

Why CISSP?



- ✓ The GOLD standard of IT Security Certifications, as well as the most sought-after.
- ✓ Granted by (ISC)², known as the world's largest IT security organization.
- ✓ The global average salary ranges from \$119,170 to \$138,647.
- ✓ There are 149,174 CISSPs in over 160 countries as of July 2021.
- ✓ There are over 160,000 job vacancies in the United States that require CISSP certification.
- ✓ Globally, the number of cybersecurity positions has climbed by 350%, from one million in 2013 to 3.5 million in 2021.

4 things you need to pass your CISSP.



Knowledge

1

You must **find your study materials** (videos, books, questions,...) and everything else necessary to gain the knowledge you need for the exam. Once you have gathered all your resources, **create a study plan** to keep you on track. Finally, you **must be able to explain the concepts** (what, where, when, why, and how).

Ability to Deconstruct Questions

2

You need to **figure out what they are ACTUALLY asking**. (ISC)² will use convoluted language or have a single keyword that changes the answer. It is also important to **answer what they asked, rather than what you want to answer**. Read the questions a couple of times and boil the question down to its essence.

Ability to Pick the MOST Right Answer

3

There could be two—more or less—correct answers among the options. Given a specific situation, you must be able to **evaluate which one is the MOST right in the eyes of (ISC)²**.

Time Management

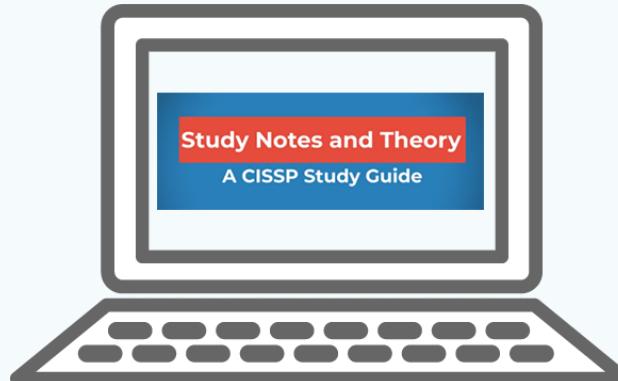
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On average, you have 72 seconds each question. **Spend more time on the first 20-30 questions to perform better on the CAT curve and receive more hard questions**—this will increase your chances of passing.

Study Materials: Videos



<http://thorteaches.com/cissp>



<http://studynotesandtheory.com/signup>



<http://itpro.tv/courses/isc2>

What Thor says

There are a ton of good CISSP Videos in the market and I believe my courses are a part of that! I think my courses are great but I also think that Luke Ahmed's Study Notes and Theory and ITPro.tv with Adam Gordon are amazing courses as well.

And I call these two out because they are great instructors, they're great in conveying their curriculum and they truly care about advancing their profession.



When you need to find an instructor that works for you, look at their preview videos.. Is this instructor a good fit for me?



Get at least 2-3 video courses because each instructor is good at discussing certain topics and has a unique point of view that will aid you in the exam.

Study Materials: Videos

Other Notable Mentions

On-Demand Videos



Bootcamps

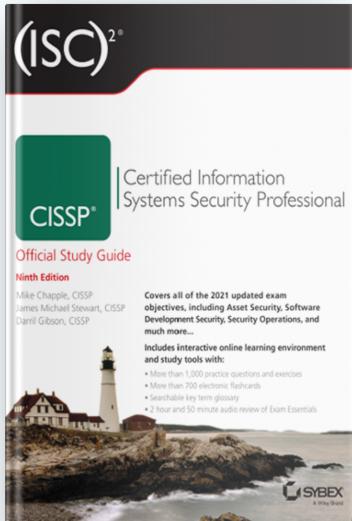


Bootcamps are heavily reliant on the instructor; if you get a fantastic instructor, you will have an incredible experience. Otherwise, it will be dreadful. There are numerous companies that provide boot camps, either in-person or live online.



