

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September

LO: Comprehension

## **New Alan Turing £50 Note Revealed**

The design for a new £50 note featuring Alan Turing has been revealed. It will enter circulation on 23rd June to mark his birthday.

In 2018, the Bank of England decided to choose a new person to put on the £50 note. They wanted it to be a scientist and asked the public to suggest who it should be.

They received 227,299 nominations! 989 people were suggested and the bank chose 12 to be on a shortlist. It included Stephen Hawking, Ada Lovelace, Srinivasa Ramanujan, Charles Babbage and Rosalind Franklin. From this list, Alan Turing was chosen.

### **Why Was He Chosen?**

Alan Turing was a mathematician and computer scientist. However, very few people knew about his most famous work because he had to do it in secret. Turing worked at Bletchley Park. During the Second World War, it was a top-secret place where code breakers tried to work out encrypted enemy messages. He was able to crack the code produced by the Enigma machine.

### **What was the Enigma machine?**

It was a machine used by German forces in the Second World War to send messages securely. It looked like a typewriter but would only produce a message if you knew a special code. The rotors inside allowed Enigma machines to have around 103,325,660,891,587,134,000,000 possible settings! The Germans thought the Enigma codes were unbreakable.

Andrew Bailey is the governor of the Bank of England. He said, "I'm delighted that our new £50 features one of Britain's most important scientists. Turing is best known for his code breaking work at Bletchley Park, which helped end the Second World War. He was also gay, and was treated appallingly as a result."

In 1952, Turing was arrested for being gay. It was illegal to be homosexual in Britain at the time. Governor Bailey added, "We are celebrating his achievements, and the values he symbolises."

The writer and actor Stephen Fry said that Alan Turing being on the £50 note "marks another step in our nation's long overdue recognition of this very great man."

### Retrieval

1. When was Alan Turing's birthday ?
2. How many people were on the shortlist ?
3. Why did people not know about Alan's work ?

### Words in context

4. In the sentence beginning: Governor Bailey added... find a word which is similar in meaning to 'represents or stands for'.
5. Find and copy a word which shows how Alan was treated.

### Inference

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nominate

suggest a person for a position in  
a government or to receive an  
award



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**nominations!**