

DOD Instruction 5200.48 Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) 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. Where are DoD CUI registry categories accessible?**
 - A. Intelink (internal DoD site)**
 - B. DoD Knowledge Base**
 - C. NIST Portal**
 - D. Public DoD Site**

- 2. What is the purpose of the DoD CUI Registry?**
 - A. An official list of indexes and categories used to identify types of DoD CUI; aligns with DoD issuances**
 - B. A collection of classified sample documents**
 - C. A list of DoD personnel authorized to handle CUI**
 - D. A glossary of acronyms**

- 3. Who determines whether an individual has an authorized government purpose to access CUI?**
 - A. The person with authorized possession, knowledge, or control of the CUI.**
 - B. The individual's supervisor.**
 - C. The CUI registry administrator.**
 - D. The requester.**

- 4. What is the minimum marking for unclassified DoD documents containing CUI?**
 - A. "CUI" in the banner and footer of the document**
 - B. "U" in the banner**
 - C. FOUO in the banner**
 - D. No marking**

- 5. NOFORN/NF marking is applicable to which of the following information types?**
 - A. NNPI**
 - B. Public domain information**
 - C. Classified**
 - D. NDP-1**

- 6. If a CUI misuse occurs and no disciplinary action is pursued, what type of inquiry is required?**
- A. A formal security inquiry is required regardless.**
 - B. No formal inquiry is required unless disciplinary action is taken.**
 - C. A preliminary inquiry is conducted even without disciplinary action.**
 - D. A full security investigation is required for all UD.**
- 7. 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.**
- 8. Do derivative documents shared outside DoD need to be marked if the information qualifies as CUI?**
- A. Yes, they must be marked if the information qualifies as CUI**
 - B. No, they can be shared unmarked**
 - C. Only if the outside party is a government entity**
 - D. Only if the material is re-created from scratch**
- 9. Does CUI include information that is lawfully and publicly available without restrictions?**
- A. No.**
 - B. Yes.**
 - C. Sometimes.**
 - D. Only with restrictions.**

10. Which activities are included in the CUI lifecycle as standardized by DoDI 5200.48?

- A. Identifying, sharing, safeguarding, marking, storing, transmitting, decontrolling, destroying, training, monitoring, and reporting CUI.**
- B. Classifying, archiving, encrypting, auditing.**
- C. Releasing, publishing, commenting, storing.**
- D. Purchasing, distributing, and disposing.**

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Where are DoD CUI registry categories accessible?

- A. Intelink (internal DoD site)**
- B. DoD Knowledge Base**
- C. NIST Portal**
- D. Public DoD Site**

Access to the DoD CUI registry categories is on Intelink—the DoD’s internal, secured network. This registry is a restricted resource used by DoD personnel to identify and manage CUI handling within the department, so it requires DoD credentials and internal access. The other destinations are not the official home for these categories. The DoD Knowledge Base is a general repository of articles, not the formal CUI registry. The NIST Portal is a standards-focused external resource, and the Public DoD Site is accessible to the public and would not host restricted DoD CUI category data.

2. What is the purpose of the DoD CUI Registry?

- A. An official list of indexes and categories used to identify types of DoD CUI; aligns with DoD issuances**
- B. A collection of classified sample documents**
- C. A list of DoD personnel authorized to handle CUI**
- D. A glossary of acronyms**

The DoD CUI Registry provides an official catalog of CUI categories and the DoD issuances that define them, serving as the authoritative map for identifying and classifying DoD CUI. By listing the category names, their associated identifiers, and the governing DoD documents, it ensures consistent labeling, handling, and protection across agencies and programs. This alignment with DoD issuances makes it the go-to reference for determining which category applies to a given piece of information and what markings or controls are required. The other options don’t fit the registry’s purpose. It is not a collection of classified sample documents, nor a roster of personnel who may handle CUI, and it isn’t simply a glossary of acronyms.

3. Who determines whether an individual has an authorized government purpose to access CUI?

- A. The person with authorized possession, knowledge, or control of the CUI.**
- B. The individual's supervisor.**
- C. The CUI registry administrator.**
- D. The requester.**

Access to CUI is controlled by the person who possesses, knows about, or controls the information. That individual is responsible for deciding whether a requester has an authorized government purpose to access it. In practice, they assess the requester’s identity, role, and need-to-know, and ensure the access aligns with the stated government purpose for that CUI. The supervisor may participate in the workflow or grant general approvals, but the ultimate determination rests with the holder of the CUI. The registry administrator maintains records and metadata, not the access decision for a specific data item, and the requester cannot grant access on their own.

