

CISA Domain 2 Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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.

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!

Questions

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- 1. Which of the following reflects a priority in discussing IT governance issues?**
 - A. Engagement of technical staff**
 - B. Assessment of IT budgets**
 - C. Involvement of executive leadership**
 - D. Evaluation of end-user satisfaction**
- 2. Which issue is the most concerning when reviewing human resources policies?**
 - A. Absence of periodic job rotation**
 - B. Lack of formalized exit interview process**
 - C. Absence of a termination checklist**
 - D. Requirement for new employees to sign a nondisclosure agreement**
- 3. When reviewing risk policies, what element should be evaluated last?**
 - A. Risk acceptance levels**
 - B. Implementation status**
 - C. Control measures**
 - D. Impact assessment**
- 4. What is a critical risk to monitor during business process reengineering?**
 - A. Employee awareness of process changes**
 - B. Elimination of necessary controls**
 - C. Feedback mechanisms from stakeholders**
 - D. Sufficient training of employees involved**
- 5. What is a significant implementation risk within decision support systems?**
 - A. Management control**
 - B. Semistructured dimensions**
 - C. Inability to specify purpose and usage patterns**
 - D. Changes in decision processes**

6. What is the primary consideration for an IS auditor reviewing IT project prioritization?

- A. Alignment with the organization's strategy**
- B. Monitoring and mitigating project risk**
- C. Appropriateness of project planning controls**
- D. Accuracy of project metrics reporting**

7. What presents the greatest risk during a merger involving the replacement of legacy systems?

- A. Project management by external consultants**
- B. Lack of resource allocation integration**
- C. Inefficient resource allocation during familiarity training**
- D. Extensive training needs due to process changes**

8. Which characteristic is NOT ideal for an IT steering committee?

- A. Involvement of senior management**
- B. A focus on diverse departmental representation**
- C. High levels of technical expertise**
- D. Inclusion of low-level staff members**

9. What should an IS auditor primarily focus on when determining protection levels for an information asset?

- A. Results of a risk assessment**
- B. Relative value to the business**
- C. Results of a vulnerability assessment**
- D. Cost of security controls**

10. What is the greatest risk posed by inadequate policy definition for ownership of data and systems?

- A. User management coordination does not exist**
- B. Specific user accountability cannot be established**
- C. Unauthorized users may modify data**
- D. Audit recommendations may not be implemented**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which of the following reflects a priority in discussing IT governance issues?

- A. Engagement of technical staff**
- B. Assessment of IT budgets**
- C. Involvement of executive leadership**
- D. Evaluation of end-user satisfaction**

In the context of IT governance, the involvement of executive leadership is crucial because it ensures that IT strategies align with the overall business goals of the organization. Executive leaders provide the necessary authority and resources to support IT initiatives, making them pivotal in prioritizing and steering governance efforts. Their engagement signals to the entire organization that IT governance is a priority, fostering a culture where IT is recognized as a vital component of business success. When executive leadership is involved, it facilitates effective communication between IT teams and other business units, ensuring that IT objectives are not only understood but are also integrated into broader organizational strategies. Moreover, their support can enhance resource allocation for IT projects, ultimately leading to more successful outcomes and a clearer alignment between IT investments and business value. Engagement of technical staff, assessment of IT budgets, and evaluation of end-user satisfaction are all important components of IT governance, but they are typically underpinned by the strategic direction provided by executive leadership. Without their involvement, efforts in these areas may lack sufficient authority and direction to have a meaningful impact on the governance of IT within the organization.

2. Which issue is the most concerning when reviewing human resources policies?

- A. Absence of periodic job rotation**
- B. Lack of formalized exit interview process**
- C. Absence of a termination checklist**
- D. Requirement for new employees to sign a nondisclosure agreement**

The most concerning issue when reviewing human resources policies is the absence of a termination checklist. A termination checklist serves as a crucial tool to ensure that all necessary steps are taken when an employee leaves the organization, whether voluntarily or involuntarily. This checklist helps facilitate the secure handling of sensitive company information, retrieval of company property, revocation of access to company systems, and the proper termination of benefits. Without a termination checklist, there is a heightened risk of data breaches, loss of company assets, and financial implications resulting from unpaid benefits or unfinished administrative tasks. It also increases the likelihood of ongoing access to company resources, which could lead to substantial security concerns, especially if the employee held critical roles or had access to sensitive information. Establishing a standardized process for terminations, such as implementing a checklist, helps ensure compliance with legal requirements and company policies while also aiding in managing the transition smoothly.

