CISA DOMAIN 5 PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

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How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 – 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

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Questions

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1. Transparency of IT's cost, value, and risk is primarily achieved through which of the following?

A. Performance measurement

B. Strategic alignment

C. Value delivery

D. Resource management

2. Which factor should add the most value to decision-making regarding strategic IT initiatives?

A. The maturity of the project management process

B. The regulatory environment

C. Past audit findings

D. The IT project portfolio analysis

3. Why is it important to have a well-archived email policy?

A. To ensure all emails can be successfully deleted when necessary

B. To comply with legal requirements for access to emails

C. To create a record of all sent communications

D. To aid in marketing campaigns

4. What action can help mitigate the risk of continued support for a third-party application?

A. A financial evaluation of the vendor

B. A software escrow agreement

C. A viability study on the vendor

D. A contractual agreement for future enhancements

5. Which document should an IS auditor first reference when performing an audit?

A. Implemented procedures

B. Approved policies

C. Internal standards

D. Documented practices

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6. Assessing IT risk is BEST achieved by evaluating:

A. Threats and vulnerabilities associated with existing IT assets

B. Past actual loss experience to determine current exposure

C. Published loss statistics from comparable organizations

D. IT control weaknesses identified in audit reports

7. What is the primary benefit of requiring a steering committee to oversee IT investments?

A. To conduct a feasibility study to demonstrate IT value

B. To ensure that investments are made according to business requirements

C. To ensure that proper security controls are enforced

D. To ensure that a standard development methodology is implemented

8. What should an IS auditor prioritize when reviewing a contract for outsourced help desk services?

A. Documentation of staff background checks

B. Independent audit reports or full audit access

C. Reporting year-to-year cost reductions

D. Staff turnover and training reports

9. What is the greatest concern for an IS auditor if several IT-based projects were implemented without steering committee approval?

A. The IT department's projects will not be adequately funded

B. IT projects are not following the system development life cycle process

C. IT projects are not consistently formally approved

D. The IT department may not be working toward a common goal

10. What is a maturity model primarily used for in the context of IT alignment?

A. To define business objectives

B. To assess process capability

C. To implement security measures

D. To allocate IT resources

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Answers

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1. A
2. D
3. B
4. B
5. B
6. A
7. B
8. B
9. D
10. B

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Explanations

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1. Transparency of IT's cost, value, and risk is primarily achieved through which of the following?

A. Performance measurement

B. Strategic alignment

C. Value delivery

D. Resource management

The primary focus on achieving transparency of IT's cost, value, and risk relates to performance measurement. By implementing performance measurement frameworks and metrics, organizations can quantify the efficiency and effectiveness of IT investments and operations. This involves assessing various key performance indicators (KPIs), which often include financial metrics, operational metrics, and risk assessments. Performance measurement creates a clear view of how IT contributes to the organization's objectives, allowing stakeholders to understand the value derived from IT initiatives. It provides insights into cost management and risk implications, thus leading to more informed decision-making. By continually monitoring and reporting on performance, organizations can make adjustments to enhance value delivery, optimize resource allocation, and ensure better alignment with strategic goals. While aspects like strategic alignment, value delivery, and resource management are important components of an effective IT governance framework, they generally serve as enablers or outcomes of successful performance measurement rather than the primary mechanism for achieving transparency in cost, value, and risk.

2. Which factor should add the most value to decision-making regarding strategic IT initiatives?

A. The maturity of the project management process

B. The regulatory environment

C. Past audit findings

D. The IT project portfolio analysis

The consideration of IT project portfolio analysis adds the most value to decision-making regarding strategic IT initiatives because it provides a comprehensive overview of ongoing and proposed projects within the organization. This analysis helps in assessing project alignment with business goals, resource utilization, risk assessment, and potential return on investment. By evaluating the portfolio as a whole, decision-makers can identify which initiatives should be prioritized, which may be redundant or lower impact, and where strategic adjustments are necessary to optimize overall performance. Additionally, understanding the project portfolio allows management to make informed decisions about resource allocation and to balance short- and long-term strategic objectives effectively. It also assists in recognizing synergies between projects and evaluating the overall risk exposure associated with the various initiatives. This level of insight is crucial for steering the organization in the right direction in a constantly changing IT landscape. While factors such as the maturity of the project management process, the regulatory environment, and past audit findings can provide valuable context and considerations, they do not offer the same level of direct strategic alignment and actionable insights as a thorough project portfolio analysis. Thus, focusing on the project portfolio analysis is essential for effective strategic decision-making in IT.

