

1) Perfect Forward Secrecy: In cryptographic protocols, how does perfect forward secrecy protect past communications if a long-term private key is compromised?

- A) By using only symmetric keys for encryption
- B) By regularly rotating private keys
- C) By generating unique session keys that are not derived from long-term private keys
- D) By employing only public keys in session key generation

Answer: C) By generating unique session keys that are not derived from long-term private keys

2) Discrete Logarithm Problem in Elliptic Curves: Why is the discrete logarithm problem considered harder in elliptic curves than in finite fields of the same size?

- A) Due to the increased key size in elliptic curves
- B) Due to the exponential time required to solve logarithms over elliptic curves
- C) Because elliptic curve groups have a larger number of elements
- D) Because there is no known sub-exponential algorithm for elliptic curve discrete logarithm problems

Answer: D) Because there is no known sub-exponential algorithm for elliptic curve discrete logarithm problems

3) AES Galois Field Operations: In AES, which Galois field is used for the operations within the S-box and MixColumns transformations?

- A)  $GF(2^7)$
- B)  $GF(2^8)$
- C)  $GF(2^{128})$
- D)  $GF(2^{256})$

Answer: B)  $GF(2^8)$

4) Quantum-Resistant Cryptography: Which current cryptographic algorithm is considered most vulnerable to quantum computing attacks?

- A) AES
- B) RSA
- C) ChaCha20
- D) Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC)

Answer: B) RSA

5) Elliptic Curve Points: Given an elliptic curve over a finite field, if point  $P$  has order  $n$ , which equation must hold true for any scalar  $k$  where  $0 \leq k < n$ ?

- A)  $kP = O$  (the identity element)

- B)  $kP = P + Q$  for any point  $Q$  on the curve
- C)  $kPkP$  will always be another point on the curve
- D)  $kP \neq OkP \Rightarrow O$  unless  $k=n$

Answer: C)  $kPkP$  will always be another point on the curve

6) RSA and CRT Optimization: How does using the Chinese Remainder Theorem (CRT) optimize RSA decryption?

- A) It reduces the size of keys required for encryption
- B) It reduces the number of calculations needed for decryption
- C) It increases the strength of encryption against quantum attacks
- D) It splits the modulus into two smaller moduli for faster computation

Answer: B) It reduces the number of calculations needed for decryption

7) Side-Channel Attack: Which side-channel attack specifically exploits differences in time taken for various cryptographic operations to guess keys?

- A) Power analysis attack
- B) Timing attack
- C) Differential fault analysis
- D) Chosen plaintext attack

Answer: B) Timing attack

8) Homomorphic Encryption: What is a primary benefit of homomorphic encryption?

- A) It provides faster symmetric key encryption
- B) It allows computation on ciphertext without decrypting
- C) It enables secure key exchange
- D) It offers perfect forward secrecy

Answer: B) It allows computation on ciphertext without decrypting

9) Key Stretching Algorithms: Which key stretching algorithm is specifically designed to resist brute-force attacks by significantly slowing down the hashing process?

- A) SHA-1
- B) PBKDF2
- C) MD5
- D) AES

Answer: B) PBKDF2

10) Elliptic Curve Group Structure: For an elliptic curve group, which point acts as the identity element in the group operation?

- A) The point at infinity
- B) The origin (0,0)
- C) Any point on the x-axis

D) The base point chosen for the curve

Answer: A) The point at infinity

11) RSA Key Generation Vulnerability: Insecure RSA key generation can lead to key compromise if the prime numbers  $p$  and  $q$  are generated in a predictable way. What approach ensures secure generation of  $p$  and  $q$ ?

- A) Using small primes to save computation
- B) Generating primes with predictable intervals
- C) Using a high-entropy random source to generate large, distinct primes
- D) Generating primes through a deterministic algorithm

Answer: C) Using a high-entropy random source to generate large, distinct primes

12) Differential Cryptanalysis: Which encryption algorithm was the first to be specifically designed to resist differential cryptanalysis?

- A) DES
- B) AES
- C) IDEA
- D) Blowfish

Answer: A) DES

13) Elliptic Curve Equation: For an elliptic curve  $E$  over a finite field, described by  $y^2 = x^3 + ax + b$ , which condition must hold for  $E$  to be non-singular?

- A)  $a = b = 0$
- B)  $4a^3 + 27b^2 \neq 0$
- C)  $a \neq 0$  and  $b \neq 0$
- D)  $a^2 + b^2 \neq 0$

Answer: B)  $4a^3 + 27b^2 \neq 0$

14) Cipher Block Chaining (CBC) Mode Vulnerability: What is a potential vulnerability of the CBC mode if an initialization vector (IV) is reused?

- A) Increased computational time for encryption
- B) Reduced encryption speed
- C) Loss of data confidentiality
- D) Higher resistance to brute-force attacks

Answer: C) Loss of data confidentiality

15) Elliptic Curve ECDSA Signature: Which two values make up an ECDSA signature on an elliptic curve?

- A) Encrypted message and public key
- B) Signature point and private key
- C) Points  $r$  and  $s$  derived from the hash and private key

D) Digital signature and key length

Answer: C) Points rrr and sss derived from the hash and private key

16) Chosen-Ciphertext Attack: Which cryptographic algorithm is vulnerable to a chosen-ciphertext attack if used improperly without padding?

A) AES in CBC mode

B) RSA without OAEP padding

C) Blowfish in ECB mode

D) ECC with ECDSA

Answer: B) RSA without OAEP padding

17) TLS 1.3 Cipher Suites: In TLS 1.3, which of the following improvements was introduced regarding cipher suites?

A) Support for longer key sizes

B) Elimination of weak symmetric ciphers

C) Reduction of handshake phases for speed

D) Removal of non-authenticated encryption modes

Answer: D) Removal of non-authenticated encryption modes

18) Collision Resistance in SHA-256: Why is collision resistance crucial in SHA-256 when used for digital signatures?

A) To prevent hash inversion

B) To avoid two different messages producing the same hash

C) To ensure shorter hash lengths

D) To speed up the hashing process

Answer: B) To avoid two different messages producing the same hash

19) Modular Exponentiation in RSA: Which algorithm is typically used to speed up modular exponentiation in RSA encryption and decryption?

A) Extended Euclidean algorithm

B) Chinese Remainder Theorem

C) Square-and-multiply algorithm

D) Diffie-Hellman protocol

Answer: C) Square-and-multiply algorithm

20) Authenticated Encryption: Which mode of operation combines both encryption and authentication in a single step?

A) CBC

B) CTR

C) GCM

D) ECB

Answer: C) GCM