



Certified Information Systems Security Professional

Study Plan and Preparation Guide

This guide is designed to help you make the most of your self-study and live instruction as you prepare for your certification exam. By following the guidance outlined here, you can balance your self-study with instructor-led learning in a way that reinforces your knowledge, builds your confidence, and equips you for success.

Whether your live sessions are delivered over several days or spread across multiple weeks, use this plan to structure your preparation. The goal is for you to arrive to your sessions prepared, actively engaged, and leaving with a strong foundation that carries you through your study journey.

Preparation and Foundation

Laying a solid foundation before your course begins allows you to get the most out of your live learning experience.

- Review the concepts of the course in advance, highlighting key topics for reference.
- Explore study tools, such as the textbook, or the Official Study Questions available for additional purchase, and begin weaving them into your study routine, identifying areas that may need extra focus
- Work through your practice questions to gauge your knowledge and identify areas that may need extra focus.
- Set clear, realistic study goals for each week or topic to stay on track leading up to your live sessions.

Building Knowledge and Practice

As your course progresses, reinforce your learning through active study and consistent practice.

- Continue reviewing content across all domains to strengthen your overall understanding.
- Engage with practice questions to test comprehension and strengthen your ability to apply concepts.

- Keep a running list of questions to bring to your instructor. This ensures you maximize the value of your time with them.

Instructor-Led Learning and Collaboration

Your live session is your opportunity to connect concepts, apply knowledge, and clarify any remaining questions.

- Come prepared so you can fully engage in discussions and activities without feeling behind.
- Participate in the scenario-based exercises, group work, and instructor-led practice questions.
- Collaborate with peers to reinforce your learning, gain new perspectives, and share strategies.
- Make use of opportunities for additional support, such as time with the instructor or Q&A sessions, to strengthen your understanding of complex topics.
- As you progress through the textbook, write down your questions and bring to the classroom topics or concepts for which you need more support, so the instructor can elaborate on or clarify during facilitated discussions.

Review and Final Preparation

Once your live sessions conclude, focus your study on final reinforcement and exam readiness.

- Revisit your notes and materials, identifying the most critical concepts to keep top of mind.
- Practice with questions in a timed format to evaluate readiness and reinforce confidence.
- Consider making flash cards and review the key takeaway summaries to refresh your recall of key terms and frameworks.
- Organize any quick-reference outlines to streamline review leading up to your exam.

Additional Tips for Success

1. **Stay Organized:** Create and follow a study schedule to balance self-study and live instruction.
2. **Stay Motivated:** Break preparation into smaller, achievable milestones to maintain momentum.
3. **Practice Self-Care:** Balance study time with rest, exercise, and healthy routines.
4. **Manage Stress:** Use light review or relaxation techniques to reduce anxiety.
5. **Apply What You Learn:** Connect course concepts to real-world experiences to reinforce retention.

