**My Journey to CISSP – Certified Information Systems Security Professional**

Thanks to my sister and brother-in-law for their invaluable support and helping me improve myself.

Below are the sources I followed:

1) CISSP LinkedIn learning videos Mike Chapple - **Took handwritten notes**

Per day 2 hrs video and it took me 12 days to finish 24hrs

2) Shon Harris latest Edition all in one which includes practice questions - I know it is too verbose, but this is what I followed. It is up to you which one to take as your main source, some prefer Sybex. Since I had watched Mike Chapple's LinkedIn learning videos and I know that I will be going for official practice tests which are from Mike Chapple and David Seidl. Hence, I want to take my main source from another author so that they will cover diverse topics. It took me 4 months to complete reading the book - **Took handwritten notes**

3) IT Dojo videos CISSP - try to watch daily 3 videos. 104 in total - **Took handwritten notes and started watching these videos before I had completed the last 2 chapters of the book.**

[Free CISSP Study Questions of the Day from IT Dojo](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBpnwlO9U5unYmbZp2DJETNOHg8s_yW37)

4) Luke Ahmed how to think like a manager YouTube video - 1hr [How To Think Like A Manager for the CISSP Exam - Director's Cut](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dq5eodSz_0k&ab_channel=StudyNotesandTheory)

5) Eric Conrad CISSP exam-cram Sans YouTube channel - 1hr [CISSP Cram Session](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kIAIggh-a1U&ab_channel=SANSInstitute)

6) Larry greenblatt’s CISSP YouTube video - 1hr - [Larry Greenblatt's CISSP 2022 Introduction](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LafS7wM7uOk&ab_channel=MaxQuasar)

7) Andrew Ramdayal Cissp YouTube videos - 20 mins I guess - [CISSP Testing Tips Secrets All Students Should Know](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CanT50bzEV0&ab_channel=AndrewRamdayal) [CISSP Practice Question, Methods to Selecting the Correct Answer](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKeoyCA1DpA&ab_channel=AndrewRamdayal)

8)PowerCert animated videos for topics like backups, RAIDS <https://www.youtube.com/c/PowerCertAnimatedVideos>

9) Prabh Nair videos for some topics

10) CISSP exam cram - Pete Zerger - 8 Hrs (feel free to skip the topics that you are confident as by this point you should be confident with most of the topics) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_nyZhYnCNLA&ab_channel=InsideCloudandSecurity>

--> scheduled the exam 18 days ahead.

12) Isc2 official practice tests - each domain consists of 100 questions, with 18 days before the exam, In BOOK, I had started completing a chapter a day for 4 days and made a note of the topics/weak areas for which I gave incorrect answers, 2 days to fill in the gaps for the first 4 domains. Followed the same for the remaining 4 domains and 2 days to fill in the gaps for those four chapters. Now I have 4 complete practice tests remaining and 8 days in hand before the exam. -

**Prepare yourself for 150 questions in the exam.**

--> 6 days to exam day-

1) practice test 1 in exam mode online - approx. 120 questions

2) practice test 2 in exam mode online - approx. 120 questions

3) fill in the gaps if you find in first 2 tests or consider it a rest day

4) practice test 3 in exam mode online - approx. 120 questions

5) practice test 4 in exam mode online -approx. 120 questions

I made an average of 70(some are >75) in all 8 domains and reached 78% in my last practice test.

13) Mindmap videos - Approx 6 hrs - completed them in 2 days - [CISSP MindMaps / Domain Review](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZKdGEfEyJhKWyryIvx_jm1jn6ZMTi7gW)

**Prepare yourself for 150 questions in the exam.**

*A Day before the exam* - Only thing I watched is Kelly's video, taking a rest and listening to the music of your personal choice, read a book of your personal choice, go for a walk if required. It might be tough but try your best to get good sleep.

14) Kelly Handerhan why you will pass CISSP YouTube video - 17 mins [Why you will pass the CISSP](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v2Y6Zog8h2A&ab_channel=KellyHanderhan)

**EAT WELL**

Scheduled exam on morning 9 AM and I went an hour early, started my exam at 8 15 AM as they allowed me. Because of my preparation, I never felt that I am losing grip on the exam from the first question and by the end I am sure that I will ace it, however after looking at the paper PearsonVUE staff gave me saying *"congratulations! we are pleased to inform you that you have provisionally passed..."* gave me a conformation regarding the result.

Exam questions are completely different from practice test questions. however, they will prepare you to parse the questions.

**Endorsement Process:**

After passing the exam in 2 working days I got email confirmation from (ISC)2 as I am provisionally passed, they might audit or check the video recording of your exam. Once after having this email you can login to your ISC2 account and raise a endorsement request, I had provided my masters certificate and 5 years of my previous work experience. In my previous work experience I had mentioned 3 domains I had worked on and the topics are related to cloud security, security operations RBAC and dealt with PKI, databases and web application security. It took me 3 weeks approximately to get the request approved, since I don’t know someone who is an existing CISSP I had requested ISC2 to be the endorser for me. After approval you need to pay the yearly maintenance fee and you will become the member of ISC2. For more information I recommend you to go through the official site.

This is my journey. Everyone is unique in their work or personal commitments. I have 8.3 years of IT experience working with Microsoft On-prem and cloud environments, completed a master's in cyber security, taught threat intelligence, security operations, and cryptography for a couple of months at University for master's students as a part-time lecturer. I have a bit of background in Office365, Azure Security, ISO27001, and Penetration testing.

I wish you all the best in your pursuits and thanks to all the contributors for helping me achieve this.

- Uday