

THE SECURITY SERVICE

The Security Service, more commonly known as MI5, is the UK's security intelligence agency. It is based in Thames House, London. The Director General of the Security Service is Jonathan Evans.

Responsibilities

We are responsible for protecting the country against covertly organised threats to national security. These include terrorism, espionage and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In addition we provide security advice to a range of other organisations, helping them reduce their vulnerability to the threats.

Aims

Our corporate aims are therefore to:

- frustrate terrorism;
- prevent damage to the UK from foreign espionage and other covert foreign state activity;
- frustrate procurement by proliferating countries of material, technology or expertise relating to weapons of mass destruction;
- watch out for new or re-emerging types of threat;
- protect Government's sensitive information and assets, and the Critical National Infrastructure (CNI);
- reduce serious crime through assistance to law enforcement agencies;
- assist the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) and the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) in the discharge of their statutory functions;
- build Service capability and resilience.

Statement of Purpose and Values

In order to protect national security and economic well-being, and to support the law enforcement agencies in preventing and detecting serious crime, we collect and disseminate intelligence, investigate and assess threats and work with others to counter them; advise on protection; and provide effective support for those tasks.

In working to fulfill our purpose, we are guided by a commitment to:

- legality;
- integrity;
- objectivity;
- a sense of proportion about our work; and
- respect and consideration for each other and for those with whom we work outside the Service.

How We Operate

We work closely with a range of other agencies and organisations in seeking to counter threats to national security.

Our work focuses on:

- Investigating suspect individuals and organisations to obtain, collate, analyse and assess secret intelligence relating to the threats. This requires us to gather intelligence and manage information effectively.
- Acting to counter the sources of threats, compiling evidence that enables us to bring suspects to justice.
- Advising the Government and others to keep them informed of the threats and advising on the appropriate response, including protective security measures; and
- Assisting other agencies, organisations and Government departments in combating threats. We contribute to the collective work of the UK's National Intelligence Machinery and form partnerships with other organisations in the UK and abroad.

Taken from
<http://www.mi5.gov.uk/output/Page55.html>
28 September, 2007; 12:53 p.m.

N.B.

<i>Director General</i> <i>Secretary General</i>	<i>vs</i>	<i>General Assembly</i> <i>General Secretariat</i>
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Exercises

I Match the words/phrases 1-10 with their definitions a-j.

1. <i>intelligence</i> E	a. when you <i>collate</i> pieces of information, you gather them all, examine them carefully and identify any differences between them;
2. <i>covert</i> G	b. the act of obtaining sth; acquisition;
3. <i>corporate</i> J	c. to come out; come into view;
4. <i>to frustrate</i> I	d. to increase in number very quickly; to spread;
5. <i>procurement</i> B	e. information gathered by the government or the army about their country's enemies and their activities;
6. <i>to proliferate</i> D	f. to distribute to many people or organisations; to spread;
7. <i>to emerge</i> C	g. secret or hidden; clandestine;
8. <i>asset</i> H	h. anything owned by a person, company, etc that has money value and that may be sold;
9. <i>to disseminate</i> F	i. to prevent; to block; to thwart;
10. <i>to collate</i> A	j. relating to business corporations; shared by all the members of a group or organisation; collective;

Definitions taken from
Collins Cobuild English Language Dictionary
Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English by AS Hornby

N.B.

intelligence – a noncount noun used with singular verb

II Supply a word which can combine with the given words so as to make frequent collocations and use some of them to complete the following sentences.

SECURITY



service
 agency
 advice
 measures
 issues
 policy

- MI5 also provides **SECURITY ADVICE** to a number of organisations.
- We have to undertake all the necessary **SECURITY MEASURES**.
- MI5 is a **SECURITY AGENCY**.

national
 international
 global
 human
 collective

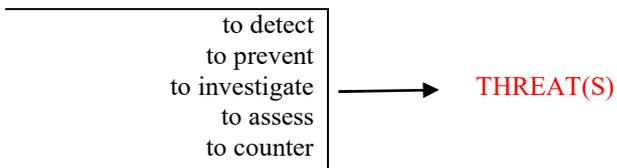
→ SECURITY

societal

1. **SOCIETAL SECURITY** comprises the ability of a society to sustain vital societal functions and secure its population's life, health, needs and basic values under extraordinary stresses, known as crises.

Taken from
<http://www.nordforsk.org/en/publikasjoner/policy-paper-1-2013-societal-security-in-the-nordic-countries>
28 March, 2014;

2. MI5 is responsible for protecting **NATIONAL SECURITY** of the UK.
3. Nuclear terrorism is a serious threat to **GLOBAL SECURITY**.



