



Preparing for a Security Professional Education Development (SP&D) Certification Assessment

The Physical Security Certification (PSC) assessment is training agnostic, meaning you do not have to complete any prescribed training or courses before taking the certification assessment. However, preparing for the assessment by gaining additional training, education, or experience in the topic areas may prove beneficial.

Competency Preparatory Tools (CPTs) help you prepare for your SP&D certification assessment. The PSC CPTs consists of a series of open-ended questions in each of the four security areas to assist you in increasing your proficiency.

Note: Specific CPT questions are not found on the assessment.

To view available CPTs for each SP&D certification assessment, please visit <https://www.cdse.edu/certification/prepare.html>.

CDSE-offered Training

You are invited to familiarize yourself with courses addressing the topics noted in the PSC Areas of Expertise. The Center for Development of Security Excellence (CDSE) provides diverse security courses and products to Department of Defense (DoD) personnel, DoD contractors, employees of other federal agencies, and selected foreign governments. Training is presented through a variety of learning platforms and is streamlined to meet performance requirements.

To view available CDSE-offered training, please visit <https://www.cdse.edu/catalog/index.html>.

CDSE-offered Education

CDSE has established a program of advanced and graduate-level courses designed specifically to broaden DoD security specialists' knowledge and understanding of the security profession and prepare them for leadership positions and responsibilities. All of the courses are tuition free and are offered in a virtual instructor-led environment.

To view available CDSE-offered training, please visit <https://www.cdse.edu/education/index.html>.



PSC Area of Expertise

The PSC assessment is a measurement of your understanding of physical security competencies. Although your current work may primarily be in one of the core security disciplines (i.e., information, personnel, industrial, or general security), the results of the practice analysis performed by DoD demonstrate the importance of having awareness and a fundamental knowledge across the core disciplines and the ability to perform physical security functions. The PSC is not only valuable to you as your career advances; it also strengthens the confidence the DoD has in your specialized knowledge in physical security principles.

The Areas of Expertise specified in the following charts were identified during the practice analysis as critical domains that should be addressed by the PSC assessment. The weights indicated were derived from importance ratings provided by subject matter experts (SMEs) during the assessment development process.

Area of Expertise	
Physical Security Concepts Exam Weight: 22%	
Physical Security Concepts	Facility Access Control
Physical Security Standards Exam Weight: 24%	
Physical Security Standards for Storage of Classified Information	Physical Security Standards for Sensitive Conventional Arms, Ammunition, and Explosives
Physical Security Standards for Special Assets/Resources	
Standards, Countermeasures, and Planning Exam Weight: 41%	
Protective Barriers	Site Lighting
Key, Combination, and Lock Control	Site Design Strategies
Security Systems Devices	
Physical Security Planning and Implementation Exam Weight: 13%	
Physical Security Planning and Plan Implementation	Emergency Management/Emergency Response

Policy/Reference Finder

The resources below can be used to assist you in locating current versions of policies used within the CPTs.

Note: Unclassified publications that contain tactics, techniques, procedures, etc., may require a Common Access Card (CAC) to access.

- Security Executive Agent Directives are available via the National Counterintelligence and Security Center: <https://www.dni.gov/index.php/ncsc-how-we-work/ncsc-security-executive-agent/ncsc-policy>
- DoD Issuances are listed on the Washington Headquarters Services Executive Services Directorate website:
 - DoD directives: <https://www.esd.whs.mil/Directives/issuances/dodd/>
 - DoD instructions: <https://www.esd.whs.mil/Directives/issuances/dodi/>
 - DoD manuals/publications: <https://www.esd.whs.mil/Directives/issuances/dodm/>
 - Directive-type memorandums: <https://www.esd.whs.mil/DD/DoD-Issuances/DTM/>
- All Joint Publications (JPs): <https://www.jcs.mil/Doctrine/Joint-Doctrine-Pubs/>
 - JPs that require CAC access are available via the Joint Electronic Library Plus (JEL+): <https://jdeis.js.mil/my.policy>



Area of Expertise: Physical Security Concepts				
Concepts/Topics		Question	Answer	Reference
Physical Security Concepts	What are the foundational physical security concepts and principles?	What are the concepts of threat, vulnerability, and criticality in the context of physical security?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009
Physical Security Concepts		What are the concepts of prevention and protection related to people, information, equipment, facilities, activities, and/or operations?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009
Physical Security Concepts		What are the physical security performance goals, including deterrence, detection, assessing, delaying, responding, and denying?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009
Physical Security Concepts		What are the features of an Integrated Protection System, including defense-in-depth, integration of physical protective measure with security procedural measures, system characteristics, and point vs. area security?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009
Physical Security Concepts		What are the content, principles, and features of a Physical Security Threat Matrix?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009



