



FREE CISSP® Course

HOW TO STUDY GUIDE

How to study, make plans, tips, find materials, approach, and more from Thor Pedersen <https://t.me/learningnets>

Why CISSP®?



- ✓ The GOLD standard of IT Security Certifications, as well as the most sought-after.
- ✓ Granted by ISC2, known as the world's leading IT security organization.
- ✓ The global average salary is \$119,170, while the average salary in the United States is \$138,647.
- ✓ There are 159,679 CISSPs in over 172 countries as of June 2023.
- ✓ There are over 140,000 job vacancies in the United States that require CISSP certification.
- ✓ Globally, the number of cybersecurity positions has climbed by 720%, from one million in 2013 to 5.2 million filled jobs and 3.5 million cybersecurity job openings in 2023 .

4 things you need to pass your CISSP®



The Knowledge

1

You must **find your study materials** (videos, books, questions,...) and everything else necessary to gain the knowledge you need for the exam. Once you have gathered all your resources, **create a study plan** to keep you on track. Finally, you **must be able to explain the concepts** (what, where, when, why, and how).



The Ability to Deconstruct Questions

2

You need to **figure out what they are ACTUALLY asking?** ISC2 will use convoluted language or have a single keyword that changes the answer. It is important to **answer what they asked, rather than what you want to answer.** Read the questions a couple of times and boil the question down to its essence.



The Ability to Pick the MOST Right Answer

3

There could be two more-or-less correct answers among the options. Given a specific situation, you must be able to **evaluate which one is the MOST right in the eyes of ISC2.**



Time Management

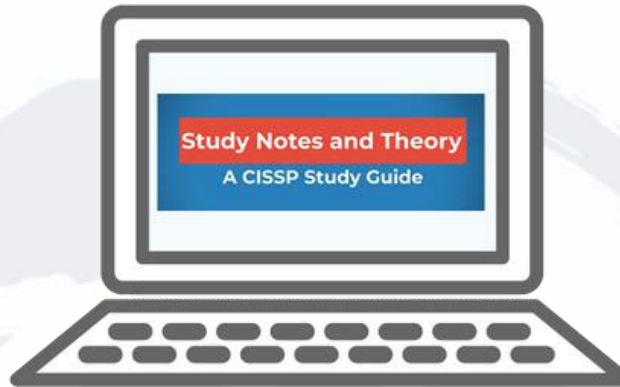
4

On average, you have 82 seconds for each question. **Spend more time on the first 20-30 questions to perform better on the CAT curve and receive harder questions**—this will increase your chances of passing.

Study Materials: Videos



<https://thorteaches.com/cissp>



<https://studynotesandtheory.com/signup>



<https://itpro.tv/courses/isc2>

What Thor says

There are a number of good CISSP Videos in the market and I believe my courses are a part of that!

I think my courses are amazing, but I also think that Luke Ahmed's Study Notes and Theory and ITPro.tv with Adam Gordon are great courses as well.

I mention these two specifically because they are awesome instructors, they're good at conveying the curriculum and they truly care about advancing the profession.



When you need to find an instructor that works for you, look at their preview videos. Is this instructor a good fit for me?



Get at least 2-3 video courses because each instructor is good at explaining certain topics and has a unique point of view that will help you in the exam.

