TOP 10 TIPS
for the CISSP exam

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"Promote and protect the profession"

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I hope this small document is useful to you and if you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me:

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TOP 10 - TIPS **for the CISSP exam**

TIP

Identify **keywords** that will help you **eliminate** responses (read **word** by **word**)

Note: it is very likely that you can eliminate 2 options and you will have a 50% chance of having the correct answer.

EXAMPLE

¿Which of the following **standards** is an organization **most** likely to rely on, in order to establish an information security management system? :

A. COBIT (it's a Framework not a standard) ✘ -- Eliminate
B. ITIL (set of best practices) ✘ -- Eliminate
C. ISO27001
D. ISO 31000

50% chances

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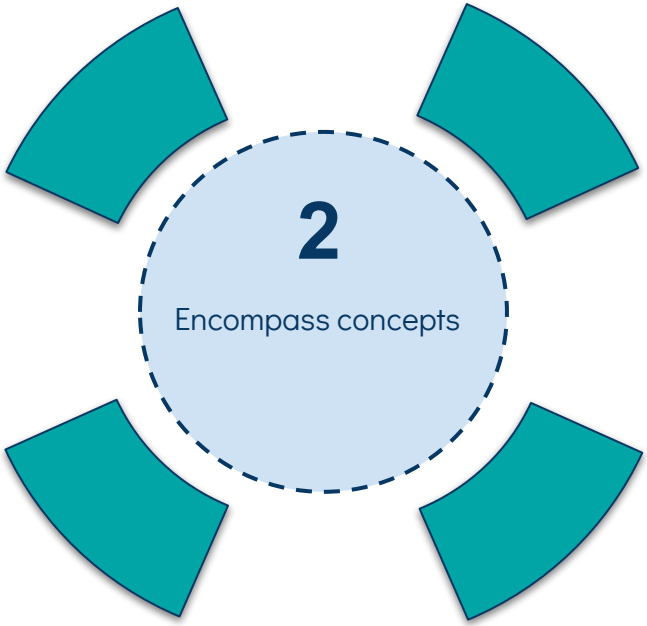

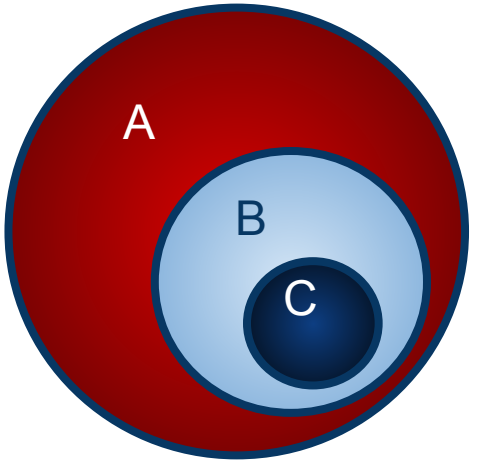

TIP

"If you **identify** an option that **contains** the others, it is likely that this is the **correct** answer."

Note: You will find questions where all the options are correct, this TIP will help you to choose the most correct one.

EXAMPLE

¿what would you implement to ensure the **authentication** and **authorization** flows so that you can use a **third-party** application in the cloud?

A. SAML
B. OAUTH
C. **Federated Identity** (Correct)
D. OpenID Connect

It **contains** the others

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Think strategically

"Think like a manager"

TIP

If you are asked about a **concept**/recommendation towards senior **management**, process improvement or **decision** making, use the "**Think like a manager**" concept, which means, choose the **high** level answer.

Note: Before making a decision, first of all think about the risk to the organization.

EXAMPLE

¿What is the **FIRST** thing you would do if your organization is thinking of **merging** or **acquiring** another company?

A. Infrastructure Vulnerability Analysis
B. Perform a pentesting on all organizations systems
C. Align controls between both companies
D. Perform a Risk Analysis (Correct)

Every decision starts with a **risk analysis**

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Time Management
"Beta Questions"

TIP

In the exam you will find **questions** you have **no idea** of the answer or the topic they are asking for, I advise you not to **waste** time on these questions, **choose** an option and continue, **saving** time will give you **peace** of mind in the exam.

Note: It is likely that some of these questions are what is generally called **Beta questions**, these do **not score** in the exam, in addition this time could be used to take small breaks in the exam.

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Interpret the hidden meaning

TIP

Most questions on the exam will not be **direct question**, for example they will not ask you which of the following is a symmetric encryption algorithm? ...

