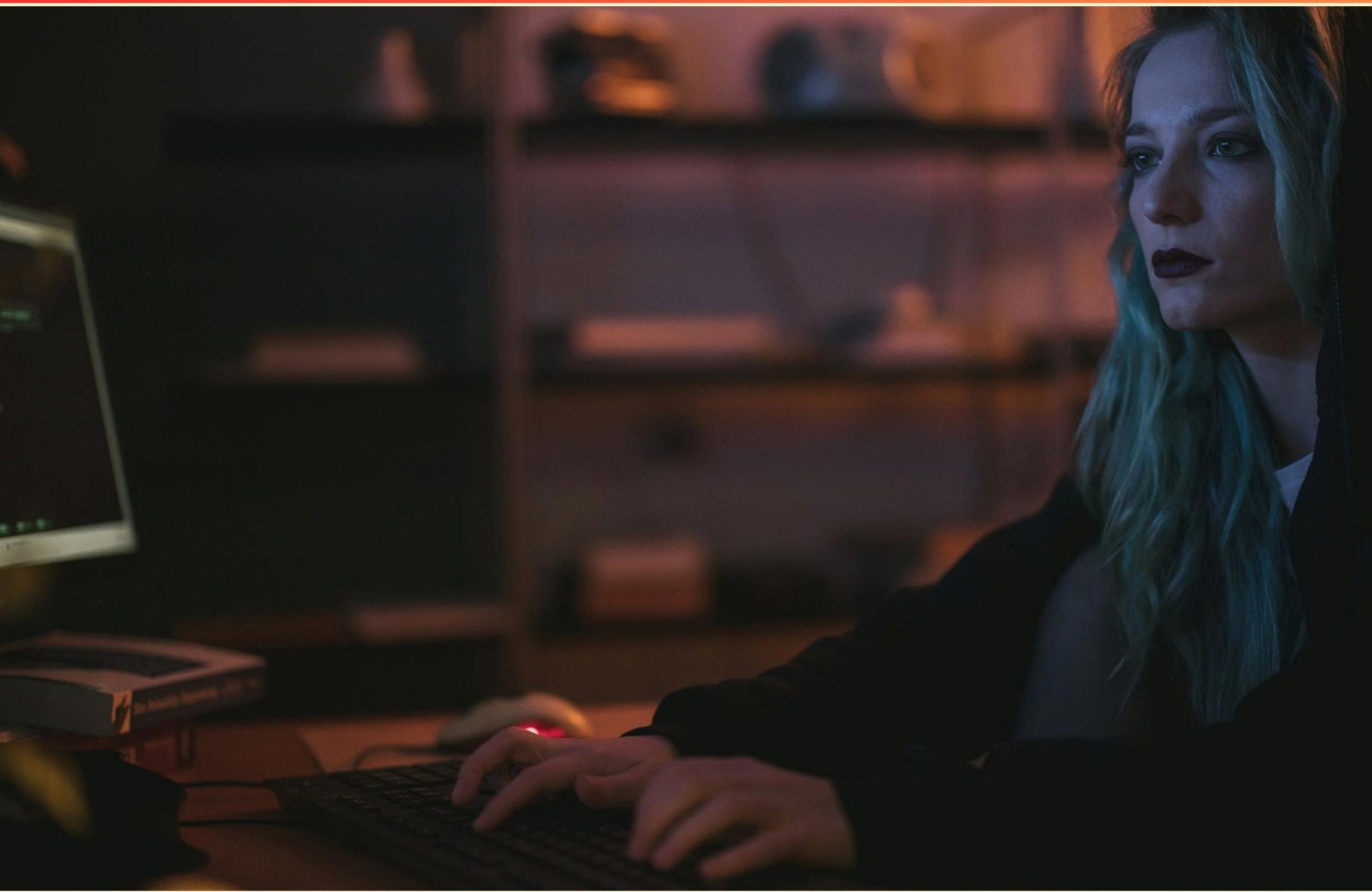


SFPC PERSONNEL SECURITY PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

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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 the response to an applicant's SOR reply, what must the CAF do upon receipt of the reply?**
 - A. Make a final determination within 90 days
 - B. Notify the local command and applicant of its final determination
 - C. Both are correct
 - D. Neither is correct
- 2. What is the role of the SFPC in the context of security clearances?**
 - A. To train personnel on security clearance requirements
 - B. To establish standards for granting, denying, or revoking security clearances
 - C. To conduct background investigations on applicants
 - D. To facilitate communication between agencies about security clearances
- 3. What is the purpose of the SF-86 form?**
 - A. To certify employees for duty assignments
 - B. To evaluate job performance
 - C. To collect information for national security clearance applications
 - D. To provide training details for security personnel
- 4. What does "derogatory information" refer to in personnel security?**
 - A. Positive recommendations from previous employers
 - B. Neutral assessments during a background investigation
 - C. Any negative information affecting clearance eligibility
 - D. Information about an individual's academic achievements
- 5. When there is doubt about an individual's loyalty, trustworthiness, or reliability, how is the adjudication decision made?**
 - A. In favor of the individual
 - B. Neutral decision
 - C. In favor of national security
 - D. Based on public opinion

- 6. What PSI type is needed for Presidential Support Activities (PSA)?**
- A. Access National Agency Check with Inquiries (ANACI)
 - B. Single Scope Background Investigation (SSBI)
 - C. National Agency Check (NAC)
 - D. Extended Background Investigation (EBI)
- 7. What is the purpose of the Privacy Act of 1974 in relation to PSI?**
- A. To simplify the documentation process
 - B. To protect sensitive personal information from unauthorized access
 - C. To allow unrestricted access to records
 - D. To promote transparency in government processes
- 8. Are the Single Scope Background Investigation and the ANACI the only personnel security investigations approved for clearance eligibility?**
- A. Yes, they are the only ones
 - B. No, there are additional approved investigations
 - C. Yes, but only for specific positions
 - D. No, they are used for private sector employees only
- 9. Individuals with dual citizenship can receive security clearances.**
- A. True
 - B. False
- 10. What type of investigation does Chris correctly identify related to PSIs?**
- A. DoD used OPM to conduct PSIs
 - B. SSBI meets the investigative standard for Secret access
 - C. NACLIC is the most common PSI type
 - D. SSBI is unnecessary for Top Secret access

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. In the response to an applicant's SOR reply, what must the CAF do upon receipt of the reply?

