Computer Security -II IMP Questions

☑ Q1: Define the following terms

(1) Cyber Security

Definition:

Cyber security is the practice of protecting computers, servers, mobile devices, electronic systems, networks, and data from digital attacks.

★ In simple words:

It keeps your data saf e from hackers, viruses, and other online threats 🛇

Real-life Example:

Using antivirus software on your laptop to prevent hackers from stealing your files.

(2) Encryption

Definition:

Encryption is the process of converting plain data (plaintext) into a secret code (ciphertext) to prevent unauthorized access.

It uses algorithms to scramble data.

Real-life Example:

WhatsApp messages a re encrypted, so only you and the receiver can read them

(3) Interruption

Definition:

Interruption is a type of security attack where system resources become unavailable or disrupted.

★ Goal: To stop or disturb normal services.

Example:

A DDoS attack floods a server with traffic so users can't access it.

📩 (4) Spam

Definition:

Spam refers to unwanted, irrelevant, or inappropriate messages sent over the Internet, typically to a large number of users.

Example:

You get 100 emails saying "You won a lottery!"—that's spam 😑 🔀

简 (5) System Abuse

Definition:

System abuse is the misuse of computer systems for unauthorized or illegal purposes.

Example:

A company employee using office computers to mine cryptocurrency secretly <a> ____





🕵 (6) Cryptanalysis



Definition:

Cryptanalysis is the study of analyzing information systems to break cryptographic security systems.

Goal: Break encryption without having the key.

Example:

Trying to guess a password by analyzing encrypted files.

(7) Sniffing Attack

Definition:

A sniffing attack involves capturing data packets traveling over a network.

Goal: To steal sensitive information like usernames or passwords 🧠 📈



Example:

Using a tool like Wireshark to read login data sent over public Wi-Fi.

(8) Cryptography

P Definition:

Cryptography is the art of protecting information by transforming it into an unreadable format.

It's used for data privacy, authentication, and integrity.

Real-life Example:

Bank websites use cryptography to secure online transactions ===

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Q2: Short Questions

(1) Give full form of the following:

12 34 No.	Abbreviation	Full Form
1	SMTP	Simple Mail Transfer Protocol
2	MIME	Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions
3	SSL	Secure Sockets Layer
4	DES	Data Encryption Standard
[5]	AES	Advanced Encryption Standard
6	DSS	Digital Signature Standard
7	POP	Post Office Protocol
8	SET	Secure Electronic Transaction
9	STT	Secure Transaction Technology

Easy Tip: These are mostly internet, email, or encryption-related terms used in cyber security & secure communication

(2) List out causes of Vulnerability in system

System vulnerabilities are weaknesses that hackers can exploit. Here are the **main causes**:

- Weak Passwords Easy to guess (like "123456")

 Outdated Software Not patched against known bugs

 Unsecured Networks Public Wi-Fi without protection

 Lack of Encryption Data transferred in plain text

 Human Errors Clicking on phishing links

 ■

 Misconfiguration Incorrect settings in system/software
- Infected Files Malware hidden in downloaded files
- Real-life example:

Using the same password for all your accounts = high risk A

👧 💻 (3) Who is a Hacker?

Definition:

A hacker is someone who uses their technical knowledge to gain unauthorized access to computer systems or networks.

Types of Hackers:

- **Mhite Hat:** Ethical hacker (helps fix issues)
- **To Black Hat:** Illegal hacker (steals or damages data)
- Grey Hat: Hacks for fun or to show off flaws

Example:

A white-hat hacker testing a website for weaknesses so it can be fixed.

(4) What is Interruption?

- Already answered in Q1 (3) but here's a recap:
- full interruption means a system or service becomes unavailable or is stopped due to an attack (like DDoS or hardware failure).

Real-life example:

A company website crashing during a big sale due to a traffic overload attack



(5) What is System Vulnerability?

Definition:

A system vulnerability is a weakness or flaw in the system's design, implementation, or configuration that can be exploited by threats.

It is like a hole in the wall where intruders can sneak in!

Example:

An old version of Windows not updated with the latest security patch.

Q3 (1): List out and explain applications of Cryptography

🔐 Cryptography = Securing information by converting it into unreadable formats 🤯

Applications of Cryptography:

1. Secure Email Communication

- Encrypts emails to prevent unauthorized access.
- **Example:** Gmail uses SSL/TLS to encrypt your email content.

