

VICEROY DECREE Security+ Exam Preparation Guide

Welcome to VICEROY DECREE's official Security+ Exam Preparation Guide. This comprehensive guide, tailored towards the SY0-701 exam, will provide information on the exam's structure/layout, various preparation strategies, experiences from DECREE students who are now Sec+ certified, and a suite of recommended study resources. Contact any of the scholars mentioned in this guide or DECREE's admin team if you need help or have questions. Enjoy!

Exam Structure and Layout

As a VICEROY scholar, you get the opportunity to take the Sec+ exam at no cost to you! It is an incredible opportunity and one you should take full advantage of! Below, you will find a synopsis of what the Sec+ exam is, how it is structured, the key domains it tests students on, and why you should take it.

The CompTIA Security+ SY0-701 certification exam assesses foundational knowledge and skills in cybersecurity, including threat management, risk assessment, incident response, architecture, and compliance. It is designed to validate practical and theoretical abilities, such as securing networks, responding to incidents, and implementing governance policies, making it ideal for entry-level roles like security analysts and administrators. As a globally recognized credential, Security+ demonstrates to employers that candidates are prepared to handle core cybersecurity tasks in an evolving threat landscape, boosting career opportunities and earning potential.

- **Number of Questions:** The exam includes a maximum of *90 questions*, combining *multiple-choice* (single and multiple-response) and *performance-based questions* (PBQs). PBQs require students to solve problems in simulated environments, testing practical, hands-on knowledge.
- **Time Limit:** Students have *90 minutes* to complete the exam, so effective time management is crucial. On average, this provides about one minute per question.
- **Passing Score:** The passing score is *750* on a scale of 100-900. This means scoring around 83% is necessary to pass.

The SY0-701 is split into five key areas, including:

- Threats, Attacks, and Vulnerabilities (24%)
- Architecture and Design (18%)
- Implementation (25%)
- Operations and Incident Response (28%), and
- Governance, Risk, and Compliance (20%)

Each section emphasizes real-world skills, such as configuring security in enterprise architecture, understanding zero-trust and IoT, and responding to incidents. To see each key area's breakdown, click the link [here](#).

****Fun fact!** CompTIA Security+ is compliant with ISO 17024 standards and approved by the U.S. DoD to meet Directive 8140.03M requirements. ******

Preparation Strategies

Everyone prepares for and studies for exams differently. Below, you will find some basic steps you should take in your preparation and some advice from your fellow DECREE scholars who have passed this exam! These steps include understanding the SY0-701 exam structure, using diverse study resources that are advantageous for your learning style, and focusing on both theory and practical skills. Scholars emphasize the importance of consistent review, leveraging hands-on practice through virtual labs, and taking multiple practice exams to familiarize yourself with the test environment. From practice tests to study groups, these tips reflect proven strategies to boost your confidence and chances of success. You got this!

1. Understand the exam structure, layout, and content.

- Confused about where to start? Start by clearing up any confusion on what the exam includes and how it is structured. Get yourself comfortable with what the exam will test you on and how it is laid out. Refer to the section above and familiarize yourself with it.

2. Pick a date and create a study plan.

- Pick a date a couple of months out and schedule your exam. Doing so will hold you accountable and give you a clear deadline for structuring your study plan. Keep in mind you can always change this date. But try your best not to and work to meet the deadline!
- What's better than a plan that keeps you organized, reduces stress, and ensures you cover all the essential topics with time to spare? A solid study plan helps you

break the material into manageable chunks, focus on your weak areas, and build confidence through consistent practice. Sit down, map out the exam objectives, and create a plan that fits into your schedule.

**** DECREE SCHOLAR ADVICE ****

- *“Start slow and be consistent. A little bit throughout the day is way better than a lot in one shot (this is true just in general for learning other things).”* - Ismael Sanchez.

3. Flashcards, Flashcards, Flashcards!

- a. Whether it's port numbers, acronyms, or social engineering terms, there are a lot of use cases for flashcards when studying for this exam. Write down all the vocabulary terms and test yourself until you master them. You can never go wrong with the basics!

**** DECREE SCHOLAR ADVICE ****

- *“Write down all important acronyms on flash cards.”* - Alec Tellez.

4. Practice exams and questions make perfect!

- a. Taking practice exams is the best way to prepare yourself for the big day. Take as many as you can and review what you get wrong. There are also many places online where you can find practice questions to aid in your studying. Work to take at least two practice exams before taking your exam. Specific resources can be found in the 'Study Resources' section.

5. Watch instead of read

- a. Reading from the provided exam guidebook can be helpful for some but not for all. If you retain information better by watching or listening, go to YouTube and find a host of Sec+ review guide videos. You can start with a classic and go for Professor Messer. He has great videos that are to the point and resources that are very popular and helpful. If Professor Messer doesn't work for you, try any of the hundreds of other videos! Specific videos can be found in the 'Study Resources' section.

6. Talk to a rubber duck (or your family and friends)

- a. Explain the concepts you are learning to a rubber duck or any inanimate object of your choosing! Doing so can help you identify areas of weakness or places where clarification is needed. Furthermore, talking out loud and answering questions from your friends and family as you explain to them these concepts is a great way to test your knowledge and ensure that you know these concepts inside and out!

There are so many more preparation strategies out there. I hope you find that at least one of the aforementioned strategies is helpful to you as you prepare. If you've found a strategy

that has worked well for you but isn't listed above, and you want to share it with others, feel free to email me, and I'll include it in this guide!

Study Resources

As a DECREE scholar, in addition to getting the exam voucher, you will also receive the official CompTIA Security+ book. However, there are way more resources out there to help you study than just the official guidebook. Below you will find a non-exhaustive list of various study resources you can utilize in your preparation, many of which have been recommended by your fellow DECREE scholars!

VIDEOS:

1. [Professor Messer's Sec+ playlist](#)
2. [Learn your ports!](#)
3. [Computer viruses](#)
4. [Security controls](#)
5. [Public Key Infrastructure](#)
6. [IDS vs IPS](#)
7. [Protocols 1](#)
8. [Protocols 2](#)

PRACTICE EXAMS & QUESTIONS:

1. [Professor Messer's](#)
2. [Exam Compass](#)
3. [ITExams](#)
4. [Duke University](#)
5. [GoCertify](#)
6. [Udemy](#)

I hope the above resources give you a good headstart in your Sec+ preparation journey. Plenty of other resources are out there, so feel free to explore more. Please reach out to me with any questions, comments, or contributions! Thank you for reading through this guide; I hope you found it useful. Congratulations again on being a VICEROY DECREE scholar and good luck with your studies!

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