Rather, you will be asked.....

EXAMPLE

¿Which algorithm is **MOST** likely to be used to encrypt the **hard drive** of a workstation?

A. RSA
B. AES (Correct)
C. DH (Diffie Hellman)
D. ElGamal

1 Data at **rest** → **Symetric**

2 All are **Asymmetric** algorithms

Note: You must understand how to relate concepts and interpret the hidden meaning

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Structure and **understand** the order of processes

TIP

It is **important understanding** the **order** in which the tasks or **phases** of a **process** are carried out. Rather than learning it by **heart**, it is **making sense** of what do I need to do in this **step** to use it in the **next one.**

EXAMPLE

1. In a **BCP** (Business Continuity Plan) I cannot start a **BIA** (Business Impact Analysis) analysis if I do not have **resources** to work with, that is, if I have not defined the **BCP Team** or if I have not defined the scope, then we can say BCP team selection goes first than BIA .

2. I cannot define an **MTD** (Maximum Tolerable Downtime) metric if I have not yet **prioritized** the business activities and the **resources/systems** that support them. Then MTD definition goes after business activities prioritization

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"Elimination or filtering"

¿How does it work?

TIP

The **elimination** process **works** like this:

1. **Eliminate** 2 of the **wrong** answers using an **objective** process that is, with strong **justification** why it is not the answer**.**

2. For the **remaining** options, use a **subjective** process, that is, according to your **experience** or what you **intuit/sense** to choose the **correct** one between the 2 options.

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Choose the "**most correct**" answer

TIP

In the exam you will **find** questions where **all** the **answers** are **correct**. Use step 2 (encompasses concepts) and / or step 3 ("Think like a manager") when you come across them so that you can **choose** the **most** correct option

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Human life is the most important factor to protect

TIP

In the **exam** (and I hope in all you do) you **must** consider that **human life** is the most important factor. If you are **asked** about the **ultimate** goal of a security component / process and in the options some are related to the **safety** of people , it is very likely that this is the correct answer.

Note: **Physical security** generally has the **highest** priority and is tied to the concept of **protecting** human life and controlling access to physical locations.

EXAMPLE

Immediately after an earthquake occurs at one of ACME LTDA's main facilities and after a **Disaster** is declared, which is the **FIRST** thing the organization **must** ensure:

A. Minimal impact to critical data
B. Restoring of critical business processes
C. **Employees are safe** (Correct)
D. La protección de los sistemas físicos

Priority
1. People
2. Data
3. Business

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Apply the ISC² code of ETHICS

4 Canons

TIP

The **ISC²** code of **ethics** is **evaluable** in the exam, so it is important to know the **4 canons** and their order of **priority**.

When you come across **questions** that include the **behavior** that the security professional should have, **apply** the code of **ethics** taking into account the **priority** of each canon

Remember: People have priority

EXAMPLE

1. Protect **society**, the common good, necessary public trust and confidence, and the infrastructure.
2. Act **honorably**, honestly, justly, responsibly, and legally.
3. Provide diligent and **competent** service to principals.
4. **Advance** and **protect** the profession.

TOP 10 - TIPS **para el CISSP**

BONUS

TOP 10 - TIPS for the **CISSP exam**

In the exam you must take the role of an **advisor**, security **consultant** or **manager** (Avoid a technical role)

Do not **assume** information that is not explicit in the questions, you can be sure that most of the exam questions are very well designed and do not give for **interpretations** or ambiguities, they are **tricky** (misleading) yes, but clear in what they are looking for the answer.

Before choosing an answer, you **must** balance the **cost-benefit**, remember that the priority for management is to generate **efficiency** for the business.
EXAMPLE: Compare the costs of implementing recovery sites: Cold Site Vs Warm Site Vs Hot Site

Every **decision** begins with a prior **risk analysis**

The **ultimate** responsible for security is not the security professional (CISO or CSO), it is **SENIOR MANAGEMENT**

Security must be present from the **initial** phases of the software or systems development process

Risk management does not seek to **eliminate** risk, but to **reduce** it to the **acceptable** levels that the organization is willing to **assume**

In the **CISSP** you don't fix **problems**, you fix **processes** ===> Choose the **long-term** solution and not the short-term one

always **think** about and **apply** the concept of **security in depth** (Security for each layer) ===> Perimeter - Network - System - Data

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SOURCES - CREDITS

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[3] CISSP Practice Question with Spock & Kirk - Larry Greenblatt

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