Area of Expertise: Physical Security Concepts				
Concepts/Topics		Question	Answer	Reference
Physical Security Concepts	What are the foundational physical security concepts and principles?	What are the concepts, principles, and purposes of physical security surveys and assessments, to include frequency standards and Unified Facilities Criteria (e.g., protective design planning, construction, sustainment, restoration, and modernization)?		UFC 4-010-01, February 9, 2012, Incorporating Change 1, October 1, 2013
Physical Security Concepts		What are the categories of active and passive security measures?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009
Physical Security Concepts		What are the purpose and function of waivers and exceptions related to physical security policies?		DoDI O-2000.16, November 17, 2016, Incorporating Change 1, May 5, 2017; DoDI 2000.12, March 1, 2012, Incorporating Change 3, November 15, 2016
Physical Security Concepts		What are the role(s) and purpose for coordination with other security forces?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009
Physical Security Concepts		What are the concepts and principles related to defense critical infrastructure?		DoDD 3020.40, November 29, 2016, Incorporating Change 1, November 11, 2018; DoDM 3020.45, Volume 2, June 6, 2017; DoDI 3020.45, August 14, 2018



Area of Expertise: Physical Security Concepts				
Concepts/Topics		Question	Answer	Reference
Facility Access Control	How would you explain the purpose and function of facility access control?	What are the HSPD-12 requirements for facility access control?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009; DTM 09-012, December 8, 2009, Incorporating Change 1, August 23, 2018
Facility Access Control		What are the security requirements, authorities, and criteria for various types of restricted areas?		DTM 09-012, December 8, 2009, Incorporating Change 1, August 23, 2018
Facility Access Control		What are the various types and methods of identification systems?		DTM 09-012, December 8, 2009, Incorporating Change 1, August 23, 2018
Facility Access Control		What are the specifications for cards and badges?		DTM 09-012, December 8, 2009, Incorporating Change 1, August 23, 2018
Facility Access Control		What are the approaches for access control methods, including escorts, two-person rule, and rosters?		DTM 09-012, December 8, 2009, Incorporating Change 1, August 23, 2018
Facility Access Control		What are the proper procedures for the inspection and search of packages, vehicles, and personal property?		DTM 09-012, December 8, 2009, Incorporating Change 1, August 23, 2018; DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009; UFC 4-010-01, February 9, 2012, Incorporating Change 1, October 1, 2013



Area of Expertise: Physical Security Concepts				
Concepts/Topics		Question	Answer	Reference
Facility Access Control	How would you explain the purpose and function of facility access control?	What are the purpose and procedures for turnstile operations?		DTM 09-012, December 8, 2009, Incorporating Change 1, August 23, 2018
Facility Access Control		What are the considerations for access control in the context of emergency planning?		DTM 09-012, December 8, 2009, Incorporating Change 1, August 23, 2018
Facility Access Control		What is the relationship between access control and Force Protection Condition (FPCON) categories?		UFC 4-010-01, February 9, 2012, Incorporating Change 1, October 1, 2013; DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009



Area of Expertise: Standards, Countermeasures, and Planning				
Concepts/Topics		Question	Answer	Reference
Protective Barriers	What are the purpose, function, concepts, and principles for protective barriers?	What are the requirements for various types of fences?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009
Protective Barriers		What are the purpose and function of utility opening requirements?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009
Protective Barriers		What are the requirements for security towers?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009
Protective Barriers		What are the requirements for installation entrances, including perimeter entrances, entry-control stations, gates, and vehicle inspection areas?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009
Protective Barriers		What are the posting requirements for various types of warning signs?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009
Protective Barriers		What are the maintenance and criteria for clear zones?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009



Area of Expertise: Standards, Countermeasures, and Planning				
Concepts/Topics		Question	Answer	Reference
Site Lighting	What are the principles and requirements for site lighting?	What are the principles and types of lighting?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009
Site Lighting		What are the uses and methods of control of lights?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009
Site Lighting		What are the requirements and considerations for lighting design and wiring?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009
Site Lighting		What are the procedures for inspection and maintenance of lighting?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009
Key, Combination, and Lock Control	What are the requirements for key, combination, and lock control?	What are the types of locking devices?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009
Key, Combination, and Lock Control		How are lock and key installation and maintenance procedures alike? How are they different?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009
Key, Combination, and Lock Control		What are the approaches and requirements for controlling locks and keys?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009