3. When reviewing risk policies, what element should be evaluated last?

- A. Risk acceptance levels
- B. Implementation status**
- C. Control measures
- D. Impact assessment

Evaluating the implementation status last in the review of risk policies is important because it provides a comprehensive view of how effectively the risk management framework is working in practice. By first assessing factors such as risk acceptance levels, control measures, and impact assessment, you set the stage for understanding whether the policies are relevant and adequately tailored to the organization's risk appetite and environment. Starting with risk acceptance levels helps define the thresholds for acceptable risk, which guides the evaluation of control measures — examining whether the existing controls effectively mitigate identified risks. The impact assessment further informs the magnitude of risks and helps prioritize them based on possible consequences. Once these key elements have been evaluated, reviewing the implementation status allows you to determine if the planned policies and controls are actually in place, operational, and functioning as intended. This last step ensures that the risk management strategy aligns not only with theoretical standards but with actual practices, thus providing a complete picture of the risk management landscape within the organization. This sequential approach enhances the effectiveness of the review process and ensures that any deficiencies in implementation can be addressed in the context of previously established acceptance levels and evaluated control measures.

4. What is a critical risk to monitor during business process reengineering?

- A. Employee awareness of process changes
- B. Elimination of necessary controls**
- C. Feedback mechanisms from stakeholders
- D. Sufficient training of employees involved

The elimination of necessary controls during business process reengineering is a critical risk to monitor because it can significantly impact the effectiveness and security of the overall process. When reengineering processes, there is a possibility that existing controls, which are often put in place to ensure compliance, accuracy, and risk management, may be overlooked or removed in the pursuit of improved efficiency. These necessary controls are vital for safeguarding the integrity of the process, ensuring compliance with regulations, and preventing errors or fraud. Without proper controls, organizations expose themselves to various risks, including operational inefficiencies, financial losses, or regulatory non-compliance. Therefore, monitoring the presence and effectiveness of necessary controls is essential to ensure that the reengineered processes can operate smoothly and securely. While employee awareness of process changes, feedback mechanisms from stakeholders, and sufficient training of employees involved are all important factors to consider during reengineering efforts, they do not directly address the fundamental framework that ensures the new processes operate effectively and within acceptable risk parameters. Therefore, focusing on maintaining and possibly enhancing necessary controls is paramount during such transformational initiatives.

5. What is a significant implementation risk within decision support systems?

- A. Management control**
- B. Semistructured dimensions**
- C. Inability to specify purpose and usage patterns**
- D. Changes in decision processes**

A significant implementation risk within decision support systems arises from the inability to specify purpose and usage patterns. This is critical because decision support systems are designed to assist users in making informed decisions based on data analysis. If the purpose of the system is unclear or if the expected usage patterns are not well-defined, the system may fail to meet the needs of its users. When stakeholders cannot articulate the goals of the system or how they intend to utilize it for decision-making, the system may be misaligned with business objectives. This misalignment can lead to underutilization or complete rejection of the system, resulting in wasted resources and a failure to achieve the desired improvements in decision-making processes. In contrast, management control, semistructured dimensions, and changes in decision processes, while important considerations, do not address the foundational risk posed by vague or unspecified purposes. A well-defined purpose and an understanding of how the system will be used are essential for successful implementation and operation.

6. What is the primary consideration for an IS auditor reviewing IT project prioritization?

- A. Alignment with the organization's strategy**
- B. Monitoring and mitigating project risk**
- C. Appropriateness of project planning controls**
- D. Accuracy of project metrics reporting**

The primary consideration for an IS auditor reviewing IT project prioritization is the alignment with the organization's strategy. This focus is crucial because it ensures that the projects being undertaken directly support the broader goals and objectives of the organization. By prioritizing projects that align with strategic initiatives, the organization can optimize resource allocation, enhance overall performance, and drive value creation. When projects align well with the organization's strategy, they are more likely to receive buy-in from stakeholders and yield meaningful results. This alignment helps auditors assess whether the project portfolio contributes to the organization's mission and whether the investments made in IT projects are justified based on strategic importance. In contrast, although monitoring and mitigating project risk, appropriateness of project planning controls, and accuracy of project metrics reporting are important aspects of project management and governance, they become secondary to the overarching need for projects to support strategic goals. Ensuring alignment with strategy serves as the foundational principle that guides all other project considerations and assessments.