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3. Why is it important to have a well-archived email policy?

A. To ensure all emails can be successfully deleted when necessary

B. To comply with legal requirements for access to emails

C. To create a record of all sent communications

D. To aid in marketing campaigns

Having a well-archived email policy is crucial primarily to comply with legal requirements for access to emails. Many organizations are subject to regulations that mandate the retention of communication records, including emails, for specified periods. This is particularly true in industries such as finance, healthcare, and any sector where regulatory compliance is vital. By maintaining an effective email archiving system, organizations ensure that they can retrieve pertinent information when required, whether for legal proceedings, audits, or compliance inquiries. A well-managed email archive helps preserve evidence of communications which may be critical in legal matters, protecting the organization against potential disputes and ensuring that it fulfills obligations under laws such as the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and GDPR. This legal compliance not only safeguards the organization but also builds trust with stakeholders and customers regarding data handling practices. While creating a record of all sent communications and assisting in marketing campaigns can be necessary aspects of email management, the chief focus of archiving is on legal compliance, making it the most relevant reason in this context.

4. What action can help mitigate the risk of continued support for a third-party application?

A. A financial evaluation of the vendor

B. A software escrow agreement

C. A viability study on the vendor

D. A contractual agreement for future enhancements

The selection of a software escrow agreement is a robust strategy for mitigating the risks associated with the continued support of a third-party application. A software escrow agreement involves placing the source code of the application into a third-party escrow service. This means that if the vendor fails to maintain the application or goes out of business, you have access to the source code and can ensure the application continues to function or be maintained. By having the source code available, an organization can take the necessary steps to sustain the software, including the potential of modifying it to meet ongoing needs. This is particularly significant in risk management as it provides a safety net that ensures the organization's investment in the third-party application can be preserved in the face of vendor-related issues. Other options, while they may contribute to a broader risk assessment strategy, do not directly address the issue of continued support in the same manner. A financial evaluation of the vendor may help assess current stability but does not directly provide assurance for future support. A viability study may assess the vendor's capability but lacks the security of access to code if things go awry. Lastly, a contractual agreement for future enhancements focuses on future upgrades and features, but it does not guarantee that the vendor will be available to provide those enhancements when needed

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5. Which document should an IS auditor first reference when performing an audit?

A. Implemented procedures

B. Approved policies

C. Internal standards

D. Documented practices

The first document an IS auditor should reference when performing an audit is the approved policies. Approved policies serve as the foundation for the governance framework of an organization. They establish the organization's approach and commitments regarding information security, risk management, compliance, data protection, and overall operational integrity. These policies provide a high-level outline of what the organization deems important and guide the implementation of more detailed procedures, standards, and practices. They represent the official stance and management's directive on how certain issues should be addressed, making them crucial for auditors who need to assess whether the organization's practices align with its stated objectives. By starting with approved policies, the auditor can understand the intended governance framework, enabling them to measure compliance and effectiveness of implemented procedures and internal standards in relation to the organization's goals and regulatory requirements. This ensures that the audit process is aligned with the organization's strategic objectives and risk appetite.

6. Assessing IT risk is BEST achieved by evaluating:

A. Threats and vulnerabilities associated with existing IT assets

B. Past actual loss experience to determine current exposure

C. Published loss statistics from comparable organizations

D. IT control weaknesses identified in audit reports

Evaluating threats and vulnerabilities associated with existing IT assets provides a comprehensive view of the risk landscape within an organization. By closely examining the specific threats that could exploit vulnerabilities in the IT environment, an organization can prioritize its risk management efforts effectively. This approach allows for the identification of potential attack vectors and the assessment of how a threat could impact the organization's critical assets. Understanding the vulnerabilities present in IT systems is crucial, as it enables the organization to implement appropriate controls and mitigations. This risk assessment process involves not only recognizing potential threats but also evaluating the effectiveness of current security measures in protecting against those threats. While past loss experiences, published statistics, and identified control weaknesses are valuable for gaining insights into risk, they often do not provide a real-time or tailored assessment of the current IT landscape. Past experiences may not reflect future risks, statistics might not represent the specific threats an organization faces, and audit reports may focus on identified weaknesses without providing a full context of overall organizational risks. Therefore, assessing IT risk through the lens of existing threats and vulnerabilities is more actionable and relevant for proactive risk management.