= 2. Online Banking & Payments

Protects your credit card and bank info during online transactions.

Example: Websites with HTTPS use encryption for secure payments.

3. Password Storage

Stores passwords in encrypted (hashed) format to prevent misuse.

Example: When you create a new password on Instagram, it's encrypted so not even Instagram can see it.

4. File & Disk Encryption

Secures sensitive files on your device or USB.

Example: BitLocker (in Windows) encrypts your entire hard disk.

■ 5. Secure Messaging Apps

Messages are encrypted from sender to receiver (end-to-end encryption).

→ Example: WhatsApp, Signal, Telegram.

6. VPN (Virtual Private Network)

Encrypts your internet traffic, hiding your browsing data from hackers.

Example: Using NordVPN or ExpressVPN for private surfing.

7. Digital Signatures

Used to verify documents and sender's identity.

<u>k Example:</u> e-Aadhar cards use digital signatures to validate identity in India 🌊

Why it's important?

Cryptography protects our privacy, secures money transfers, prevents identity theft, and builds trust in digital communication

Q3 (2): How many types of Security Attacks? Explain Modification in detail

Types of Security Attacks

Security attacks are actions that try to **break into**, **damage**, **or misuse** a computer system or network **___**

They are mainly divided into 2 categories:

A. Passive Attacks (_ Secret Watching)

Definition:

These attacks **do not affect** the system but try to **steal information**.

Examples:

- **Pavesdropping:** Listening to network traffic.
- 2 Traffic analysis: Checking who is talking to whom and how often.
- Goal: Steal or read confidential data without being noticed.

★ B. Active Attacks (- Real Damage)

Definition:

These attacks try to **change**, **damage**, **or destroy** system data or functions.

Examples:

- Nodification Attack (explained below)
- Denial of Service (DoS)
- 👨 💻 Masquerade Attack
- Replay Attack
- **6** Goal: To **damage or disrupt** the system or **steal info** by force.

🔄 Detailed Explanation: MODIFICATION ATTACK

Definition:

In this attack, the hacker **modifies the original message or data** while it is being sent between sender and receiver.

Think of it like:

You send a message "Send ₹1000" → Hacker changes it to "Send ₹10,000" 😧 💸

GOOD HOW IT WORKS:

- 1. Data is sent over the internet.
- 2. Hacker intercepts the message.
- 3. **K** He **modifies** the content (money amount, name, instructions).
- 4. ___ The fake message is sent to the receiver.

Real-life Example:

A hacker changes the bank account number in an email sent to a client, so money goes to the hacker's account instead of the company's

How to prevent it?

- Use Encryption
- Apply Digital Signatures
- Use Secure Protocols (HTTPS, SSL/TLS)

Q3 (3): What is System Abuse? Explain in detail with example

Definition: System Abuse

System Abuse means misusing a computer system or network in a way that violates its intended use, policies, or legal restrictions.

lt's like using someone else's car at to deliver illegal goods — you're using a tool for the wrong purpose.

Types of System Abuse

1. Unauthorized Access

Accessing systems or files without permission.

■ Example:

A student hacks into a school's server to change exam marks 🚛 🔼

2. Misuse of Resources

Using company computers for personal profit or entertainment.

Example:

An employee mining cryptocurrency using office computers 💰



3. Sending Spam or Malware

Abusing email systems to send large-scale spam or viruses.

Example:

Sending thousands of fake emails with virus attachments 📫 🔇

4. Personal Use of Organization Resources

Using internet, systems, or storage for personal gain.

Example:

Streaming Netflix all day on a work computer 😂 🍿

5. Denial of Service (DoS)

Overloading systems intentionally to make them crash.

Example:

A disgruntled ex-employee floods a company's website with fake traffic to shut it down





6 Why it's dangerous?

- Can harm organizations
- Leads to data theft
- Causes loss of trust
- Wastes money and time

How to prevent System Abuse?

Create strong security policies

Educate users (awareness programs)

Monitor usage (audit logs)

Use antivirus, firewalls, and access control

★ In simple words:

System abuse = when a computer is used for something wrong or illegal 👧 💻 🥉

√ Q3 (4): How to Prevent and Control Threats?

