

North Carolina Science Olympiad — Code Busters

2016-2017

Names of participants: (Please print neatly)

School Name: _____

V JV1 JV2 JV3

Warning: Do not open this packet until given permission to do so.

Note: There are useful notes after this page.

Scoring:

Time to solve first problem in seconds: _____

Question	Value	Incorrect letters	Score
Timed	100		
1	100		
2	100		
3	400		
4	250		
5	140		
6	250		
7	125		
8	300		
9	100		
10	100		
11	60		
12	180		
13	100		
14	50		
15	180		
16	250		
17	400		
18	160		
Bonus			
Final Score			

The following tables might be useful during the event.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
A	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
B	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A
C	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B
D	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C
E	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D
F	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E
G	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F
H	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
I	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
J	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
K	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
L	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
M	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
N	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
O	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
P	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
Q	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
R	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
S	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
T	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S
U	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
V	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
W	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
X	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W
Y	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X
Z	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25

Frequency Table of English letters:

E	12.51%	S	6.54%	C	3.06%	G	1.96%	K	0.67%
T	9.25%	R	6.12%	U	2.71%	W	1.92%	X	0.19%
A	8.04%	H	5.49%	M	2.53%	Y	1.73%	J	0.16%
O	7.60%	L	4.14%	F	2.30%	B	1.54%	Q	0.11%
I	7.26%	D	3.99%	P	2.00%	V	0.99%	Z	0.09%
N	7.09%								

Frequency Table of Spanish letters:

E	14.08%	I	5.98%	M	3.08%	Y	1.09%	Z	0.47%
A	12.16%	L	5.24%	P	2.89%	V	1.05%	Ñ	0.17%
O	9.20%	D	4.67%	B	1.49%	G	1.00%	X	0.14%
S	7.20%	T	4.60%	H	1.18%	F	0.69%	K	0.11%
N	6.83%	U	4.69%	Q	1.11%	J	0.52%	W	0.04%
R	6.41%	C	3.87%						

For the purposes of cryptograms it is customary to treat n and ñ as distinct letters, but a and á are the same letter. Likewise for e and é, and i and í. In other words, all the accent marks get amputated when working with cryptograms. Also, while some older Spanish dictionaries consider ch, ll, and rr, to be their own letters—this has fallen out of modern usage. Accordingly, “burro” is considered as five letters: “b-u-r-r-o” and not as four letters “b-u-rr-o.”

1) [100 Points] Using a key of **HPRS** encode the string **HOVERCRAFT** using the Hill Cipher with a 26 character alphabet. e.g.

$$\begin{pmatrix} H & P \\ R & S \end{pmatrix} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} 7 & 15 \\ 17 & 18 \end{pmatrix}$$

H	O	V	E	R	C	R	A	F	T

2) [100 Points] Advice about a treasure has been encoded using the Vigenère cipher using a very common five letter word. You have been told that the first 8 letters in the code (**LKSRQMK**) actually is the word **TREASURE**. What does the message decode to?

LKSRQ MKSKF WMVZL YLOSM MMMFS LAOKK SDSPM MWWWD

WKSER SGRL AJIV

Answer:

13) [100 Points] Encode the string **IFNOTUSWHOIFNOTNOWWHEN** using the Affine Cipher with $a=7$ and $b=11$.

N	O	T	A	L	L	W	H	O	W	A	N	D	E	R	A	R	E	L	O	S	T

14) [50 Points] Using a code word of **PONDER**, encode the following phrase by Mitch Hedberg using the Vigenère cipher.

MY FAKE PLANTS DIED BECAUSE I DID NOT PRETEND TO WATER THEM

Answer:

17) [400 Points] Someone used voice dictation to quote a phrase by Stephen Hawking on their phone and then had it encrypted. What does it say?

J MRGJRDR ZGJRE GJWR JQ SOJHR NPAAPE JE HIR OEJDRFQR,

ZGHIPOCI JEHRGGJCREH GJWR JQ GRQQ QRY. QOA QZX JH

IZQ XRH HYP ZKKRZF PE ZFR KGZERH.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	Ñ	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Freq	3		2	2	8	3	9	9	4	13	3		1	1	4	5	9	18	1				2	2	2	8	3

18) [160 Points] Another message encrypted with the Affine Cipher using an alphabet of 26 characters has been intercepted. You have been told that the last two characters of the message are the letters **EN**. With that knowledge, what does this message say?

SJMMKEOCTLTEKKGTLHGWQJMXDET

Answer: _____