- A. Make a final determination within 90 days
- B. Notify the local command and applicant of its final determination
- C. Both are correct**
- D. Neither is correct

Upon receipt of the applicant's response to a Statement of Reasons (SOR), the Central Adjudication Facility (CAF) is required to take specific actions as part of the personnel security process. One of the critical requirements is that the CAF must make a final determination regarding the individual's eligibility for access to classified information or sensitive positions within a set timeframe. This determination must be completed within 90 days of receiving the applicant's reply. Furthermore, once the final determination is made, the CAF has an obligation to notify both the local command and the applicant about its decision. This ensures transparency in the process and provides the applicant with clarity on their security eligibility status. The dual requirement of making a timely determination and communicating that outcome to relevant parties underscores the importance of due process and effective communication in personnel security management. Therefore, both actions are essential and correctly identify the responsibilities of the CAF upon receiving a reply from an applicant to an SOR.

2. What is the role of the SFPC in the context of security clearances?

- A. To train personnel on security clearance requirements
- B. To establish standards for granting, denying, or revoking security clearances**
- C. To conduct background investigations on applicants
- D. To facilitate communication between agencies about security clearances

The role of the SFPC, or Security Clearance Program Committee, primarily focuses on establishing standards for granting, denying, or revoking security clearances. This is a fundamental aspect of ensuring that individuals who are given access to sensitive information are adequately vetted and meet established trustworthiness and reliability criteria. By setting these standards, the SFPC ensures a consistent and fair approach across various agencies and organizations in the handling of security clearances. This standardization helps maintain the integrity of the personnel security process, ensuring that decisions regarding clearances are based on a clear and established framework. Such standards are vital for protecting national security interests, as they define the criteria that agencies should follow when evaluating applicants for security access. While the other options relate to aspects of personnel security, they do not encompass the primary role of the SFPC as accurately as the correct choice does. Training personnel and conducting background investigations are crucial components of the overall clearance process, but they are typically managed by other entities or organizations. Similarly, facilitating communication between agencies, while important, does not capture the essence of the SFPC's role in setting standards for the clearance process.