■ Threats in cybersecurity are anything that can harm a system — like hackers, viruses, or data theft

How to Prevent & Control Threats:

Let's explore the **best ways** to protect your system 🧠 👇

- 1. Use Strong Passwords
- Mix of capital, small, numbers & symbols

Tip: Avoid using "password123" or birthdates!

Change them regularly!

2. Install Antivirus & Anti-Malware Software

Detects and removes viruses, worms, trojans

PExample: Quick Heal, Avast, Norton

3. Use Firewalls

Blocks unauthorized network access

- Acts like a security guard between your system and the internet
- 4. Keep Software Up to Date
- Regular updates fix security bugs
- Example: Update Windows, browsers, apps often

5. Enable Encryption

Converts data into unreadable format (ciphertext)

Even if stolen, hackers can't read it

Train employees/students on safe browsing, avoiding suspicious links

7. Monitor Network Activities

Detects unusual or unauthorized activities

Use tools like Wireshark or Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS)

8. Access Control

Only authorized users should access critical files

Give access based on roles (admin/user/guest)

Real-Life Analogy:

Just like locking your home, installing cameras, and training family to be cautious — computers need layered protection too!

Q3 (5): Differentiate between Plain Text and Cipher Text

vs Feature	abc Plain Text	Cipher Text
Meaning	Original readable message	Encrypted (unreadable) version of message
€ Readable?	Yes, by humans and systems	No, looks like random characters
© Purpose	To convey actual message	To hide the message from unauthorized users
Conversion Process	Written by sender	Created after encryption using an algorithm
Example	"Hello123"	"h8\$#Jq92%" (after encryption)

Real-life Example:

Plain Text:

Nahul sends a message: "I will pay ₹5000 tomorrow"

Everyone can read it if intercepted ...

Cipher Text:

After encryption: "XK&@tLq893!"

Only someone with the **decryption key** can read it \nearrow

6 Why it matters?

Plain text is **not safe** for secret data

Cipher text **protects** your information during transmission

Q3 (6): Explain System Vulnerability and Write Causes of It

What is System Vulnerability?

X A System Vulnerability is a weak point or flaw in a computer system, software, or network that hackers can exploit to gain unauthorized access or cause damage

★ In Simple Words:

It's like leaving your main door open at night — burglars (hackers) might walk right in!



Common Examples of Vulnerabilities:

- Outdated software versions 👵
- Weak or reused passwords
- Missing security patches
- Poorly coded applications

Causes of System Vulnerabilities:

Let's look at why these weaknesses happen 🧠 👇

🖍 1. Software Bugs

Programming errors create loopholes

Packers exploit these to crash systems or steal data

2. Outdated Systems

- No updates = No security patches
- Easy entry points for viruses and malware

3. Weak Passwords

Using simple or same passwords for all accounts

💡 Example: "admin123", "password" = Hacker's paradise 😂

📥 4. Unchecked User Access

Giving full system access to all users

Even junior users can accidentally or intentionally harm system data

5. Poor Network Configuration

Open ports, unprotected IP addresses Invites network-based attacks like DDoS or sniffing

Untrained users clicking spammy links or downloading malicious files

7. Third-Party Tools

Using free, untrusted software from unknown sources 61



6 Bottom Line:

A vulnerability is like a hole in your system's shield — it must be fixed to stay safe



Q3 (7): Explain Password Management with Its Challenges

What is Password Management?

Password Management is the process of creating, storing, updating, and protecting passwords to keep systems secure 1

Why is it important?

Passwords are the first line of defense — if weak or exposed, hackers can easily break in.

Good Practices in Password Management:

Use strong passwords

Avoid reusing passwords across platforms

Change passwords regularly

Use password managers (e.g., LastPass, Bitwarden)

Enable Two-Factor Authentication (2FA)

Challenges in Password Management:

2 1. Human Memory Limits

Hard to remember complex, long passwords

💡 Example: Remembering D\$3Hfd7^K9!Z for every account? 🧠 💢

2. Password Reuse

People use the same password across multiple sites

💥 If one gets hacked, all are in danger!

