



CISSP Exam Tips

Certified
Information System
Security Professional
2018

Exam Prep

Exam is test of:

- Judgment
- Understanding terms
- Critical thinking
- Common sense
- Experience
- Ability to synthesize
- Picking the best of a bad lot

Exam Prep

- No “right” answers – just best
- Avoid analysis paralysis
- Usually enough time
- Triage questions
- Look for the most encompassing answer
- Take a break every 50 questions

Guidelines

Use term substitution questions

- ❑ Criticality = importance
- ❑ Sensitivity = confidentiality
- ❑ Impact = consequences
- ❑ Risk = Probability of an event

Guidelines

- Consider carefully highlighted terms:
 - ALWAYS or NEVER –All or nothing: NO exceptions!
 - BEST – not the only but better
 - FIRST - sequence
 - GREATEST- greater than other choices
 - MAIN- like most or primary
 - MOST – not always but more often
 - PRIMARY or PRIMARILY – first or main

Guidelines

Evaluate questions by:

- Timelines – what’s first, next, etc.
- Consider tense – “when developing –”
- Scope – what encompasses what
- Outcomes of certain actions –
- Writing it doesn’t mean it happens – go look
- If org’s rules not followed – determine risk before corrective action

Study Strategies (1)

- Register NOW
 - Allows for study planning
 - Commits you to the process of successfully studying
- Develop a study plan
 - Available days
 - Number of days from now until the exam date – work and family commitments
 - “Rule of 10”
 - Divide you available days by 10 to get study “units”
 - Use 1 unit for each domain
 - Use 2 units for full length exams and data dump

Study Strategies (2)

- Utilize ALL sources
 - CISSP Study book(s)
 - Question resources
 - Book & Self-Study Resources
<https://www.isc2.org/Training/Self-Study-Resources>
 - Course slides and notes
 - Glossary & Flashcards
- Take unit and mixed unit exams often
 - Mix it up, not same questions over and over
 - Aim for **80%** - 85% in all units

Study Strategies (3)

- Use memory devices
 - Acronyms
 - Word-based
 - DEER MRS CARBIDS
 - Use ANAGRAM solvers to create your own
 - Sentence-based
 - Please Do Not Throw Sausage Pizza Away
 - Other Mnemonics
 - Phrases
 - “Reading is simple”, Link(in) Tunnel
 - Diagrams
 - Concentric squares, ACM

Test Taking Strategies (1)

- Data Dump Strategy
 - Prior to answering any questions
 - Recall and document diagrams, lists, charts, and other mnemonics

- Three Pass Method (Consider this)
 1. Answer obvious questions, update diagrams
 2. Answer all but the most difficult questions
 3. Complete all questions

Test Taking Strategies (2)

➤ Individual Question Strategy

- Read question carefully
 - Find keywords and questions (e.g., not, best, first)
 - Read ALL candidate answers – do not jump to first one
- Use candidate answers as a clue
 - Look for slight difference between candidate answers
 - Eliminate clearly wrong answers first
 - Phases/steps: key on obvious wrong
- Don't "argue" with the test
 - Decide what answer ISC2 is looking for
 - "Dumb it Down"

Test Taking Strategies (3)

- Drag and Drop Questions
 - Essentially a matching exercise
 - Easier than normal questions
 - Make simplest / most obvious match first

- Scenario Questions
 - Find the question first
 - Then go back and get relevant data
 - Usually operational questions