

No. 144

CERTIFICATION GUIDE

ISC2 CC Study Guide

A plain-language guide to Certified in Cybersecurity (2026 outline)

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BEFORE YOU BEGIN

How to use this guide

What this guide covers, who it is for, and how to use it.

ISC2 Certified in Cybersecurity (CC) is an entry-level certification from ISC2, the organization behind the CISSP. It requires no work experience and shows employers you understand the foundations of cybersecurity.

This guide explains CC in plain language, based on the exam outline that took effect on **September 1, 2026**, the first major content refresh since CC launched in 2022. It covers the exam facts, each of the five domains with diagrams, a study plan, original practice questions and exam-day advice.

What this guide is, and is not

- An independent study companion written in its own words.
- **Not** official ISC2 material; it does not reproduce exam questions or the official outline.
- Download the official CC exam outline from ISC2 and use it as your checklist.

Who this guide is for

- **Students and career changers** entering cybersecurity.
- **IT staff** wanting a recognized security foundation.
- Anyone considering the CISSP path later.

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How the guide is organized

- **Part I — The certification** (Chapters 1–8): what CC is, why it matters, the 2026 outline, exam format, costs, ethics, renewal and a study plan.
- **Part II — Principles and governance** (Chapters 9–18): Domains 1 and 2.
- **Part III — Access, networks and cloud** (Chapters 19–29): Domains 3 and 4.
- **Part IV — Operations and exam success** (Chapters 30–40): Domain 5, practice questions, exam day and next steps.
- **Reference**: checklists, glossary and further reading.

Callouts

TIP

Practical study and exam advice.

IN PRACTICE

How a concept looks in a real job.

WATCH OUT

Common traps and misunderstandings.

KEY IDEA

The one thing to remember from a section.

A note on screens

Screens are **illustrations**, not real ISC2 exam screens or product screens.

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PART I

The certification

These chapters explain what CC is, how the exam works and how to prepare.

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CHAPTER 1

What CC is

CC is ISC2's entry-level certification.

A definition

Certified in Cybersecurity validates foundational knowledge of security principles, governance, access control, networking and cloud security, and security operations. It is aimed at people starting out, with **no experience requirement**.

Recognition

ISC2 states that CC is accredited under ISO/IEC 17024 and approved under the US DoD 8140 framework for certain roles.

KEY IDEA

CC is a first step that shows you speak the language of cybersecurity.

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CHAPTER 2

Why it matters

Why take CC.

CC helps entry-level candidates stand out, gives a structured introduction to the field, and starts a relationship with ISC2 that can lead to the SSCP, CCSP or CISSP as experience grows.

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CHAPTER 3

The 2026 outline

The 2026 outline.

Domain	Weight
1 Security Principles	24%
2 Security Governance	17.3%
3 Identity and Access Management Concepts	20%
4 Networking and Cloud Security Concepts	21.3%
5 Security Operations and Incident Response	17.3%

Figure 3.1 CC domains, outline effective September 1, 2026

Before September 2026	From September 2026
Security Principles	Security Principles
Business continuity, DR and IR	Security Governance (new)
Access control concepts	IAM concepts
Network security	Networking and cloud security
Security operations	Security operations and IR

Figure 3.2 How the outline changed

AI everywhere

In April 2026 ISC2 published exam guidance on AI, and the new CC outline weaves foundational AI security concepts through all five domains.

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CHAPTER 4

Exam format

Know the format.

- **Items**: 100 to 125, multiple choice and advanced item types.
- **Time**: 2 hours.
- **Delivery**: computerized adaptive testing at Pearson VUE.
- **Passing score**: 700 out of 1,000.

These details come from study guides citing ISC2's outline; confirm on the ISC2 site before booking.

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SAP Security Patching
Threat Detection and SIEM for SAP
Data Privacy (GDPR) for SAP
RISE with SAP Security
Ransomware and Incident Response for SAP
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