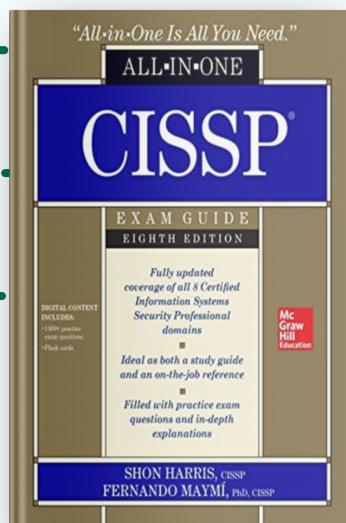
The cost of a boot camp ranges between \$1,000 and \$8,000. That being said, make sure you do a lot of research on it, particularly on the instructor to ensure that you get your money's worth!

Study Materials: Main Books



60%

of Thor Teaches' students preferred the Sybex's OSG



40%

of Thor Teaches' students preferred the AIO

1

You need one of the two main books—
Sybex's (ISC)² CISSP Certified Information
Systems Security Professional Official Study
Guide and Shon Harris' CISSP All-in-One (AIO)
Exam Guide.

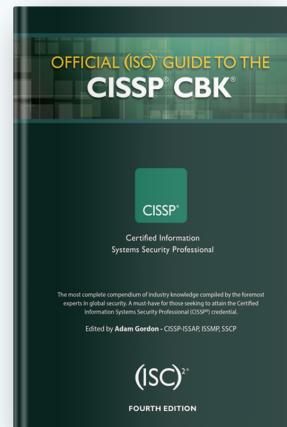
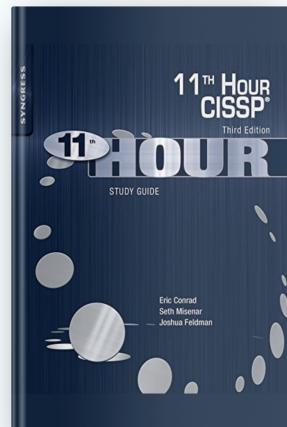
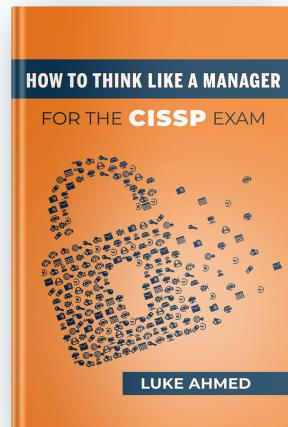
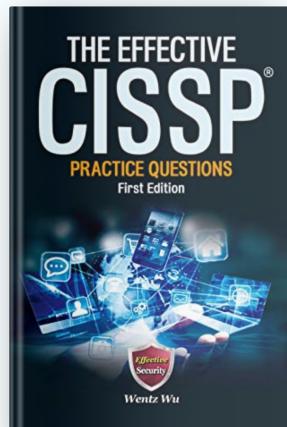
2

Read 2-3 paragraphs from each book,
choose the one you like the most then buy it.

What Thor says

I personally like the AIO better because it goes more in-depth on some topics but it is much longer than Sybex's OSG.

Study Materials: Secondary Books



What Thor says

Wentz Wu's book will help you develop the critical mentality required for the exam in order to answer all questions from the perspective of an IT Security Manager. Luke Ahmed's book, on the other hand, will help you deconstruct questions, which I believe is a necessary skill for the exam.

We also have the 11th Hour, which is already out of date because it hasn't been updated since 2015, but it's still a useful resource for brushing up on particular topics.

Finally, we have The Official (ISC)2 CISSP CBK—this is the truth of all CISSP knowledge, but it is also tough to read. This book is meant for reference work—if you're unsure about a specific topic, crack up the CISSP CBK and look it up.

