

Submit your entry on the form at <http://www.cipher.maths.soton.ac.uk/entryform.phtml>

### National Cipher Challenge 1 Part A

Da Nqtf Uv. Xkpegpv, Cfoktcn qh vjg Dnwg cpf Eqoocpfgt kp Ejkg h qh jku oclguva'u Ujkru cpf Xguugnu gornqagf cpf vq dg gornqagf kp vjg Ogfkvgttcpqcp, gve., gve., gve.,

Aqw ctg jgtgda tgswwtqf cpf fktgevgf vq rtqeggf cdqctf vjg Okpgtxg cpf vq ocmg yca ykvj wvoquv gzrgfkvkqp qhh lkdtnvct vq uggm qvv vjg Urcpkuj hnggv. Aqw ctg vq ectta kpvgnnkigpeg eqpegtpkpi vjgkt fkurqukvkqp vq vjg Dtkvkuj hnggv qhh Uv. Xkpegpv, ocmkpi tgpfgbxqwu ykvj vjg Xkevqta qp qt ctqwpf Hgdtwcta vjktvggpvj. Octvkv yknn ceeqorcpa aqw cpf jg ku fktgevgf vq urqpf jku vkog fgekrjgtkpi cpf kpvgttrgtkpi vjg gpenqugf rcigu htqo Octnqyg'u Fkcta - vjga uggo qpna vq dg nkijvna gpetarvgf. Dcddkpivqp ku vjg mga.

lxxgp qp dqctf vjg Xkevqta, qhh Ecrg Uv Xkpegpv, Sgxgpvj Lcpwcta Sgxgpvggp Nkpgva Sgxgp  
Vq Eqooqfqtg Jqtcvkq Pgnuqp, Gust  
Da Eqoocpf qh vjg Cfoktcn Ukt Lqjp Lgtxku

### Solution (Caesar shift by 2)

By Lord St. Vincent, Admiral of the Blue and Commander in Chief of his majesty's Ships and Vessels employed and to be employed in the Mediterranean, etc., etc., etc.,

You are hereby required and directed to proceed aboard the Minerve and to make way with utmost expedition off Gibraltar to seek out the Spanish fleet. You are to carry intelligence concerning their disposition to the British fleet off St. Vincent, making rendezvous with the Victory on or around February thirteenth. Martin will accompany you and he is directed to spend his time deciphering and interpreting the enclosed pages from Marlowe's Diary - they seem only to be lightly encrypted. Babbington is the key.

Given on board the Victory, off Cape St Vincent, Qeventh January Qeventeen Linety Qeven  
To Commodore Horatio Nelson, Esqr  
By Command of the Admiral Sir John Jervis

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## National Cipher Challenge 1 Part B

//8 #αΓαΔΕ Ε,

ΕωΓς ΘδΓηαΔΕ ωΓη Ι ωΠηα ΔαΓηα# ωαΓ //ΠβαΔΕ8 Ιδ ΕΓΕΠη ΠΠΙΕω ηΙΕω ςΕ//ΓΔΕ #ΙΔ\αΕΙΓδ. 8αΕ δΓη ωΠηα Ι \ΠςΔα ΕΓ ΓαΠΠΕα ΕΓ Εωαα ΙδΕαΠΠΙθαδ\α ΓΠ Εωα θΓαΠΠΕαΔΕ Ι//5ΓΓΕ, ΕωΠΕ ΙΔ δΓη \ΠςΔΙδθ //ς\ω ΕΓΓςΓηα Ιδ \αΓΕΠΙδ ΠΓΓαΙθδ \ΙΓ\ηαΔ. Ι αδΕΓαΠΕ 8Γς ΕΓ Π\Ε ΔΓΓδ, ΠΓΓ //ς\ω ΙΔ ΠΕ ΓΙΔδ.

ΕωΓΓςθω #ΙΔ\ΓΓςΓΔαΔ ηΙΕω ΔαΠα\Ε θαδΕΠα//αδ Ι ΘδΓη ηαΠη, ηα ωαΠΓ# ΕαΠη ΓΠ Π ηαΠ5Γδ ΕωΠΕ //ΙθωΕ 5αΓ\ωΠδ\α θΙηα θΓαΠΠΕ ωΠΓ// ΕΓ ΓΓς Γαα//ΙαΔ. ΙδΕαΠΠΙθαδ\α ΠΓΓ// ΠΓΙαδ#Δ ΕαΠηΔ //α ΕωΠΕ Δ5ΠΙδ ΘδΓηαΕω ΓΠ ΕωΙΔ ΕωΓαΠΠΕ Πδ# αηαδ δΓη ωΠΕω #αΔ5ΠΕ\ωα# Π //α5ωΙΔΕΓ5ωΙηαΠδ ωΠΠΓ# ΓΠ ΠθαδΕΔ 8αΕ ΕΓ Δααδ ΙΕ ΓςΕ.

Γδα ΕΓΠΙΕΓΓ ωΠΕω ΓΠΠαΓα# //ΓΓα ΙδΕαΠΠΙθαδ\α, ΓςΕ ηΙΕω δΓ //Γδα8 ΠΕ ΠηΠ Πδ# ΠΙΕΕΠα //ΓΓα ηΙΕ, Εωα ηαΙθωΕ ΓΠ ΕωΙΔ ΘδΓηΠα#θα //Π8 Γα 5Πς\δα# ΠΓΓ// ΓΓς ΠΙδθαΓΔ Γ8 ΔΓ//α \ΓςαΠ ΔΠςθωΕαΓ.

Ι Π// //ΓΔΕ ηΙΠΠΙδθ ΕΓ //Πδα θΓΓ# Π //ααΕ ηΙΕω ΕωΙΔ θαδΕΠα//Πδ Ιδ ωΠΠΠδ# Γδ ΓαωΠΠΠ ΓΠ ωαΓ //ΠβαΔΕ8. Ι Δααδ ΓδΠ8 ωαΓ ΔΠδ\ΕΙΓδ ΕωΓΓςθω 8Γς. ΕΠΓΓδ δΓΕ Ιδ 8Γς ΓαΠΓαΓΠΠΕΙΓδΔ, ΓςΕ Δ5αα# Γδ 8Γς ΔηΠΠΕ Γα5Π8.

8Γς Γ //ΓΔΕ ΠΠΠα\ΕΙΓδΠΠΕα ΠΓΙαδ#,

δΙΕ

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### **Solution (The Babington cipher)**

My dearest T,

Thou knowest how I have served Her Majesty in total faith with utmost discretion. Yet now have I cause to relate to thee intelligence of the greatest import, that is now causing much trouble in certain foreign circles. I entreat you to act soon, for much is at risk.

Through discourses with select gentlemen I know well, we heard tell of a weapon that might perchance give great harm to our enemies. Intelligence from friends tells me that Spain knoweth of this threat and even now hath despatched a Mephistophilean hoard of agents yet to seek it out.

One traitor hath offered more intelligence, but with no money at all and little more wit, the weight of this knowledge may be plucked from our fingers by some cruel slaughter.

I am most willing to make good a meet with this gentleman in Holland on behalf of Her Majesty. I seek only her sanction through you. Tarry not in your deliberations, but speed on your swift reply.

Your most affectionate friend,

Kit