

NCSP[®]

800-53 SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION

COURSE SYLLABUS



Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide the learning outcomes for the course and the assessment criteria. It also provides an overview of the examination design in terms of the types of questions asked. The BL 2 & 3 and 4 & 5 (for Bloom's Taxonomy 2 & 3 and 4 & 5) provides the number of questions that will appear on the exam.

Syllabus:

Learning Outcome	Chapter	Learning Outcome	Marks	Blooms 2 and 3	Blooms 4 and 5
1.0	Managing Risks in the Digital Age	Explores what the Specialist needs to know about enterprise digital risk	6	3	3
1.1		Understand & apply the COSO Enterprise Risk Management Framework components and the 20 principles in the context of the adaptation of a NIST-CSF informative reference.			
1.2		Understand the application of a risk management framework			
2.0	Cybersecurity within a System	Explore how cybersecurity fits into a management system.	8	3	5
2.1		Understand & demonstrate the basics of systems thinking.			
2.2		Understand the impact and application of the COSO principles.			
2.3		Apply the COSO principles from a systems thinking context.			
2.4		Understand and determine how to apply the COSO principles in the context of the SVMS.			
3.0	Z-X Model Capabilities	This chapter provides a sample set of controls based on an informative reference.	3	3	0
3.1		Understand the Z-X Model as a generic way to organize the behaviors within a management system.			
3.2		Understand the capabilities of governance and assurance and how they apply throughout the Z-X Model.			
4.0	Adapt	Explore the decisions and approaches to adapt an informative reference	10	3	7
4.1		Understand & explain the integration of the cybersecurity strategy with the business strategy to form the business objectives necessary to achieve the desired cybersecurity posture.			
4.2		Understand, explain & evaluate the SVMS & the adaptation of the selected informative reference.			
4.3		Understand & apply the Goal, Question, Metrics approach.			
5.0	Implement	Explore the integration of the selected Informative Reference with the Service Value Management System.	26	10	16

Learning Outcome	Chapter	Learning Outcome	Marks	Blooms 2 and 3	Blooms 4 and 5
5.1		Explain and evaluate the dependencies of the informative references on existing IT capabilities.			
5.2		Evaluate & plan for cybersecurity operation & improvement			
5.3		Demonstrate working knowledge to apply GQM.			
5.4		Apply & analyze the situation described in the case study to establish a GQM template to take back to work.			
6.0	Operate & Ongoing Improvement	Fast Track™ is an approach to allow organizations to learn to adapt to an evolving threat landscape rapidly.	12	4	8
6.1		Apply & analyze organizational readiness for cybersecurity within the context of the COSO principles.			
6.1		Understand & apply the cascade from capability to practice area to process and to controls so that cybersecurity becomes part of every aspect of the SVMS.			
6.2		Evaluate changes (gaps) in the threat landscape and the associated impact of operating and improving organizational cybersecurity posture.			

Examination Design and Administration

Pre-requisites:

- NIST Cyber Security Professional (NCSP®) Practitioner or
- NIST Cyber Security Professional (NCSP®) Bootcamp

Duration:

120 minutes

Number of questions:

65

Level of knowledge:

Bloom's level*:

2 – Understand

3 – Apply

4 – Analyze

5 – Evaluate

Delivery:

Open-book, open-notes

Proctored exam either paper-based in a classroom or online.

Format:

This examination consists of sixty-five (65) multiple-choice questions, each with a single correct answer from 4-choices (A, B, C, D).

Questions may appear in any of the following forms (sample, not an exhaustive list).

- Which of the following is true, correct, most correct?
- Which of the following statements is NOT correct?
- Which of the following statements addresses X?
- How would you show Y?
- What is...?
- How would you describe...?
- How would you determine...?
- How would you justify...?
- What would you recommend...?
- Which is the best choice...?
- Which is the correct approach given...?
- Any of the questions may include an additional qualifier: Why...?

Scoring:

Each correct answer is worth 1 point. Passing is 60% (39 correct out of 65).

*Bloom level 4 and 5 questions may require the candidate to synthesize an answer that is not explicitly covered in the course material and exercises.

