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FREE PREVIEW

CLEARED GOVTECH PARTNERS

CompTIA PenTest+ PT0-003

Exam Preparation Booklet — Free Preview

275 practice questions · full answer keys · visual reference
study plan · tools & methodology · exam-day strategy · glossary quiz

Prepared for our transitioning servicemembers and veterans.
Aligned to the current PT0-003 (V3) exam objectives. · This free preview contains a sample of the full 275-question booklet.

CONTENTS

What’s in this preview

In the full booklet — not in this preview

WELCOME

You’re Crossing Over to the Offensive Side.

Welcome to the deep end. PenTest+ is not a beginner’s badge — it’s the credential that says you can think like an attacker, legally and on purpose, to make an organization stronger. If you’ve already earned Security+ and maybe Network+, this is where you stop just defending the wire and start probing it.

Here’s what makes a penetration tester valuable: discipline inside chaos. You operate under strict rules of engagement, you stay in scope, you document everything, and you turn what you find into a report a client can actually act on. That is mission planning, execution, and after-action reporting — skills you already own. PenTest+ just maps them onto five phases: scope the engagement, recon the target, find the weaknesses, exploit them safely, and clean up while reporting what you did.

Be straight with yourself about the work ahead. This exam is hands-on — it expects you to know the tools (Nmap, Burp Suite, Metasploit, hashcat, and many more), the methodology, and how to read real output. Domain 4, Attacks and Exploits, is 35% of the exam — more than a third — so that is where you live. Reading alone will not get you there; reps will.

— The team at Cleared GovTech Partners

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

The PenTest+ (PT0-003) exam at a glance

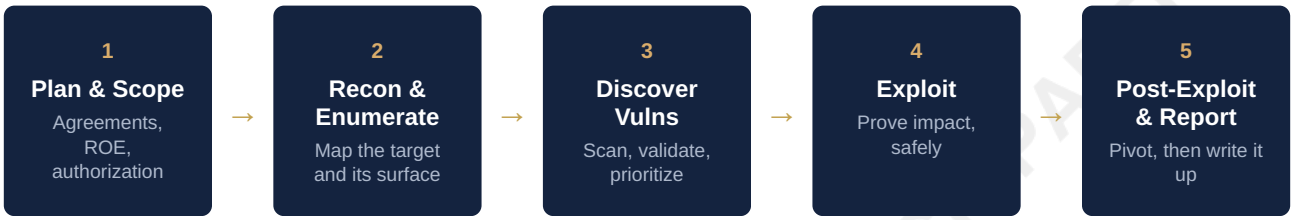
Exam code	PT0-003 (CompTIA PenTest+ — V3)
Format	Up to 90 questions — multiple-choice and performance-based (PBQs)
Time limit	165 minutes
Passing score	750 on a scale of 100–900
Structure	Five domains — Engagement Management (13%), Reconnaissance & Enumeration (21%), Vulnerability Discovery & Analysis (17%), Attacks & Exploits (35%), Post-exploitation & Lateral Movement (14%)
Eligibility	No required prerequisite; Network+ and Security+ knowledge plus 3–4 years of hands-on security experience are recommended
Renewal	Valid 3 years; renew with 60 CEUs (or re-take the current exam)
DoD value	DoD 8140/8570 approved — recognized for offensive and CSSP-aligned roles. Strong in the cleared market.
Style	Offensive and hands-on — scoping an engagement, recon, finding and exploiting vulnerabilities, post-exploitation, and reporting

A note on price. A PenTest+ voucher runs roughly $425 in the U.S. direct from CompTIA — budget around $425, and authorized resellers often sell for less. Confirm the current cost on CompTIA's site before you pay. See the funding page near the back, because you may not have to pay it yourself. PT0-003 replaced PT0-002; this booklet targets the current PT0-003 (V3) blueprint.

SEE IT TO LEARN IT

The Penetration Testing Lifecycle

A professional engagement runs in order, and the five PT0-003 domains map directly onto it. Findings loop back into remediation and re-testing.



Maps to the domains: Plan & Scope and Report = Engagement Management (D1) · Recon = D2 · Discover Vulns = D3 · Exploit = D4 · Post-Exploit = D5.

