INTRODUCTION TO NATIONAL SECURITY FOR SECURITY PRACTITIONERS PRACTICE TEST (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. In the context of PDT and vetting, which of the following is a key factor in determining the necessary level of investigation?

A. The individual's age.

B. The job location.

C. The results of the PDS assessment indicating risk and sensitivity and the designation.

D. The vendor's preference.

2. In the context of pre-investigation, when is a favorable screening insufficient to conclude trust?

A. Favorable screening does not absolve the adjudicative agency from completing the full investigation to make a final trust determination.

B. Favorable screening overrides full investigation.

C. Favorable screening guarantees employment.

D. Favorable screening eliminates the need for checks.

3. Which are the three legacy systems that perform the functions of the Government-wide low-side repository until Trusted Workforce 2.0 is fully implemented?

A. Central Verification System (CVS), Personnel Investigations Processing System (PIPS), and New Public Portal (NP2).

B. Central Verification System (CVS), Defense Civilian Personnel Data System (DCPDS), and New Public Portal (NP2).

C. Security/Suitability Investigations Index (SII), Joint Verification System (JVS), and PIPS.

D. New Public Portal (NP2), Defense Information System for Security (DISS), and CVS.

4. The Position Designation Tool (PDT) determines the required type of investigation based on what two factors?

A. The position's risk level (service impact) and the position's sensitivity level (national security impact).

B. The department name and job location.

C. The position's risk level (impact on service integrity/efficiency) and the position's sensitivity level (potential impact on national security).

D. The incumbent's education and experience.

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5. After receiving a Statement of Reasons (SOR) from DCSA AVS, which of the following is one of the three options available to the individual?

A. Provide a written response and elect a Personal Appearance (PA); provide a written response only; or choose not to respond at all.

B. File a complaint with the inspector general.

C. Request a new adjudication review.

D. Submit a medical evaluation.

6. What type of eligibility and position designation applies to 'Collateral Contractors'?

A. Eligibility for access to Top Secret information only.

B. Eligibility for access to Secret or Top Secret information and/or assignment to non-critical sensitive or critical-sensitive duties.

C. No clearance required.

D. Only for non-sensitive duties.

7. Until the new PVMS are fully implemented, which policy document dictates the reporting requirements for individuals in national security sensitive positions?

A. HSPD-12.

B. Presidential Policy Directive 9.

C. National Security Directive 38.

D. Security Executive Agent Directive (SEAD) 3.

8. A position's sensitivity designation is based on its duties and responsibilities, including access to classified information and what other key consideration?

A. The location of the position.

B. The number of people who can access the position's files.

C. The type of equipment used in the position.

D. The potential for the position's occupant to bring about a material adverse effect on national security by virtue of the nature of the position.

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9. Under Guideline E, Personal Conduct, what action is of special interest and will normally result in an unfavorable determination?

A. A failure to cooperate or provide truthful and candid answers during the national security investigative or adjudicative process.

B. Providing full, frank, and truthful answers.

C. Agreeing to participate in an interview.

D. Completing all forms promptly.

10. Which option is NOT a ToT category?

A. ToT - New trust determination with additional vetting and/or investigative activity.

B. ToT - New trust determination with simplified vetting.

C. ToT - Re-establishment of Trust.

D. ToT - Replacement of trust with additional vetting.

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. In the context of PDT and vetting, which of the following is a key factor in determining the necessary level of investigation?

A. The individual's age.

B. The job location.

C. The results of the PDS assessment indicating risk and sensitivity and the designation.

D. The vendor's preference.

The level of vetting is driven by how risky the role is and how sensitive the information or access it requires. The PDS assessment identifies that risk and sensitivity for a given position and, together with the designation assigned to that role, sets the appropriate depth and scope of the investigation. If the assessment shows high risk and high sensitivity, and the designation calls for stronger security measures, a more comprehensive background check is needed. If risk and sensitivity are low, the process can be lighter. Factors like the person's age, where the job is located, or a vendor's preference don't determine how deep the investigation should go, because they don't directly reflect the security risk or access requirements. So the results of the PDS assessment and the designation are the guiding factors for determining the necessary level of investigation.

