



DESTINATION
CERTIFICATION

3 Mistakes to avoid

so you don't fail the CISSP exam

Before we get started... Hi!

I'm Rob

and I'm John



We're the co-founders and master instructors at Destination Certification.

We love teaching. We find it incredibly rewarding to help folks like yourself learn, become better security professionals, and achieve your CISSP certification!

Between us, we've been teaching CISSP classes for over 35 years, and working directly with (ISC)² leading many of their initiatives and programs, as well as leading thousands of professionals to confidently passing the CISSP exam.

We know the most common mistakes people make when preparing for the CISSP exam.

Below we explain three of them, and to how avoid them!

Mistake #1

Studying as if the CISSP exam was a normal security exam

It's easy to mistake the CISSP for a normal security certification you pass by regurgitating technical answers.

- You need a lot of technical knowledge to pass the exam.
- Many of the training resources you're likely to find focus on technical information.
- Nearly all practice test questions you can find are straightforward technical questions.

However, the CISSP certification is a management-level certification. You don't just need technical knowledge. You need to apply it effectively.

Many of the exam questions ask you to pick the best of multiple correct answers. You need to answer based on what's best for the organization. That's something you don't learn from technical information.

If you'd like to learn more about this, watch this video [Think like a CEO](#).



How we approach this:

In our CISSP MasterClasses, we always focus on understanding the management-level implications of the information. You don't just learn about cryptography or network security. You learn how these technical controls can be used to help the organization achieve its goals and objectives.

That's one of the reasons our CISSP MasterClasses are overwhelmingly considered to be the easiest way to pass the CISSP exam.

You can see all the details, choose your masterclass intensity, and start [here](#).

Mistake #2

Studying blindly

You need to study a massive amount of material for the CISSP exam. However, you don't need to study everything equally.

At the risk of stating the obvious, you should focus on the specific things you haven't, yet, mastered well enough. That's easier said than done, though.

The official (ISC)² exam outline says nothing about how much you need to know about each subject. Books and other similar resources won't help you gauge whether you've understood the management-level view of the topics well enough. And practice questions you can find are almost always purely technical.

In the absence of accurate measurements of what you need to study more, focus on your comfort level with each topic. How comfortably could you explain the reasoning behind decisions? Can you describe the mistakes a purely technically minded person is likely to make? Could you justify to the CEO and the board of directors why a particular control should or shouldn't be implemented?

How we approach this:

Our CISSP MasterClass system builds a detailed understanding of what you know well and what you need to focus on in your studies. You get direct links to the resources (videos, MindMaps, flash cards...) that cover the exact blind spots you still have. Instead of needing to look through hundreds of pages in a book to find just the technical answers, you get the management-view explanations instantly.

You'll focus on studying only what you need to study without wasting time on looking for the right answers. That's what makes our CISSP MasterClasses the least stressful way to pass the exam you can find.

You can see all the details, choose your MasterClass intensity, and start [here](#).

Mistake #3

Trusting practice tests

Here's how (ISC)² creates the CISSP exam questions:

1. An expert in their field of security writes a question
2. A committee of security professionals analyze and refine the question
3. Exam testing science experts go through the question
4. (ISC)² adds the question to the CISSP exam as an ungraded question
5. Experts evaluate whether the question performed correctly in the exam and further refine it and re-enter it as an ungraded question if needed
6. The question finally makes it to the real CISSP exam

If you read through what people have said about the exam, one of the common frustrations is that they had never seen anything like the exam questions. They may have gone through thousands of practice test questions, scored extremely high on those, and yet felt completely lost with the real questions.

That might seem odd, but it's like a sprinter being surprised they don't win a marathon. The difference is that big.

How we approach this:

One of us, John Berti, has been on the (ISC)² exam committee for creating and refining the exam questions. That is to say, we know what the questions are like.

We don't have, and would never share the real questions, of course, but our practice test questions closely mimic the style, structure, and content of real questions. They are just like the real questions, even if not quite as meticulously analyzed. And our students are never surprised by what the questions are like in the exam.

You can see an example of the practice test questions we use on [this page](#).

Bonus mistake:

Dying of boredom before the exam

A lot of CISSP study materials can be pretty dry - to put it mildly! The information is accurate, but reading it is such a test of concentration and dedication that some Buddhist teachers equate it to a 1-year solitary meditation retreat.