Study Materials: Videos

Other Notable Mentions

On-Demand Videos



CYBRARY



Bootcamps

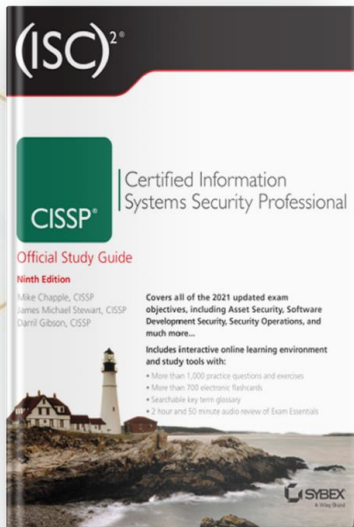
ISC2™ SANS

PRABH NAIR
SECURITY ADVISOR | INSTRUCTOR

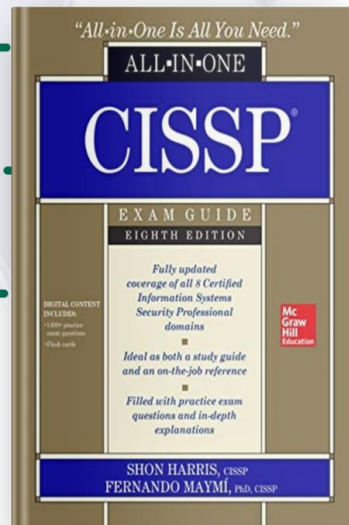
✓ Bootcamps are heavily reliant on the instructor; if you get a fantastic instructor, you will have an incredible experience. Otherwise, it can be dreadful. There are numerous companies that provide boot camps, either in-person or live online.

✓ The cost of a boot camp ranges between \$1,000 and \$8,000. Make sure you do a lot of research, particularly on the instructor to ensure that you get your money's worth!

Study Materials: Main Books



60%
of Thor Teaches'
students preferred
the Sybex's OSG



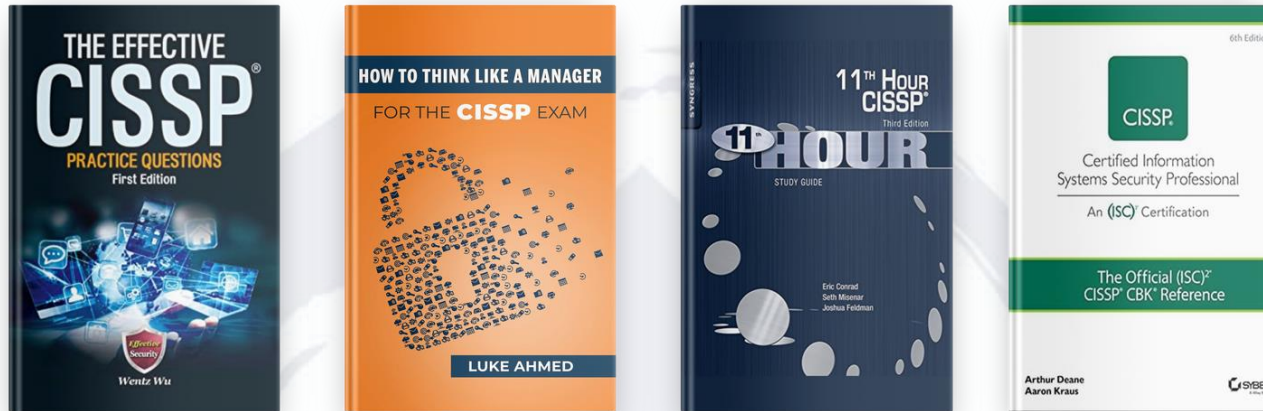
40%
of Thor Teaches'
students preferred
the AIO

- 1 You need at least one of the two main books – Sybex's **ISC2 CISSP Certified Information Systems Security Professional Official Study Guide** and Shon Harris' **CISSP All-in-One (AIO) Exam Guide**.
- 2 Read 2-3 paragraphs from each book, choose the one you like the most then buy it.

What Thor says

I personally like the AIO better because it goes more in-depth on some topics, but it is much longer than Sybex's OSG.

Study Materials: Secondary Books



What Thor says

Wentz Wu's book will help you develop the critical mentality required for the exam in order to answer all questions from the perspective of an IT Security Manager.

Luke Ahmed's book will help you deconstruct questions, which is a critical skill for the exam.

We also have the 11th Hour, which is already out of date because it hasn't been updated since 2015, but it's still a useful resource for brushing up on particular topics.

Finally, we have The Official ISC2 CISSP CBK—this is the truth of all CISSP knowledge, but it is also tough to read. This book is meant for reference work—if you're unsure about a specific topic, crack open the CISSP CBK and look it up.

