

Executive Focus

If the qualities that make a good spy were obvious, they wouldn't make a very good spy.

- 1 Spy. It says it all, doesn't it? Covert surveillance. Peering around corners. High-speed chases and shoot-outs in casinos.
- 2 Everyone knows that this is what spies do. It's obvious, isn't it? Well, the first thing to know about MI6 is that nothing's obvious. The skills that make for a good Intelligence Officer certainly aren't. Let's face it, if they were, counter-espionage would be the easiest game in the world.
- 3 So while it's true that the work is often challenging and even exciting, the qualities we look for are more ordinary than you would imagine. And more subtle. The simple ability to get on with all sorts of people from all kinds of cultures, for example. To talk and to listen. To develop the sort of relationship that means you can convince them to do what's needed to protect our national interests. This is a vital skill, along with the drive and imagination to link up pieces of data to reveal opportunities others may have missed.
- 4 What other pre-conceptions can we shatter? Well spies are loners, aren't they? Expected to fend for themselves, even in dangerous situations. In reality, while spies need to be resilient and resourceful, this is a team game and every member is constantly supported.
- 5 Oh, and let's not forget the old 'Tinker, Tailor...' image of the hyper-intelligent, slightly dysfunctional oddball. In fact you'll find that we value both emotional intelligence and academic achievement. Now what about the image of the globe-trotting secret agent, rushing abroad at a moment's notice? Certainly we're an organisation with an overseas focus, so that does happen sometimes. But while we actively seek people with an interest in global



affairs, many operational jobs are in our London HQ¹⁾ and fit well with family life.

- 6 What about secrecy? Well obviously the details of your work will be secret and we ask you not to discuss your application with anybody. That said, once you join us you'll be able to disclose your role to one or two close friends or family. We'll help you create a credible cover story for everyone else. 4, the need for secrecy creates a uniquely open and supportive working culture within the organization.
- 7 As for the white, male stereotype, the truth is that we don't care what sex you are or where you're from, as long as you're a British national. We don't even care what you do now, only what you can do.
- 8 Finally, what about the belief that those who work for MI6 are extraordinary people doing extraordinary things for their country? Well, perhaps that's one you can investigate yourself.

For outstanding candidates we are introducing a Fast Track programme. Find out more at sis.gov.uk/intelligenceofficer



SECRET INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

The Economist, 2012

noot 1 HQ: headquarters

Tekst 2 Executive focus

- 3p 2 Geef van elk van de onderstaande beweringen aan of deze wel of niet overeenkomt met de inhoud van de tekst.
- 1 An Intelligence Officer should be willing to resort to violence.
 - 2 A secret agent has to operate independently.
 - 3 Spies do not have to travel abroad all the time.
 - 4 Spies should value national interests more highly than family ties.
 - 5 MI6 shows a preference for people who have worked for the army.
- Noteer het nummer van elke bewering, gevolgd door “wel” of “niet”.

“If the qualities that make a good spy were obvious, they wouldn’t make a very good spy.” (subheading)

- 1p 3 Which of the following qualities is crucial?
A spy must be
- A adventurous.
 - B fearless.
 - C persuasive.
 - D positive.
- 1p 4 Which of the following fits the gap in paragraph 6?
- A Admittedly
 - B As a result
 - C Paradoxically
 - D Similarly

Bronvermelding

Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift, dat na afloop van het examen wordt gepubliceerd.