Area of Expertise: Standards, Countermeasures, and Planning				
Concepts/Topics		Question	Answer	Reference
Site Design Strategies	How are site design strategies similar? How are site design strategies different?	What are the applicability and exemptions for antiterrorism standards for site design?		UFC 4-010-01, February 9, 2012, Incorporating Change 1, October 1, 2013
Site Design Strategies		What are the methods and approaches of site design for mitigating aggressor tactics and maximizing protection levels?		UFC 4-010-01, February 9, 2012, Incorporating Change 1, October 1, 2013
Site Design Strategies		What are the purpose and function of site-work protective measures?		UFC 4-010-01, February 9, 2012, Incorporating Change 1, October 1, 2013
Site Design Strategies		What are the principles of perimeter barriers in the context of site design?		UFC 4-010-01, February 9, 2012, Incorporating Change 1, October 1, 2013
Site Design Strategies		How are landforms implemented to increase physical protection?		DoD ATO Guide, December 2012
Site Design Strategies		What are the purpose, function, and requirements for walls, doors, windows, and roofs as physical protective measures?		UFC 4-010-01, February 9, 2012, Incorporating Change 1, October 1, 2013



Area of Expertise: Standards, Countermeasures, and Planning				
Concepts/Topics		Question	Answer	Reference
Security Systems Devices	What are the principles and functions of security systems devices?	How would you describe the considerations for an Electronic Security Systems design?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009
Security Systems Devices		What are the purpose and function for Intrusion Detection Systems?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009
Security Systems Devices		What are the purpose and function of voice communication links and equipment?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009
Security Systems Devices		What are the principles and concepts for closed circuit television (CCTV) systems?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009
Security Systems Devices		What are the considerations for alarm and annunciation systems?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009
Security Systems Devices		What are the purpose, function, and requirements for card access systems and biometrics systems?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009
Security Systems Devices		What are the purpose and function of electronic entry control?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009



Area of Expertise: Standards, Countermeasures, and Planning				
Concepts/Topics		Question	Answer	Reference
Security Systems Devices	What are the principles and functions of security systems devices?	What are the function and considerations for boundary penetration sensors?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009
Security Systems Devices		What are the elements, purpose, and function of motion and point sensors?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009
Security Systems Devices		What are the purpose and function of duress-alarm devices?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009
Security Systems Devices		What are the types, purpose, and function of weapon and explosive detectors and equipment, including magnetometers, portable metal detectors, and X-ray machines?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009
Security Systems Devices		What are the purpose and function of two-way radios?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009



Area of Expertise: Physical Security Standards				
Concepts/Topics		Question	Answer	Reference
Physical Security Standards for Storage of Classified Information	What are the the special requirements and standards for the storage and protection of classified information?	What are the requirements and standards for vault and secure room construction?		DoDM 5200.01, Volume 3, February 24, 2012, Incorporating Change 2, March 19, 2013
Physical Security Standards for Storage of Classified Information		What are the standards for Intrusion Detection Systems that protect classified information?		DoDM 5200.01, Volume 3, February 24, 2012, Incorporating Change 2, March 19, 2013
Physical Security Standards for Storage of Classified Information		What are the access control standards in the context of protection of classified information?		DoDM 5200.01, Volume 3, February 24, 2012, Incorporating Change 2, March 19, 2013
Physical Security Standards for Storage of Classified Information		What are the certification and accreditation requirements for facilities that store and protect classified information?		ICS 705, May 26, 1020; ICS 705-1, September 17, 2010



Area of Expertise: Physical Security Standards				
Concepts/Topics		Question	Answer	Reference
Physical Security Standards for Sensitive Conventional Arms, Ammunitions, and Explosives (AA&E)	What are the physical security standards for sensitive conventional AA&E?	What are the security risk categories for AA&E removal from storage areas, use of segregated storage areas, and construction standards and requirements?		DoDM 5100.76, April 17, 2012, Incorporating Change 1, May 8, 2018
Physical Security Standards for Sensitive Conventional Arms, Ammunitions, and Explosives (AA&E)		What are the deviations and equivalent levels of protection in the context of AA&E?		DoDM 5100.76, April 17, 2012, Incorporating Change 1, May 8, 2018
Physical Security Standards for Sensitive Conventional Arms, Ammunitions, and Explosives (AA&E)		What is the the purpose and function of inspections and audits for AA&E?		DoDM 5100.76, April 17, 2012, Incorporating Change 1, May 8, 2018
Physical Security Standards for Sensitive Conventional Arms, Ammunitions, and Explosives (AA&E)		What are the requirements for prohibitions of AA&E?		DoDM 5100.76, April 17, 2012, Incorporating Change 1, May 8, 2018
Physical Security Standards for Sensitive Conventional Arms, Ammunitions, and Explosives (AA&E)		What is the relationship between investigations and suitability/access to AA&E?		DoDM 5100.76, April 17, 2012, Incorporating Change 1, May 8, 2018



