**Introduction to Cryptography Study Guide**

To provide some context as to which areas to spend some additional time on in your study efforts, the weighting for the internal exam are as follows:

**10% Encryption Standards | 46% Algorithms | 28% Encryption Systems 16% Cryptographic Theory  
  
Getting Started**

* **After clicking “Go to Course” from C839 Page, go to Learning Resources in Course Overview. Download the “ITProTV Video Notes” at the bottom of the page to get the ITProTV PDF mentioned in Course Chatter. This PDF is a great primer for encryption, especially algorithms.**
* **Navigate to the top of the Learning Resources page to the “VitalSource E-Text” and click-through. This takes you to the EC-Council E-Text – EC-Council Certified Encryption Specialist: Courseware and Lab Manual, which is augmented by Labs (Install CrypTool (**[**www.cryptool.org)**](http://www.cryptool.org))**). Disregard the Access Code: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX mentioned in the E-Text introduction. This download option isn’t available for C839, so content must be accessed through the “Learning Resources” link every time.**
* **Navigate to and bookmark:** [www.reddit.com/r/WGU/comments/99nql1/i\_passed\_wgu\_c839\_certified\_encryption\_specialist/](http://www.reddit.com/r/WGU/comments/99nql1/i_passed_wgu_c839_certified_encryption_specialist/) **This resource was created by a former C839 student for their studies, who selflessly shared and updated it. It includes Quizlets pulled from the course content and divided by section.**
* **Recommended study path based on aggregate Course Chatter posts suggest studying ITProTV PDF, VitalSource E-Text, Reddit Quizlets, and Soomo (Primary Course Content) in that order. Comments also suggest reviewing ITProTV PDF and Reddit Quizlets again before testing to reinforce key concepts.**
* **After passing the Objective Assessment request the EC-Council ECES Voucher by following directions at:**<https://cm.wgu.edu/t5/Frequently-Asked-Questions/EC-Council-Assessment-Scheduling-and-Score-Results/ta-p/2757>

**Read all Course Chatter comments and these stood out and/or were the most relevant:**

“Review the ITProTV PDF. Then study the Vitalsource and Soomo simultaneously. Memorize all that bold. Review the ITProTV PDF again. The test covers all this material. The PA only hints at the breadth of the OA.”

“Passed the OA after 5 weeks of study closer to exemplary, but not quite. WGU reading material is very hard to read. The IT Pro TV PDF, reddit quizlets, and vital source texts were much more helpful. Used all the material available to me except watching the IT Pro TV videos. I typically do not care for them much.”

“I just passed the Cert it was similar to WGU's exam. Know the block and key sizes of the algorithms as well as which ones are hashed, stream or block. I had 50 questions and your results are immediate. Since you get a voucher for the first attempt I suggest you try it since it's free.”  
  
“I passed the v3 internal exam. I would recommend reading the VitalSource E-Text cover to cover. Go through all of the details for all of the algorithms (half the questions on the exam) and take notes. VitalSource was much more helpful than the video notes to me. The questions on the exam wanted more detail than the high level video notes, in my opinion. But everything needed to pass the exam was in the VitalSource material.”