language of the original message is not included in the dictionaries.
- ☐ The language of the original message has many characters not in the English alphabet.

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7.

Consider the Vigenère decryption algorithm described in this lesson.

Which one of the following could be a problem?

- ☒ The key length is long compared with the message.
- ☐ The message is long compared with the key length.
- ☐ Neither—the key length compared with the message is unimportant.

☐

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