Area of Expertise: Physical Security Standards				
Concepts/Topics		Question	Answer	Reference
Physical Security Standards for Sensitive Conventional Arms, Ammunitions, and Explosives (AA&E)	What are the physical security standards for sensitive conventional AA&E?	What constraints does the Lautenberg Amendment place on AA&E access?		DoDM 5100.76, April 17, 2012, Incorporating Change 1, May 8, 2018
Physical Security Standards for Sensitive Conventional Arms, Ammunitions, and Explosives (AA&E)		What are the special requirements for contracts that address AA&E?		DoDM 5100.76, April 17, 2012, Incorporating Change 1, May 8, 2018
Physical Security Standards for Sensitive Conventional Arms, Ammunitions, and Explosives (AA&E)		What are the special criteria, standards, and requirements for the protection of arms, missiles, rockets, and sensitive conventional AA&E?		DoDM 5100.76, April 17, 2012, Incorporating Change 1, May 8, 2018
Physical Security Standards for Sensitive Conventional Arms, Ammunitions, and Explosives (AA&E)		What are the requirements for inventory, unique item identifier (UIC) registration, disposal, and demilitarization of arms?		DoDM 5100.76, April 17, 2012, Incorporating Change 1, May 8, 2018
Physical Security Standards for Sensitive Conventional Arms, Ammunitions, and Explosives (AA&E)		What are the requirements for the physical security of AA&E at contractor facilities?		DoDM 5100.76, April 17, 2012, Incorporating Change 1, May 8, 2018



Area of Expertise: Physical Security Standards				
Concepts/Topics		Question	Answer	Reference
Physical Security Standards for Sensitive Conventional Arms, Ammunitions, and Explosives (AA&E)	What are the physical security standards for sensitive conventional AA&E?	What are the special considerations for AA&E transportation security?		DoDM 5100.76, April 17, 2012, Incorporating Change 1, May 8, 2018
Physical Security Standards for Sensitive Conventional Arms, Ammunitions, and Explosives (AA&E)		What are the requirements for AA&E reports, investigative aids, and disposition of records?		DoDM 5100.76, April 17, 2012, Incorporating Change 1, May 8, 2018



Area of Expertise: Physical Security Standards				
Concepts/Topics		Question	Answer	Reference
Physical Security Standards for Special Assets/ Resources	What are the physical security standards for special assets/ resources?	What are the standards and requirements for the physical protection of petroleum, oil, and lubricant facilities and assets?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009
Physical Security Standards for Special Assets/ Resources		What are the standards and requirements for the physical protection of weapons platforms?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009
Physical Security Standards for Special Assets/ Resources		What are the standards and requirements for the physical protection of communications facilities, including planning and hardening of communications structures?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009
Physical Security Standards for Special Assets/ Resources		What are the standards and requirements for the physical protection of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive assets including personnel reliability program, biosafety levels, and considerations for nuclear weapons, reactors, and materials?		Chemical: DoDI 5210.65, January 19, 2016, Incorporating Change 2, August 31, 2018; Biological: DoDI 5210.88, January 19, 2016, Incorporating Change 2, August 31, 2018; Nuclear: DoDD 5210.41, January 22, 2015, Incorporating Change 2, August 31, 2018; DoDI O-5210.63, November 21, 2006



Area of Expertise: Physical Security Planning and Implementation				
Concepts/Topics		Question	Answer	Reference
Emergency Management/ Emergency Response	What is the role, purpose, and function of physical security in the context of emergency management/emergency response?	What are the concepts of the National Incident Management System, National Response Framework, "all-hazards," incident, and preparedness?		DoDI 6055.17, February 13, 2017 Incorporating Change 1, November 14, 2017
Emergency Management/ Emergency Response		What is the concept of emergency management, including national emergencies, disasters, civil disturbances, and acts of terrorism?		DoDI 6055.17, February 13, 2017 Incorporating Change 1, November 14, 2018
Emergency Management/ Emergency Response		What are the purpose and function of emergency management planning, including coordination with local, state, Federal, and/or host-country officials?		DoDI 6055.17, February 13, 2017 Incorporating Change 1, November 14, 2019
Physical Security Planning and Plan Implementation		What are the elements of risk analysis, including threat assessment, criticality assessment, vulnerability assessment, risk assessment, and cost benefit analysis?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009
Physical Security Planning and Plan Implementation		What is the risk management process, including identification, prioritization, evaluation, mitigation, controls, supervision, and re-evaluation?		DoD 5200.08-R, April 9, 2007, Incorporating Change 1, May 27, 2009

Helpful Tips

- The body of material covered on the PSC assessment cannot be memorized in its entirety. Use memory techniques only to help recall key points.
- Focus on the application of accepted principles, practices, and theories, not memorizing facts, dates, and names.
- The PSC assessment is based on DoD policy only, and does not incorporate additional Component or agency requirements.