DOMAIN 1

Engagement Management

55 practice questions · exam weight 13%

OFFICIAL EXAM OBJECTIVES FOR THIS DOMAIN

- 1.1 Summarize pre-engagement activities (scoping, agreements, rules of engagement)
- 1.2 Given a scenario, collect and use legal/ethical and compliance documents
- 1.3 Given a scenario, analyze findings and recommend appropriate remediation
- 1.4 Explain the components of a written report and effective communication

Source: CompTIA PenTest+ PT0-003 exam objectives. These are the official objective statements for this domain; download the complete objectives, including every sub-point, directly from CompTIA at comptia.org/certifications/pentest.

How this booklet helps you excel here

This is the professional core: scoping, rules of engagement, legal/ethical documents (SOW, NDA, MSA), and turning findings into a clear report. Every question puts you in the planning or reporting seat — the judgment that separates a penetration tester from a script kiddie.

Sample of 5 questions from this domain. The full booklet contains all 275.

1. Before any testing begins, a client and a penetration tester sit down to sign a document that spells out exactly how, when, and within what limits the assessment may be conducted — the testing windows, allowed techniques, and prohibited actions. Which document is this?

A. Statement of Work (SOW)
B. Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA)
C. Rules of Engagement (ROE)
D. Master Service Agreement (MSA)

2. A penetration tester needs written confirmation of the specific systems to be tested, the deliverables to be produced, and the overall objectives of the engagement before work starts. Which document captures this?

A. Rules of Engagement (ROE)
B. Statement of Work (SOW)
C. Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA)
D. Service-Level Agreement (SLA)

3. A client is worried that the penetration tester might disclose the vulnerabilities they discover to outsiders or competitors. Which agreement legally binds the penetration tester to keep what they learn confidential?

A. Statement of Work (SOW)

B. Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA)

C. Rules of Engagement (ROE)

D. Master Service Agreement (MSA)

4. A penetration tester is eager to begin an assessment. Which of the following is the single most important thing they must obtain before touching any client system?

A. A list of employee names

B. The client's antivirus vendor

C. Written authorization to test

D. The latest exploit code

5. A penetration tester is hired to assess a system that stores and processes payment card data. Which compliance requirement must be explicitly addressed during scoping?

A. HIPAA

B. FERPA

C. PCI DSS

D. COPPA

Reference

Answer Keys & Explanations

Detailed rationale for every question in the full booklet

DOMAIN 1 — ANSWER KEY

Engagement Management

1. Correct answer: C — Rules of Engagement (ROE).

The Rules of Engagement define the operational boundaries of the test — the testing windows, the techniques that are allowed and prohibited, the in-scope targets, and what must never be touched. A document spelling out how, when, and within what limits the test runs is the ROE.

“How, when, and within what limits testing may occur” is always the Rules of Engagement.

2. Correct answer: B — Statement of Work (SOW).

The Statement of Work documents the scope, objectives, and deliverables of a specific engagement — the systems to be tested and what the client will receive. Written confirmation of targets, deliverables, and objectives is the SOW.

“Scope, objectives, and deliverables” is the SOW; “operational limits” is the ROE.

3. Correct answer: B — Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA).

A Non-Disclosure Agreement legally binds the penetration tester to keep engagement information — including the vulnerabilities they discover — confidential. Protecting the confidentiality of what the penetration tester learns is exactly the NDA’s role.

“Keep what the penetration tester learns confidential” is the NDA.

4. Correct answer: C — Written authorization to test.

Written authorization — the legal ‘get-out-of-jail’ approval — must be in place before any system is touched, because without it the activity is unauthorized access regardless of intent or skill. It is the single most important prerequisite.

Nothing precedes written authorization to test — no authorization, no testing.

5. Correct answer: C — PCI DSS.

PCI DSS (the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard) governs any environment that stores, processes, or transmits payment card data, so it must be addressed when scoping a test of such a system. The payment-card context points directly to PCI DSS.

“Payment card data” maps to PCI DSS.

YOU'VE SEEN THE SAMPLE

Unlock the full PenTest+ booklet

This preview is a taste. The complete 275-question booklet takes you through every domain with the same scenario-driven questions and plain-language explanations — built to match how the real PT0-003 exam thinks.

- ✓ All 275 scenario questions across every domain
- ✓ Full answer keys with exam cues for every question
- ✓ 8-week study schedule & recommended resources
- ✓ Career roadmap, acronym glossary & glossary quiz
- ✓ Exam-day quick reference & funding guide

You may not have to pay for this yourself.

Transitioning servicemembers and veterans can often fund the exam fee and training through Credentialing Assistance (Army CA / COOL), the GI Bill, or VET TEC. The full booklet includes a step-by-step funding guide. Ask us how to get your voucher covered before you pay out of pocket.