

1. Pre-work

a. Get materials

- i. [\(ISC\)2 CISSP Certified Information Systems Security Professional Official Study Guide, 8th Edition](#)
- ii. [Eleventh Hour CISSP: Study Guide, 3rd Edition](#)
- iii. [Boson ExSim-Max for CISSP](#)
- iv. [Kelly Handerhan Cybrary videos](#)
- v. Sunflower notes (attached)
- vi. OPTIONAL – [Index cards](#)
- vii. OPTIONAL – [Pens](#)

b. Establish a study schedule and habits.

- i. I made an **obscene** amount of physical flashcards during this time - my advice for these (or notes, whatever works for you) is to read the concept and then synthesize it with your own words. Physically write this down. This really helps retention. I would review and resynthesize the day's notes just about every night.

c. Scan Eleventh Hour to get your head around the breadth of the test.

2. Studying

- a. Read the official Sybex book cover to cover. Google and learn about anything you don't know.
- b. In parallel, watch Kelly Handerhan's videos on Cybrary, matching up the topics (i.e., read over the chapter in the book and then watch Kelly's videos on the same material – plan for this below). She's **excellent** for telling you what to focus on versus what to commit to memory only if you have extra time.

(ISC) ² Certified Information Systems Security Practitioner (CISSP)			
15-Session Study Plan			
Session	Chapter	Domain	Cybrary Slides
1	1	1	1-47
	2	1	
2	3	1(7)	48-97
	4	1	
3	Chapter Tests 1-4	1	N/A
	5	2	119-133

4	6	3	163-222
	7	3	
5	Chapter Tests 5-7	2	N/A
	8	3	134-162
6	9	3	223-252
	10	3(7)	
7	11	4	253-318
	12	4	
8	Chapter Tests 8-12	3-4	N/A
	13	5	319-361
9	14	5	362-436
	15	6	
10	16	7	427-480
	17	7	
11	18	6(7)	98-118
	19	7(1)	
12	Chapter Tests 13-19	5-7	N/A
	20	8	481-503
13	21	8(3)	504-508
	Chapter Tests 20-21	8	N/A
14	Practice Exam 1	All	N/A
15	Practice Exam 2	All	N/A

3. Test prep

- ~2 weeks out, reread Eleventh Hour using the same process as the Sybex read-through - notecards and Google. 😊
- ~10 days out, start using the Boson practice tests. These are more technical (harder) but less vague (easier) than the actual questions but are still the best tests out there due in large part to their references. Read and re-read. Know *why* the incorrect answers were incorrect.
 - Do all 5 tests (be warned tests B and C are more difficult – don't let this shake your confidence!), learning from each incorrect answer.
 - Then, do all 647 questions in the bank. There's a mode in the Boson sim environment to remove a question after 3 consecutive right answers.
- ~3-5 days out, while keeping up with the Boson tests, read the updated sunflower notes as a final check of your knowledge.
- 3 days out, focus on your (by now specific) problem areas.
- The night before, watch [Kelly Handerhan's](#) and [Larry Greenblatt's](#) videos on tips/why you will pass to get in the right frame of mind.

f. Get good sleep!

4. During the test, read everything twice (there is copious time) and don't get too in your head or try to figure out how you're doing. Focus singularly on the question in front of you. I felt like I was absolutely going to fail, but passed at 100. Just stay calm and know you've done the work. **Good luck!** 😊