Study Materials: Free Resources

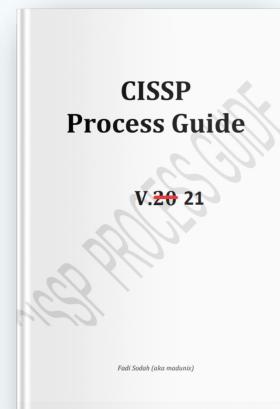
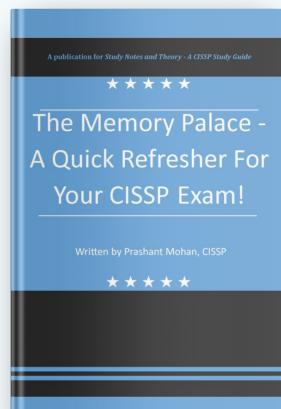
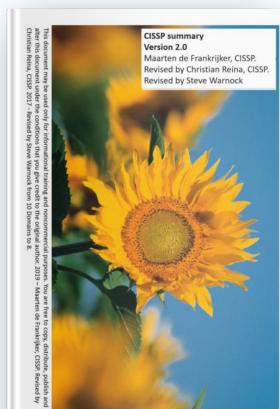
National Institute of Standards and Technology— a U.S. government agency the published special publications that are relevant to certifications



The Open Web Application Security Project (OWASP) does a lot of amazing stuff, but for CISSP, the most important thing to look into is the OWASP Top 10.

Study Guides

Sunflower Notes by Maarten de Frankrijker



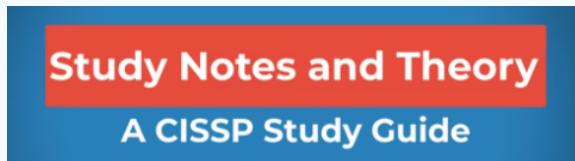
The Memory Palace by
Prashant Mohan

CISSP Process Guide by Fadi Sodah (madunix)

! Study Guides are written by people who have passed the CISSP exam and wish to give back to the community.

Study Materials: Free Resources

Facebook Study Groups



Discord Servers



Others



reddit



r/cissp

ISACA® Glossary of Terms



Visit thorteaches.com/study and look under Free Stuff for all of the free resources I recommend, which you can download from there.

Facebook groups are fantastic for sharing knowledge and information. However, unlike Discord, it is not suitable for natural organic discussions.

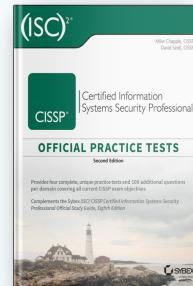
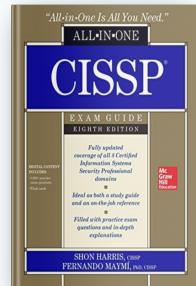


Study Materials: Practice Questions

Easy/Mid



ThorTeaches.com
Easy/Mid Questions



Other Notable Mentions



CCCare

ThorTeaches QOTD

Wentz Wu QOTD

Adam Gordon QOTD

Hard



ThorTeaches.com
Hard Questions



Study Notes and Theory
A CISSP Study Guide



The Boson Hard Questions are the ones that most students who passed the exam feel helped them the most. Tricky, convoluted, and difficult enough to emulate the exam.

How to Use Practice Questions?

- 1 You should be able to explain the what, where, how, why and when of the concepts.
- 2 Take 1,500-3,500 easy/mid questions and at least 1,500 hard questions when close to exam day.
- 3 Mark ALL the questions you're not sure on and restudy them after.
- 4 Don't reuse practice questions!



Spend more time on the first 20 questions on the CISSP CAT Exam.



Look for ways to reset your mind for the 6-hour CISSP Linear Exam.



Answer like an IT Security Manager, a Risk Adviser and a Lawyer.

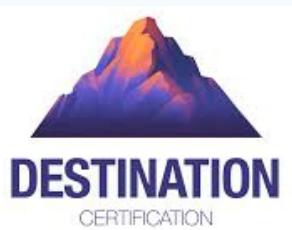
How to Approach a Question?

- 1 Read the entire question.
- 2 Take the time you need to read the question—probably twice—and then deconstruct it to figure out what they're truly asking.
- 3 Make sure that when you deconstruct the question, you break it down to its essence, which means that the question could be a long paragraph, but they're only asking for the last ten words.
- 4 You need to find the keywords (what is important) and their indicators (what happened).
- 5 Next, while selecting the correct answer, ensure that it satisfies the requirements posed by the question. You must be accurate and precise in order to select the MOST RIGHT answer in the eyes of (ISC)².