1. First they have to **INVESTIGATE** and then **ASSESS** threats to their national security and economic well-being.
2. Every security service must **DETECT** and **PROTECT** threats to national security of the country.
3. We can **COUNTER** all the threats effectively only if we work closely with other services and organisations.

III Fill in the gaps with the appropriate words/phrases from the box.

<i>service threats</i>	<i>agencies national security statutory functions</i>	<i>mass destruction terrorism</i>
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- *threats to* _____
- *covertly organised* _____
- *to frustrate* _____
- *to discharge* _____
- *secret intelligence* _____
- *proliferation of weapons of* _____
- *law enforcement* _____

IV Match the beginning of each sentence with the most appropriate ending.

1. MI5 protects the UK against	<input type="checkbox"/> proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. 2
2. We work to counter terrorism, foreign espionage and	<input type="checkbox"/> to obtain and assess secret intelligence relating to the threats. 4
3. We are committed to legality, integrity	<input type="checkbox"/> advising Government and assisting other agencies in combating threats. 5
4. MI5 investigates suspect individuals and organisations	<input type="checkbox"/> covert threats to national security. 1
5. Their activities include	<input type="checkbox"/> and objectivity. 3

V Supply the missing words.

- MI5 is the UK's security **INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**.
- They must protect their country against **COVERTLY ORGANISED THREATS** to national security.
- Their **CORPORATE** aims are to **FRUSTRATE** terrorism and **PROLIFERATION** of weapons of mass destruction, to **PROTECT** sensitive information and Critical National Infrastructure and **REDUCE** serious crime.
- They collect, collate, analyze and disseminate **INTELLIGENCE** and investigate and **DETECT** serious crime.
- They advise Government and other organisations helping them reduce their **VULNERABILITY** to the threats.

VI Fill in the gaps with the appropriate words from the box.

<i>political</i>	<i>priority</i>	<i>environment</i>
<i>intelligence</i>	<i>interests</i>	<i>threat</i>
<i>countries</i>	<i>officers</i>	<i>services</i>
<i>espionage</i>	<i>communications</i>	<i>military</i>

- Espionage
- The threat of **ESPIONAGE** (spying) did not end with the collapse of Soviet communism in the early 1990s. Espionage against UK interests continues from many quarters.
- In the past, espionage activity was typically directed towards obtaining **POLITICAL** and military intelligence. In today's high-tech world, the intelligence requirements of a number of countries now include new **COMMUNICATIONS** technologies, IT, genetics, aviation, lasers, optics, electronics and many other fields. **INTELLIGENCE** services, therefore, are targeting commercial enterprises far more than in the past.
- The UK is a high **PRIORITY** espionage target and a number of **COUNTRIES** are actively seeking UK information and material to advance their own **MILITARY**, technological, political and economic programmes.
- We estimate that at least 20 foreign intelligence **SERVICES** are operating to some

degree against UK **INTERESTS**. Of greatest concern are the Russians and Chinese. The number of Russian intelligence **OFFICERS** in London has not fallen since Soviet times.

- The **THREAT** against UK interests is not confined to the UK itself. A foreign intelligence service operates best in its own country and some may therefore find it easier to target UK interests at home, where they can control the **ENVIRONMENT** and where we may let our guard drop.

Taken from
<http://www.mi5.gov.uk/output/Page20.html>
28 September, 2007; 11:46 a.m.

VII Retell the text using the following key words and phrases and emphasizing the most important characteristics of the Security Service (not more than 200 words).

<i>security</i>	<i>agency</i>	<i>threat</i>	<i>espionage</i>
<i>service</i>	<i>to protect</i>	<i>national</i>	<i>proliferation</i>
<i>intelligence</i>	<i>covert</i>	<i>terrorism activity</i>	<i>weapons</i>
<i>vulnerability</i>	<i>advice</i>	<i>to detect</i>	<i>mass</i>
<i>to counter</i>	<i>to prevent</i>		<i>destruction</i>
<i>to investigate</i>			

Write down the most frequent collocations (eg. *security service, intelligence agency* etc.).

MY WORDLIST

N.B.

For more details about the UK national intelligence machinery, read the enclosed presentation. In order to find out more about MI5, watch and listen to the videos on <https://www.mi5.gov.uk/careers/videos> – *Welcome by Director General, Who We Are, Working at MI5.*

As far as our GRAMMAR MATERIAL is concerned, all the lecture slides, as well as further instructions/assignments will be posted on our Seesaw learning platform.