Study Materials: Free Resources

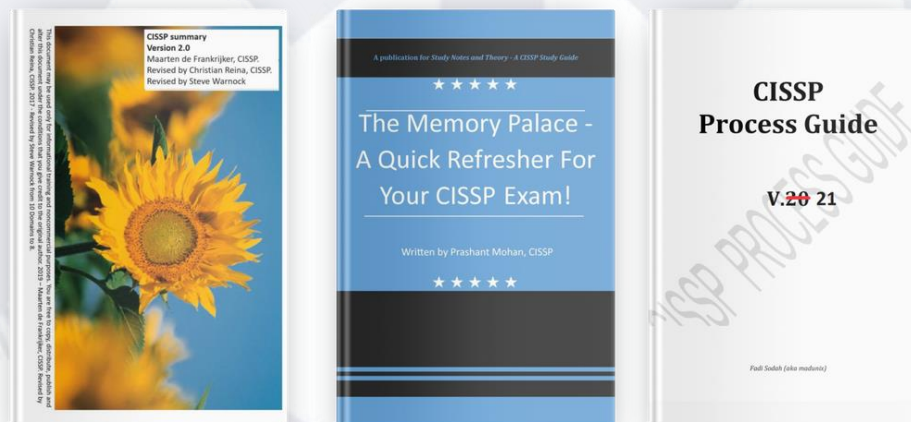
Publications

National Institute of Standards and Technology— a U.S. government agency that publishes special publications that are relevant to certifications



The Open Web Application Security Project (OWASP) does a lot of amazing stuff, but for CISSP, the most important thing to look into is the OWASP Top 10.

Study Guides



Sunflower Notes by Maarten de Frankrijker

CISSP Process Guide by Fadi Sodah (madunix)

The Memory Palace by Prashant Mohan

✓ Study Guides are written by people who have passed the CISSP exam and want to give back to the community.

Study Materials: Free Resources

Facebook Study Groups



Facebook groups are fantastic for sharing knowledge and information. However, unlike Discord, it is not very good for natural organic discussions.

Discord Servers



Certification Station is THE most active certification Discord server. With 38k+ members they provide those critical discussions you need to pass your exam and they have helped thousands of members pass their exams.

Others



reddit



r/

cissp

ISACA[®] Glossary of Terms



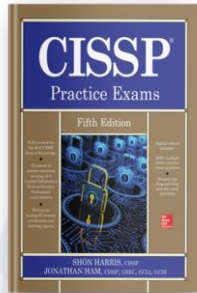
Visit thorteaches.com/study and look under Free Stuff for all of the free resources I recommend, which you can download from there.

Study Materials: Practice Questions

Easy/Mid



ThorTeaches.com
Easy/Mid Questions



Other Notable Mentions



Pocket Prep CCCure

ThorTeaches QOTD

Wentz Wu QOTD

Adam Gordon QOTD

Hard



ThorTeaches.com
Hard Questions



Study Notes and Theory
A CISSP Study Guide



Hard questions should be used in the last 1-2 months of your studies because they are the most similar to exam questions, and I highly recommend getting your questions from these three: my own Hard Questions, Study Notes and Theory's, and Boson.

How Do I Use Practice Questions?

- 1 You should be able to explain the what, where, how, why and when of the concepts.
- 2 Take 1,500-3,500 easy/mid questions and at least 1,500 hard questions in the last 1-2 months of your studies.
- 3 Restudy all of the topics for all of the questions you marked for review as well as all of the questions you got wrong.
- 4 Don't reuse practice questions!



Spend more time on the first 20 questions on the CISSP CAT Exam.



Take breaks when you need them to reset your mind.



Answer like an IT Security Manager, a Risk Adviser, and a Lawyer.

How Should I Approach a Question?

- 1 **Read the entire question.**
- 2 **Take the time you need to read the question—probably twice—and then deconstruct it to figure out what are they really asking.**
- 3 **Make sure that when you deconstruct the question, you break it down to its essence, which means that the question could be a long paragraph, but they're only asking about the last ten words.**
- 4 **You need to find the keywords (what is important) and their indicators (what happened).**
- 5 **Next, while selecting the correct answer, ensure that it satisfies the requirements posed by the question. You must be accurate and precise in order to select the MOST RIGHT answer in the eyes of ISC2.**

Low Budget

Which resources should you get?

