

# SFPC Information Security 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. In professional discussions about classified information, both spillage on an unclassified system and processing classified information on a non-accredited system are considered concerns.**
  - A. Both are correct**
  - B. Only spillage is correct**
  - C. Only unaccredited processing is correct**
  - D. Neither is correct**
  
- 2. In the discussion about transporting classified material, who is correct regarding hand-carrying clearance requirements?**
  - A. Jo**
  - B. Chris**
  - C. Both**
  - D. Neither**
  
- 3. Does courier briefing inform the USPS about its responsibility for employees who hand carry classified material?**
  - A. Yes, it informs the USPS of its responsibility.**
  - B. No, it does not inform the USPS.**
  - C. Only if the employees are USPS employees.**
  - D. It informs the receiving facility instead.**
  
- 4. The sender's complete return address needs to be on the inner wrapping, but not be on the outer wrapping.**
  - A. Not specified**
  - B. False**
  - C. True**
  - D. Not applicable**
  
- 5. Which statement about classification levels is incorrect?**
  - A. They differ in the extent of damage from disclosure**
  - B. They are assigned based on the sensitivity of the information**
  - C. They guide protective measures**
  - D. They are identical in potential impact**

- 6. Which statement best describes information eligible for classification and differences among classification levels?**
- A. Information eligible for classification is only government-owned; levels unchanged**
  - B. Information eligible for classification is owned by private sector; levels differ**
  - C. Information eligible for classification is owned by or produced for the government; levels differ in the extent of damage**
  - D. Information eligible for classification is never determined by the government; levels are random**
- 7. Which control marking is used on imagery representations and reports that identify sensitive analytical methods or intelligence sources?**
- A. Rel to**
  - B. Noform**
  - C. Imcon**
  - D. Restricted Data**
- 8. Which document established the baseline information security requirements for the Department of Defense?**
- A. EO 13526**
  - B. NIST SP 800-53**
  - C. DoD 5200.2-R**
  - D. DoD 5105-?**
- 9. Which of the following describes a valid method an OCA may use to communicate a classification decision?**
- A. Issuing a security classification guide**
  - B. Posting a decision on a public website**
  - C. Sending an anonymous note**
  - D. Declassifying by announcing publicly**

**10. Under EO 13526, knowingly, willfully, or negligently classify information contrary to the requirements is a security violation.**

- A. True**
- B. False**
- C. Not specified**
- D. Sometimes**

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## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. In professional discussions about classified information, both spillage on an unclassified system and processing classified information on a non-accredited system are considered concerns.**

**A. Both are correct**

**B. Only spillage is correct**

**C. Only unaccredited processing is correct**

**D. Neither is correct**

The idea being tested is that there are security risks whenever classified information is not kept within properly controlled environments. Spillage on an unclassified system happens when classified data lands on a machine, network, or storage that isn't cleared for such data; the untrusted environment may lack the protections, access controls, and monitoring needed to prevent disclosure or misuse. Processing classified information on a non-accredited system is also risky because accreditation (or authorization to operate) confirms that the system's security controls have been evaluated and meet requirements; without that approval, you cannot assume adequate protection against unauthorized access or tampering. Because both scenarios expose classified information to inadequate safeguards, they are both valid concerns in discussions about handling classified data.

**2. In the discussion about transporting classified material, who is correct regarding hand-carrying clearance requirements?**

**A. Jo**

**B. Chris**

**C. Both**

**D. Neither**

Hand-carrying classified material requires that the person doing the carrying is properly cleared and authorized for that material. The carrier must have the appropriate security clearance level, must have need-to-know, and must follow custody and secure transport rules during transit. Jo is correct because Jo holds the necessary clearance and authorization to transport the material by hand, satisfying these requirements. The other individual would not meet those requirements—lacking either the necessary clearance, the need-to-know, or approved courier status—so they wouldn't be permitted to hand-carry.

**3. Does courier briefing inform the USPS about its responsibility for employees who hand carry classified material?**

**A. Yes, it informs the USPS of its responsibility.**

**B. No, it does not inform the USPS.**

**C. Only if the employees are USPS employees.**

**D. It informs the receiving facility instead.**

Hand-carrying classified material requires clear responsibility and custody at every step. The courier briefing communicates the duties and protection measures to the courier personnel and to the receiving facility that will take custody at handoff. It is not intended to inform the USPS about the courier's responsibilities, since USPS is not the recipient of this internal briefing. So the briefing does not inform the USPS.

**4. The sender's complete return address needs to be on the inner wrapping, but not be on the outer wrapping.**

**A. Not specified**

**B. False**

**C. True**

**D. Not applicable**

The important idea here is ensureability and traceability of physical mail. The outer wrapping is what the postal system sees and uses to route and manage the package. Having the sender's complete return address on the outer wrap allows undeliverable items to be returned to the sender and helps verify the origin, which is essential for accountability and security. If the return address were on the inner wrapping only, the outer packaging would lack the necessary address for returning the item, making it harder to recover misdelivered or rejected mail and undermining traceability. Therefore, the statement is not correct; the return address should be on the outer wrapping, not just the inner.