3. What is the purpose of the SF-86 form?

- A. To certify employees for duty assignments
- B. To evaluate job performance
- C. To collect information for national security clearance applications**
- D. To provide training details for security personnel

The SF-86 form is designed specifically to collect comprehensive information necessary for national security clearance applications. This form is a critical part of the background check process for individuals seeking access to classified information or sensitive positions within the federal government. It gathers essential details about the individual's employment history, personal relationships, financial status, and any legal issues. The information collected is used to assess the individual's trustworthiness and reliability while ensuring they meet the necessary standards for security clearance. This thorough evaluation process helps maintain the integrity of national security operations and ensures that only qualified individuals are granted access to sensitive information. In contrast, the other options do not align with the primary function of the SF-86. For instance, certifying employees for duty assignments pertains to specific roles and responsibilities rather than security clearance; job performance evaluations assess how well someone performs their current role, which is unrelated to the clearance process; and providing training details is specific to the professional development of employees rather than assessing their eligibility for access to classified information.

4. What does "derogatory information" refer to in personnel security?

- A. Positive recommendations from previous employers
- B. Neutral assessments during a background investigation
- C. Any negative information affecting clearance eligibility**
- D. Information about an individual's academic achievements

"Derogatory information" in the context of personnel security specifically refers to any negative information that could impact an individual's eligibility for security clearance. This can include a range of issues such as criminal history, financial irresponsibility, substance abuse, mental health concerns, or any behavior that suggests a lack of reliability or trustworthiness. Such information is crucial in assessing whether a person poses a risk to national security or the integrity of sensitive information. Understanding this definition helps clarify why the other options do not fit the term "derogatory information." Positive recommendations and neutral assessments would not negatively affect clearance eligibility but rather support it. Similarly, information regarding academic achievements is unrelated to the core security considerations that evaluate an individual's suitability for access to classified information.

5. When there is doubt about an individual's loyalty, trustworthiness, or reliability, how is the adjudication decision made?

- A. In favor of the individual
- B. Neutral decision
- C. In favor of national security**
- D. Based on public opinion

The adjudication decision, especially when it concerns an individual's loyalty, trustworthiness, or reliability, is made in favor of national security. This approach prioritizes the safety and security of the nation above individual interests. Given the sensitive nature of personnel security, the presumption is that any uncertainty regarding an individual's background or behavior could pose a risk to national security interests and the integrity of operations. In cases where there are doubts about an individual, the focus shifts toward ensuring that any potential threats to national security are mitigated. This means that if there is any risk perceived from the individual's actions, associations, or history, the decision will lean towards protecting the broader interests of the country. This principle is critical in maintaining the integrity of sensitive roles within the government and its affiliates, where an individual's actions might have far-reaching consequences. Other options, such as making an adjudication in favor of the individual or based on public opinion, could undermine the principles of security by potentially allowing individuals with questionable reliability to hold positions of trust. A neutral decision lacks the decisiveness necessary in security matters, where clarity is vital for ensuring safety. Thus, the correct approach is to act in favor of national security when uncertainties exist.

6. What PSI type is needed for Presidential Support Activities (PSA)?

- A. Access National Agency Check with Inquiries (ANACI)
- B. Single Scope Background Investigation (SSBI)**
- C. National Agency Check (NAC)
- D. Extended Background Investigation (EBI)

Presidential Support Activities (PSA) involve a high level of responsibility and access to sensitive information, requiring the most thorough vetting process available. The Single Scope Background Investigation (SSBI) is specifically designed to assess an individual's suitability for positions that require access to classified information. This comprehensive investigation evaluates a person's character, conduct, financial responsibility, and overall suitability for sensitive duties. The SSBI encompasses detailed checks including interviews with individuals associated with the candidate and a review of various records to ensure that the person can be trusted with national security responsibilities. This level of investigation is appropriate for positions that support the President and other high-level officials, ensuring individuals in these roles maintain the highest integrity and reliability. Other types of investigations, such as the Access National Agency Check with Inquiries (ANACI) or National Agency Check (NAC), do not provide the same depth of review and are not adequate for the level of scrutiny required for PSA, as they may not involve as extensive a background check or personal interviews. Thus, the SSBI aligns perfectly with the critical nature of Presidential Support Activities, making it the correct choice.