3. Phishing Attacks

Fake websites trick users into giving passwords Looks like Gmail login, but it's fake 😧

H 4. Unsecured Storage

Writing passwords in notebooks or saving in notepad

Easy to steal if someone accesses the system

Many users don't know the importance of strong password habits

They use "123456" or "admin" without realizing the risk

2 6. No Use of Tools

Not using password managers, 2FA, or browser security tools

✓ Solutions:

Use tools like Bitwarden, 1Password, or KeePass

→ Enable **2FA/MFA** for extra protection

Educate users on creating strong, memorable passwords using passphrases

Example of Strong Password:

MypetDog@2025RunsFast! 😻 — Easy to remember, hard to guess!



Q3 (8): Differentiate between Encryption and Decryption

What is Encryption & Decryption?

 These are two main processes in Cryptography used to protect data during communication

Think of it like **sending a secret letter** wing a code, and the receiver **decodes** it to understand

Table: Difference between Encryption and Decryption

vs Feature	Encryption	Decryption
Meaning	Converting plain text \rightarrow unreadable form (ciphertext)	Converting ciphertext → readable form (plain text)
O Purpose	To protect the data from unauthorized access	To understand the original data
Performed By	Sender (before sending data)	Receiver (after receiving data)
Uses Key?	Yes – uses encryption key	Yes – uses decryption key
Output Example	"Hello" → "8@#kL29\$"	"8@#kL29\$" → "Hello"



Real-life Analogy:

Encryption: Locking your message in a box with a key

pecryption: Unlocking the box on the other side with the correct key

Summary:

- Encryption: Hides your message •• 🖂
- Decryption: Reveals it back 📜
 - For Both are essential to protect your data in digital communication



Q3 (9): What is Plain Text? Explain with Example

- **bc** Definition: Plain Text
- ▶ Plain Text is the original, readable form of data or message that is not encrypted.

Simple Example:

You want to send:

Plain text: "Meet me at 10 PM"

After encryption, it becomes:
Ciphertext: "Z4\$#kJ1^%k@!"

This encrypted text is sent over the internet Receiver decrypts it back to get the original plain text

Real-Life Analogy:

- Plain Text = Writing your secret on a postcard (anyone can read it)
- Cipher Text = Locking it in a coded box (only someone with the key can read)

r Important Points:

- It's human-readable and understandable
- It's NOT secure when sent directly over the internet
- Should always be encrypted before transmission

Q3 (10): Differentiate Between Encryption and Decryption

(Already explained in the previous message, but here's a fresh, quick recap with the same rich formatting!)

What is Encryption & Decryption?

These are two **core functions of Cryptography** used to **protect sensitive data** while it is transmitted or stored \blacksquare

Table: Difference between Encryption and Decryption

Q Feature	Encryption	Decryption
Definition	Converts Plain Text \rightarrow Cipher Text	Converts Cipher Text \rightarrow Plain Text
⊚ Goal	To hide the original message from outsiders	To reveal the hidden message to intended user
<mark>⊚</mark> <u>■</u> Used By	Sender of the message	Receiver of the message
** Process	Uses an encryption key or algorithm	Uses a decryption key or algorithm
Example	"Hello" → "9H#k^7w"	"9H#k^7w" → "Hello"

Analogy:

- Encryption = Locking your diary with a secret lock
- Decryption = Unlocking it with the right key

✓ Both are equally important to ensure data confidentiality in digital communication

Q3 (11): Define Cryptography. Discuss the Types of Cryptography in Detail

What is Cryptography?

Cryptography is the science of writing and solving codes to protect information from unauthorized access or alteration

rightharpoonup It is used to convert readable data (plain text) into coded format (cipher text) to prevent others from reading it $\square \rightarrow \square$

o Main Purpose of Cryptography:

- V Data Privacy (No one else can read it)
- Authentication (Data comes from the right person)
- Data Integrity (No tampering during transmission)
- Non-repudiation (Sender can't deny sending it)

Types of Cryptography:

🔟 Symmetric Key Cryptography (Private Key) 🎤🔁

- Both sender and receiver use the same key for encryption & decryption.
- Fast and simple (
- But: If the key is stolen, everything is exposed

Example:

You and your friend both know the lock code "1234" for a locker. You lock it, they unlock it with the same code.

used In: AES, DES, RC4, etc.