2. In the context of pre-investigation, when is a favorable screening insufficient to conclude trust?

A. Favorable screening does not absolve the adjudicative agency from completing the full investigation to make a final trust determination.

B. Favorable screening overrides full investigation.

C. Favorable screening guarantees employment.

D. Favorable screening eliminates the need for checks.

A favorable screening is only an initial signal, not a final verdict. In pre-investigation, the goal of screening is to quickly flag obvious issues, but it cannot replace the thorough review that a full investigation provides. The adjudicative process gathers and corroborates information from records, interviews, and other sources to assess trustworthiness in a comprehensive way. Even when screening looks good, new or context-dependent factors may emerge that alter the assessment, so the agency must complete the full investigation before making a final trust determination. That's why the other ideas don't fit: screening doesn't override or substitute for the full investigation, it does not guarantee employment, and it does not eliminate the need for ongoing checks.

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3. Which are the three legacy systems that perform the functions of the Government-wide low-side repository until Trusted Workforce 2.0 is fully implemented?

A. Central Verification System (CVS), Personnel Investigations Processing System (PIPS), and New Public Portal (NP2).

B. Central Verification System (CVS), Defense Civilian Personnel Data System (DCPDS), and New Public Portal (NP2).

C. Security/Suitability Investigations Index (SII), Joint Verification System (JVS), and PIPS.

D. New Public Portal (NP2), Defense Information System for Security (DISS), and CVS.

This question tests knowledge of the legacy systems that make up the Government-wide low-side repository before Trusted Workforce 2.0 is fully implemented. The three systems are Central Verification System, Personnel Investigations Processing System, and New Public Portal. Central Verification System acts as the central hub for verification data, collecting and sharing background-check results across agencies so that verification information can be accessed and used in determinations about suitability and clearance. Personnel Investigations Processing System handles the workflow of investigations—from initiation through processing to decision—keeping track of cases, statuses, and results. New Public Portal provides the user-facing interface for applicants and agencies to submit information, check the status of investigations, and access related data that feeds into the repository. Together, these three deliver the essential functions of the government-wide low-side repository: verification data handling, investigations processing, and user access/interaction—until Trusted Workforce 2.0 is fully in place. Other listed systems focus on different aspects (for example, personnel data systems or specialized verification tools) or serve distinct security domains, so they do not collectively fulfill the government-wide low-side repository role in this context.

4. The Position Designation Tool (PDT) determines the required type of investigation based on what two factors?

A. The position's risk level (service impact) and the position's sensitivity level (national security impact).

B. The department name and job location.

C. The position's risk level (impact on service integrity/efficiency) and the position's sensitivity level (potential impact on national security).

D. The incumbent's education and experience.

The two factors that drive the required investigation type are the position's risk to service integrity/efficiency and the position's potential impact on national security. The PDT looks at how critical the role is to daily operations and how sensitive the information or access it involves could affect national security. If a job could threaten essential services or data integrity, or if it carries significant national-security implications, a deeper investigation is needed. If the role has low impact on services and low sensitivity to national security, a lighter check suffices. This approach keeps the process focused on real operational and national-security risk rather than factors like department, location, or the person's education or experience.

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5. After receiving a Statement of Reasons (SOR) from DCSA AVS, which of the following is one of the three options available to the individual?

A. Provide a written response and elect a Personal Appearance (PA); provide a written response only; or choose not to respond at all.

B. File a complaint with the inspector general.

C. Request a new adjudication review.

D. Submit a medical evaluation.

After receiving an SOR, you have three ways to proceed that shape how you present your side of the case. The first option lets you submit a written response and also elect a Personal Appearance, meaning you provide a detailed written rebuttal and request to appear in person before the adjudicator to testify and present supporting documents or witnesses. The second option is to submit a written response only, giving you the opportunity to rebut the stated reasons in writing without an in-person appearance. The third option is to choose not to respond at all, in which case the decision will be made based on the SOR and the existing record without additional input from you. Other actions like filing a complaint with the inspector general, requesting a new adjudication review, or submitting a medical evaluation are separate processes and not part of these three response paths.

