DOD Instruction 5200.48 Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide

BY EXAMZIFY

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

1. **If you create a new document from legacy material, what happens if the info qualifies as CUI?**

   A. The new document must be marked as CUI

   B. The new document must be destroyed

   C. The new document remains unmarked until a reviewer decides

   D. The original legacy marking suffices

2. **What documentation is required for CUI training records?**

   A. Documentation of initial and annual refresher training.

   B. Only annual refresher training records.

   C. No documentation.

   D. Training records must be kept for 7 years.

3. **What must happen before marking unclassified intelligence CUI as NOFORN/NF?**

   A. It must be reviewed by a Foreign Disclosure Officer to ensure no agreements prohibit its use/sharing (as described in the instruction).

   B. It must be approved by the President.

   C. It must be reviewed by the General Counsel.

   D. It must be published in the CUI registry.

4. **Which statement describes Basic vs Specified handling during initial phased implementation?**

   A. Basic safeguards and dissemination unless otherwise restricted.

   B. All CUI must be treated as Specified.

   C. No restrictions apply.

   D. Specified categorization is optional.

5. **Which items must be included (at minimum) in CUI training standards?**

    A. Individual responsibilities; indexes/categories routinely handled; describe the CUI Registry; differences between Basic vs Specified; oversight offices; marking requirements; safeguards; destruction; incident reporting; dissemination methods; decontrolling methods.

    B. Individual responsibilities; marking requirements.

    C. CUI Registry description; differences between Basic and Specified.

    D. Oversight offices; incident reporting; dissemination methods; decontrolling methods.

6. **Who is responsible for applying CUI markings and dissemination instructions?**

    A. The authorized holder (if the information is CUI)

    B. The original classification authority

    C. The information owner

    D. The custodian of records

7. **What process governs the release of CUI records when a public disclosure is requested?**

    A. Designated offices handling review/release (e.g., FOIA processes)

    B. The Security Classification Guidance Office

    C. The DoD Inspector General

    D. The Joint Chiefs of Staff

8. **Which statement best describes CUI decontrol timing across the DoD?**

    A. There are universal timelines set by the DoD

    B. There are no universal timelines; only when required by law/regulation/government-wide policy

    C. Decontrol is automatic after 10 years

    D. Decontrol occurs when the document is moved to an archive

9. **Is there a specific timeline to decontrol CUI?**

   A. Yes, within 90 days

   B. No; timelines exist only if required by law/regulation/government-wide policy

   C. Always after 1 year

   D. Dependent on the DoD component's discretion

10. **Which line contains the distribution statement or dissemination controls?**

   A. The first line.

   B. The second line.

   C. The third line.

   D. The fourth line.

Answers

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

Explanations

1. **If you create a new document from legacy material, what happens if the info qualifies as CUI?**

   A. The new document must be marked as CUI

   B. The new document must be destroyed

   C. The new document remains unmarked until a reviewer decides

   D. The original legacy marking suffices

When information is CUI, the marking travels with the information itself. Creating a new document from legacy material that contains CUI produces a derivative document that still carries that sensitivity, so the new document must be marked as CUI to indicate its handling, dissemination, and protection requirements. This ensures anyone who handles the document understands how to protect it and who may access it. Relying on the legacy marking alone isn't sufficient because the new document is a separate asset with its own labeling needs. Destroying the new document would lose protected information and violate CUI protection rules, and leaving it unmarked until a reviewer decides would delay and weaken proper handling. The appropriate action is to apply the CUI marking to the new document to reflect its content and safeguarding requirements.

2. **What documentation is required for CUI training records?**

   A. Documentation of initial and annual refresher training.

   B. Only annual refresher training records.

   C. No documentation.

   D. Training records must be kept for 7 years.

The requirement for CUI training is to ensure personnel understand how to handle, mark, protect, and report CUI. The instruction does not mandate a specific documentation format, retention period, or a universal record-keeping rule for CUI training. In other words, while training must occur, the policy itself doesn't require a particular set of records to be kept or a fixed timeline for keeping them. Organizations typically track completion in their own training systems, but there isn't a built-in, nationwide requirement to produce or retain separate CUI training records as specified by the instruction. Therefore, no documentation is the best answer among the choices. The other options imply formal record-keeping requirements or timeframes that aren't imposed by the instruction.

3. What must happen before marking unclassified intelligence CUI as NOFORN/NF?

A. It must be reviewed by a Foreign Disclosure Officer to ensure no agreements prohibit its use/sharing (as described in the instruction).

B. It must be approved by the President.

C. It must be reviewed by the General Counsel.

D. It must be published in the CUI registry.

NOFORN/NF marks carry restrictions on sharing information with foreign persons or entities, so the responsible official must first verify there are no agreements or policies that prohibit such disclosure. A Foreign Disclosure Officer is the designated authority to review unclassified intelligence CUI for any foreign-disclosure restrictions—checking for treaties, non-disclosure agreements, export-control constraints, or other binding commitments. If the FDO determines there are no prohibitions, the NOFORN designation can be applied confidently; if restrictions exist, they guide how the information may be shared or whether the mark can be used at all. Presidential approval, General Counsel review, or publishing in the CUI registry are not the required gating steps for applying NOFORN/NF in this context.