🔃 Asymmetric Key Cryptography (Public Key) 🏸 🔐

- Uses two different keys:
 - Public key for encryption
 - Private key for decryption
- More secure but slower

Example:

You share your **public key** with everyone to receive messages, but only you can read them using your **private key**

Used In: RSA, ECC

🛐 Hash Functions (One-Way Encryption) 🚁 🔀 🔁

- · No key involved
- Converts data into a fixed-size hash value (irreversible)

• Mainly used for data integrity and password security

Example:

Hashing "MyPassword123" becomes "9c5a8a2c4b1e..." (can't be reversed back)

used In: MD5, SHA-256, bcrypt

Table Summary:

Type	🔑 Keys Used	⊘ Direction	Example Algorithms
Symmetric Key	Same key for both	Two-way	AES, DES
Asymmetric Key	Public & Private key	Two-way	RSA, ECC
Hash Functions	No key (one-way only)	One-way (irreversible)	SHA-256, MD5

Real-Life Usage of Cryptography:

- WhatsApp messages (end-to-end encryption)
- Property Online banking and payment gateways
- Secure email communication
- Digital signatures & certificates

© Conclusion:

V

Q3 (12): What is MIME in Cryptography?



MIME stands for:

Multipurpose Internet

Mail

Extensions

- It is a standard that extends the format of email messages to support:
 - Images
 - Attachments
 - 🞧 Audio & video
 - Files like PDF, DOCX, etc.

What is MIME in Cryptography?

In **Cryptography**, MIME plays a key role in **securing email communication**. It allows:

- · Encryption of email content
- Digital signing of messages
- Sending secure attachments over email
- MIME is the **base** for advanced secure email technologies like **S/MIME** (**Secure MIME**).

How MIME Helps in Secure Communication:

★ Feature	
EncryptionSupport	MIME allows email contents to be encrypted , making them unreadable to others
	It supports signing emails to verify sender identity
File Encoding	Converts binary files into a text format for safe transmission
Multiple Attachments	Helps attach and send various file types securely over one email



Real-Life Example:

Imagine you're sending a project document to your teacher with a recorded explanation \nearrow and an image $\stackrel{*}{\bowtie}$:

What is S/MIME (Secure MIME)?

S/MIME is a protocol built on MIME that uses **cryptography** to:

- Encrypt emails
- A Digitally sign them
 It uses public key encryption to ensure that:
- Only the intended recipient can read the email
- The sender is verified

Summary of MIME in Cryptography:

Point	Details
## Full Form	Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions
© Purpose	To send non-text files & secure data via email
Use in Cryptography	Enables encryption, authentication, and file support
Extended As	S/MIME (Secure MIME) for high-level email security
Example Usage	Sending encrypted PDF report with your voice note

✓ Conclusion:

MIME is like the **superpower of emails** — it turns a boring text email into a **secure digital package** \Leftrightarrow with attachments, encryption, and authentication!



Q3 (13): Discuss about MIME in Detail

MIME = Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions

- MIME is a standard used to send emails with multiple types of content like:
 - Documents (PDF, Word)
 - Audio & Property Property
 - Table Images
 - Applications or attachments

Why Do We Need MIME?

Originally, email could **only send plain text** messages. But now we need to send:

- Resume
- Profile picture
- Recorded introduction That's where MIME helps!

MIME encodes these files into a format email systems can handle 🔀

in Cryptography: Securing Email

MIME is the base for S/MIME (Secure MIME) which adds cryptographic functions like:

Security Function	··· What It Does
Encryption	Hides the email content from others
∠ Digital Signature	Verifies sender's identity
Encoding	Converts binary files to text for safe transfer

Example:

You're emailing your teacher your project report with your recorded explanation \nearrow :

- MIME encodes the files
- S/MIME encrypts the email
- Ensures only the teacher can read it If

MIME Key Components:

★ Component
 Purpose

Content-Type Tells what type of data (text, image, audio, etc.)

Content-Transfer-Encoding Converts binary to ASCII format for safe email transport

Multipart Allows attaching multiple files in a single email

✓ Conclusion:

MIME turns your email into a **powerful**, **secure communication tool w !** It helps share **rich media** and **protects data privacy** through encryption & digital signatures.