The same is true of some CISSP courses. Even the teachers seem to be falling asleep listening to themselves.

How we approach this:

We have fun teaching. We are passionate about teaching you to be a better security professional and passing the exam. And while we can't make every topic fascinating, we try! [Here's an example](#) where we had a little fun with an otherwise not super exciting topic!

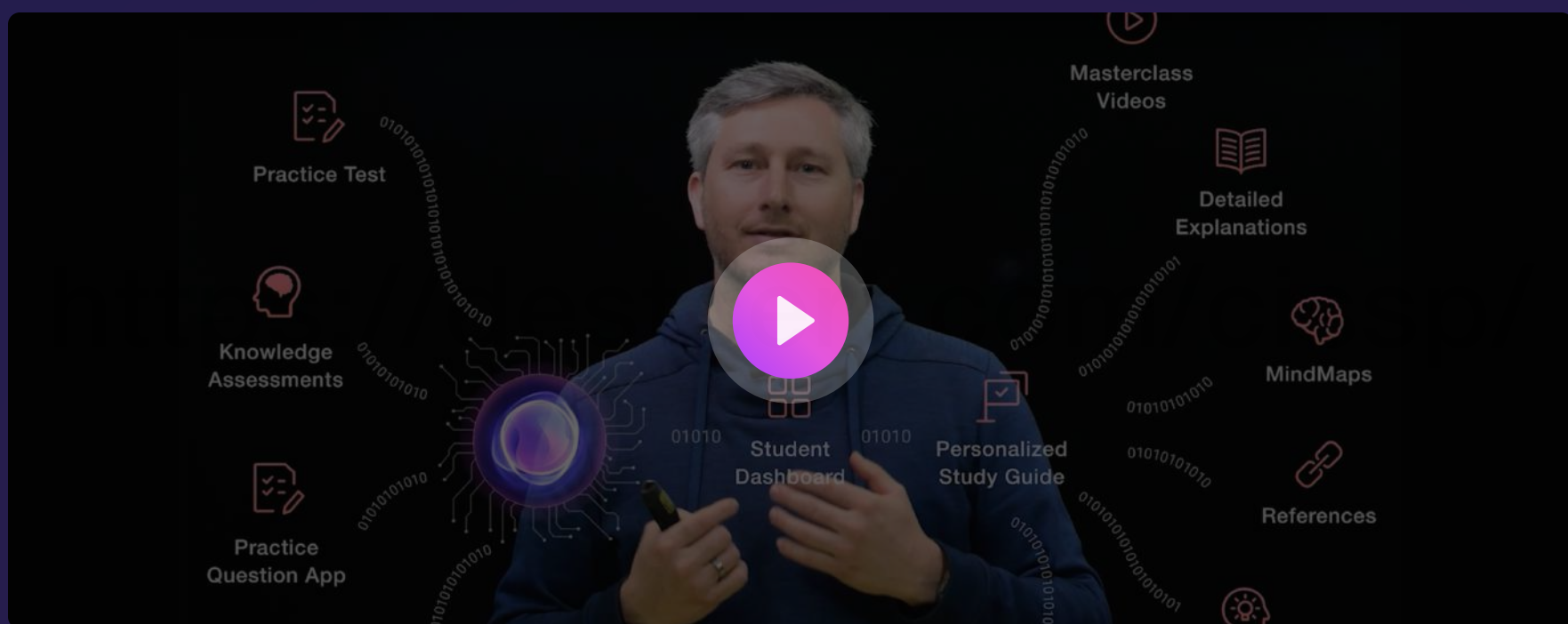
Hey! We hope you found this guide helpful!

We might be a wee bit biased, but our CISSP MasterClass is

The Easiest Way to Get Your CISSP Certification

Focus on what you need to study — at a pace that works for you

Our CISSP MasterClass Explained:



Here's just a glimpse of what you get in the **Destination CISSP MasterClass**:

- Learning system that helps you focus only on what you still need to study
- Clear plan throughout the process that adjusts to your schedule
- Personal CISSP mentor who will guide you through the process
- Direct answers to all your questions from top instructors
- Study material that covers not only all the technical aspects, but also the management-level considerations

Pass the CISSP Exam Easily →