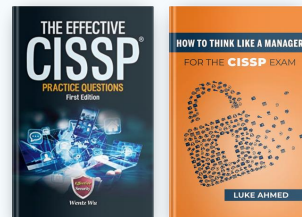
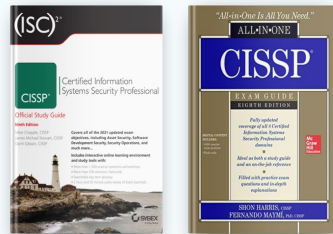
Videos

ThorTeaches



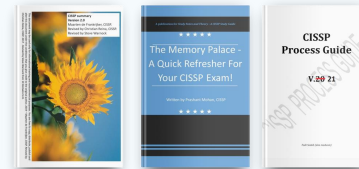
Books

Either of the two main books



Free Stuff

NIST OWASP



reddit r/cissp

ISACA Glossary of Terms



Study Notes and Theory A CISSP Study Guide



Questions

Easy / Mid



Hard

Choose 2 of 3



Study Notes and Theory A CISSP Study Guide



Questions of the Day

High

Which resources should you get?

Videos

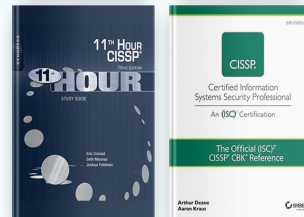
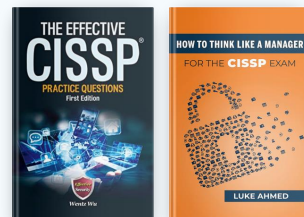
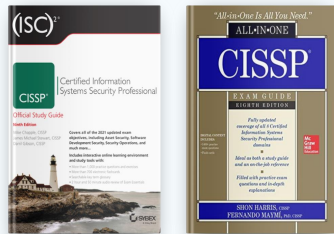


Study Notes and Theory
A CISSP Study Guide

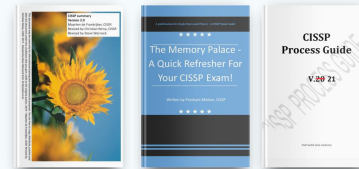


Books

Either of the two main books



Free Stuff



ISACA® Glossary of Terms



Study Notes and Theory
A CISSP Study Guide



Questions

Easy / Mid



Hard



Study Notes and Theory
A CISSP Study Guide




Questions of the Day

CISSP® Study Plan

- 1** The amount of time spent studying CISSP differs from student to student because everyone has a varied background, knowledge, and learning speed. Other considerations include how much time they spend studying each day, how focused are they, and a variety of factors will determine how long a student must study for the CISSP. Some students study for a week and pass the exam, while others study for almost a year. The average duration is between 4 and 6 months.
- 2** You need to study 2-3 hours every day for something as large and sophisticated as the CISSP. You must identify those small pockets of time — 10, 15, or 20 minutes — when you are not doing anything else and use them to study. I have used lunch breaks, commutes, while waiting for meetings to start, and any small pockets of time like that.
- 3** The study plan is a living document; if you were unable to find a time to study the previous week, or if you have some more time to study, you change the plan accordingly.

CISSP® Study Plan: Thor's Approach

- 1 Watch the certification videos you have. I suggest 1-3 different sources. Watch all the videos and take notes on the downloadable study guides from ThorTeaches.com.
- 2 Read the book you chose. I suggest 1-2 different books, supplement your notes.
- 3 Read The Memory Palace, The CISSP Process Guide, The Sunflower Notes, and The NIST Publications.
- 4 Re-watch the videos, maybe at 1.5-2x speed— update your notes.
- 5 Re-read the books— update your notes.
- 6 Do practice questions. For the CISSP, do a lot of them— A LOT.
 - It is normal for students to do between 2,500-3,000 easy/mid questions, and 1,000-1,500 hard questions.
 - After each practice test, read all the explanations on the questions you got wrong and then re-study those areas until you can explain them (videos/books).
- 7 Do another practice test.
- 8 Repeat 6-7 until you hit 80%+ on multiple practice test engines on easy/mid questions, and 65-70%+ on hard questions.

