

## Ancient ciphers / Peculiar ciphers / Mary Queen of Scots cipher

1. Who wrote some of the earliest accounts of secret writing? Who did he write about?
2. Find some historical examples of *steganography*, preferably British.
3. What is the *scytale*? How does it work?
4. What is the *turning grille*, also known as the *rotating* or *revolving grille*? How does it work?
5. What is the *Adventure of the Dancing Men*? What does it have to do with this course?
6. Find out about some other ciphers: e.g. Pigpen cipher; Kama-Sutra cipher
7. Find out about British cryptology: who were Bishop Edward Willems, John Wallis, Elbridge Gerry?  
[Hint: consult David Kahn's *The Codebreakers*, on reserve]
8. Tell the story of the Mary Queen of Scots cipher.
  - What kind of cipher is it?
  - How can it be broken?
  - Is it more or less secure than a substitution cipher?