6. What type of eligibility and position designation applies to 'Collateral Contractors'?

A. Eligibility for access to Top Secret information only.

B. Eligibility for access to Secret or Top Secret information and/or assignment to non-critical sensitive or critical-sensitive duties.

C. No clearance required.

D. Only for non-sensitive duties.

The key idea is that collateral contractors are cleared to work with information classified for normal government use, not the special access programs. This means they are eligible for access to Secret or Top Secret information and can be assigned to duties that are either non-critical sensitive or critical-sensitive. In practice, collateral clearance covers a range of sensitive work, up to Top Secret, but without the extra protections required for SCI or SAP access. So, a collateral contractor might handle Top Secret material or perform roles that are sensitive but not part of a special access program, rather than being limited to only non-sensitive duties or restricted to no clearance at all. The other options are too narrow or incorrect because collateral access is not limited to non-sensitive duties, does require clearance up to Secret/Top Secret, and is not restricted to no clearance.

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7. Until the new PVMS are fully implemented, which policy document dictates the reporting requirements for individuals in national security sensitive positions?

A. HSPD-12.

B. Presidential Policy Directive 9.

C. National Security Directive 38.

D. Security Executive Agent Directive (SEAD) 3.

Reporting requirements for individuals in national security sensitive positions during a transition to a new verification system are governed by Security Executive Agent Directive 3. This directive sets the standard for who must report, what information must be reported, who receives it, and the timelines across agencies, ensuring a consistent process until the new PVMS is fully implemented. Other options relate to different policy areas: HSPD-12 focuses on secure federal identification credentials, while the remaining directives address topics outside the specific reporting framework for NS sensitive positions during PVMS rollout.

8. A position's sensitivity designation is based on its duties and responsibilities, including access to classified information and what other key consideration?

A. The location of the position.

B. The number of people who can access the position's files.

C. The type of equipment used in the position.

D. The potential for the position's occupant to bring about a material adverse effect on national security by virtue of the nature of the position.

The key idea being tested is how a position's sensitivity is determined by the risk it poses to national security, based on what the job requires and what access it implies. The defining factor is the potential for the person in that role to cause a material adverse effect on national security by virtue of the duties and responsibilities of the position. In other words, sensitivity follows from what the job could do and what security implications would arise if it were misused, rather than from where the job is located, how many people can access its files, or the equipment used. The location, access count, or equipment might influence security controls or logistics, but they do not set the inherent sensitivity level the way the nature of the duties and the security risk they entail do.

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9. Under Guideline E, Personal Conduct, what action is of special interest and will normally result in an unfavorable determination?

A. A failure to cooperate or provide truthful and candid answers during the national security investigative or adjudicative process.

B. Providing full, frank, and truthful answers.

C. Agreeing to participate in an interview.

D. Completing all forms promptly.

In Guideline E, Personal Conduct, the focus is on truthfulness, candor, and reliability in handling security obligations. A failure to cooperate or provide truthful and candid answers during the national security investigative or adjudicative process is of special interest because it directly signals a lack of honesty and willingness to disclose information essential for assessing risk. When someone with access to sensitive information withholds information or answers evasively, it undermines the trust investigators rely on to evaluate suitability for access, making such conduct normally lead to an unfavorable determination. On the other hand, giving full, frank, and truthful answers shows integrity and transparency, agreeing to participate in an interview demonstrates cooperation, and completing all forms promptly reflects diligence—together these behaviors support a positive assessment of reliability and trustworthiness.

10. Which option is NOT a ToT category?

A. ToT - New trust determination with additional vetting and/or investigative activity.

B. ToT - New trust determination with simplified vetting.

C. ToT - Re-establishment of Trust.

D. ToT - Replacement of trust with additional vetting.

ToT categories are about initiating a new trust determination with varying levels of vetting or investigation. The first, second, and fourth options describe a new trust determination with added, simplified, or replaced vetting, which fits the pattern of ToT. The phrase "re-establishment of Trust" refers to restoring an existing trust rather than issuing a fresh determination, so it does not fall under ToT categories. That's why it's the correct choice for not being a ToT category.

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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://introtonatsecsecuritypractitioners.examzify.com

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

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