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7. What is the primary benefit of requiring a steering committee to oversee IT investments?

A. To conduct a feasibility study to demonstrate IT value

B. To ensure that investments are made according to business requirements

C. To ensure that proper security controls are enforced

D. To ensure that a standard development methodology is implemented

The primary benefit of requiring a steering committee to oversee IT investments is to ensure that investments are made according to business requirements. A steering committee is typically composed of stakeholders from various levels and departments within an organization, providing a holistic view of the business needs and strategic objectives. This committee plays a crucial role in aligning IT initiatives with the overall business strategy, thus promoting investments that deliver value and support the organization's goals. By having a steering committee in place, organizations can prioritize projects based on their alignment with business priorities, resource availability, and potential return on investment. This governance helps ensure that IT spending is focused on initiatives that are essential for the business, rather than being driven by technology trends or isolated departmental needs. As a result, the steering committee actively guides the decision-making process, fostering collaboration and communication among different business units. The other options focus on specific aspects of IT investment management, such as feasibility studies, security controls, or standardized methodologies, which may be important but are not the primary focus of a steering committee's role in overseeing IT investments.

8. What should an IS auditor prioritize when reviewing a contract for outsourced help desk services?

A. Documentation of staff background checks

B. Independent audit reports or full audit access

C. Reporting year-to-year cost reductions

D. Staff turnover and training reports

Prioritizing independent audit reports or full audit access is critical when reviewing a contract for outsourced help desk services because it directly relates to ensuring the quality and reliability of the service provided. Independent audit reports offer an objective assessment of the service provider's compliance with industry standards, security practices, and overall performance metrics. They help the auditor ascertain if the service provider has robust controls in place to protect sensitive data and maintain service reliability. Additionally, having full audit access enables the organization to conduct its own evaluations of the service provider, ensuring transparency and accountability. This access is vital for ongoing monitoring and helps identify any potential risks that may arise from the outsourcing arrangement. Thus, focusing on independent audit reports or ensuring full audit access addresses key governance, risk management, and compliance considerations, which are fundamental for the effective oversight of outsourced services.

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9. What is the greatest concern for an IS auditor if several IT-based projects were implemented without steering committee approval?

A. The IT department's projects will not be adequately funded

B. IT projects are not following the system development life cycle process

C. IT projects are not consistently formally approved

D. The IT department may not be working toward a common goal

The greatest concern for an IS auditor regarding IT-based projects implemented without steering committee approval is that the IT department may not be working toward a common goal. Without the oversight and alignment provided by a steering committee, projects can diverge significantly in terms of objectives, priorities, and resource allocation. This can lead to inefficient use of resources, project duplication, or even conflicts between different project teams, all of which undermine the overall strategic alignment of IT initiatives with the organization's goals. In the absence of a steering committee's guidance, it becomes challenging to ensure that all projects are aligned with the organization's strategic objectives, which can jeopardize not only the success of individual projects but also the integrity of the IT portfolio as a whole. A steering committee usually provides the necessary governance framework, ensuring that all IT efforts are cohesive and mutually supportive, contributing to better outcomes and return on investment. While the other choices touch on concerns related to funding, adherence to development processes, and formal approval mechanisms, the overarching issue relates to the alignment and coherence of IT efforts. It's this lack of strategic alignment and shared direction that poses the greatest risk from a governance and effectiveness standpoint.

10. What is a maturity model primarily used for in the context of IT alignment?

A. To define business objectives

B. To assess process capability

C. To implement security measures

D. To allocate IT resources

A maturity model is primarily utilized to assess process capability, which involves evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of an organization's processes in relation to a defined framework or set of criteria. This assessment helps organizations understand their current level of maturity in various areas, such as project management, service delivery, or IT alignment. By benchmarking against established maturity levels, organizations can identify strengths and weaknesses in their processes. This understanding is crucial for planning improvements and advancing to higher maturity levels, which ultimately leads to better alignment of IT with business goals. The focus on assessing process capability allows organizations to prioritize areas that need development and to measure progress over time. The other options, while relevant to organizational practices, do not directly relate to the primary purpose of a maturity model. For example, while defining business objectives is important, it does not specifically involve the assessment of process maturity. Similarly, implementing security measures and allocating IT resources are specific actions that may come after understanding process capabilities but are not the primary focus of a maturity model itself.

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Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

https://cisadomain5.examzify.com

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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