Low Budget

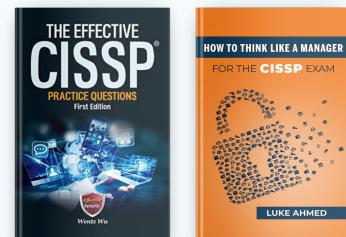
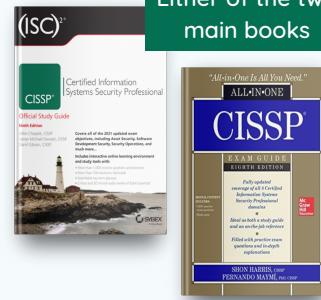
Which resources should you get?

Videos



Books

Either of the two main books



Free Stuff

Everything

Questions

Easy / Mid



Hard

Choose 2 of 3



Study Notes and Theory
A CISSP Study Guide



Questions of the Day

High Budget

Which resources should you get?

Videos



Study Notes and Theory
A CISSP Study Guide



Books



Either of the two main books



Free Stuff

Everything

Questions

Easy / Mid



Hard



Study Notes and Theory
A CISSP Study Guide



Questions of the Day

CISSP Study Plan

- 1 The amount of time spent studying CISSP differs from student to student because everyone has a varied background, knowledge, and learning speed. Other considerations include how much time they spend studying each day? How focused are they? And a variety of factors will determine how long a student must study for the CISSP. Some students study for a week and pass the exam, while others study for almost a year. The average duration is between 4 and 6 months.
- 2 You need to study 2-3 hours every day for something as large and sophisticated as the CISSP. You must identify those small pockets of time — 10, 15, or 20 minutes — when you are not doing anything else and use them to study.
- 3 The study plan is a living document; if you were unable to find a time to study the previous week, or if you have some more time to study, you alter the plan accordingly.

CISSP Study Plan: Thor's Approach

- 1 Watch the certification videos you have. I suggest 1-3 different sources. Watch all the videos and take notes on the downloadable study guides from ThorTeaches.com
- 2 Read the book you chose. I suggest 1-2 different books, supplement your notes.
- 3 Read Memory Palace, CISSP Process Guide, Sunflower Notes, and NIST Documents.
- 4 Re-watch the videos, maybe at 1.5-2x speed— update your notes.
- 5 Re-read the books— update your notes.
- 6 Do practice questions. For the CISSP, do a lot of them— A LOT.
 - It is normal for students to do between 3,000-5,000 practice questions.
 - After each practice test, read all the explanations on the questions you got wrong and then re-study those areas until you can explain them (videos/books).
- 7 Do another practice test.
- 8 Repeat 6-7 until you hit 80%+ on multiple practice test engines.

! Do not reuse practice tests! it will not give you an accurate result if you have answered the questions before.



Download

CISSP Study Plan

week 1 Date:	Build your own study plan + watch the Thorteaches.com CISSP Introduction course. Study time: 2:00	Build your own study plan + watch the Thorteaches.com CISSP Introduction course. Study time: 2:00	Thorteaches.com CISSP domain 1 videos. Take notes on the ThorTeaches study guides. Study time: 02:00	Thorteaches.com CISSP domain 1 videos Take notes on the ThorTeaches study guides. Study time: 02:00	Thorteaches.com CISSP domain 2 videos Take notes on the ThorTeaches study guides. Study time: 02:00	Thorteaches.com CISSP domain 3 videos Take notes on the ThorTeaches study guides. Study time: 02:00	Thorteaches.com CISSP domain 3 videos Take notes on the ThorTeaches study guides. Study time: 02:00
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Thorteaches.com CISSP study plan



My study plan template is based on two hours of study time per day, seven days a week. I also utilized my own resources, which I highly suggest; if you use a different one, simply replace it in the template.

