

# Quiz 2026 PCI SSC QSA\_New\_V4: Qualified Security Assessor V4 Exam—Efficient Exam Format



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## PCI SSC QSA\_New\_V4 Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PCI Validation Requirements: This section of the exam measures the skills of Compliance Analysts and evaluates the processes involved in validating PCI DSS compliance. Candidates must understand the different levels of merchant and service provider validation, including self-assessment questionnaires and external audits. One essential skill tested is determining the appropriate validation method based on business type.</li> </ul>
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Payment Brand Specific Requirements: This section of the exam measures the skills of Payment Security Specialists and focuses on the unique security and compliance requirements set by different payment brands, such as Visa, Mastercard, and American Express. Candidates must be familiar with the specific mandates and expectations of each brand when handling cardholder data. One skill assessed is identifying brand-specific compliance variations.</li> </ul>
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PCI DSS Testing Procedures: This section of the exam measures the skills of PCI Compliance Auditors and covers the testing procedures required to assess compliance with the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS). Candidates must understand how to evaluate security controls, identify vulnerabilities, and ensure that organizations meet compliance requirements. One key skill evaluated is assessing security measures against PCI DSS standards.</li> </ul>
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PCI Reporting Requirements: This section of the exam measures the skills of Risk Management Professionals and covers the reporting obligations associated with PCI DSS compliance. Candidates must be able to prepare and submit necessary documentation, such as Reports on Compliance (ROCs) and Self-Assessment Questionnaires (SAQs). One critical skill assessed is compiling and submitting accurate PCI compliance reports.</li> </ul>
Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Real-World Case Studies: This section of the exam measures the skills of Cybersecurity Consultants and involves analyzing real-world breaches, compliance failures, and best practices in PCI DSS implementation. Candidates must review case studies to understand practical applications of security standards and identify lessons learned. One key skill evaluated is applying PCI DSS principles to prevent security breaches.</li> </ul>

## PCI SSC Qualified Security Assessor V4 Exam Sample Questions (Q35-Q40):

### NEW QUESTION # 35

What is the intent of classifying media that contains cardholder data?

- A. Ensuring that media is properly protected according to the sensitivity of the data it contains.
- B. Ensuring that media containing cardholder data is moved from secured areas on a quarterly basis.
- C. Ensuring that all media is consistently destroyed on the same schedule, regardless of the contents.
- D. Ensuring that media is clearly and visibly labeled as "Confidential" so all personnel know that the media contains cardholder data.

### Answer: A

Explanation:

Requirement 9.6.1 mandates the classification of media so that appropriate handling, storage, and disposal procedures are applied based on the sensitivity of the data. This ensures that media storing cardholder data is not treated the same as media containing non-sensitive content.

\* Option A#Correct. Classifying media enables risk-appropriate protections.

\* Option B#Incorrect. Movement schedules are not mandated.

\* Option C#Incorrect. Labeling is a recommended control but not the primary intent.

\* Option D#Incorrect. Destruction must be based on data classification, not uniform timing.

### NEW QUESTION # 36

The intent of assigning a risk ranking to vulnerabilities is to?

- A. Replace the need for quarterly ASV scans.
- B. Ensure that critical security patches are installed at least quarterly.
- C. Ensure all vulnerabilities are addressed within 30 days.
- D. Prioritize the highest risk items so they can be addressed more quickly.

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

PCI DSS Requirement 6.3.1 requires entities to assign a risk ranking to vulnerabilities (e.g., high, medium, low) to ensure that remediation efforts are prioritised. This risk-based approach helps organisations focus resources where they are most needed.

- \* Option A: Incorrect. Timeframes depend on the severity and internal policy, not always 30 days.
- \* Option B: Incorrect. Risk ranking supports remediation but doesn't replace scanning.
- \* Option C: Correct. The purpose is to prioritise higher-risk items for faster action.
- \* Option D: Incorrect. Patch frequency is addressed elsewhere (Requirement 6.3.3).

Reference: PCI DSS v4.0.1 - Requirement 6.3.1.

**NEW QUESTION # 37**

An entity is using custom software in their CDE. The custom software was developed using processes that were assessed by a Secure Software Lifecycle assessor and found to be fully compliant with the Secure SLC standard. What impact will this have on the entity's PCI DSS assessment?

- A. It may help the entity to meet several requirements in Requirement 6.
- B. The custom software can be excluded from the PCI DSS assessment.
- C. It automatically makes an entity PCI DSS compliant.
- D. There is no impact to the entity.

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

The Secure Software Lifecycle (SLC) Standard is part of PCI's Software Security Framework (SSF). If an entity's software is developed under a PCI-recognised Secure SLC process, it may satisfy parts of Requirement 6, especially around secure coding practices and vulnerability management.

- \* Option A: Incorrect. SLC compliance alone doesn't grant full PCI DSS compliance.
- \* Option B: Correct. Secure SLC can help meet many of the development-related controls.
- \* Option C: Incorrect. There is impact - potentially reducing scope/testing.
- \* Option D: Incorrect. The software remains in scope, but fewer controls may need to be separately validated.

Reference: PCI DSS v4.0.1 - Requirement 6, and Appendix F: PCI Software Security Framework Reference.

**NEW QUESTION # 38**

What would be an appropriate strength for the key-encrypting key (KEK) used to protect an AES 128-bit data- encrypting key (DEK)?

- A. DES 256
- B. RSA 512
- C. ROT 13
- D. AES 128

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

The strength of a key-encrypting key (KEK) should be at least equivalent to the strength of the data- encrypting key (DEK) it protects to ensure the overall security of the cryptographic system.

- \* Option A: Incorrect. DES (Data Encryption Standard) with a 256-bit key length is not a standard configuration, as traditional DES uses a 56-bit key, which is considered weak by modern standards.
- \* Option B: Incorrect. RSA with a 512-bit key length is considered weak and does not provide sufficient security for protecting AES 128-bit keys.
- \* Option C: Correct. Using an AES 128-bit key as the KEK to protect an AES 128-bit DEK ensures that both keys have equivalent strength, maintaining the integrity of the encryption system.
- \* Option D: Incorrect. ROT13 is a simple substitution cipher and does not provide adequate security for encrypting cryptographic

keys.

For detailed guidelines on cryptographic key management, refer to Requirement 3: Protect Stored Account Data in the PCI DSS v4.0.1 document.

### NEW QUESTION # 39

What must the assessor verify when testing that PAN is protected whenever it is sent over the Internet?

- A. The security protocol is configured to accept all digital certificates.
- B. The PAN is securely deleted once the transmission has been sent.
- **C. The PAN is encrypted with strong cryptography.**
- D. The security protocol is configured to support earlier versions.

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

Under Requirement 4.2.1.1, PAN (Primary Account Number) must be protected using strong cryptography whenever it is transmitted over open, public networks, including the Internet. Assessors are expected to verify that the cryptographic protocols (e.g., TLS 1.2 or higher) are properly implemented and that weak protocols (e.g., SSL, early TLS) are disabled.

- \* Option A:#Incorrect. Supporting earlier protocol versions (e.g., SSL, TLS 1.0) is non-compliant.
- \* Option B:#Correct. Strong encryption (e.g., AES over TLS 1.2 or higher) must be verified.
- \* Option C:#Incorrect. Accepting all certificates could allow MITM (Man-in-the-Middle) attacks.
- \* Option D:#Incorrect. Deleting PAN after transmission is not a substitute for protecting it during transmission.

References:

PCI DSS v4.0.1 - Requirement 4.2.1.1

PCI DSS Glossary - Definitions for "strong cryptography" and "open, public networks"

### NEW QUESTION # 40

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