

NCP004 NCSP Fundamentals of Adopting the NIST Cybersecurity Framework

Syllabus

Version 4.0

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Introduction

This document provides the course learning outcomes and assessment criteria. It also provides an overview of the examination design, including the types of questions asked.

This syllabus provides the number of marks appearing on the exam and Bloom's Taxonomy level of the questions (levels 1 and 2 – knowledge and comprehension).

NIST Cybersecurity Professional Foundation Syllabus:

The table below provides the information necessary to complete the course, demonstrate mastery of the learning outcomes, and prepare for the certification exam. The reference column contains location information of the associated source material.

The Reference column refers to sections in the book *Fundamentals of Adopting the NIST Cybersecurity Framework 2nd Edition*. The letters “ff” following a book section (e.g., 4.1ff) means that this section and all subsections are examinable. When the Reference column contains “Module x slides” it means the examination questions for this section are drawn from the slides and instructor comments about the material.

Ref. #	Chapter	Learning Outcomes	Reference	Marks
1.0	Module 01 Imperative & Origin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain the concept of risk. Understand the difference between a threat and vulnerability. Understand cybersecurity risk. Understand the NIST-CSF timeline. Explain the benefits of adopting the NIST-CSF 		2 marks
1.1	Imperative		1.2, 2.0, 2.2, 2.2.2. 3.0	
1.2	Origin		4.0 (including Figure 4.1 and Table 4.1)	
2.0	Module 02 Framework Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain the structure of the NIST-CSF Core Understand the concepts of profiles and tiers Understand the relationship between CSF Profiles and CSF Tiers Understand the use of the NIST-CSF online reference 	4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4	8 marks
3.0	Module 03 Framework Core	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the structure of the NIST-CSF Core Describe the high-level outcomes of the CSF core Understand the high-level objectives of the CSF Core categories 	4.1ff	6 marks
4.0	Module 04 CSF Profiles & CSF Tiers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand and describe the use of CSF Profiles Understand and explain CSF Tiers and their use 	4.2ff, 4.3 (including Figures 4.4, 4.5, and 4.6), Appendix A	6 marks
5.0	Module 05 COSO Enterprise Risk Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the COSO 20 principles in the context of adapting a NIST-CSF Understand how culture impacts an organizational risk 	3.1ff	2 marks
6.0	Module 06 NIST CSF & NIST Privacy Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the role of a privacy framework Understand how an organizational Privacy Framework is integrated with the NIST-CSF 	Module 6 slides	2 marks

7.0	Module 07 NIST-CSF and Resiliency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the importance of organizational resiliency in the context of the NIST-CSF 	Module 7 slides	2 marks
8.0	Module 08 Adopt and Adapt the NIST-CSF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the strategic importance of adopting the NIST-CSF Describe senior leadership's role in adopting the NIST-CSF: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment Curate culture Describe what it means to adopt a framework What is the organizational commitment when adopting the NIST-CSF? 	Module 8 slides Book 4.5ff, 6.1ff,	5 marks
9.0	Module 09 Adopt the NIST- CSF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain what a NIST-CSF Informative References is Describe how an organization adapts IR controls to suit its needs Describe how adapting and implementing the informative reference controls will improve organizational resiliency 	Module 9 slides Book 4.4, 6.2ff	3 marks
10	Module 10 Beyond the Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the DVMS overlay concepts. Explain the DVMS Z-X Model seven capabilities. Explain how the DVMS overlay is used to identify performance gaps. Understand the application of the DVMS FastTrack™. 	Module 10 slides Book 3.4, 5.2ff, 5.3ff	4 marks

Examination Design and Administration

Duration:

60 minutes

Number of questions:

40

Level of knowledge:

Bloom's level:

1 – Knowledge

2 – Comprehension

Delivery:

Paper-based, proctored classroom

Online, proctored

Format:

The exam is “closed book” with forty (40) multiple-choice questions, each with a single correct answer from 4-choices (A, B, C, D).

Questions may appear in the following forms (sample, not an exhaustive list).

- Which of the following is true, correct, most correct?
- Which of the following statements is NOT correct?
- Which of the following statements addresses X?
- How would you show Y?
- What is...?
- What is missing from...?
- _____ is a correct way to...?
- How would you describe...?
- How would you explain...?
- What is the main idea of...?
- Which is the best choice...?

Scoring:

Each correct answer is worth 1 point. Passing is 60% (24 correct answers out of 40).