4. What is the minimum marking for unclassified DoD documents containing CUI?

- A. "CUI" in the banner and footer of the document**
- B. "U" in the banner**
- C. FOUO in the banner**
- D. No marking**

The minimum marking for unclassified DoD documents containing CUI is to have "CUI" shown in the banner on the top and bottom of every page. This makes immediately clear that the content is controlled unclassified information and must be handled under CUI safeguarding rules, regardless of the document's overall classification level. Using just a plain Unclassified indicator doesn't signal the presence of CUI, so it wouldn't meet the required protection marking. FOUO is an older label that isn't the current standard for CUI, so it wouldn't satisfy modern DoD marking guidance. Marking the document with no indication at all fails to warn handlers and isn't compliant. Thus, the banner and footer "CUI" marking on each page is the appropriate minimum.

5. NOFORN/NF marking is applicable to which of the following information types?

- A. NNPI**
- B. Public domain information**
- C. Classified**
- D. NDP-1**

NOFORN/NF is a dissemination control that flags information as not releasable to foreign nationals or foreign governments without explicit authorization. It is used for material that is not normally public and must be kept from foreign disclosure. Not Normally Public Information (NNPI) fits this purpose exactly, because NNPI denotes information intended for restricted internal use and not for general release. Public domain information is by definition permissible to share with anyone, so NOFORN would not apply. Classifications govern who inside the U.S. can see the data and are tied to broader security handling rules rather than this particular dissemination tag; for classified material, controls come from its classification level and related distribution statements, not primarily from NOFORN. NDP-1 isn't the standard category associated with NOFORN in this context.

6. If a CUI misuse occurs and no disciplinary action is pursued, what type of inquiry is required?
- A. A formal security inquiry is required regardless.
 - B. No formal inquiry is required unless disciplinary action is taken.**
 - C. A preliminary inquiry is conducted even without disciplinary action.
 - D. A full security investigation is required for all UD.

In CUI handling, the level of scrutiny is tied to whether any action will follow from the incident. A formal security inquiry is a formal process used to investigate suspected violations and to support potential disciplinary action. If misuse occurs but no disciplinary action is pursued, there's no requirement to initiate that formal process. Instead, the incident can be addressed through reporting, remediation, and any necessary non-punitive measures, without launching a formal security inquiry. This keeps resources focused on cases with potential consequences and avoids unnecessary formal investigations. Other options imply triggering heavy, formal processes in all cases or mandating a full security investigation for every incident, which isn't appropriate when no disciplinary action is planned.

7. 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.

8. Do derivative documents shared outside DoD need to be marked if the information qualifies as CUI?

- A. Yes, they must be marked if the information qualifies as CUI**
- B. No, they can be shared unmarked**
- C. Only if the outside party is a government entity**
- D. Only if the material is re-created from scratch**

CUI markings travel with the information, even when you create something new from it. If you derive a document—whether by compiling, summarizing, redacting, or re-creating content—from CUI, that derivative still contains CUI content and must be marked accordingly before sharing outside DoD. The marking signals to external recipients how to handle and protect the information and what restrictions apply, keeping the sensitivity and safeguards intact across transmissions and formats. This applies regardless of who the outside recipient is, and it ensures consistent protection beyond the original source. So, when the material qualifies as CUI and you share a derivative outside DoD, you must apply the appropriate CUI markings to that derivative.

9. Does CUI include information that is lawfully and publicly available without restrictions?

- A. No.**
- B. Yes.**
- C. Sometimes.**
- D. Only with restrictions.**

CUI exists to protect information that requires safeguarding or controlled dissemination under law, regulation, or government policy. If information is lawfully and publicly available without restrictions, there's no need for those controls, so it isn't considered CUI. That's why the statement that CUI includes publicly available information is not correct. Think of it this way: CUI designations are about limiting access and distribution. Public information is already open and unrestricted, so it falls outside the CUI framework. The other options would imply that publicly available information still needs protective controls or can be restricted, which contradicts how CUI is defined and applied.

10. Which activities are included in the CUI lifecycle as standardized by DoDI 5200.48?

- A. Identifying, sharing, safeguarding, marking, storing, transmitting, decontrolling, destroying, training, monitoring, and reporting CUI.**
- B. Classifying, archiving, encrypting, auditing.**
- C. Releasing, publishing, commenting, storing.**
- D. Purchasing, distributing, and disposing.**

Understanding the CUI lifecycle means recognizing the full sequence of handling Controlled Unclassified Information as defined by DoDI 5200.48. This lifecycle covers identifying CUI and determining how it can be shared, safeguarding it to protect its confidentiality and integrity, and marking it with the proper CUI designation. It also includes storing and transmitting CUI securely, decontrolling it when its restrictions no longer apply, and destroying it when it's no longer needed. Training personnel on how to handle CUI, monitoring compliance, and reporting incidents or potential exposures are integral parts of the process. Together, these steps create a consistent, end-to-end framework for protecting CUI across the DoD and its contractors. Other options miss essential elements or include actions not part of the standardized lifecycle. They might omit marking, safeguarding, sharing controls, or decontrolling, or introduce activities like releasing, publishing, or purchasing that aren't part of the approved CUI handling process.

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!

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