Q3 (14): Discuss Cryptanalysis Techniques and Attacks in Detail

What is Cryptanalysis?

Cryptanalysis is the science of **breaking cryptographic codes** without knowing the key

It's like being a digital detective 🕵 trying to:

- Decode messages
- · Break encryption
- Find weaknesses in algorithms

o Goal of Cryptanalysis:

- Read hidden data
- Change a message without being caught
- Prove that a system is not secure

X Techniques of Cryptanalysis:

Technique
Explanation

Technique	Explanation
Brute Force Attack	Try every possible key until the correct one is found \nearrow^8
Frequency Analysis	Analyze letter frequencies in cipher text to guess plain text
Known-Plaintext Attack	Attacker has some plain text and cipher text pairs to guess the key \nearrow
Chosen-Plaintext Attack	Attacker chooses a plain text and observes the cipher text result o
5 Chosen- Ciphertext Attack	Attacker chooses cipher text and tries to get back the plain text
6 Man-in-the-Middle Attack	Attacker intercepts data between sender and receiver without their knowledge

Common Cryptanalysis Attacks:

Attack Type	How It Works
Ciphertext-only Attack	Only cipher text is available. Try to guess the original message.
Known-Plaintext Attack	Uses known plain-cipher pairs to crack the encryption method.
Chosen-Plaintext Attack	Injects known plain text into the system to see how it's encrypted.
Replay Attack	Resends valid data to trick the system.
Man-in-the-Middle	Intercepts and possibly changes messages between two parties.

Real-Life Example:

If a hacker sees multiple encrypted messages and guesses the algorithm, they might use **frequency analysis** to figure out common letters like **E**, **A**, **T**, **O** in English

✓ Conclusion:

Cryptanalysis is like the **art of code-breaking** Cryptanalysis is like the **art of cod**



Q3 (15): What is Computer Security Attacks?

What is a Computer Security Attack?

A Computer Security Attack is an action that attempts to steal, damage, misuse, or disrupt computer systems, data, or networks.

- It is like a digital crime where hackers or malicious programs try to:
 - Steal your data
 - Destroy or modify files
 - Solution
 Solution<

Types of Computer Security Attacks:

There are 4 major types of attacks based on what they do to your system. Let's break them down one by one

👖 Interruption Attack 🚫

📌 Meaning:

This attack disrupts or stops system services so that users can't access them.

What it affects:

- System resources (like files, servers, devices)
- Network communication

Real-Life Example:

A DDoS (Distributed Denial of Service) attack floods a website with traffic, making it crash and go offline. Users can't access it anymore \\\ \extstyle \|

% Outcome:

Service Unavailable X

- Data Loss =
- Downtime for businesses

🙎 Interception Attack 🕵

Meaning:

This attack snoops or listens to data that is meant to be private.

What it affects:

- Confidential messages
- Data transfer over networks

Real-Life Example:

A hacker sniffs unencrypted Wi-Fi and reads your emails or passwords 📈 🔒



% Outcome:

- Data Privacy Lost
- Sensitive Info Leaked
- Identity Theft

📵 Modification Attack 🚣

Meaning:

This attack alters the original data or messages without permission.

What it affects:

- Stored data
- In-transit messages

Real-Life Example:

A hacker changes your bank account number in an online transaction, so money goes to them instead! 💸 😱

% Outcome:

- Misinformation
- Data Corruption

Financial Loss &



Meaning:

This attack **inserts fake data** or messages into a system.

What it affects:

- Logs 📜
- Emails 📥
- Authentication systems

Real-Life Example:

A fake user account is created by a hacker to gain unauthorized access into a system



% Outcome:

- System Misuse
- False Information Generated 😩
- Fake Transactions or Access 💼

Summary Table:

Type	What It Does	© Example
1 Interruption	Stops or damages service	Website crash via DDoS attack
2 Interception	Spies or listens to private communication	Hacker reading unencrypted emails
3 Modification	Changes original data	Altering payment details in an online transfer
4 Fabrication	Inserts fake data or messages	Creating fake accounts or login attempts

Conclusion:

Computer security attacks are like **invisible threats** when the threat that can spy, block, change, or fake data in your system.

Knowing these 4 types — Interruption, Interception, Modification, and Fabrication — helps us build stronger, smarter protection