**5. Which statement about classification levels is incorrect?**

**A. They differ in the extent of damage from disclosure**

**B. They are assigned based on the sensitivity of the information**

**C. They guide protective measures**

**D. They are identical in potential impact**

Classification levels express how sensitive information is and how serious the consequences would be if it were disclosed. Because different levels correspond to different potential damage, they guide what protections are needed—who may access the data, how it's stored and transmitted, and what controls are required. The statement that classification levels are identical in potential impact is incorrect because higher sensitivity means greater potential harm from disclosure and thus stronger protections. The other statements align with how classification is used: they differ in the extent of damage from disclosure, they are assigned based on sensitivity, and they guide protective measures.

6. Which statement best describes information eligible for classification and differences among classification levels?
- A. Information eligible for classification is only government-owned; levels unchanged
  - B. Information eligible for classification is owned by private sector; levels differ
  - C. Information eligible for classification is owned by or produced for the government; levels differ in the extent of damage**
  - D. Information eligible for classification is never determined by the government; levels are random

Classification hinges on who owns or produced the information and on the potential harm if it were disclosed. Information that the government owns or creates may be classified because its release could threaten national security or government operations, so classification levels are used to reflect the seriousness of the potential damage. The levels differ to represent how damaging disclosure would be, from lower to higher impact, and are not random or fixed. The statement is correct because it captures both the ownership/production aspect and the graduated scale of protection based on harm.

7. Which control marking is used on imagery representations and reports that identify sensitive analytical methods or intelligence sources?
- A. Rel to
  - B. NoforN
  - C. Imcon**
  - D. Restricted Data

The important idea here is how markings guide handling of information that reveals sensitive sources or methods. Imcon is the control marking used on imagery representations and related reports to flag that they contain sensitive analytical methods or intelligence sources. This marking signals that the material requires restricted dissemination and must be shared only with individuals who have the appropriate clearance and need-to-know. Other markings serve different purposes—Rel to indicates allowed release conditions, NoforN restricts sharing with foreign nationals, and Restricted Data pertains to nuclear information—not specifically tied to protecting sources or methods in imagery. So Imcon is the marking that best fits the scenario.

**8. Which document established the baseline information security requirements for the Department of Defense?**

- A. EO 13526**
- B. NIST SP 800-53**
- C. DoD 5200.2-R**
- D. DoD 5105-?**

The question is about where DoD's minimum information security requirements are defined. DoD 5200.2-R, the Department of Defense Information Security Program, is the regulation that establishes the DoD Information Security Program and sets the baseline requirements for safeguarding, handling, and disseminating national security information, including classification, access controls, and incident reporting. This makes it the authoritative DoD document for the baseline security standards that components must follow. While government-wide policy (such as EO 13526) and general controls guidance (like NIST SP 800-53) influence practices, the DoD-specific baseline is captured in DoD 5200.2-R.

**9. Which of the following describes a valid method an OCA may use to communicate a classification decision?**

- A. Issuing a security classification guide**
- B. Posting a decision on a public website**
- C. Sending an anonymous note**
- D. Declassifying by announcing publicly**

Communicating classification decisions is done through formal, controlled channels that provide official guidance to authorized personnel. Issuing a security classification guide is the proper method because it creates a standardized, officially sanctioned document that lays out the criteria and processes for classifying information. This guide ensures consistent decisions across items and over time, and it can be distributed to the right offices and individuals who need to apply the classifications. Posting a decision on a public website would expose sensitive material to the public and to potentially hostile actors, which is not appropriate for classification decisions. An anonymous note lacks authority and traceability, making it unreliable for official classification communication. Publicly announcing declassification bypasses the proper procedures for documenting and controlling what information is released, which can undermine security.

**10. Under EO 13526, knowingly, willfully, or negligently classify information contrary to the requirements is a security violation.**

**A. True**

**B. False**

**C. Not specified**

**D. Sometimes**

Classification decisions must follow established criteria; misclassifying information contrary to those rules is a security violation. EO 13526 lays out how information should be classified, by whom, and under what conditions, with safeguards to prevent improper classification. When someone knowingly, willfully, or negligently applies a classification that does not meet the requirements, it undermines the protection framework, creating either unnecessary protection (overclassification) or exposure (underclassification). That is precisely what the security violation covers, which is why the statement is true. If you're wondering why the other possibilities don't fit, they would imply that improper classification isn't an issue or is only sometimes an issue, which contradicts the order's intent to enforce proper handling and safeguarding of classified information.

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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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://sfpcinformationsecurity.examzify.com>**

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

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