



French

Language scenario - Level 1



DRUGS BUST Level 1

Use your problem-solving, language and research skills to stop drug traffickers bringing illegal drugs into the UK.

After careful consideration and compliance with all of the necessary legality and proportionality checks that GCHQ must follow, government sign-off has been granted for GCHQ to monitor suspected drug traffickers.

Today's date is 12 July. The National Crime Agency (NCA) is investigating two known drug traffickers, code-names DUSTY BLANKET and YELLOW ZEBRA. Previous information indicates that they are planning to smuggle a shipment of cocaine into the UK at some point in July, but so far investigators have not been able to uncover any specific details.

DUSTY BLANKET is a French national based in Colombia. YELLOW ZEBRA is a French national based in the UK. They are particularly security-conscious and are known to encipher the most sensitive parts of their communications. They are also known to use veiled language. For example, in the past, they have used names of fruit to refer to drugs, and female names for the boats they use to transport their drugs shipments.

You are new to GCHQ and are working with a more experienced linguist but whose language is not French. They have given you a series of messages between DUSTY BLANKET and YELLOW ZEBRA to translate into English.



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The task is to find out:

1. Whether they contain any information that may help the NCA intercept the drugs shipment in time.

Remember, it is likely that some parts of the conversation have been enciphered.

To do this, you will need to:

- Identify any enciphered words;
- Decipher the enciphered words;
- Translate the conversation into English;
- Interpret the meaning of any veiled language by answering the comprehension questions.



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Stage 1: Identify the enciphered words

The more experienced linguist has given you the following piece of information.

Highlight any enciphered words.

DB: Les bananes sont prêtes.

YZ: Super. Quand est-ce qu'elles partent ?

DB: La fête QDWLRQDOH.

YZ: Et la dame?

DB: Elle s'appelle PLUDQGD. Elle voudrait visiter EULVWRO pour fêter l'anniversaire de KHPLQJZDB. Cherche-le sur Google.

YZ: D'accord. Envoie-moi un texto quand elle sera partie.



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Stage 2: Decipher the enciphered words

DUSTY BLANKET sent this email to YELLOW ZEBRA last week with the subject "Caesar":

Salut mon ami !

Voilà ce qu'on discutait tout à l'heure:

D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M

Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

A plus. Bisous.

Could this help you to decipher the enciphered words in the conversation to the left?

Q	D	W	L	R	Q	D	O	H

P	L	U	D	Q	G	D

E	U	L	V	W	R	O

K	H	P	L	Q	J	Z	D	B



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Stage 3: Translate the conversation into English

Now that you have deciphered the words, enter them into the gaps in the conversation below.

DB: Les bananes sont prêtes.

YZ: Super. Quand est-ce qu'elles partent ?

DB: La fête _____

YZ: Et la dame?

DB: Elle s'appelle _____, Elle voudrait visiter _____ pour
fêter l'anniversaire de _____, Cherche-le sur Google.

YZ : D'accord. Envoie-moi un texto quand elle sera partie.



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Now, translate the whole conversation into English here:

DB:

YZ:

DB:

YZ:

DB:

YZ:



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Stage 4: Interpret the meaning of the conversation

Taking into consideration what you know about the drug traffickers (see exercise instructions), answer the following questions:

- a) What are "bananas" likely to refer to in this context?
- b) What date is the "fête nationale"? How else is this known in English?
- c) What is Miranda likely to be?
- d) When is she likely to arrive in Bristol?
- e) What date is this? (Once you have deciphered this part of the conversation, research when this famous person's birthday is online.)
- f) What does YZ ask DB to do when Miranda has left?
- g) Bearing in mind today's date (given at the beginning of the exercise), how long is there before Miranda arrives in the UK?



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Stage 5: Optional expansion exercises

1. Use your answers to the comprehension questions above to write a short report to the NCA detailing your findings.
2. Look up the National Crime Agency online. What is their mission?
3. The French National Day is the anniversary of what historical event? What happened and in which year?
4. What kind of cipher is being used and who is it named after? What were they famous for?
5. What else can you find out about ciphers? Choose one cipher and encipher a short message. Give it to a family member or friend and see if they can decipher it. You may need to give them some clues on which cipher you have used!
6. Who is Hemingway? What were they famous for?



Brain Teaser

A group is believed to be planning large-scale attacks on key landmarks in a major French city. Unfortunately, the messages are written in code! Crack the code to discover the 5 target landmarks and the city involved to stop the group!

Tips to get you started:

- Think about the most common high-frequency letters in the French language and how these compare to English.
- Look for letters that repeat themselves in a word, which letters of the alphabet are these most likely to be? Look where they occur in the word, is it the beginning, middle or the end and what might this tell you?
- Do lots of the landmarks end with the same letter? What letters make up common endings in French words? Are these more likely to be vowels or consonants?
- Where landmarks are composed of more than one word, think about what kinds of words might connect the two or three words in French.
- To fill in the letters of the code that may not appear in any of the landmarks, look for patterns emerging in the code as you fill in the letters that do appear in the landmarks. Think about the various patterns you might use to reorder letters of the alphabet if you were to create a code yourself – could there be more than one pattern going on at the same time?
- Be sure to fill in all of the letters for the entire code, not just those that appear in the landmarks.
- Remember to fill in the city at the end!

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Brain Teaser

A group is believed to be planning large-scale attacks on key landmarks in a major French city. Unfortunately, the messages are written in code! Crack the code to discover the 5 target landmarks and the city involved to stop the group!

1. JE0H PLOOPB
2. BE01HP
3. THR QP JHLECFMP
4. CE0BLD HE0NP
5. BT IPLDP

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
			Q																	0					

City: _____