7. What is the purpose of the Privacy Act of 1974 in relation to PSI?

- A. To simplify the documentation process
- B. To protect sensitive personal information from unauthorized access**
- C. To allow unrestricted access to records
- D. To promote transparency in government processes

The Privacy Act of 1974 is specifically designed to safeguard sensitive personal information held by federal agencies, thereby ensuring that individuals' privacy is protected against unauthorized access and misuse. This legislation establishes a framework for how personal data is collected, maintained, used, and shared by governmental bodies. Under this act, individuals have the right to understand what information is being collected about them, how it will be used, and who will have access to it. This control is essential in sustaining trust between citizens and the government, particularly when dealing with personnel security information (PSI) that could impact individual security clearances or employment situations. By emphasizing the protection of personal data, the act plays a critical role in maintaining the integrity of personnel security processes, ensuring that sensitive information is disclosed only to authorized personnel under regulated conditions. The other options, while they may touch on related themes, do not accurately capture the primary objective of the Privacy Act as it pertains to the protection of personal information. For instance, simplifying documentation processes or promoting transparency in government may be secondary effects, but they do not encapsulate the act's main function of protecting sensitive data from unauthorized access.

8. Are the Single Scope Background Investigation and the ANACI the only personnel security investigations approved for clearance eligibility?

- A. Yes, they are the only ones
- B. No, there are additional approved investigations**
- C. Yes, but only for specific positions
- D. No, they are used for private sector employees only

The answer indicates that there are additional approved investigations beyond the Single Scope Background Investigation (SSBI) and the Access National Agency Check with Inquiries (ANACI). This is accurate because in the realm of personnel security, multiple types of background investigations are recognized for various levels of security clearance eligibility. For instance, other investigations such as the Limited Background Investigation or the National Agency Check with Law and Credit (NACLC) are also approved for different purposes and security levels. These investigations vary in their scope and depth, and they are tailored to meet specific requirements depending on the sensitivity of the position and the level of access needed. Thus, it is clear that while the SSBI and ANACI play significant roles, particularly for higher-level clearances, they are not the only investigations utilized within the security clearance framework. This broader selection allows for flexibility and appropriateness based on the individual's role within an organization, whether in the public or private sector.

9. Individuals with dual citizenship can receive security clearances.

A. True

B. False

Individuals with dual citizenship can indeed receive security clearances, making the statement "Individuals with dual citizenship can receive security clearances" true. Dual citizenship itself does not automatically disqualify an individual from obtaining a security clearance. The key factors that determine clearance eligibility primarily revolve around an individual's loyalty to the United States, their foreign contacts, financial responsibility, and the potential for coercion or influence from foreign entities. Security clearance evaluations assess these risk factors comprehensively. It is crucial for applicants with dual citizenship to disclose such status during the clearance process. Their applications will be subjected to careful scrutiny to ensure there are no conflicts of interest or security risks associated with their citizenship status. Properly addressing these concerns can facilitate the clearance process rather than hinder it. Thus, individuals with dual citizenship can indeed be granted security clearances if they meet all other eligibility criteria.

10. What type of investigation does Chris correctly identify related to PSIs?

A. DoD used OPM to conduct PSIs

B. SSBI meets the investigative standard for Secret access

C. NACLC is the most common PSI type

D. SSBI is unnecessary for Top Secret access

The identification of the first option as correct relates to the role of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in conducting personnel security investigations (PSIs) for the Department of Defense (DoD). This partnership allows the DoD to utilize OPM's resources and expertise in evaluating individuals for security clearance suitability. OPM conducts various types of investigations, including background checks, which help ensure that personnel meet necessary standards for security clearances. The use of OPM by the DoD exemplifies a collaborative approach to maintaining national security while efficiently managing the large volume of personnel needing background checks. This cooperation streamlines the investigative process and leverages OPM's established protocols and methodologies for thorough and reliable assessments. Understanding this relationship is crucial for comprehending the personnel security landscape, particularly how investigations are conducted in relation to federal security clearances.

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://sfpcpersonnelsecurity.examzify.com>

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

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