4. Which statement describes Basic vs Specified handling during initial phased implementation?

A. Basic safeguards and dissemination unless otherwise restricted.

B. All CUI must be treated as Specified.

C. No restrictions apply.

D. Specified categorization is optional.

During initial phased implementation, the default approach is to treat CUI as Basic, applying standard safeguards and dissemination limited to those with a need to know unless a restriction designates it as Specified. This means most information gets basic protections and can be shared with authorized personnel unless a specific designation adds extra rules. Specified handling introduces additional restrictions beyond the basics, and those tighter controls are applied only to items explicitly categorized as Specified. So saying Basic safeguards and dissemination apply unless otherwise restricted describes the intended rollout. The other options imply universal Specified treatment, no restrictions, or that Specified is optional, which doesn't align with the phased approach.

5. Which items must be included (at minimum) in CUI training standards?

A. Individual responsibilities; indexes/categories routinely handled; describe the CUI Registry; differences between Basic vs Specified; oversight offices; marking requirements; safeguards; destruction; incident reporting; dissemination methods; decontrolling methods.

B. Individual responsibilities; marking requirements.

C. CUI Registry description; differences between Basic and Specified.

D. Oversight offices; incident reporting; dissemination methods; decontrolling methods.

CUI training standards must cover how individuals are responsible for protecting CUI across its entire lifecycle, with practical guidance on the exact procedures they will encounter. This includes understanding who oversees the CUI program (oversight offices) and knowing which categories of information exist and how they are handled, which is described in the CUI Registry. Trainees need to grasp the differences between Basic and Specified CUI so they apply the correct level of protection and restrictions on dissemination. The training should also cover how to mark materials correctly, the safeguards required for physical and digital handling, how to store and transport CUI, how to destroy it when appropriate, and how to apply decontrolling methods when authorized to do so. Incident reporting is essential so staff know how to respond to any loss or disclosure, and they must understand permissible dissemination methods. Together, these elements ensure personnel can protect CUI from creation through destruction and respond appropriately to incidents. Other options omit one or more of these critical areas, leaving gaps in understanding the full handling and protection requirements.

6. Who is responsible for applying CUI markings and dissemination instructions?

A. The authorized holder (if the information is CUI)

B. The original classification authority

C. The information owner

D. The custodian of records

The person or organization that has possession and control of the CUI—the authorized holder—is the one responsible for applying CUI markings and dissemination instructions. Marking the information and attaching any sharing or access restrictions travel with it as it is created or received, so downstream users understand how it may be handled, shared, and who may access it. This responsibility isn't about who originally classified the data, who owns the information at a strategic level, or who stores it; those roles may exist, but the day-to-day duty to correctly mark the CUI and include dissemination controls lies with the authorized holder who has custody and control of the material.

7. What process governs the release of CUI records when a public disclosure is requested?

A. Designated offices handling review/release (e.g., FOIA processes)

B. The Security Classification Guidance Office

C. The DoD Inspector General

D. The Joint Chiefs of Staff

Requests for public disclosure of CUI records are handled through the FOIA review and release process, carried out by the designated offices responsible for reviewing and releasing information. When a public disclosure request arrives, these offices evaluate the requested records to determine what can be disclosed under FOIA and the CUI rules, apply any required redactions to protect CUI, and then release the information if allowed. This ensures transparency while safeguarding controlled information. The other options don't govern public releases: the Security Classification Guidance Office creates classification standards, not release decisions; the DoD Inspector General focuses on investigations and audits; and the Joint Chiefs of Staff does not serve as the release authority for public records.

8. Which statement best describes CUI decontrol timing across the DoD?

A. There are universal timelines set by the DoD

B. There are no universal timelines; only when required by law/regulation/government-wide policy

C. Decontrol is automatic after 10 years

D. Decontrol occurs when the document is moved to an archive

There aren't universal decontrol timelines across the DoD. CUI decontrol happens only when allowed or mandated by law, regulation, or government-wide policy. In practice, a document remains marked as CUI until the controlling policy or the designated approving official authorizes removal of the marking. Archiving, aging, or simply moving a file to another storage location does not automatically remove CUI markings. This approach ensures that decontrol aligns with evolving legal and policy requirements rather than a fixed DoD schedule.

9. Is there a specific timeline to decontrol CUI?

A. Yes, within 90 days

B. No; timelines exist only if required by law/regulation/government-wide policy

C. Always after 1 year

D. Dependent on the DoD component's discretion

In CUI handling, there isn't a universal countdown for decontrolling. Timelines only exist if a law, regulation, or government-wide policy specifically requires one. Otherwise, decontrol happens when the information no longer requires safeguarding, and the designated official or the responsible CUI authority determines that the marking can be removed in accordance with applicable laws and policies. So, there isn't a fixed period like 90 days or a year that applies across the board; any timeline would come from the governing rule or policy, not from the CUI program itself.

10. Which line contains the distribution statement or dissemination controls?

   A. The first line.

   B. The second line.

   C. The third line.

   D. The fourth line.

The line that carries the distribution statement or dissemination controls is the last one. In the common document marking format, the bottom line is reserved for distribution restrictions, telling exactly who may receive the information and under what conditions it can be shared. This placement ensures that after you've noted the classification level and any handling or declassification instructions, you immediately see who is authorized to access or disseminate the material. The lines above typically cover the classification and any related handling notes, while the bottom line is dedicated to distribution controls.

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://dodinstruction520048cui.examzify.com

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