7. What presents the greatest risk during a merger involving the replacement of legacy systems?

- A. Project management by external consultants**
- B. Lack of resource allocation integration**
- C. Inefficient resource allocation during familiarity training**
- D. Extensive training needs due to process changes**

In the context of a merger involving the replacement of legacy systems, the integration of resource allocation is critical. When two organizations merge, there is often a need to consolidate systems, processes, and resources. If there is a lack of integration in resource allocation, it can lead to competing priorities, delays in project execution, and insufficient support for critical functions. This can result in operational disruptions and difficulty in aligning the newly formed entity's goals and objectives, which ultimately poses a significant risk to the merger's success. Effective resource allocation is vital for ensuring that both organizations are adequately prepared for the transition to new systems. It involves not only the distribution of physical resources but also the alignment of human capital and technological capabilities to support a seamless transition. Without proper integration in this area, the merged organization risks becoming inefficient, which can lead to financial losses, decreased morale, and hindered strategic objectives. Thus, a lack of resource allocation integration presents the greatest risk during such mergers.

8. Which characteristic is NOT ideal for an IT steering committee?

- A. Involvement of senior management**
- B. A focus on diverse departmental representation**
- C. High levels of technical expertise**
- D. Inclusion of low-level staff members**

An IT steering committee is designed to provide oversight, strategic direction, and ensure alignment between IT initiatives and business objectives. One of the primary roles of such a committee is to facilitate high-level decision-making regarding IT investments and priorities, making inclusion of low-level staff members not ideal. Low-level staff members typically may not have the broader organizational perspective necessary to contribute effectively to strategic discussions. They might lack insights into the overall business goals, financial implications, and long-term planning that senior management and specialized representatives bring to the table. On the other hand, involvement of senior management is crucial as it helps in aligning IT projects with the organization's overall strategy, while a focus on diverse departmental representation ensures that multiple perspectives and needs are considered in decision-making. High levels of technical expertise can contribute to informed discussions about technological capabilities, though it is more effective when combined with strategic insight provided by senior management and diverse representation. Thus, while low-level staff can provide valuable operational insights in other contexts, their inclusion on an IT steering committee is typically not ideal for the strategic focus necessary in this setting.

9. What should an IS auditor primarily focus on when determining protection levels for an information asset?

- A. Results of a risk assessment**
- B. Relative value to the business**
- C. Results of a vulnerability assessment**
- D. Cost of security controls**

When determining protection levels for an information asset, the primary focus of an IS auditor should be the results of a risk assessment. A risk assessment provides a comprehensive evaluation of the potential threats that could exploit vulnerabilities in the asset and the impact those threats could have on the organization. It identifies the likelihood of various risks occurring and their potential consequences, enabling the auditor to determine appropriate security measures that align with the risk levels identified. Incorporating the findings from a risk assessment allows the auditor to prioritize resources and implement security controls that effectively mitigate risks to an acceptable level. This approach ensures that the protection levels established are proportionate to the actual risks faced by the information asset, thus enhancing the organization's overall security posture and aligning security efforts with business objectives. This systematic assessment of risk is essential for making informed decisions about how much protection an asset requires and what security measures should be prioritized.

10. What is the greatest risk posed by inadequate policy definition for ownership of data and systems?

- A. User management coordination does not exist**
- B. Specific user accountability cannot be established**
- C. Unauthorized users may modify data**
- D. Audit recommendations may not be implemented**

The greatest risk posed by inadequate policy definition for ownership of data and systems lies in the potential for unauthorized users to modify data. When ownership of data and systems is not clearly defined through well-established policies, it creates ambiguity regarding who is authorized to access, modify, or manage that data. This lack of clarity can lead to situations where individuals who should not have access to sensitive or critical information are able to alter it, resulting in data integrity issues, compliance violations, and increased vulnerability to both insider and outsider threats. Inadequate policy definitions deprive organizations of necessary controls and oversight, which are essential for safeguarding data from unauthorized changes. The repercussions can be severe, including financial loss, reputational damage, and potential legal ramifications if sensitive information is compromised. Ensuring clear ownership and accountability through comprehensive policies is fundamental to maintaining data security and integrity.

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://cisadomain2.examzify.com>

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

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