

Main Menu

[Home](#)
[Discussion Boards](#)
[Amazon](#)

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Password

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Challenge 8

Written by Harry .

Thursday, 16 December 2010 14:23

Can you crack the final challenge this year? It is tough! Thankfully you know something about 8A - in an uncharacteristically sloppy moment Harry gave away a lot of info about this one in his last message to Charlie. Challenge 8B is an entirely different kettle of kippers. Charlie thinks it is encrypted using the Solitaire Cipher which is a highly secure pen and paper system based on a deck of cards. In real life it was invented by the famous security expert Bruce Schneier and you can find a description of it on his website. Without clues it would withstand any attack you are likely to mount, but thankfully Charlie managed to recover some info and you will find it on the Challenge 8 page. You can try to crack this using a computer or with pen and paper, but in either case you will probably find it useful to have a deck of cards to hand so you can figure out how it works. You need a deck of 52 ordinary playing cards plus two Jokers that must be distinguishable from one another. I found it helpful to make a couple slightly larger than the cards I was using as you need to find them easily in the middle of the deck. You can download a pdf of the cards I used and shrink it to fit your cards if you like. You will find it at: **Harry's Jokers**. As Charlie says the full key to the cipher is not available right now and it will take us a while to try to read it. We will probably manage to read a couple of extra cards a day and plan to publish them on the Challenge page between 7.30 and 8am each day. You should have them all by Christmas Eve, so by then anyone can crack the cipher if they have the patience. Of course if you have the skill (and the will to win) you might have cracked it well before then ... Good luck, Harry

Lots of things

Written by Harry .

Thursday, 16 December 2010 14:37

What the heck it is Christmas. Here are the names of the winning teams for Challenges 6A and 7A. Congratulations to you all. If you haven't won anything yet, there is still a chance. We have 8 more prizes for Challenge 8A, and if you are one of the 78 teams still joint first in the overall leader board then perhaps you will win the GCHQ prize, the IBM prize or the Trinity College Cambridge Prize! We have had around 150 requests for tickets so we probably can't fulfil all your Christmas wishes, but we will try to accommodate as many of you as we can. It promises to be a great event.

And now, the final Challenge of this year's competition. Sharpen your pencils and your card playing skills for the final episode of "The Kho i Noor Twins".

Harry

Winners of the Challenge 6A Prizes

Acta Deos Numquam Mortalia Fallunt from Wilson's
 Matthew Anketell from The Judd School
 george hopkins from Cheadle High School Staffs
 Theo(The man from Oman)Smith Sam (Stretch)Armstrong James (Hp boy)Hardy-Pickering Ronan (JavaWizKid)McCann-Jackson Veronique (Vedge)Wilkinson Andy (No) Ye Olivia (Marlando)Marland James (The Mauler) Moran from Range High School
 Caitlin Rich, Sara Rajendran, Avantika Phaltankar, Devashree Pattni, Yee Lam and Lucy Edwards. from Manchester High School for Girls
 Emma Day, Tilly Onyett, Chloe Dimmock, Kayleigh Moore, Tawney Evans, Alice Law. from Abbey College
 Mathew Wragg Sean McCabe from Nelson Thomlinson
 Curiouser and curiouser! from Oxford High School

Winners of the Challenge 7A Prizes

Will Neaverson Sam Udale Smith Athanasius Andriopolous George Timbrell from King Edward's School
 Krishna, Helen, Ashorya from Bishopshalt School
 Norman Ong from Woodhouse College
 Heather Allen Holly Hunt Alina Sovetkina Maisie Nash from Guildford High School
 Andrew Stoner Jack Trzcinski Peter Lennon Toni Hodder Michael Bussey Stuart Bushnell from William Farr School
 David Alexander, Noah, Cawthray, Katya Chambers, Ben Davies, Alfie Digby, Johnathon Dyke, Thea Ford, Daniel Gorton, Bethany Grant, Charles Hall, Megan Hayward, Reece Hughes, Grace Jandrell, Will Jones, Tom Kershaw, Billie Lewery, Ross MacDonald, Charlie Matthews, Tom Mewett, David Mold, Dom Poli, Josh Pugh, Leo Read, Jac Roberts, Katie Simkins, Will Smith, Johnathon Vibhishanan, Grace Ward-Allen. from Lakelands School

Forum latest

Re: Has anyone finished yet???

mad_maths_man 17.12.2010 7:38

How many solutions?

ultra 17.12.2010 2:15

Re: Has anyone finished yet???

Bedales 17.12.2010 1:38

Re: Has anyone finished yet???

tom22 16.12.2010 23:59

Re: Has anyone finished yet???

eliotball 16.12.2010 23:52

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Evie Evans from Park House School
Daniel Chatfield from Bournemouth School

Winners of prizes for Challenges 5A



Written by Harry .

Thursday, 09 December 2010 12:07

Well done! The following teams have won part A prizes for Challenge 5: Winners of the Challenge 5A Prizes Patrick Andrew Will Tom Marc from Woodbridge School Lucy Redjeb Laura Freeman Julia Freeman from Cox Green Secondary School Tom Mattinson from Nelson Thomlinson School Thomas Upton Charlie Hetherington Jack McKie Josh Jones Freya Upton Mathew Spivey from Crompton House Ania, Lucy from St Joseph's RC Primary School Yumiie Nuggets i suck at maths Sil-Tsing Cotton Knee from Woodhouse College Farheen Husain Fazila Husain from Plashet school Kiran Phagoora, Harriet Smith and Chloe Fuller from Stanground College All the best, Harry

Prizegiving tickets



Written by Harry .

Wednesday, 01 December 2010 14:47

The prizegiving for this year's competition will be held at Bletchley Park on Friday April 1st. We have a number of tickets for the event to award to schools. To apply log in then use the online form at [Online Ticket Request Form](#)

These are always highly sought so do let us know as soon as possible how many you need and we will do what we can to accommodate you. The event will include a tour of the museum and a lecture by Prof Chris Budd from Bath University. Chris is well known for his public lectures, most recently as one member of the Maths Inspiration show (see more on the website [mathsinspiration](#)). He is a National Teaching Fellow and in a lot of demand. He will be flying back from an overseas engagement especially for this event. I hope to see as many of you as we can fit into the historic Ballroom at Bletchley. All the best, Harry

Snow closures



Written by Harry .

Wednesday, 01 December 2010 14:40

Jealous though I am, given the complete lack of snow in our neck of the woods it seems only fair to take account of the widespread snow closures across our wintery landscape. In light of this we are postponing Challenge 7 to next Thursday (9th December) and will make it a one week challenge! Challenge 6 will close at midnight tonight as scheduled. I hope that all will agree that this is fair to everyone. We will publish the leaders boards as usual tomorrow. Complaints and comments on the forum please, Harry

More Articles...

- [Winners of the prizes for Challenges 3A and 4A](#)
- [Half way there](#)
- [Winners of the prizes for Challenge 2A](#)
- [Winners of the prizes for Challenge 1A](#)

Page 1 of 3

« Start Prev 1 2 3 Next End »