Preparing for a Security Professional Education Development (SPēD) Certification Assessment

The Security Program Integration Professional Certification (SPIPC) 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 SPēD certification assessment. The SPIPC 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 SPēD 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 SPIPC 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.

SPIPC Area of Expertise

The SPIPC assessment measures your ability to understand and apply risk assessment and security program management based on security concepts, principles, and practices. Although your current work may primarily be in one of the core security disciplines (i.e., information, personnel, physical, industrial, or general security), the results of the practice analysis performed by DoD demonstrates the importance of having awareness and a fundamental body of knowledge across the core security disciplines, and the ability to understand and apply foundational security concepts, principles, and practices. The SPIPC is not only valuable to you as your career advances, it also strengthens the confidence the DoD has in your general knowledge in security.

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

Area of Expertise	
Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Concepts	**Exam Weight: 8%**
Planning, Programming, Budgeting Execution (PPB&E) Process, Concepts, and Principles	
Risk Assessment	**Exam Weight: 41%**
Risk Management Benefits and Costs	
Risk Assessment Concepts and Principles	
Sources of Threat and Vulnerability Information	
Risk Management	**Exam Weight: 35%**
Strategies for Controlling and/or Managing Risks	
Program and Mission Assurance	**Exam Weight: 16%**
Approaches and Criteria for Evaluating Effectiveness of Security Policies, Plan, and Program Activities	
Essential Functions of a Security Program	

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-Doctine-Pubs/
  - JPs that require CAC access are available via the Joint Electronic Library Plus (JEL+): https://jdeis.js.mil/my.policy

Area of Expertise: Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution				
Concepts/Topics		**Question**	**Answer**	**Policy**
PPB&E Process, Concepts, and Principles		What is the purpose of each stage of the PPB&E process?		DoDD 7045.14, Incorporating Change 1, August 29, 2017
PPB&E Process, Concepts, and Principles		What are the major outcomes of each PPB&E process stage?		DoDD 7045.14, Incorporating Change 1, August 29, 2017
PPB&E Process, Concepts, and Principles		What are the critical milestones in the budget preparation schedule associated with each PPB&E stage?		DoDD 7045.14, Incorporating Change 1, August 29, 2017
PPB&E Process, Concepts, and Principles		What is the relationship between PPB&E, Presidents' Budget, and Congress' Appropriations processes?		DoDD 7045.14, Incorporating Change 1, August 29, 2017
PPB&E Process, Concepts, and Principles		What role do the Quadrennial Defense Review, Program Objective Memorandum (POM), and Five Year Defense Plan (FYDP) play in the PPB&E process?		DoDD 7045.14, Incorporating Change 1, August 29, 2017

Area of Expertise: Risk Assessment				
Concepts/Topics		**Question**	**Answer**	**Policy**
Risk Management Benefits and Costs (RMBC)	What are the application and consequences of risk management steps?	What is the purpose of each risk management step?		N/A
Risk Management Benefits and Costs (RMBC)		What are the costs and benefits of each risk management step?		N/A
Risk Management Benefits and Costs (RMBC)		What are the potential challenges security practitioners face at each risk management step?		N/A
Risk Assessment Concepts and Principles (RACP)	How would you apply risk assessment concepts and principles?	What is the requisite outcome for the asset assessment step?		N/A
Risk Assessment Concepts and Principles (RACP)		What is the requisite outcome for the threat assessment step?		N/A
Risk Assessment Concepts and Principles (RACP)		What is the requisite outcome for the vulnerability assessment step?		N/A
Risk Assessment Concepts and Principles (RACP)		How are the asset, threat, and vulnerability assessment step outcomes used to assess risk to asset?		N/A

Area of Expertise: Risk Assessment				
Concepts/Topics		**Question**	**Answer**	**Policy**
Source of Threat and Vulnerability Information (STVI)	How would you identify and leverage sources of threat and vulnerability information?	Which are the organizations and/ or entities with accountabilities for providing threat information?		N/A
Source of Threat and Vulnerability Information (STVI)		What are the sources of information/ methods for obtaining vulnerability information?		N/A
Area of Expertise: Risk Management				
Concepts/Topics		**Question**	**Answer**	**Policy**
Strategies for Controlling/ Managing Risks (SCMR); Approaches for Evaluating Options for Controlling/ Managing Risks	How would you generate strategies for controlling and/ or managing identified risks?	How would you eliminate risk?		N/A
Strategies for Controlling/ Managing Risks (SCMR); Approaches for Evaluating Options for Controlling/ Managing Risks		How would you avoid risk?		N/A
Strategies for Controlling/ Managing Risks (SCMR); Approaches for Evaluating Options for Controlling/ Managing Risks		How would you transfer risk?		N/A

Area of Expertise: Risk Management				
Concepts/Topics		**Question**	**Answer**	**Policy**
Strategies for Controlling/ Managing Risks (SCMR); Approaches for Evaluating Options for Controlling/ Managing Risks	How would you generate strategies for controlling and/ or managing identified risks?	How would you accept risk?		N/A
Strategies for Controlling/ Managing Risks (SCMR); Approaches for Evaluating Options for Controlling/ Managing Risks		How are the the approaches to eliminate risk and to control risk alike? How are they different?		N/A
Strategies for Controlling/ Managing Risks (SCMR); Approaches for Evaluating Options for Controlling/ Managing Risks		How are approaches to avoid risk and to accept risk alike? How are they different?		N/A

Area of Expertise: Program and Mission Assurance				
Concepts/Topics		**Question**	**Answer**	**Policy**
Essential Functions of a Security Program (EFSP); Regulatory Basis for a Comprehensive Security Program	What are all of the essential functions of a security program based on the spirit, intent, and specifics of security regulatory language?	How do security policies and programs serve to manage risks to the DoD?		N/A
Approaches & Criteria for Evaluating Effectiveness (ACEE) of Security Policies, Plan, and Program Activities	What are the methods, approaches, and criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of security policies, plans, and program activities?	How can an organization can be compliant with security policies but have an ineffective security program?		N/A
Approaches & Criteria for Evaluating Effectiveness (ACEE) of Security Policies, Plan, and Program Activities		What are the sources of information and data collection approaches for evaluating policy compliance?		N/A
Approaches & Criteria for Evaluating Effectiveness (ACEE) of Security Policies, Plan, and Program Activities		What are the sources of information and data collection approaches for evaluating program effectiveness?		N/A

Helpful Tips

- The body of material covered on the SPIPC 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 SPIPC assessment is based on DoD policy only, and does not incorporate additional Component or agency requirements.