 **Do not reuse practice tests! It will not give you an accurate result if you have answered the questions before.**



Download

CISSP® Study Plan

week 1 Date:	Build your own study plan + watch the ThorTeaches.com CISSP Introduction course. Study time: 2:00	Build your own study plan + watch the ThorTeaches.com CISSP Introduction course. Study time: 2:00	ThorTeaches.com CISSP domain 1 videos. Take notes on the ThorTeaches study guides. Study time: 02:00	ThorTeaches.com CISSP domain 1 videos. Take notes on the ThorTeaches study guides. Study time: 02:00	ThorTeaches.com CISSP domain 2 videos. Take notes on the ThorTeaches study guides. Study time: 02:00	ThorTeaches.com CISSP domain 3 videos. Take notes on the ThorTeaches study guides. Study time: 02:00	ThorTeaches.com CISSP domain 3 videos. Take notes on the ThorTeaches study guides. Study time: 02:00
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week 4 Date:							

ThorTeaches.com CISSP study plan

My study plan template is based on two hours of study time per day, seven days a week. I also utilized my own resources, which I highly suggest; if you use different ones, simply replace them in the template.



Are you ready to start your CISSP® journey?

Free CISSP
study course:

FREE

2+ hours of CISSP study videos.
A customizable CISSP study plan.
(Optional +\$80) 750 Boson
practice questions.
2021 exam version

Start Now

CISSP HARD
questions:

\$54.95

500 Hard CISSP practice
questions.
The CISSP study course.
A customizable CISSP study plan.
(Optional +\$75) 750 Boson
practice questions.
2021 updated.

Start Now

CISSP EASY/MID
and HARD questions:

\$99.95

500 Hard CISSP practice
questions.
1,000 Easy/Mid CISSP practice
questions.
The CISSP study course.
A customizable CISSP study plan.
(Optional +\$75) 750 Boson
practice questions.
2021 updated.

Start Now

All CISSP videos
and all questions:

\$174.95

30+ hours of CISSP videos.
500 Hard + 1,000 Easy/Mid
CISSP practice questions.
CISSP study guides from the
lectures (277 pages).
The full CISSP study course.
A customizable CISSP study plan.
500+ CISSP links.
(Optional +\$70) 750 Boson
practice questions.
2021 updated.

Start Now

VIDEOS

- [ThorTeaches](#)
- [Study Notes and Theory](#)
- [ITPro.TV](#)
- [Destination Certification](#)

BOOKS

- [ISC2 CISSP Certified Information Systems Security Professional Official Study Guide](#)
- [CISSP All-in-One \(AIO\) Exam Guide](#)
- [The Effective CISSP](#)
- [How To Think Like A Manager](#)
- [Eleventh Hour CISSP](#)
- [The Official ISC2 CISSP CBK](#)

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- [ThorTeaches](#)
- [Study Notes and Theory](#)
- [Boson ExSim-Max for CISSP 2021](#)
- [CISSP Practice Exams, 5th Edition](#)
- [ISC2 CISSP Official Practice Tests, 3rd Edition](#)
- [Thor Teaches QOTD](#)
- [Wentz Wu QOTD](#)
- [Adam Gordon QOTD](#)

FREE RESOURCES

- [The Sunflower Notes](#)
- [The Memory Palace](#)
- [The CISSP Process Guide](#)
- [Reddit - CISSP subreddit](#)
- [ISACA® Glossary of Terms](#)
- [Facebook - CISSP, CISM and CC certification training and mentoring by Thor Teaches](#)
- [Facebook - Effective CISSP by Wentz Wu](#)
- [Facebook - CISSP Exam Preparation - Study Notes and Theory](#)
- [Discord study group CISSP, CISM, PMP by ThorTeaches](#)
- [Discord study group by Certification Station](#)
- [The National Institute of Standards and Technology \(NIST\)](#)
- [The Open Web Application Security Project® \(OWASP\)](#)